1. Number of pages. 15
2. Date of repair. 23-6-3
3. Initials of Repairer

4

M.R.O. 1—82,400—29-11-50

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Com. 28-4-57

G.O. No. 755 Press / Mis.

17-18

Dated 22-4- 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 28th April 1857.

No. 17. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 28th March 1857, No. 11332.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation 9th May last No. 677, I have the honor to submit (under Clause II. of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 696 of the 18th October 1855,) the accompanying letter No. 110 from the late Acting Civil Engineer 8th Division, on the subject of Teercomal Naick's Palace in Madura.

Dated July 10th 1856.

2. Lieutenant Roberts reports, that the lower portion of the Palace is built of cut stone of great solidity and beauty, except in the foundations, where small stones and inferior workmanship are met with. The domes, galleries, and entire upper portion of the Palace are of brick masonry of varying degrees of repair and stability, but where exposed to the weather on the south side, the masonry in certain parts of the building is in a very dilapidated condition.

3. The only really safe portions of the Palace available for a school are the cloisters, where ample space is afforded for the several purposes required. It is proposed to erect a parapet or partition wall as shewn in yellow in the plan, to confine the Scholars to the safe part of the building.

4. The above letter with the estimate that accompanied it, were forwarded for the report of the Director of Public Instruction, who, in a communication, dated 3rd November last, suggested certain other additions to the general arrangements proposed by Lieutenant Roberts, which additions in a letter from this office of the 7th Idem, the District Engineer Lieutenant Scott, was directed to include in the estimate.

5. Lieutenant Scott now forwards an estimate for Rupees (800) eight hundred, which, with that submitted in Lieutenant Robert's letter above quoted, amounting together to Rupees (3,750) three thousand seven hundred and fifty, fully provide for the accommodation that is necessary for adapting the Palace for the purposes of a School.

6. In submitting therefore the above papers for the favorable consideration of Government, I have the honor to recommend (the rates allowed for the work being moderate and sufficient,) that the estimate may be sanctioned for entry in the Budget of 1858-59.

7. It is to be observed however, that the liberal views of Government as conveyed in para. one of the order in the Public Department, signed by the Chief Secretary, as to the further repairs to the roof &c., necessary to preserve the building generally from decay, have been apparently entirely overlooked both by Lieutenant Roberts and Lieutenant Scott, who have confined their attention to the wants of the Director of Public Instruction.

8. I beg that I may be honored with instructions as to the correctness of my belief, that it is the intention of Government to renew the roof of this magnificient structure wherever requisite, to arrest further, and repair already existing injuries.

9. A similar omission may be observed as regards maintaining the architectural character of the building. In this respect the two lean to 3 outside with sloping roofs tiled with chunam borders must be held to be a very needless violation of the canons of good taste, and something more in harmony with the Palace ought not to have been beyond the powers of the District Engineer.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 755; dated 22nd April 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Public Department, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation in that Department, dated 28th April 1856, No. 172.

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

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George
25th March 1857

No 11332.

From,

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir:

"Educational"

With reference to Extract Minutes
Consultation 9th May last No 677, I have
the honor to submit (under clause II of
Extract Mins: Consultation No 696 of the
18th October 1855,) the accompanying letter No 110
4 Letters
1 Report
2 Estimates
3 Plans
dt July 10/56
from the late Acting Civil Engineer's "Divi-
sion, on the subject of Trivoomal Naick's
Palace in Madura.

2. Lieut Roberts reports, that
the lower portion of the Palace is built
of cut stone of great solidity and beauty
except in the foundations, where small
stones and inferior workmanship are
met with. The domes, galleries, and en-
tire upper portion of the Palace are of
brick masonry of varying degrees of re-
pair and stability; but where exposed to
the weather on the south side, the masonry
in certain parts of the buildings is in a very
dilapidated condition.

3 The only really safe portions of the Palace available for a School are the cloisters, where ample space is afforded for the several purposes required. It is proposed to erect a parapet or partition wall as shewn in yellow in the plan, to confine the Scholars to the safe part of the building.-

4 The above letter with the Estimate that accompanied it, were forwarded for the report of the Director of Public Instruction, who, in a communication dated 3rd. ultimo last, suggested certain other additions to the general arrangements proposed by Lieut. Roberts, which additions in a letter from this office of the 7th idem, the District Engineer Lieut. Scott was directed to include in the Estimate.

5 Lieut. Scott now forwards an Estimate for Rupees (800) eight hundred, which, with that submitted in Lieut Roberts letter above quoted, amounting together to Rupees (3750) Three thousand seven hundred and fifty, fully provide for the accommodation that is necessary for adapting the Palace for the purposes of a School.

6 In submitting therefore the above papers for the favorable consideration

57

of Government, I have the honor to recommend, the rates allowed for the work being moderate and sufficient, that the Estimate may be sanctioned for entry in the Budget of 1838/39.

It is to be observed however, that the liberal views of Government as conveyed in Para one of the order in the Public Department, signed by the Chief Secretary, as to the further repairs to the roof &c. necessary to preserve the building generally from decay, have been apparently entirely overlooked both by Lieut Roberts and Lieut Scott, who have confined their attention to the wants of the Director of Public Instruction.-

8 I beg that I may be honored with instructions as to the correctness of my belief, that it is the intention of Government to renew the roof of this magnificent structure wherever requisite, to arrest further, and repair already existing injuries.-

9 A similar omission may be observed as regards maintaining the architectural character of the building.- In this respect the two beautiful outside with sloping roofs tiled with chunam borders must be

held to be a very needless violation
of the canons of good taste, and some
thing more in harmony with the Palace
ought not to have been beyond the powrs
of the District Engineer.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt
Servt
W. Slater Coll
Chief Engineer

Central Offices of PW
Fort St George
28 March 1857

Capt. V. Gray.

No. 110 47

To

Colonel W. C. Slater
Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works
Fort Saint George

Sir,

1. I have the honor to forward herewith for the sanction of Government an Estimate amounting to Rupees 2950 - - - - prepared in conformity with the instructions contained in your Memo:, No. 3251, dated 15th May 1856, forwarding Extract Min. of Cons. No. 677 under date 9th idem, for the Repairs and improvements necessary to adapt a portion of Tirumalai Naicks Palace at Madura into a Zillah School. —

2. To enable Government to form a more correct idea of the present condition of the Building, on which in the above Extract they order me to report, it will be necessary to enter into a few particulars regarding its construction, though from Mr. Richards' eloquent description already before Government of a portion of the Palace, these need not be at any length. —

3.

3. The design and erection of the Palace is attributed to Tirumala, the 9th on the List of the "Nayaks" / indifferently called Governors and Kings/ who held the Sovereignty of the Kingdom of Madura.—

4. The accession of Tirumala Nayak is considered by Professor H. Wilson, to bring us to a period of chronological certainty, and is placed by the different authorities within two or three years of the same date, or 1621, 1623 & 1626.—

5. It was during the early part of this Reign, which lasted till about A.D. 1660, that the Portuguese Jesuits under Robert de Nobili established the Madura Mission; and there is sufficient proof, in the style of the building itself, and the Gigantic figures with which it is ornamented—such as Cherubims, heads and hands of parties supposed to be in purgatory, some of these latter, apparently, strange as it may seem, with Cardinals' hats on,—that considerable assistance must have been obtained, in the construction of the Palace, from Foreigners well versed in what are popularly called "Popish practices."—

6. The general form of the building, as will be observed in the Plan herewith returned, is an

oblong square.—Pillars in triple row, and 12½ feet high to the Springing line of the domes, running round the building, form complete Cloisters, in which, Rarely interspersed, are halls surmounted by lofty domes, and which are flanked by a single row of stately Columns supporting, in a Continuous Set, domes at an altitude of 70 feet above the surface of the quadrangle.—

7. The pillars are throughout of cut-stone in Chunam of great solidity and neatness of finish, except at bottom and in the foundations, where, according to the most approved System of Native Architecture, the smallest stones and worst workmanship are discernible.—

8. The domes, Galleries, and entire upper portion of the Palace are of brick Masonry of varying degrees of hardness and stability.—In perhaps the greater part, the bricks and mortar have consolidated into a hardness equal to that of stone; but where exposed to the weather on the South side, the Masonry in places crumbles under the touch, and the upper domes there, some of which are but 9 inches in thickness at the crown, are either already in Ruins, or fast approaching

There-

thereto.—

9. The space marked A on the plan, would, undoubtedly, form a fine Central Hall, as proposed by Mr. Richards, were it not for the state of the dome, but disfigured and dangerous as this is with gaping cracks, and really awful fissures, I strongly reprobate the idea of using that space for such, or any other purpose.—

10. Mr. Richards, in his surmise that the Masonry "even where it appears broken or cracked" is probably as safe as most ordinary buildings," is, I consider, quite correct so long as he confines the remark to the Cloisters; but to attempt to include in that Category the Central Hall, or the Quadrangle Gallery, and to act on the same, would, to my mind, be incurring an amount of Responsibility which Government would have occasion to regret.—

11. It is my belief, after a careful survey of the building, that the Vibration of the air by a loud clap of thunder would have the effect of bringing down such a clatter about the School-boys ears, if unhappily allowed to congregate in this Hall, as would cause the School to be closed at

a much earlier date, I fancy, than at present contemplated by Government.—

12. The only really safe portions of the Palace at present available, are as before stated, the Cloisters, and as these afford ample space for the School, I have, in the Estimate now submitted, confined myself to their improvement, so as to adopt them for the several purposes required.—

13. Thus, I propose having flights of steps immediately to the right and left of the entrance, whereby the boys can enter the Cloisters from which a parapet wall, shown in yellow, all round will prevent their egress to any supposed dangerous part of the building.—

14. The Estimate for repairing and improving this part amounts to only Rupees 1300; the remainder is required for fitting up quarters for the School-master, for a Library, Purveyor &c.—

15. It is impossible to render the School-masters Quarter habitable without disobeying the instructions of Government, not to destroy the Character of the building.—

16. What in Sivanmala Nayaks' idea was

was connected, doubtless, with comfort, not to say luxury, is by us comprised under the general head of "Stuffiness and Froust". — In Madura, of all places, we want air; windows must be knocked out, doors enlarged and a Verandah built to keep out the morning Sun. — These I have consequently allowed for /vide plan/ and they swell the Estimate considerably. —

17. In preparing the Estimate I had the advantage of consulting Mr. Parker, as also Lieut.t Scott, and I think I may safely say that what is now recommended fully meets with the approbation of both these Gentlemen. — I trust therefore that it will be found to answer the purpose required, and by the means of starting the Gillah School on a surer and firmer footing than its Predecessor the celebrated "Sangittar" instituted by the Paundiya Kings of Madura, which Collegiate Institution, according to the Madura "Purana", was, curiously enough, abolished /between it is supposed the 6.th & 9.th Centuries/ by a Pariah Priest from Mylapoor /St. Thomé/. —

18. As regards the further Repairs, alluded to by Government, to the Roof &.ca, required to preserve

serve the building from decay, I am not of opinion that such are in any way advisable. If the Stupendous domes, above noticed, could be satisfactorily repaired, which I doubt, such could only be done at a great outlay, totally incommensurate with the object to be effected; since the Palace, like that of most Eastern Monarchs, does not harmonize with our ideas of either utility or comfort. —

19. In conclusion, I have the honor to state that the delay in submitting this Estimate has arisen from my having received it back from the Collector just too late to forward it on the 10.th according to order, of last month, so that I have been obliged to detain it to the present date. —

20. Enclosed is a Plan (perhaps deservedly so) old Sketch, which I picked up at Madura of Tirumala Nayaki's Palace. — It was done by a Native Artist some years back, with a Camera Lucida, and although the Perspective is, as you cannot fail to perceive, somewhat strained, it gives a very fair idea of what the building must have been at the time, and what it would be

be if repaired, so I have thought it as well to for-
-ward it.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed.t Servant

Richd. Roberts Lieut.t
Acting Civil Engr. 8th Div.n

Civil Engineer's Office 8th Div.n
Cassapoorpoorum 10th July 1856.

Dep.d 11th Inst.

To the Sec.y of Govt. 29 July/56
No 5341.
Govt 28 Recd/57 No 11332.

E-B-1-Madura

1856.
Dept.
Sec.y

From

The Acting Civil Engr
8th Divn

To

The Chief Engineer
D. P. W.
Fort St George

Dated 10th July/56.

Recd. 17
Trans. 25 April/57 No 17.
Enclosures 4.

1021
P.W. 6037/57

Inwards for sanction an Estimate and Plan for repairs and improvements necessary to adopt a portion of Srinivasala Nayak's Palace at Madura into a Zillah School amounting to Rs. 2950.— P. 1857. D. No 565.

Entered

Cons: 31st March 57 N 6464
" 13 May 86 " 37435
" 13 June " 16711168

Ex from the P.D. Dep Rec'd May 57
N 1021 inform
of Trans

N 1708

Character of Ms

Public Works 1857 Dep'tt
Dr Cons 28th April.

From, N 637
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secy to Govt Mad

Dated 28th March 1857.
Rec'd 30th " "
10 Enclosures N 1132
Ex Rs. of the Chief Engr P.W. Dep't
dated 24th May
Con. N 904.

Submitting with reference to his M.C. 9th May last N 677 & under date 11th of his M.C. N 696 of the 18th Ult/55 an Estimate for Rs 3750 for providing the accommodation necessary for adapting Terminal Naick's Choultry for the purposes of a School at Madura & recommending that it may be sanctioned for entry in the Budget of 1858/59 Requesting to be favored with instructions on the subject of renewing the roof of the Building as declared by, in P. 4 fronting out another omission as to the maintenance of the aforesaid Rs 3750. With an Order 22 ditto

N 755

Ordered to be communicated to the Public Department with reference to Ex Mem Cons: in that Department dated 28th April 1856 N 1472.

Fort St George
22d April 1857