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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press
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Dated	18-37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 62. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Ecclesiastical Department, dated 12th February 1857, No. 82.

Read the following letter from the Venerable VINCENT SHORTLAND, Archdeacon of Madras; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 29th January 1857.

SIR,

In forwarding the enclosed letter from the Church Committee of Coonoor, dated the 26th Instant, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, I have the honor to explain that I had an opportunity at the beginning of last year of myself observing the singularly unfinished state in some of its arrangements, of the otherwise handsome and picturesque Church at Coonoor, which owes so much to the zealous and liberal exertion of General Kennett, one of the present Lay Trustees.

I shall be obliged by your communicating to his Lordship in Council, that I am strongly impressed with the necessity of the various improvements recommended by the Church Committee in the 10th and following paragraphs of their letter, though that referred to in para. 14 appears of less immediate importance.

Should the Government approve of the offer in para. 17, of the Church Committee's services in the execution of the improvements which may be sanctioned, I have little doubt, from the great success of the Reverend Chaplain in the restoration of the sacred edifices at Tranquebar and Poonamallee, combined with the talent and energy of General Kennett, that considerable benefit would result to the Church and the Public service.

Letter from the Church Committee, Coonoor; to the Venerable VINCENT SHORTLAND, Archdeacon of Madras, dated 26th January 1857, No. 105.

VENERABLE AND DEAR SIR,

We have the honor to lay the following statements before you, and to request the favor of your bringing the same under the consideration of the Government at your earliest convenience.

2. The point to which we desire to address ourselves, is the present unfinished state of the Coonoor Church and Cemetery.

3. At the time of the Consecration of the Church, the Lord Bishop gave so sudden an intimation of his intention on a given day to perform the rite, that the Church Committee were in fact driven into a corner, and obliged in a very hurried way to make arrangements for his Lordship's reception.

4. Hence the very handsome stained eastern window, presented by General Kennett to the Church, was so put up, that to render it as ornamental as it is capable of being, a fresh arrangement of its parts, involving some trouble will be required. Then again, instead of substantial shutters to protect this window, (especially from the notorious hail storms, which in March and April blow from the east, and almost horizontally;) the Committee were only able to fix up the present rough shutters, which from want of proper fastenings, have blown about, and unfortunately injured the stained glass on one side in an irreparable manner.

5. The want of proper protection in this part of the Church, has also occasioned the rain to enter the chancel end through the window, and to damage the masonry considerably. When it rains, the Communion Table is obliged to be moved forward, to protect it from injury.

6. Again, excepting the 2 small doors at the east end of the Church, and that at the north side, which appear to have been painted only *outside*; the entire wood work of the Church, including doors and windows and the venetians of the Tower, (all of which are of very rough workmanship) has never had a coat of paint yet. Putting aside appearance, the preservation of the wood itself is concerned herein.

7. In like manner the seats in the Church were put together in a hurry, and having been done by contract, and by a bad contractor, the workmanship is of the roughest kind. Plain, unpolished boards, form back, and front, and seats, indeed so obvious was this, that on the occasion

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of the Governor General's visit, it was found necessary to indent for cloth to cover the whole of the seat his Lordship occupied. The seats require remodelling throughout the Church, and especially in regard to the height of the backs, and the Book boards, which at present render it difficult to kneel at all during Divine Service.

8. The Burial ground also must be mentioned as having only a narrow ditch defining its limits, over which the cattle constantly leap and graze among the tombs. Its dimensions also are not proportioned to the future probable wants of the station.

9. It remains for us to state the alteration and improvements which we recommend in the above respects, and which in obedience to "Rule 3 of the Rules for the guidance of Church Committees" we bring in the first instance to your notice.

10. The eastern window is 16 feet high and $16\frac{1}{2}$ wide; we recommend that substantial shutters with proper fittings, be erected from the base to the spring of the arch, and that wire net work be fixed above the shutters to protect the upper part of the stained glass window from the Hail storms we have alluded to. We conceive that the shutters will not only protect the lower part of the window, but also prevent the spread of the evil alluded to in para 5.

11. We recommend that the doors and windows of the Church (excepting the great western door) and the venetian windows of the Tower be painted with 3 coats of paint as well as the carriage and side gates of the Church compound. We consider it desirable also, that the Church be stone-washed, within and without.

12. We recommend a fresh arrangement of the seats in the Church, diminishing the number in the side and central aisles by one pew in each case, to afford space for kneeling, and as contributing to the same important end, we also recommend the lowering the backs 3 inches, and the Book boards 6 inches throughout.

13. We recommend that the seats so altered, be properly finished and varnished, as well as the western doors and Pulpit and Reading Desk and Communion Rails and Chairs, and Roof of Church inside, and that the kneeling stools be made fixtures.

14. We recommend that the ground on the north and west, intervening between the present ditch and the public road, be added to the Burial ground, and that either a low wall with wooden railings be erected as a boundary thereto, or that a wider ditch be dug, and the interior border furnished with a strong hedge, capable of resisting the inroads of the cattle constantly prowling about.

15. We recommend that a most careful inspection of the roof on the south side be made and the drainage thoroughly examined, and deficiencies therein supplied. The roof on the south side leaks from nearly east to west during wet weather, and strange to say during dry weather too at times.

16. We take this opportunity of requesting the favor of your obtaining the permission of Government to place the Clock promised by General Kennett when finished in the Church Tower, the expence of doing which he himself will bear. When fixed, however, it will be borne on the returns of Church property.

17. We shall be most happy to send in an estimate for the whole, or any part of the above works, and to execute the same if it will be of any convenience to the Government, but we especially suggest immediate attention to the recommendation contained in paras. 10 and 11.

HENRY TAYLOR, B. C. L. Chaplain and President,
B. KENNETT, Genl. } Lay
J. GERRARD, Capt. } Trustees,
Committee of management for Church affairs at Coonoor.

Ordered to be communicated to the Department of Public Works, in view to the Civil Engineer of the Division being called upon to report, as early as possible, upon the improvements and repairs stated to be required to the Church at Coonoor, and to submit an estimate of their cost as also one for enclosing the Cemetery and such addition as may be required to it with a wall. In respect to this additional ground, he will communicate with the Trustees and the Collector and ascertain from the latter to whom the land belongs, if not to Government, and how and on

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what terms it is to be obtained. In making the addition, it will also be borne in mind that, under the orders of Government, 3rd May 1849, No. 126, separate provision will have to be made in it for the sepulture of Christians not belonging to the Church of England.

2. The work when sanctioned, will be executed under the supervision of the Committee.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council willingly accords his permission for the erection, in the Church Tower, of the clock proposed to be supplied by General Kennett.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, No. 354; dated 23rd February 1857.

No. 63.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with a request that he will call upon the District Engineer of Coimbatore, to submit an estimate for the repairs and improvements stated to be required to the Church at Coonoor.

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

Ecclesiastical Department

A#83

Extract from the minutes of Consultation

(Dated 12th February 1857)Read the following letter
from the Venerable the Archdeacon.(Received 29th January 1857, No 69)

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to the Department of Public Works, in
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2 The work when
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3 The Right Honour-
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graciously accord his permission
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for the erection in the Church Tower
of the Clock proposed to be supplied
by General Kemmett.

Signed J. Pycroft
Chief Secretary

To
The Department of Public Works
The Archdeacon
The Collector of Contributions

By
James Smith

Pat Norton 1857 Sept
26th Nov 21, January.

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Extract from
the records of the
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