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GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

LEGISLATIVE (1897) DEPARTMENT.

Letter to the Right Honourable the
Secretary of State for India.

Dated 27th February,
No. 4 of 1897.

*Forwarding, with remarks, for information, copies of Proceedings of this Government,
Nos. 14 and 15, Legislative, dated 16th February 1897, on the subject of the Hindu
Gains of Learning Bill.*

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—to

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY LORD,

With reference to Lord Cross' despatch, No. 2, Legislative, dated 25th June 1891, and in continuation of our despatch, No. 3, Legislative, dated 10th April 1891, we have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the Proceedings of this Government, No. 14, Legislative, dated 16th February 1897, together with a copy of the letter addressed to the Government of India, on the subject of the Hindu Gains of Learning Bill.

2. In respect of the question raised in paragraph 2 of Lord Cross' despatch, your Lordship will learn from the accompanying papers the steps that have been taken to ascertain the general feeling of the Hindu community on the subject of the proposed measure. The Bill was published in the Gazette in all the vernacular languages of the Presidency so long ago as 1891; and many of the leading members of the Hindu community have been individually consulted. On a careful consideration of the views thus elicited, we have arrived at the conclusion that we should allow the Bill to take its course in the Legislative Council without opposition on the part of Government.

3. In regard to the observation made in paragraph 3 of the same despatch, we are of opinion that the Bill cannot properly be held to affect the Hindu religion or the religious rites and usages of the Hindus within the intention of section 43 of 24 and 25 Victoria, Cap. 67, and that therefore the previous sanction of His Excellency the Governor-General under that section is not necessary; but we have referred the question to the Government of India, and the mover of the Bill has been requested to defer its further progress until the views of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the point have been ascertained.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK.
(„) H. W. BLISS.
(„) J. GROSE.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
27th February 1897.

ENDORSEMENT—R. No. 21, Legislative, dated 27th February 1897.

Copy to the Government of India, Legislative Department, with reference to Home Department letter, No. 1130, dated 7th July 1875.

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. C. M. Thambuswamy.