1. Number of pages 6
2. Date of repair 9-9-37
3. Initials of Reference

M.R.O. 1—88,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. dt 24-11-37

G.O. No. 2119 Press Mis.

1—2

Dated 18—11—1937

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 24th November 1857.

No. 1. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 12th November 1857, No. 5180.

SIR,

With reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No. 1778, dated 18th September 1857, I have the honor to submit copy of a letter from the District Engineer of Chingleput, dated 19th October, No. 1194, reporting the occurrence of extensive damages to the defensive works lately constructed on Saint Thomas' Mount; and suggesting some alteration in the mode of construction from that which has been hitherto adopted.

2. On referring Lieutenant Moberly's report to the Brigadier Commanding the Mount, whose opinion I solicited, I received in reply a letter,* copy of which is subjoined, in which it is alleged, that the suspension of the works was the cause of their recent injury by the weather, and that having been well planned, the Brigadier recommended no alteration from the original design of the fortifications.

* No. 582, dated 31st October 1857.

3. With regard to the suspension of the works, I need hardly observe that this Department is in no way responsible for it, as an efficient subordinate was from the first placed under the Brigadier's orders for their execution; and when they were transferred to the District Engineer, the funds were exhausted.

4. But so far from regretting the delay, I am clearly of opinion, that the hasty and imperfect manner of construction was the true cause of the speedy ruin of those works; and that if they are intended to serve any permanent purpose, they should be rebuilt in a more substantial manner, as suggested by the Superintending Engineer in charge of the Centre Circle, and the District Engineer; and I think that nothing further should be done, till complete plans, estimates, and a report are laid before Government.

5. It may perhaps be a question whether the defence of the station could not be more efficiently as well as economically provided for, by improvements to the buildings below, but if the Hill is to be fortified it had better be well done.

Letter from Lieutenant A. S. MOBERLY, District Engineer of Chingleput; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; dated Camp Guindy, 19th October 1857, No. 1194.

SIR,

I have the honor to report, that the fortification on Saint Thomas' Mount, have received much damage from the late heavy rains, there is a large breach in the Battery on the north side of the Hill, and also in the Battery round Colonel Noble's Monument, at the west end of the Mount, there are several breaches also in the breast walls on the crest of the Hill, and it is my opinion, after a careful examination of the works, that much more of the work will fall down, if as there is every probability at this season of the year, there should be more rain.

2. The damage I consider to have arisen in consequence of the works having been made of a gravelly soil, through which the rain has percolated; and there being no drainage underneath, the soil being rocky, it has forced its way through the outer casing of rough stone, which it has carried away, and the earth has then fallen, to repair it in the same manner, would I consider be a waste of money, and under these circumstances, I request your instructions as to how I am to act.

3. In conclusion, I beg to state that in my opinion, it would be more economical and at the same time much stronger, to build merely a breast wall of about 4 or 4½ feet in height, on the inside, with a banquette on which the men could stand, when delivering their fire ; the guns I would beg to suggest should be " enbarbette," or else one in each Battery, on a traversing platform.

Letter from Brigadier Æ. SHIRREFF, Commanding the Mount ; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer ; dated 31st October 1857, No. 582.

SIR,

With reference to your Proceedings in the Department Public Works under date the 27th Instant, No. 4746, I do myself the honor to inform you, that if the fortifications on the Mount had not been suspended, but on the other hand have been vigorously carried on to their entire completion, I am of opinion that the works would not have suffered during the recent heavy rains to their almost entire annihilation. I beg to state, that they have been well planned, and I would therefore recommend no alteration from the original design.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 2119 ; dated 18th November 1857.

Ordered to be referred to the Military Department.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

37

Central Office of P. Works,
Fort Saint George,
12 November 1857

Military

No. 5180

From,
The Chief Engineer,

Enclosures 2.
Copies of Letters.

To,
The Secretary to Government, G.T.P.D.
No. 5180.

Sir,

With reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No 1778, dated 18th September 1857, I have the honor to submit copy of a letter from the District Engineer of Chinglepet, dated 19th October, No 1194, reporting the occurrence of extensive damages to the defensive works lately constructed on Saint Thomas' Mount ; and suggesting some alteration in the mode of construction from that which has been hitherto adopted.

2 On referring Lieutenant Moberly's report to the Brigadier Commanding the Mount, whose opinion I solicited, I received in reply a letter, copy of which is subjoined, in which it is alleged, that the suspension of the works was the cause of their recent injury by the weather, and that having been well planned, the

* No. 582 d/ 31st October 57.

Brigadier

Brigadier recommended no alteration from the original design of the fortifications.

3 With regard to the suspension of the works, I need hardly observe that this Department is in no way responsible for it, as an efficient Subordinate was from the first placed under the Brigadier's orders for their execution; and when they were transferred to the District Engineer, the funds were exhausted.

4 But so far from regretting the delay, I am clearly of opinion, that the hasty and imperfect manner of construction was the true cause of the speedy ruin of those works; and that if they are intended to serve any permanent purpose, they should be rebuilt in a more substantial manner, as suggested by the Superintending Engineer, in charge of the Centre Circle, and the District Engineer; and I think that nothing further should be done, till complete plans, estimates, and a Report are laid before Government.

5 It may perhaps be a question whether the defence of the station could not be more efficiently as well as economically provided for, by improvements to the Buildings below but if the Hill is to be fortified it had better be well done.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obt. Servant
Alex. Scott Colonel
Chief Engineer.

Central Office of Public Works,
Fort-Saint George, 12 November 57

A.S.

To,
The Secretary to Government P. W. D.

Encl. 11.

Rec.d March 1857 / Department
Fort to Cons.d 24th Novr Number
No. 2236

From
The Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
F.W.D.

Dated 12th November 1857

Received Extract from Mily Dept. 11th Feb. Leg. 58 No 129 pp. 576
No. 2119. 18th Nov.r
Enclosures 2.

Subject
Submits copy of a letter from the District Engineer Chinglepet reporting the damages done during the late heavy rains to the Fortifications at & near Chromt. Mount, as also copy of one from the Brigadier Commanding the Mount stating that if the works had been vigorously carried on to completion they would have been saved in the late rains. Observes that of the works in question are intended to serve any permanent purpose, they should be rebuilt in a more substantial manner.

No. 2119.

Ordered to be referred to the Military Department.

Fort Saint George
18th Nov.r 1857

Copies to the Mily Dept. Lett.r 19.

No. 142.