

(1) Number of pages 18
 (2) Date of repair 28-4-38
 (3) Initials of the Referencer F



MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Subd. 1028-ec 17/11/39 DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>882</u>	Press Mis.
<u>22-23</u> Dated <u>19-4-</u> 18 <u>59</u> .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 19th April 1859.

No. 22. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 24th March 1859, No. 8930.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2118, dated 11th October 1858, and in continuation of the letter No. 3452, addressed to Government by the late Officiating Chief Engineer on the 8th September 1858, I do myself the honor to submit a series of Reports since received from the Districts of Tinnevely, North Arcot, Nellore and Canara, on the subject of ancient Architectural remains.

- 1 Letter No. 139 dated 21st October 1858, from District Engineer of Tinnevely with 11 Enclosures.
- 1 Do. No. 1498 dated 26th October 1858, from District Engineer, North Arcot.
- 1 Do. No. 2792 dated 15th December 1858, from the District Engineer of Nellore with one Enclosure.
- 1 Do. No. 218 dated 8th March 1859, from the District Engineer of Canara, with one Enclosure.

2. The District Engineer of Tinnevely gives a most interesting description illustrated with Stereoscopic and Photographic views of several ancient and magnificent buildings in the Strevellipootoor and Ootapedarum Talooks, and much credit is due to him and Lieutenant Paxton for the desire which they have evinced to meet the wishes of Government.

3. Captain Oakes does not recommend the sanction of any fixed sum for keeping the buildings which he describes in repair; but illustrative as they are of the former history and existing traditions of the country, I think that, under the views of Government, conveyed in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1060, dated 3rd June 1857, it is desirable that these ancient remains should not be permitted to fall altogether into decay, and would therefore suggest that authority be granted for the execution of such repairs as may from time to time be found requisite for maintaining the characteristic features of the buildings.

4. Mr. Dopping's Report is very meagre and unsatisfactory, and I have accordingly instructed the present District Engineer, to furnish a fresh Report as soon as his other duties will admit of the subject being attended to without inconvenience.

5. With respect to Nellore it has already been reported to Government that the only remains of ancient art in that District worth preserving, are certain inscription stones on the Anantasagarum and Kalvoy, translations of which I have now the honor to forward.

Vide letter No. 3452, dated 8th September 1858 para. 7.

6. The surface of these stones are represented to be much decayed, and the lettering nearly obliterated, and the only plan I can suggest for the preservation of the inscriptions is to coat them with a composition similar to that used for the surface of the new Houses of Parliament in London, and other Public Buildings in England, and on the Continent.

7. Lieutenant Mullin's proposition for obtaining the history of all the works of importance constructed under the Native powers is worthy of notice, and I have requested him to adopt the necessary measures for the preparation of the register.

8. The description furnished by Lieutenant Drever of the ruins of the ancient city of Gairsuppah in Canara, which are now being opened up under the sanction accorded in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2646, dated 7th December 1858 will, I have no doubt, be read with interest. The numerous images and small carvings in relief found in the shrines formerly attached to the principal temple would prove valuable additions to the collection in the Presidency Museum, and if they can be brought here by Sea without much expense, I would recommend that funds for the purpose should be placed at the disposal of the District Engineer, particularly as as many of the idols have already been appropriated by the neighbouring Brahmmins.

9. The rubbings which Lieutenant Hunter purposes to take of certain inscriptions shall be forwarded to Government on receipt.

10. The report required concerning the present condition of the Jain Tower in the garden of the Jesuits College near Negapatam, has not yet been furnished by the District Engineer, but I hope to have it in time to forward with the Annual Return called for in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1060, dated 3rd June 1857.

Letter from 2nd Captain R. F. OAKES, Acting District Engineer of Tinnevely; to Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated Tuticorin, 21st October 1858, No. 139.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of your Circular No. CXIV, dated 27th Ultimo, I have the honor to enclose 2 Stereoscopic Views of the old Palace at Strevellipootoor, as plan of the Building was forwarded to the

• With Letter dated 23rd December 1858.

Board of Revenue with the Estimate* of Rupees 1,164-4-0, which provides for converting it into a Talook Cutcherry.

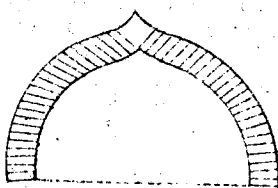
2. The roof of the main body of the building consists of 2 domes, the smaller is supported on arches similar to those in the verandah which rest on pillars $2\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter and which form an Octagon, the sides of which are 5 yards, from the centre of one pillar to the centre of another. The larger dome is similarly supported and covers an area of $16\frac{1}{2}$ and 11 yards, between these domes is a passage $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards in width with a terraced roof supported on the pillars on which the domes rest and a passage $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards broad runs all round the building and is also covered with a terraced roof. The interior area of the building is 38 yards by 18 yards. A verandah $33\frac{1}{2}$ and 11 yards runs along a portion of one of the long faces; a line of pillars runs along its centre and support a terraced roof, but a small oblong dome is placed over the largest arch which faces the entrance to the building. This arch is 4 yards in span and it has 5 arches on the right and 3 on the left of the entrance, each $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards in span.

3. The verandah has apparently been added subsequent to the construction of the body of the building as its pillars do not correspond with the pillars of the main building.

4. An highly ornamented parapet wall surrounds the main building. The Floor is raised about 4 feet above the level of the street, there is no enclosed space round the building. Huts are built within a few feet on either side of it.

5. A wall encloses the building, but the roof appears to be supported on arches throughout and the wall to have been built in subsequently.

6. The domes have cracked considerably and the white patches in the Photograph shew where it has recently been repaired. It is a miracle that the building stands at all, for the bricks in the arches are laid as shewn in the margin, i. e. almost horizontally.



7. The body of the building requires plastering, the verandah has been plastered and whitewashed lately, on the Estimate for converting the building into a Talook Cutcherry. Small loop-holes in the wall between the tops of the pillars and the springing of the domes formerly admitted light into the building, but now windows have been admitted into the walls, the two passages on the sides of the larger room have been walled off for Record rooms. The space included between 4 pillars in the passage between the two main rooms portion of the verandah has been walled off for a Prison room. The appearance of the interior is rectangular window and door appears out of character in viewing the building from the street.

8. The large dome covers what was probably a reception room, $16\frac{1}{2}$ and 11 yards with a cut stone flooring 2 feet lower than the floor of the Octangular room and the passages, in order that the Petitioners or visitors might prostrate themselves below the feet of the King.

9. It appears to be unnecessary to fix any sum for keeping the building in repair.

10. It appears that Strevelipootoor and portions of the Sautoor and Ootapedarum Talooks were formerly comprised in the Nadoomundalum Talook which was attached to the Madura District and formed a part of the possessions of Trimaul Naik, who is said to have built the Palace about 250 years ago, as a residence and also for the purpose of holding his Court when he visited this portion of his dominions, which he is reported to have done frequently as he was a worshipper of Vishnu, to whose wife Nachiar, the Strevelipootoor Pagoda is dedicated and whose name it bears. This Pagoda was endowed by Trimaul Naik with Manium of Paddy yielding a Revenue of Rupees 24,000, 6,000 Pons of 21 Rupees each and 6,000 Measures per diem in their stead.

11. Trimaul Naik also erected a small building in which the Goddess is swung every Friday and the pillars supporting this building are adorned with golden images of Trimaul Naik, his wife and children, and the building is gilded within and without, but as it is erected within the sanctum sanctorum, its beauty can only be admired by a select few.

12. Madura was the seat of Government and was consequently the chief place of residence of Trimaul Naik, but the Pagoda at Madura was dedicated to Seva* and Trimaul Naik was a worshiper* of Vishnu, and as he was anxious to perform his devotions at Madura simultaneously with the Priests attached to the Pagoda at Strevelipootoor, he erected Naubat Khana- at intervals of about 6 miles on the Road between Strevelipootoor and Madura, and attentive listeners were appointed to transmit by means of Gongs an intimation that the hour of prayer had arrived, and he was thus enabled to perform his devotions at the appointed times.

* Trimaul Naik is said to have been struck blind on account of his neglect of the Pagoda at Madura and to have recovered his sight on becoming a Worshipper of Seva and erecting the Poothoomundapum before the Pagoda dedicated to Seva.

13. These Naubat Khanas were built in the same style of architecture as the Palace and ruins of some of them still exist. The enclosed Photograph, No. 8, represents one of those buildings which is about 6 miles from Strevelipootoor. It is a pretty ruin but it would be spoilt if any attempt were made to repair it, and moreover this could not be done with facility.

14. On a Rock at Kullogoomullay, in the Ettiapoorum Zemindary in the Ootapedarum Talook there are some peculiar figures carved.

15. The smaller figures are not unlike the representations of Buddha which I met with in Burmah, and they are also covered with the tree or umbrella which were invariably placed over the images, but in the Burmese figures the right hand of the figure lies in its lap, while the left rests on the left knee, but the hands cross each other in the lap of the figures at Kullogoomullay. Some of the characters in the inscription below some of the figures are not unlike the Burmese character. These inscription are being copied by the order of the Sub-Collector. A Brahmin jogee resides in a natural cave formed in this rock close to the images, but he either knows nothing about them or will not impart any information regarding them. I am inclined to believe the former, for the images are not now worshipped, and some of them have evidently been covered by the Mundapum, a portion of which appears in No. 4, while similar figures appear on its other side as well as the large figures represented in Nos. 5 and 6.

16. The Mundapum is similar to those built in the plains and the figure of the god is that of Iyanaur represented by a plain stone.

17. On the same Hill but lower down it a Pagoda represented in Nos. 2 and 3 is cut out of the solid rock. It is entirely different in form and character to any other Pagoda I have seen in the District. The human figures carved upon it are less stiff and in more natural attitudes than the generality of carvings in this District. Nobody can give the slightest information regarding the time when this Pagoda was commenced. The upper portion is beautifully finished but the lower is in a rough and incomplete state. Two stories are related to account for this.

1st. The original design is said to have been to cut out of the solid block of rock a Pagoda and a representation of the god Soobramaniyer, but in hollowing out the chamber in the Pagoda the rock out of which Soobramaniyer was to be cut splintered so much as to render it impossible to represent him accurately, and as the original intention with which the work was undertaken was frustrated, it was deemed useless to complete the Pagoda which as far as it has been executed could have been no light task.

2nd. The work is said to have been the design and workmanship of a single individual, who was extremely proud and tenacious of his skill as a workman in stone, the secret of which he would not impart to any living being and consequently no one was permitted to approach him while at work, except his son, who was in the habit of bringing his father his meals, and who instead of returning to the village immediately after his father had finished his meals used to conceal himself and watch his father at work, and having thus made himself acquainted with the art he was inspired with a laudable zeal to assist his father in so stupendous an undertaking, and one morning commenced operations on the opposite side of the Pagoda to that in which his father was engaged. The father hearing the click of the chisel was maddened with rage, at the idea of his secret having been discovered and rushing round the Pagoda with an iron tool in his hand killed the intruder with a single blow, and found too late that he had taken the life of his son, when overwhelmed with remorse he determined to expiate his sin by destroying himself, which he effected by leaping head foremost from the rock on to the Pagoda and dashed out his brains, and at the same time knocked off the nose of the Bull on the left hand of the Pagoda.

18. Short inscriptions are to be found on rocks or pillars in many of the Tanks and on the old Annicuts, but they contain little more than the date of the execution of the work, the name of the guardian swamy or that of the builder.

19. To the kindness of Lieutenant Paxton I am indebted for the enclosed Photographs of the buildings and figures referred to above. The dimensions of which can for the most part be judged of by the figures of men in the foreground.

20. The carved male figures represented in Nos. 5 and 6 are only about 2, high.

21. The Photographs enclosed are 16 in number and are as follows:

No. 1—2 Stereoscopic Views of the old Palace at Strevelipootoor.

No. 2—I Do. Pagoda cut out of solid rock, large size.

No. 3—1 Do. do. small size.

No. 4—1 Small figure carved on rock.

No. 5—1 Standing figures.

No. 6—1 Do. do.

No. 7—A single View of Pagoda and Palace at Strevelipootoor.

No. 8—A single large View of a Naubat Khana, 6 miles from Strevelipootoor.

Letter from J. H. DOPPING, Esq., District Engineer of North Arcot; to the Chief Engineer, dated 26th October 1858, No. 1498.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Proceedings, No. CXIV of the 27th of September 1858, subject as per margin, and to inform you that I have repeatedly called on all the Officers in charge of Divisions, to supply me with a Report on any ancient buildings that may be within their Range, as, I regret from the amount of Office work imposed on me, I have been unable to make myself sufficiently acquainted with them as to be able to report upon them, but the information which I have thus received from the Executive Engineers, &c., is in each case to the effect that there are no ancient buildings within their Range.

2. In the 1st Division there is the Chittoor Fort alone, of which I presume no report is required.

3. In the 2nd, I am not myself aware of any, with perhaps the exception of the Sholin ghur Pagoda.

4. In the 3rd, there are none I believe (in the 4th, Arcot, Ternary, Forts of which no further report is necessary than that the greater portion of both has been conveyed to the Paular Annicut and now compose the chief portion of that work.

5. Of Vellore Fort, I suppose no special report is required.

6. Judging from the appearance of the Eringepoorum Pagoda, I should think it must have been connected with the History of India, though no mention is made of it in any of the Histories which I have read.

7. With the exception of a few mud-walls and large stone pillars which have been erected, no alteration has been made in its external appearance since the time it was besieged, when the cut-stone walls appear to have been much battered.

8. In the 5th Division there are only two, namely Wandewash and Arnee, Forts.

9. Of the former I shall report in a few days after my inspection with Mr. Dick.

10. Of the latter I am not aware that any report is required.

Letter from Captain J. MULLINS, District Engineer Nellore: Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAW-FORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated Yerrabotlapully, 15th December 1858 No. 2792.

SIR,

With reference to para. 4 of your Circular No. CXIV of 1858-59, dated 27th September 1858, I have the honor to inform you that I have inspected the inscription stones on the Anantagarum and Kolvay Tank Bunds and I beg to enclose translations of the inscriptions.

2. The Anantagarum stone is a rough slab about, 10 feet high, on the top is a sculpture, apparently a copy of a seal, and the inscription is cut below, the stone is of a soft quality, and the lettering is almost obliterated.

The Kolvay stone is small and certainly appears to have been fixed on the Bund at a much later date than the year mentioned in the inscription.

3. I also found an inscription on a slab of hornstone 5' + 4' on the Cooloor Tank bund, which is close at hand, and was probably built by the same persons.

4. I am of opinion that it will be a good plan to ascertain the history, as far as possible, of all the important works executed under the Native rule, and to keep a register of them in this Office, but it does not appear to be necessary to recut the inscriptions on the stones, and in fact such a process would at once destroy their antiquity, as all the decayed surface would have to be removed.

Translation of the Inscription on the Kulvay Tank bund near Buddavole Sluice.

In the reign of the Rajah Maharajadajah Paramaswara Stree Kistnadavaroy Maharajah, an energetic, courageous, and virtuous King, one Rayasum by name Condamoorosoo, Gauroo, for the sake of charity to his father Timmarosoo and his mother Sungayemma, founded this called Kulvay Tank, and Established a goddess named Mullamah on its Bund with the construction of a temple for her on the 15th Vesagha of Pramady year of the era of Salevahana 1441 corresponding to the 1520 of the Christian era.

Curnums.

(Signed) VAVENTABURTY PITCHIAH,
(Signed) CURNUM NURSEMOOLOO,
(Signed) N. SOOBAROW PASHICAR,

Translation of the Inscription on the stone on the Anantagarum Tank Bund.

In the reign of the Rajah Maharajadajah Paramaswara Stree Kistnadavaroy Maharajah an energetic, courageous and virtuous King, one Rayasum by name Condamoorosoo, Gauroo, for the sake of charity to his father Timmarosoo and his mother Sungayemma, founded this called Anuntasagarum Tank on the 15th Jastah of Vecrama year of the era of Salevahana 1443, corresponding to the year 1522 of the Christian era.

Curnums.

(Signed) D. APPIAH,
(Signed) VENKATASOOBIAH,

Letter from Lieutenant J. N. HUNTER, Acting District Engineer; to the Chief Engineer, dated Mangalore, 8th March 1859, No. 218.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward for your information, Lieutenant Drever's Report on the ruins of the ancient city of Gairsuppah and to draw your attention and request a reply to the query as to whether Government wish that any of the images may be removed to Madras or Bombay.

2. I myself inspected these ruins in Lieutenant Drever's company and was much struck with an idol of bronze formerly belonging to these ruins, but which the Brahmins of a contiguous modera Pooja house have appropriated. I have suggested that rubbings of the inscription in heel-ball should be taken, which might be sent to Madras where men might be found to read it. In the neighbourhood our efforts have been quite unsuccessful, as no one can accomplish a letter.

No. 23. ORDER THEREON, No. 882; dated 14th April 1859.

1. The Honorable the Governor in Council is much pleased with the information furnished by the District Engineers of Tinnevely, Canara and Nellore, with reference to ancient Pagodahs and Buildings in these several Districts.

2. Although the District Engineer of Tinnevely does not recommend any fixed sum for the preservation of the Buildings described, the Government authorize him in communication with the Collector to spend such small sums as may be necessary to keep them from entire ruin.

3. As it appears from the tenor of the latter part of Lieutenant Drever's letter that the adoption of the proposal to move some small images from the Canara District, to the Presidency Museum, may be obnoxious to the Brahmins of the neighbouring temple, Government empower him to do it, only on the condition of his obtaining the previous approval and concurrence of the Collector.

4. The thanks of Government will be conveyed to Lieutenant Paxton for having kindly furnished the Photograph enclosed in the Chief Engineer's letter, under reference.

(Signed) W. C. SIM,
Ag. Dy. Secretary to Government.

2
Central (Office of Genl.
Port, Port of Genl.)

N^o 8930

From (Sine) 24th March 1859.

The Chief Engineer.

To The Secretary to Government
D. At.

Sir (Sine) 24th March 1859 N^o 8930

Public
Sine 17

With reference to Ex.
Min of Cont: N^o 2118 dated 11th October
1858, and in continuation of the letter

1 letter N^o 139 dated 21st Dec. 1858
from District Eng^r of Tinnevely
with 11 enclosures.
1 do N^o 1498 dated 26th Dec.
from District Eng^r of North Arcot.
1 do N^o 12792 dated 16th Dec. 1858
from District Eng^r of North Arcot.
1 do N^o 2118 dated 8th March 1859
from District Eng^r of Canara
with 1 enc.

N^o 3452 addressed to Government
by the late Officiating Chief
Engineer on the 8th September 1858, I
do myself the honor to submit a
series of reports since received from
the Districts of Tinnevely, North
Arcot, Nellore, and Canara, on
the subject of ancient Architectural
remains.

2. The District Engineer
of Tinnevely gives a most inter-
esting description illustrated with
Stereoscopic and Photographic

views

with

views of several ancient and magni-
ficent buildings in the Strevelisroter
and Polapetaram Talooks, and much
credit is due to him and Lieutenant
Dixon for the desire which they
have evinced to meet the wishes of
Government.

3 Captain Dakes does
not recommend the sanction of any
fixed sum for keeping the buildings
which he describes in repair; but illus-
trative as they are of the former
history and existing traditions of
the country, I think that, under the
views of Government conveyed in
the Min of War No 1060 dated
3rd June 1857, it is desirable that
these ancient remains should not
be permitted to fall altogether into
decay, and would therefore suggest
that authority be granted for the
execution

execution of such repairs as may
from time to time be found re-
quisite for maintaining the char-
acteristic features of the buildings.

4 Mr Dossing's report is
very meagre and unsatisfactory, and
I have accordingly instructed the pre-
sent District Engineer, to furnish a
fresh report as soon as his other duties
will admit of the subject being attend-
ed to without inconvenience.

5 With respect to Vellat
it has already been reported to Go-
vernment that the only remains of
ancient art in that District worth
preserving, are, ^{certain} inscription stones on the
Mountasaguram and Kalvooy trans-
lations of which, I have now the honor
to forward.

6 The surface of these stones
are represented to be much decayed,
and the lettering nearly obliterated, and
the

Vide letter
No 3452 dated
8th Sept 1858
para 7

the only plan I can suggest for the preservation of the inscriptions is to coat them with a composition similar to that used for the surface of the new Houses of Parliament in London, and other Public Buildings in England, and on the Continent.

7 Lieutenant Mullins proposition for obtaining the history of all the works of importance constructed under the native powers is worthy of notice and I have requested him to adopt the necessary measures for the preparation of the register.

8 The description furnished by Lieutenant Dwyer of the ruins of the Ancient City of Gairatpala in Canara, which are now being opened up under the sanction accorded in an order of Gov. N^o 2646 dated 7th December 1858.

will

will I have no doubt be read with interest. The numerous images and small carvings in relief found in the shrines formerly attached to the principal temples would prove valuable additions to the collection in the Presidency Museum, and if they can be brought here by sea without much expense, I would recommend that funds for the purpose should be placed at the disposal of the District Engineer, particularly as many of the idols have already been appropriated by the neighbouring Brahmins.

9 The rubbings which Lieutenant Hunter proposes to take of certain inscriptions shall be forwarded to Government on receipt.

10 The report required concerning the present condition of the Jain Tower in the garden of the

the Jesuits College near a hospital
had not yet been furnished by the
District Engineer, but it is to
have it in time to furnish with
the Annual report of the
District Engineer of the
A. T. & P. Co. dated 3rd June 1857.

Under the same letter
is.

Portsmouth, N. H. } Your most obedient servant
24th March 1859 }

Wm. H. (Colonel)
Chief Engineer.

