

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

judicial

DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 54. From R. SEWELL, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Camp at Tripathi, 23rd November 1871, No. 419.

I have the honour to send you a report to show what has been done up to the present hour (5 P.M., 23rd) in the matter of the ascent of the sacred hill of Tripathi.

2. I came by train to Tripathi yesterday, and arrived at Lower Tripathi about 1 P.M. The Mahunt sent out the usual honours, and brought me in with all the ordinary display of respect to the Government.

3. I observed no display of feeling calling for notice as I went through the town except that the streets were rather crowded. This may have arisen merely from curiosity.

4. At 3 P.M. the Mahunt paid me a visit by my request, and I held a consultation with him. He expressed himself perfectly ready and willing, as always, to further the ends of Government, and warmly declared his intention of assisting us in this measure, however distasteful to himself, by all the means in his power. His frankness and loyalty were clearly genuine, and I feel perfectly certain that from him we have to expect nothing but cordial aid.

5. He stated, however, that the Pedda Jiyengar's faction were extremely discontented, and that as, owing to the bad feeling that has long existed, he has no power over him, we might find some trouble from their opposition. I accordingly determined to have an interview with the Jiyengar and all the Vishnava community of Lower Tripathi, and use my endeavours to quiet their fears and induce them to give in their adherence, as far as possible, to the views of Government.

6. This took place this morning. The Jiyengar came accompanied by almost every Vishnavite Brahmin in Lower Tripathi, and with considerably more imposing ceremonial than the Mahunt. I arranged the place of reception outside the tent in the open under a tree, in order that I might seem more accessible to all the people. The crowd was very large, and displayed the greatest eagerness and interest in the result of our intercourse.

7. I spoke to the Jiyengar at considerable length, pointing out to him that Government had no intention of desecrating the hill beyond permitting those to ascend who it was absolutely necessary should ascend for the inspection of the Police there and the consequent benefit of all the inhabitants and pilgrims. The Jiyengar and his adherents (who joined freely in the discussion) admitted the necessity of guarding the hill, and said they would never object to a Police station of good caste men being established there; that their only objection was the ascent of Europeans or others not authorized by the Shastras; and that their objection was not the constant ascent, but any ascent at all. I concurred with them, but asked how they intended to secure the effectual working of the Police if a station was established. They said they were ready and willing to establish a station and appoint an Inspector and even a Sub-Magistrate up there, entirely supported by the Pagoda Fund, if only Government would spare them the pain of witnessing an act which was contrary to the Shastras and to their traditions from time immemorial.

8. I said that I was merely acting under the orders of Government, and that in accordance with those orders the hill must be ascended. They then informed me

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

that Government had replied to their telegram of the 20th instant (which was a petition to cancel the order) by saying the order could not be cancelled, but that immediately on the receipt of this they again telegraphed (yesterday) imploring not a cancellation but a modification. They also telegraphed to the Supreme Government on the subject. They begged me not to ascend the hill till an answer had been received to the second telegram.

9. I considered the case fully, and decided not to ascend the hill till the definite final order of Government on the subject had been received by me, and I telegraphed at once to the Chief Secretary with reference to the second appeal from the Vishnava Brahmins, saying that I had on my own authority postponed the ascent from Friday to Saturday pending a final order of Government by telegram, which should say either "go" or "wait for further orders."

10. I did so after due consideration as I felt that should Government possibly decide to hear what the Jiyengar has to say on the subject (he tells me he has many documents never shown to the authorities) before they order an act to be done which is irrevocable, for one to have doggedly insisted on going on Friday, though that day was only fixed by us for convenience and not under any definite order, instead of waiting final instructions, might have seriously compromised the Government and effected much trouble and complication. The act once done the injury to the people's feelings is complete and no subsequent modification can do any good.

11. I informed the Jiyengar of my decision, and said that should Government telegraph to me to ascend the hill at once I should do so the very next morning, and should trust to him and all his adherents to assist Government to the utmost of their power. He expressed the extremest satisfaction at this as did all present, and they left me evidently much relieved and perfectly ready to submit as inevitable to what Government on my telegram may order. The reply will probably be received by me to-morrow morning, and I shall at once inform you of its tenor.

12. If we are ordered to ascend the hill we shall do so on Saturday morning, and I fully believe with the full co-operation of all the parties interested. I sincerely trust, however, that Government may take advantage of the earnest prayer of the people, made with the utmost loyalty and without the least symptom of hostility, to hear what they have to say on the subject and see if any possible arrangement can be come to by which the efficiency of the Police on the hill, for the establishment of whom they give their hearty consent without the personal bodily presence there of a European Officer, can be secured. Trusting I have done right in this matter.

No. 55. TRANSLATION of Arzi dated 21st November 1871, addressed by the Mahunt of Tripathi to the Collector of North Arcot.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Khat of the 14th current intimating the fact that Government have sanctioned the establishment of a Police station on the sacred hill of Tripathi after due inspection has been made by the European Officers, and requesting me to render my assistance in every way possible to the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Sewell, and Captain Cox, the Superintendent of Police, in fulfilling the wishes of Government in this direction in a calm and amicable spirit.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

2. It is my bounden duty to obey the orders of the Government to which I am subordinate and on which I depend for protection in looking after the interests of the Pagoda, the management of which they have been pleased to entrust to me.

3. I assure you you may count on my aiding the above gentlemen in successfully carrying out any arrangement for the selection of a suitable site for the location of the Police station which it is proposed to establish.

4. At the same time I beg to submit, for your information, that the Oobhaya Pedda Jiyengar and Chinna Jiyengar, their Archukans and other subordinates, and the townspeople of Tripathi, have, it appears, telegraphed to His Excellency the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, the Honourable the Members of the Council, and yourself, requesting that all action may be stopped in the matter until definite orders are passed on the memorial which they are about to present to His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable the Members of the Council, Madras.

(Signed) DHURMA DOSS JEE,
Mahunt of Tripathi Pagoda.

No. 84.

True translation forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, as being the answer to the letter of which copy was sent yesterday with demi-official note to his address.

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
CHITTOOR, Magistrate.
23rd November 1871.

No. 56. From R. SEWELL, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Camp at Tripathi, 25th November 1871, No. 421.

I have the honour, in furtherance of my report of 23rd instant, to inform you that this morning Captain Cox and myself ascended the sacred hill safely. We started from Chendragherry at 4, reached the foot of the ghaut at dawn, and went up at once accompanied by a guard of twenty-three Police Constables and an Inspector. We reached Upper Tripathi about 7½, and, as it was pouring with rain the whole time, we determined to inspect the town and go straight on down the Tripathi descent. We went all round the town, and, having inspected all the principal localities, set out for Lower Tripathi without waiting. We arrived there about midday, and passed through the town without any incident occurring worth notice. The feeling of the people was easy to see. There was amongst the upper classes unmistakable grief, and amongst the lower a strong mixture of curiosity. The Peishcar accompanied us all the way, the Mahunt being too unwell to ascend the hill, and his conduct was beyond all praise. I will hereafter forward a report. I have telegraphed the result of our ascent of the hill to Government in obedience to the orders of the Chief Secretary received by telegram yesterday.

No. 86.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government for information.

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
CHITTOOR, Collector.
27th November 1871.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

No. 57. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Chittoor, 29th November 1871, No. 89.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of yesterday's date directing me to report the details of the visit made by the European Officers to the Tripathi Hill.

2. On the 27th instant I submitted for the information of Government copy of a letter which I received from Mr. Sewell, dated 25th idem, which I presume reached you in due course. The Government would learn from this that Messrs. Sewell and Cox ascended the hill by the Chendragherry Pass and descended it by the main approach from Lower Tripathi during the morning and forenoon of the 25th. It was raining heavily the whole time. Mr. Sewell has promised a fuller account of his expedition, which will be submitted to Government in due course.

No. 58. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Arnee, 12th December 1871, No. A.

I have the honour to submit, in original, Mr. Sewell's report* on the ascent of the sacred hill of Upper Tripathi, which reached my camp yesterday, the 11th.

*8th Dec. 1871, No. 422, with plan.

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Assistant Magistrate, to the Magistrate of North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 8th December 1871, No. 422.

In continuation of my letters to you, sent by special messengers from Chendragherry (Nos. 419 and 421, dated 23rd and 25th November 1871), I have the honour to report that, in accordance with the order of Government, sent by telegram and received at Chendragherry at midday on Friday the 24th, Captain Cox and myself made our arrangements to ascend the sacred hill on the following morning, Saturday the 25th. We had received satisfactory assurances from a Police Constable who came from Lower Tripathi that the people, having received the telegram from the Government in answer to their second petition, were ready quietly to submit to the wishes of the Government, and that no opposition was to be expected from the principal persons amongst them. It was, however, of course a matter of uncertainty as to how the remainder would take it, and especially the Byraghies and Yanadies, and we determined not to lessen our precautions.

2. We started from the old Palace at Chendragherry about 4-30 A.M. on Saturday morning in drizzling rain, and rode to the foot of the ghaut, intending to ascend the hill on that side and descend *via* Lower Tripathi. A ride of about five miles brought us at dawn into a fine gorge. The approach to this point was extremely picturesque, and although, owing to the driving mists and clouds, we could not distinctly see the entire range of hills, the appearance of them was marked by great boldness and grandeur. We passed the first outpost of Yanadi watchmen in the plain just at the entrance of the gorge mentioned above, and two or three more at intervals of about half a mile along the road up to the boundary dividing off the sacred portion of the hill. In each Tannah are stationed three men armed with matchlocks.

3. We left our horses at the boundary, and a walk of a few yards brought us to the first mantappam, in which our guard of twenty-three Police Constables, a Head Constable, and an Inspector were awaiting our arrival. Joined here by the Tahsildar of Chendragherry Taluq, we at once commenced the ascent. It was then about 6 A.M.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

4. The ascent is very steep, and the path up is formed of slabs of stone, principally gneiss and sand-stone. In parts which appear more dangerous than others, walls of rough rocks, unchained, are erected to protect the pilgrims. On all sides is close jungle, the trees not being high, but the undergrowth very thick. I should imagine that in the course of years this would be a very fine well-grown forest. There appear to be large quantities of young bamboos and other jungle trees. The views, looking back, were very fine, even as we saw them in mist and rain, and in fine weather must be very magnificent. On numbers of the stones that formed the path are inscriptions and carvings, the former being almost invariably the names of pilgrims with the date of their ascent, and the latter apparently representing recumbent figures in attitudes of humiliation, their ascent, and the latter apparently representing recumbent figures in attitudes of humiliation, face downwards with the arms stretched over the head. They are always represented in a row, some larger and some smaller, and may have reference to the number of pilgrims in the family of the carver who made the ascent of the sacred hill. None of the carvings appears to be of recent date.

5. After a stiff climb of perhaps half an hour the level of the plateau is reached. We were received here by the Mahunt's Peishcar and a few men connected with the temple with musical instruments. After a walk along level ground of about half a mile, past a bathing-pool then very full of water, the country all round being uncultivated, we came in sight of the temple, which lies in a slight hollow to the left of the road.

6. This first view of the temple must in fine weather be very striking. There are several gopurams, some quite ruined from age, and everywhere are evidences of the existence in former times of great works in stone now unfortunately much out of repair. The dome of the vimana or shrine is plated over with thin sheets of gold, as is the summit of the principal "gopuram" which affords access to the inner court. The gopurams are not lofty and consequently there is a lack of elevation in this first appearance, more especially as the buildings lie in a hollow. But what the temple loses in grandeur it gains in a certain massive solidity peculiar to itself. I shall notice the principal architectural features below.

7. The town of Upper Tripathi clusters round the temple. The entire population appear to dwell within the limits of the old temple, which for reasons mentioned below I conceive to have been originally of greater extent than at present. All this lies to the left of the road from Chendragherry. We accordingly skirted the houses on the east of the town and found ourselves in front of the wall of the Mahunt's dwelling-house (the "Mutt"). Turning to the left the descent of a flight of granite steps brought us into the streets of the town under the north-east corner of the wall of the present temple.

8. Our duty being to fix the site for a Police station and determine the number of men required for the town, we determined to go round all the principal streets first. Accordingly we passed southwards along the eastern street under the wall of the temple, then along the southern street. In our course along the western street we stopped to look at one of the "Pushkaranis" or bathing-pools, which is of great extent and in excellent preservation. The water is said to be very deep. The work is all in granite, and looks as fresh as when it was first made. It is a long oblong surrounded on all sides by a wall with small gopurams and mantappams here and there, and with the usual steps down to the water's edge.

9. Our passage along the northern street in an easterly direction brought us again to the temple wall, and this time its northern face. The thousand-pillared mantappam faces this northern wall, in the centre of which is the principal entrance to the temple with its gopuram. A small street runs due north along the side of the large mantappam, at right angles to the main street, and in the main street just before we came to this we were shown an old granite mantappam in which the Police Constables who are yearly sent up at the time of the great feast in September have their station.

10. This was suggested as a good place for the Police station now permanently to be established. It is in the most central position, in the most thronged street of the town, and would seem to be well adapted for its purpose. Certain alterations will have to be made, but I believe the expense will not be great. The Peishcar proposed that, if this spot did not seem convenient, a corner of the thousand-pillared mantappam should be set apart and made into a Police station.

23rd January 1872.

The choice being between these two places, I am decidedly in favour of the former. It is unnecessary to state reasons, as they will be apparent to every one. It would be a wanton outrage to the feelings of the people if, having the whole town open to us, we were to fix upon one of their most cherished spots for a site, and it would utterly destroy the beauty and symmetry of the great mantappam. I believe the suggestion to have been made rather with the view of making us feel the extent of the grief to which the people had abandoned themselves, than of seriously presenting it as a desirable locality for a Police station.

11. We next went over the thousand-pillared mantappam itself. Its front rests on the main street, and is opposite to the entrance to the temple. The pillars are, I believe, about 1200 in number, forty-five from north to south by twenty-six from east to west, but several have fallen. The roof is flat. The pillars are about twelve feet high, and are equidistant from one another, four pillars forming a square, the interval being about six feet. In the centre is a raised floor on which I presume formerly stood an image, but there is none now. Each pillar bears twelve sculptured figures, three on each side. The sculptures are deep, and the figures, so far as I could judge, are more natural and less obscene than are generally noticed. The mantappam is in a very bad state at present. It is excessively dirty, and the floor is in no single place in its natural level state. Heaps of earth and bricks, fallen pillars and broken slabs, lie about in all directions. Repairs are being carried on, however, and after a time, when these are completed and the place cleaned, it may be brought to a very good state. Originally it must have been extremely handsome. The long rows of pillars in each direction, the heavy flat roof covering in all and producing different gradations of light, from the sombre mystery of the interior to the brilliant sunshine of the outer street, must have been very effective. The alterations, consisting partly of opening up the roof along one or two avenues, in order to give light to the interior, though they are no doubt very useful, detract, I think, from the symmetry and beauty of the original design.

12. From this place we passed along the small street, mentioned above, northwards to the Mutt of the Pedda Jiyengar. This is of a more religious character than the Mahunt's Mutt, which is simply in the form of an ordinary Hindoo dwelling-house of considerable size, and built of granite. The Pedda Jiyengar's Mutt has a gopuram over the doorway. In front is a sort of courtyard with two small gopurams on the north and east, and in the centre a bronze pillar with an image of Vishnu.

13. Turning eastwards we passed under one of these gopurams, and along the north side of the thousand-pillared mantappam. At the end of this the ground rises, and at the east side of the large mantappam the level of the ground is the same as that of the roof of that building. From the roof of the mantappam a very good view of the town is obtained, though a somewhat higher elevation would have been better. We were then just in front of the principal entrance gopuram to the temple. It is not very lofty, and I think, judging from other temples, that the height of the wall is disproportioned to that of the gopuram. I do not pretend, however, to be a judge on this matter, and may be wrong. It seemed to me that the wall was newer than the gopuram. The carvings on the gopuram are very fine. It is covered with sculptured figures in high relief.

14. Underneath the wall of the temple are a series of small bazaar-shops, thatched, and we were informed that at the time of the festival this street is so thronged that it is almost impossible to pass. The proposed Police station will be in the very centre of all this.

15. As the rain seemed to be unceasing we determined not to stop at Upper Tripathi but to go straight on down the Lower Tripathi descent, and accordingly from this point, having seen all that was necessary, we marched straight out of the town and eastwards along the path to Lower Tripathi.

16. The behaviour of the people was throughout unexceptionable. Whether it was the presence of the Mahunt's Peishcar, or of the Police guard, or the rain, I cannot say; but from beginning to end there was no attempt at resistance or any display of hostility. Perhaps a feeling of the hopelessness of opposition served to prevent any attempt at outrage, but I hardly think that this feeling would have influenced the individual Byraghies or Yanadies. It undoubtedly would act as a check on the more educated and civilized classes. It is impossible to suppose

that the freedom from opposition was the result of indifference, for it was quite plain how strongly the people felt the presence of Europeans on their sacred hill. The feeling in Lower Tripathi had been very strong, and it would be intensified in the Upper Town. The steady and unceasing drizzling rain contributed much, I am sure, to the success of the expedition. People who would have surrounded us in crowds had the weather been fine stood in their door ways and stared at us. If we had a fine day probably the whole population of Upper Tripathi would have been surging round us, and the fanatical sects, finding safety in numbers, might have tried violence. As it was, the whole thing went off with the utmost quietude. In only one place, near the Mahunt's Mutt, was there any assemblage. Here the Byraghies had mustered strongly and seemed rather threatening, but the presence of the Police acted as a deterrent, and they kept quiet.

17. The streets of the town, and, in fact, every portion of it, were in a most filthy state. All the evils observable in villages in the plains seemed here to be multiplied tenfold. Added to this there is an absolute neglect of drainage for carrying off surplus rain-water. The streets are all lower than the ground surrounding, and are paved with granite slabs throughout. The consequence is that, as we saw it, in rain, the water stood ankle deep in the streets, and we had to step carefully from stone to stone, at the same time avoiding all kinds of abomination which strewed the roads. The houses are, with the exception of those belonging to the Rajahs and principal people, very small, and, so far as I could judge, extremely dirty.

18. The streets consist of a series of houses with very small frontage. Between each house in the front is a small pillar of sculptured granite. The houses stand on a raised platform. The absence of pyals is noticeable. There are many in one street, but in the others none at all. At intervals along the streets stand larger and more pretentious two-storied houses for the use of the several Rajahs and chief people on the occasion of their pilgrimages to the shrine. In the centre of the square stands the present temple, the two great Pushkaranis, and the two temple gardens. All round the town are gardens of fruit and sacred flowers for the use of the temple and the devotions of pilgrims. At each outer corner of the outer square of streets are old gopurams of brick ruined, and there are several other smaller Devasthanams in various parts of the town. On the whole of the hill I saw no attempt at cultivation. All the grain, &c., for the use of the pilgrims and residents is brought up from the plains. I cannot say whether, or not, sheep are fed on the hill, as it was too rainy and misty to see to any distance; but I certainly saw no flocks. It appears as if the rough jungle was allowed to grow up uninterruptedly to the very edge of the town, except on the southern side, where there are gardens and open grass-land. We could form no idea of the resident population of the town; but judging from the number of houses I should say it was very small. It would appear to consist principally of Brahmins, who are employed in the service of the temple, and the ordinary temple servants, Sudra tradesmen, Byraghies, and Yanadies. The pilgrims were not numerous as the weather was very bad. In the time of the festival they crowd thither in large numbers. The temple is approached by four roads—(1), from the north through the Balupilly jungles, entering the town at its north-west corner; (2), from the north by an old and unfrequented road from Nagapatla, in Cuddapah, entering Upper Tripathi at its south-western corner; (3), from the south by the Mangapuram Ghaut from Chendragherry in North Arcot, by which we ascended, entering the town at its south-eastern corner; (4), from the south via Lower Tripathi, entering at north-eastern corner. The last two of these only are guarded by a force of fifty-four Yanadies and two Duffadars. It is proposed to continue these. The first road mentioned is undefended and not often made use of, and there seems no necessity to provide for it. The second is never used now. For the protection of the town Captain Cox, I believe, proposes to establish a station of six Constables and a Head Constable.

19. With regard to the architectural features of the temple I am sorry I cannot say much through ignorance of the subject. The first thing that struck me was the absence of any prominently lofty gopuram. These are numerous, but all low in height. The present enclosure is surrounded by a high and very perfect granite wall, the stones in which are uniformly regular and laid with great care and neatness. In this wall is only one gopuram, over the entrance on the north side. Behind this is a second gopuram somewhat higher, which is a remarkable feature, as the outer gopurams of the temples are customarily the loftiest. On the summit of this is a

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

series of ornaments plated with gold forming the ridge of the roof. I could not see whether there was an inner wall, but I think the presence of this gopuram raises the presumption that there is one. In this second courtyard stands the vimana. The roof of this is a dome of gold plates. It is not lofty, and is, as usual, rather small. A few other smaller gopurams and temples are scattered here and there in the enclosure.

20. From the appearance of the streets, the position of certain gopurams, and of the bathing pools and mantappams, I am led to the conjecture that the temple was at one time much larger, the present streets being the old outer courtyard. In order to get into the present streets from Chendragherri a flight of broad granite steps has to be descended, and the street granite slabs now much broken and injured, but showing that originally the whole had been paved. I imagine this to have been the paved floor of the outer court. The houses all round are formed with a frontage consisting of a row of granite pillars walled up with mud. This must have been the old corridor running round inside the outer wall. It continues the whole way round, and would have been on each side of the court. The fact of the base of the pillars being on a raised platform confirms this view. The probability is increased when it is remembered that if this were the case four large gopurams would probably be found in the outer wall, and that the remains of three are still standing. They were at the corners of the walls instead of the middle, owing to the four roads entering at the four corners. One gopuram is wanting, but it may either have been ruined altogether or never built. On or near its site is the present mutt of the Mahunt. If my supposition be correct, the old temple consisted of four courts, the outer one having a wall with three (or four) gopurams at the corners, and inside a pillared mantappam all round it, the second having a mantappam all round its wall *outside* (so that the outer court was bordered on either side with a long granite corridor of pillars) and containing within it two large bathing-pools, a temple garden, and the two inner courts with one entrance gopuram to the north, the third having one entrance gopuram to the north with a golden crest on its summits, the fourth containing the holy shrine with its golden dome. The thousand-pillared mantappam had its inner face along the edge of the outer court, opposite the entrance gopuram to the shrine and inner court. I think it will be seen that there is at least good foundation for this conjecture, as it falls in with the ordinary architectural features of the large temples.

21. At about 9 A.M. we left the town and proceeded along the road to Lower Tripathi. The road all along is paved with stones similar to those which form the Chendragherri ascent, already described. The inscriptions and representations of figures are multiplied here, and almost every other stone for the entire six or seven miles of descent is engraved. It is evident that the utmost care has been bestowed upon this path. It lies through low scrub jungle, and on each side for a large portion of the distance is a stone wall. At intervals are mantappams over the path for rest and shelter, those near Upper Tripathi being exceedingly graceful and picturesque. We could see very little of the scenery owing to the driving mists; but from about a mile out of the town till the actual descent of the hill above Lower Tripathi the natural features of the scenery appear to be very grand. Deep gorges and valleys filled with jungle trees, and frowned over by cliffs and crags of imposing boldness; fantastic rock scenery contrasted with luxuriant vegetation; in the distance the plains of North Arcot bounded on the south by the Nagerry Hills and the range of the Karvet-nuggur Zemindari with the Surnamuki river winding the midst—these are the chief features of the landscape.

22. The turn of a corner showed us the "Ghali Gopuram" or "Temple of the Winds," which is visible from Lower Tripathi. Close to this is a very beautiful drinking pool fed by a clear stream, carried for a long distance in a granite trough. At intervals along the path were the tannahs of the Yanadies, and in some places little clusters of shops for the sale of food to the pilgrims. After passing through the Ghali Gopuram we came out on to a platform at the summit of a magnificent granite staircase, very broad and with shallow steps, which leads down the steep side of the hill into Lower Tripathi. The cliffs here are very bold and striking, and form a fine foreground to the great panorama which spreads itself out on all sides below. The town of Lower Tripathi lies close underneath, and from that height appears mapped out as if in a ground-plan.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

The descent of this staircase is somewhat troublesome; but it does not occupy long, and there are many places for resting—mantappams and stations for prayer. Images of the sacred feet are very numerous all along the descent, and at the foot are two gopurams, the lower being known as the "Alpiri" Gopuram. This is the boundary of the sacred portion of the hill, and after passing through it our work was accomplished.

23. We passed without molestation or hindrance through Lower Tripathi and arrived at our camp about midday.

24. I cannot close this report without calling attention to the admirable behaviour of the Mahunt and the Pedda Jiyengar. The former gave every assistance in his power, and never even raised the smallest objection to the measure. The latter, though he and his disciples did their utmost by every fair and open argument to divert the impending catastrophe, conducted themselves, during the course of a long conversation of a somewhat difficult and delicate nature, with the utmost consideration and courtesy, and readily promised to submit quietly to the orders of Government should they determine to adhere to their decision. I may also mention that the Peishcar who accompanied us throughout, and who was evidently suffering the extreme of pain and sorrow, did his utmost to render us every assistance in his power, and readily afforded all the information we required.

No. 59. From the Inspector-General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 3rd January 1872, No. 1.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, a report from Captain Cox, Superintendent of Police, North Arcot, regarding his recent visit to Upper Tripathi in company with the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Sewell.

2. There was no reason to anticipate resistance, which would obviously have been most impolitic; but it is satisfactory to find that not even the slightest demonstration of displeasure was evinced by any of the inhabitants. There can be little doubt that the measure is regarded by the mass of the people in its true light as a maintenance of the broad principle of universal justice, to which a traditional privilege must needs give way when proved to be the source of such abuses as have recently been brought to light.

3. The town of Upper Tripathi is insignificant in size, and the population is very scanty. Captain Cox considers that a Police party of one Head Constable and six Constables will suffice for all purposes of ordinary watch and ward, and I agree with him. Special arrangements will be made, as heretofore, at the time of the great annual feasts.

4. The District Magistrate, to whom I forwarded Captain Cox's report, also considers that this strength of men will suffice for the permanent Police party to be stationed at Upper Tripathi. I gather from Mr. Robinson's letter (attached) that he is in some doubt as to the maintenance of the present Yanadi patrols on the passes. The Mahunt will doubtless wish to retain these men, and it will probably be better to do so, at least for the present, as if thrown out of employ they might be troublesome; otherwise I see no reason why the ordinary system of Police patrol should not suffice for the safety of these ghauts. Robbery is stopped by the conviction of offenders rather than by dotting armed men at distant intervals along a line of road.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.

5. I have directed Captain Cox (with the approval of the District Magistrate) at once to establish a Police post of one Head Constable and six Constables at Upper Tripathi, taking the men for the present from the District Reserve; and I request the sanction of Government to transfer the number of men required (as per margin) from the district of South Canara (whence they can be spared) to North Arcot. Thus no increase of expense will be entailed.

One Head Constable, 3rd Grade.
Two 1st Class Constables.
" 2nd " "
" 3rd " "

From Captain H. W. H. COX, Superintendent of Police, North Arcot, to the Inspector-General of Police, Madras, dated Camp at Tripathi, 28th November 1871.

I have the honour to inform you that the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Sewell, and myself visited Upper Tripathi on the 25th instant.

We took with us a guard of twenty-three Constables, and were accompanied by the Taluk Magistrate and Inspector of Chendragherri and the Head Constable in charge of the Tripathi Division.

The Mahunt being indisposed we were received at the top of the Mungapuram Ghaut by his Peishcar, who accompanied us through the town.

No attempt was made to obstruct us, nor was the slightest demonstration of displeasure at our visit displayed by any person whom we met.

The town consists of four streets enclosing in a square the temple and some tanks and gardens. The dwelling-houses are for the most part mean in appearance, and the ordinary population is 450 persons; but pilgrims visit the place throughout the year.

The principal means of access to the hill are the Tripathi Ghaut between Upper and Lower Tripathi, and the Mungapuram Ghaut between Upper Tripathi and Chendragherri.

The former is the one most frequented. Its entire length is about six miles, and the Mahunt maintains a force of twenty-seven Cuttoobadies and Duffadar for the safety of the pilgrims.

The length of the Mungapuram Ghaut is about three miles. It is guarded by twenty-seven Cuttoobadies and a Duffadar.

There is an approach from the north, the Balpully Ghaut; but I did not visit it, and my information regarding it was obtained by report. The ascent is easier than by the two southern ghauts, and it is practicable for cattle; yet, owing to the facts that the forest has the reputation of being infested by wild beasts and the Temple authorities have made no provision for the safety of the road, it is little used except during the annual festival. Persons travelling by this road form parties for mutual protection. It is about ten miles in length.

There is a jungle-path from the west, but it is said never to be used now.

I do not think it will be necessary for the Police specially to undertake the guarding of the Tripathi and Mungapuram Ghauts as their safety is already provided for, [and the question arises whether it is necessary, except at special seasons, to make any provision for guarding the Balpully Ghaut. I am inclined to think not. It is at present little used. The length of the road and the nature of the country are such that it would require a strong force to make it absolutely safe, and unless we can do this it would be a mistake to tempt people to use it. Not less than eight Constables would be required for this purpose alone.

For the prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of order in Tripathi I am of opinion that one Head Constable and six Constables will suffice. During the annual festival special arrangements will be made as hitherto.

The Mahunt has placed at our disposal the building usually occupied by the Police during the annual festival, and, though not everything that could be desired, it is sufficiently large. The Constable will have no difficulty in obtaining house accommodation and supplies.

The climate being feverish I propose relieving the men once a week or less frequently should experience show that is not necessary.

The new station will be attached to the Tripathi Division.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Inspector-General of Police, dated Chittoor, 20th December 1871, No. 210.

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, No. 7919, I have the honour to inform you that I think that under *ordinary* circumstances a guard consisting of one Head Constable and six Constables would suffice for the mere watch and ward of Upper Tripathi itself, but that I have no information as to how the Mahunt proposes to act in respect to the future maintenance of a patrol on the four approaches to the town.

On receipt of the instructions of Government I should at once take steps to ascertain his intentions; but when in Tripathi the other day I carefully abstained from moving in the matter until I should be put in possession of the wishes of Government in respect to the course they intended to adopt on your own and Mr. Sewell's reports.

The enclosure of your letter is herewith returned.

No. 60. Telegram from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated London, 27th November 1871.

Telegraphic petition come from Hindoos against Police Officers ascending hill of Tripathi. Unless very strong reasons for your orders, you had better not insist.

No. 61. Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Calcutta, 27th November 1871.

High Priest and others of Tripathi, in North Arcot, appeal by telegram against an order of Madras Government invading the sacred character of the hill. Please report full particulars connected with that order.

No. 62. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the High Priests, Tripathi, North Arcot, dated Calcutta, 21st December 1871.

Any memorial that you wish to send must be forwarded through the Madras Government.

No. 5636.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras in continuation of telegram dated the 27th ultimo.

(By order.)

(Signed)

ARTHUR HOWELL,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 63. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1872, No. 78.

In their Order, dated 18th October last, the Government directed the Magistrate of the North Arcot District and the Inspector-General of Police to arrange for the Tripathi Hill being visited by such European Officers of the Magistracy and Police as they might select, in order to determine the force of the Police to be stationed there.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

2. The Government have now received from the Magistrate of the North Arcot District and from the Inspector-General of Police the reports of the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Sewell, and of the Superintendent of Police, Captain Cox, who, with a guard of Police, ascended the Tripathi Hill on the 25th November last, and, after carefully examining the locality, determined upon the site of the Police Station which is in future to be located on the Hill.

3. Mr. Sewell explains that the ascent of the Tripathi Hill which had been originally fixed for the 24th November was postponed by him until the 25th of that month, in order to allow those most interested in preserving the immunity of the sacred Hill from the presence of Europeans and all but caste Natives, to address the Government by telegraph praying for a re-consideration of the Order of Government.

4. The Government having declined to alter a resolution which had been taken after much deliberation and on the grounds which are fully stated in their Order of the 18th October last, Mr. Sewell informed the Temple authorities of the decision of the Government.

5. Both the Mahunt of the Pagoda at Tripathi and the Head Priest of the Vaishnavite sect at once yielded obedience to the orders of the Government, and every facility was afforded to the Assistant Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police in their inspection of the Hill.

6. Mr. Sewell has given a detailed description of the temple and its subsidiary buildings. A large portion of the temple and some large bathing tanks are of fine stone-work. Many of the buildings attached to the temple are stated to be much out of repair. There are a few houses of a superior description belonging to the Rajahs and Zemindars who habitually come with their families as pilgrims to Upper Tripathi. There are also some gardens in which flowers used in the worship at the Pagoda are grown. There seems to be little or no cultivation on the small hill plateau, and most of the necessities of life are imported from Lower Tripathi.

7. The town which is described as being extremely dirty consists of four main streets enclosing, in a square, the temple buildings, the bathing tanks and gardens. The ordinary dwelling-houses are, for the most part, mean in appearance, and the ordinary resident population is roughly estimated at 450 persons.

8. The Inspector-General agrees with Captain Cox that a Police party of one Head Constable and six Constables will suffice for all purposes of ordinary watch and ward. Special arrangements will, as heretofore, be required on the occurrence of the great annual feasts when the Hill is visited by a very large number of pilgrims. The Magistrate of the District agrees generally with the proposal of the Inspector-General of Police for the maintenance of order on the Tripathi Hill.

9. It has hitherto been the custom for the Temple authorities to keep up patrols for the four passes which form the approaches to the temple. These patrols consist of men of the Yanadi tribe. The Inspector-General does not propose that these men should be suddenly dismissed if the Temple authorities are anxious to retain them and to continue to pay for their services, but this suggestion is made more with reference to the hardship of throwing these men suddenly out of employment than from any value attached to their services as Police patrols. The ordinary Police patrols will, in the opinion of the Inspector-General, suffice for the safety of the ghauts.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1872.*

10. The Government concur in the views expressed by the Inspector-General of Police, and sanction the establishment of a Police post consisting of one Head Constable and six Constables at Upper Tripathy, as well as the transfer of the number of men required from the District of South Canara, whence they can be spared, to the North Arcot District. A suitable building for a Police Station has been assigned by the Temple authorities for the use of the Police. Under these arrangements no increase of expense will be entailed by bringing the Upper Tripathi Hill under the regular control of the Police.

11. The Magistrate of the District and the Inspector-General of Police will convey to Mr. Sewell and Captain Cox the thanks of His Excellency in Council for the manner in which they carried out the orders of the Government.

12. Mr. Sewell acted rightly in showing great consideration for the feelings of those who were naturally strongly opposed to a measure which, however necessary, was opposed to ancient tradition, and had for its effect to withdraw a much valued privilege from the Tripathi Shrine. The perfect tranquillity with which these orders were executed are no doubt in a great measure due to the tact and discretion shown by the Officers to whom this delicate task was entrusted, but the Government think it right to recognize the good spirit in which the definitive resolutions of Government were received by the Mahunt, the Head Vaishnavite Priest of the Temple, and the population generally, to whom the necessity for such resolutions may not have been distinctly apparent, and who must have regarded them with repugnance.

13. The Magistrate will make it generally known that the Upper Tripathi Hill is to remain, as it has hitherto been, secure from the presence of all but caste Natives, except on those occasions when it may be necessary that the Hill should be visited officially by European Officers of the Magistracy and the Police.

14. These Officers will take special care that on such occasions they are accompanied by none but caste Natives.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 64. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,
dated Fort St. George, 23rd January 1872, No. 79.

I am directed with reference to your telegram received on the 27th November last, stating "that the High Priests and others of Tripathi had appealed against an order of the Madras Government invading the sacred character of the Hill" to submit, for the information of His Excellency the

Dated 23rd January 1872, No. 78. Governor-General in Council, the Proceedings marginally noted, and a copy of a Despatch to the Secretary of State which contain the full particulars connected with the order in question.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

