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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 5-5-37

G.O. No. 859 Press Mis.

98-99

Dated 5 5 1837

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 5th May 1857.

No. 98. — Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Ecclesiastical Department, dated 24th April 1857, No. 184.

Read the following letter from the Venerable the Archdeacon.

(Here enter 1st April 1857.)

With his letter above recorded, the Venerable the Archdeacon submits one from the Chaplain of Coonoor and Jackatallah, representing that the room in which the congregation at the latter station, (numbering about 450 persons,) now assemble for Divine worship; is wholly unsuited to the purpose, is of limited extent, and unprovided with the usual articles of furniture necessary for the due performance of Divine service.

2. The Reverend Mr. Taylor's letter will be referred through the Department of Public Works to the Chief Engineer who will report upon the statements made in it. It is remarked that the Government have been informed that the plan of the Jackatallah Barracks included provision for the performance of public worship of the kind indicated by the Government of India in their letter of 22nd July 1848, No. 566. Colonel Faber will state whether the room described by Mr. Taylor is one of the rooms attached to the Barracks for that purpose, and if so, what can be done to fit it up properly and remedy the defects pointed out by the Chaplain.

Extract Minutes Consultation 12th December 1854.

Two large rooms to be attached to the Barracks "for the performance of Divine Service to the Soldiers of the Protestant and Roman Catholic persuasions, the larger of the two rooms to be used on week days as the Regimental school, in which, as is at present regulated, the Protestant and Roman Catholic children would be taught together, and the other room to be used as the Regimental Library, in which the Protestant and Roman Catholic Soldiers would associate and read together."

3. Meanwhile, the Church Committee will apply, by Indent, on the proper Department, for the articles of Church furniture required for the celebration of Public worship.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Letter from the Reverend Mr. H. TAYLOR, B. C. L., Chaplain of Coonoor; to the Venerable VINCENT SHORTLAND, Archdeacon of Madras, dated 27th March 1857.

VENERABLE AND DEAR SIR,

I think it my duty to lay before you for the consideration of the Government, if you think it desirable to do so, the following statement relative to the present means for conducting Divine Service at Jackatallah.

2. The location of a European Regiment at Jackatallah, would alone be a guarantee for a permanently large congregation at all times, without reference to many other residents who are settling down in these parts; and when the Railroad is completed, will be likely to locate themselves here in far greater numbers.

3. The congregation assembling for Public Worship every Sunday at Jackatallah, amounts to about 300 Soldiers and 150 persons of other conditions. Only four Companies of the 74th Highlanders are at present in the Barracks, and owing to the numbers drafted from the 94th and other Episcopalian Regiments, no distinction of creed is made, and I am Chaplain alike to Presbyterians and Episcopalians. The Roman Catholics of the Regiment, who muster rather strong, are of course marched to their own place of worship. It is most gratifying to have to add my testimony to the devout bearing of both Officers and men not Episcopalians, in regard to the services of our Church, and of their evident appreciation of their sacred value, insomuch that on the occasion of our last Holy Communion, Presbyterians and Episcopalians both surrounded the Table of our Lord to my great comfort.

4. But whilst I would record these facts with gratitude, it is my painful duty to state that if any circumstances could make men feel cold in their devotions, when assembled for public

prayer, it would be the place in which we now meet, and the miserable shifts I am obliged to resort to, that the Public Worship of God may not give place to ridicule instead of holy thoughts.

5. I will describe the place to you without exaggeration. The room we meet in was once a Barrack room, 80 feet long by 16 broad. The walls brick and mud, and the roof thatched. In the course of time it got out of repair, and was condemned accordingly. The roof is infested with rats, and I doubt not that should we be at prayers when a shower of rain come on, we should have to retire. There are no means whatever for adminstering our Holy Sacraments. No Communion Table, no Font, no Kneeling cushions, no Pulpit nor Reading desk, but a few boards hastily railed together, no Vestry, so that I am obliged to robe outside the door in the open air. On Communion Sundays a teapoy represents the table of the Lord, and the Communicants kneel on the bare floor. At the celebration of Holy Baptism, a teapoy with a common bason is our only font. In short, considering how prone the human mind is to turn into fun or ridicule whatever is sacred, I am often surprised at the decorum which attends our proceedings.

6. The power of kneeling is out of the question altogether, so closely packed as the congregation is obliged to be. So that viewing the above circumstances, I shall not be considered as speaking too strongly when I say that our present place of worship is discreditable. When I see the stately palace which is being erected for the Soldiers to live in, I naturally regret that no provisions is at present comtemplated for a place wherein God may place his own name there, and I am sure that the effect upon the minds of the surrounding heathen must be very prejudicial.

7. I trust that I may not be considered as stepping out of my sphere in bringing this subject strongly to the notice of Government. Looking to the future probable spiritual wants of the station, I do not see how Public Worship is to be carried on, when a full Regiment occupies Jackatalla. The present room, (and there is no larger room in the place) cannot old a dozen more people. There must therefore be two services, and no Chaplain could officiate twice at Jackatallah and twice at Coonoor on the same day. I find my present work very hard, having to officiate *thrice* every Sabbath day so that there is no escaping the conclusion that there is not a station in this Presidency that present stronger claims for a Church capable of holding 600 or 700 people than Jackatallah.

8. I will merely add one suggestion, should the Government be pleased to sanction the erection of a Church, which is this, considering the difficulty experienced in the supply of large timber for the Barracks, and which would specially apply to the case of so large a Church as should be built at Jackatallah; I would respectfully suggest that the roof and doors and window frames be made of galvanised iron procured from England, which might be in course of preparation *there*, whilst the masonry is being completed *here*, and thus enable us to build the Church in half the time probably that would be otherwise expended.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, No. 859; dated 5th May 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer.

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

Ecclesiastical Department.

A. 184

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 3d April 185

Read the following letter
from the Venerable the Archdeacon.

Dated 1st April 185

With this letter above recorded the Venerable the Archdeacon submits one from the Chaplains of Coonoor and Jackatallah representing that the room in which the congregation at the latter Station numbering about 650 persons, now assemble for Divine worship, is wholly unsuited to the purpose as of limited extent, and unprovided with the usual articles of furniture necessary for the due performance of Divine Service.

The

2. Directed that the Rev. Mr. Taylor's letter will be referred through the Department of Public Works to the Chief Engineer who will report upon the statements made in it.
It is remarked that the Government have been informed that the plan of the Portobello Barracks included provision for the performance of Public Worship of the kind indicated by the Government of India in their letter of 22nd July 1848 No. 566. Colonel Faber will state whether the room described by Mr. Taylor is one of the rooms attached to the Barracks for that purpose - and if so, what can be done to fit it up properly and remedy the defects pointed

E. M. C. 12th Dec. 1854.

Two large rooms to be attached to the barracks for the performance of Divine Service to the Soldiers of the Protestant and Roman Catholic persuasions the larger of the two rooms to be used on week days as the Regimental School, in which, as is at present regulated, the Protestant and Roman Catholic children would be taught together, and the other room to be used as the Regimental Library, in which the Protestant and Roman Catholic Soldiers would associate and read together.

pointed out by the Chaplain.-

3.- Meanwhile, the Church Committee will apply, by Indent, on the proper Department, for the articles of Church furniture required for the celebration of Public worship.-

True Extract./

F. Geo[illegible]
Chief Secretary.-

To The Department of Public Works.-
with copy of Revd. Mr. Taylor's letter

[illegible]

H. C. Doll.-

Public Works 1857 Dep.t
Cons.: 5.th May.

No. 857

Extract from the Jrnls.
of Cons. in the Ecclesi-
astical Depart.t

Dated 24.th } April
Received 27.th }

1 Encls: No. 184
Lt. Wms Com.s Cert.d Dep.t 18.th inst.
Sept. 18, 1857 vs 1790 in Com.s 15 Sept.r
Requesting the Ch.
Engr. through the D.P.W.,
to report upon the State-
ments made by the Revd
Mr. Taylor, in regard to a
Rent of Woodlots at Jac.
Natal Cath.

With an order
No. 859. 5.th May

No. 859

Ordered to be com-
municated to the Chief
Engineer.

Fort St. George
5.th May 1857

1 Copies to the Chief Engr. Dis.t 26.th

1098 & 99