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Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Ecclesiastical Department, 29th October 1866.

No. 37. Read the following letter from the Right Reverend the Bishop of Madras, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 26th October 1865.

In compliance with your Excellency's request, contained in Government Order, 27th September, No. 245, Ecclesiastical Department, I have the honor to submit the accompanying Draft Rules, for the guidance of Officers in charge of Burial Grounds.

2. They are framed on the basis of the Calcutta Rules, whilst careful reference has been made to the rules already existing in this Diocese.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1866, No. 221.

In reviewing the general report submitted by the Superintending Engineer on the Burial Grounds in the 4th Division, the Government, in their Proceedings of the 27th September 1865, No. 245, adverted to the expediency of laying down distinct rules for the guidance of Officers in charge of Cemeteries, and requested the Right Reverend the Bishop to prepare a set of rules, based on those adopted at Calcutta in 1864.

2. The Bishop has accordingly submitted a draft of the rules to be adopted, and which the Governor in Council approves, with the exceptions noticed in the following remarks.

3. The arrangement contemplated in Rule III, of setting apart a portion of the Cemetery for the use of Roman Catholics, and another portion for that of Christians of other persuasions, should extend, not only to Military Stations, but to all Stations.

4. The Government are of opinion that the whole of the monumental fees, referred to in Rule VIII, should be placed to the credit of the Fund for improving the Burial Ground and repairing the monuments in it and the Church.

5. As the work proposed at the conclusion of Rule IX, cannot be undertaken at the Public expense, the words noted in the margin will be omitted.

"In simple masonry, or be inserted in the wall, by the Government Officer."

6. Rule XIII should apply, as well to Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, as to Soldiers.

7. The Rules, amended and revised in accordance with the foregoing remarks, and somewhat altered in form, are appended to these Proceedings, and will be at once carried into effect.

8. The Government take this opportunity of requesting the Bishop to consider the existing charge, Rupees 175, which is now paid as a fee to the Chaplain, for a faculty to put up mural monuments in churches. They think that a smaller fee, say Rupees 50, be sufficient, and it should be placed to the credit of the Burial Ground Fund.

(REVISED) RULES RELATING TO BURIAL GROUNDS FOR THE DIOCESE OF MADRAS.

Fort Saint George, 29th October 1866.

I. The Chaplain of the station shall have the care of the General Cemetery. It shall be his duty to apply to the proper Officer, when the walls want repairing; to see that weeds, grass, or jungle be cleared away, and the remains of dilapidated tombs be removed, and that the Cemetery be kept in proper Order.

N. B.—These rules apply in places where there is no Chaplain, to Ministers of the Additional Clergy Society, and to any other Clergymen who are appointed to the charge of English Congregations, and are in receipt of part of their salary from Government.

In the absence of the Chaplain, the Lay Trustees shall have the care of the Cemetery.

II. The Sexton or Lascar in charge of the Cemetery shall be borne on the Church Establishment, and shall be paid by Government through the Chaplains, with whom the appointment and dismissal of this servant shall rest.

III. In every station, a portion of the Cemetery shall be set apart for the use of members of the Roman Catholic Congregation. For the use of any body or bodies of Christians at such station, not being members of the Church of England, nor of the Church of Rome, another portion

of the Cemetery shall be appropriated, should they desire it, for the sole use of such congregation, or for the joint use of such congregations. The portions thus set apart shall not be fenced or walled off, but simply divided by a pathway, from the rest of the Cemetery, and shall be added to, or reserved from, the existing Cemetery, according as such Cemetery has, or has not, been consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England. The whole Cemetery thus divided shall be surrounded by a wall, and shall have but one gate of entrance. The entire Cemetery shall be under the care of the Chaplain, for the purposes specified in Rule I. The key shall be kept by the Sexton or Lascar acting under the Chaplain's directions, so that access to the ground may be had by those having a right thereto, easily and without delay.

IV. The Chaplain shall provide that one or more graves be kept ready for cases of sudden emergency; such graves shall be covered with planks or boards. No grave shall be less than six feet deep.

V. A scale of charges for ordinary masonry, graves, headstones, tombstones, and tombs, to be submitted by the Undertakers at each station, and approved by the Chaplain and District Engineer, shall be affixed to the Cemetery gate, or to the wall of the Church Porch, or exhibited in some other suitable place.

VI. Inscriptions intended for monuments to be placed in that portion of the Cemetery devoted to the Church of England, and for tablets to be placed in Churches, shall be submitted to the Chaplain for approval; if not approved, such inscriptions shall not be allowed to be engraved on such monuments or tablets. But any party considering himself aggrieved by the Chaplain's decision may appeal to the Bishop.

VII. Stone or brick monuments shall not be placed over any but masonry graves; such monuments, unless built over masonry work, are liable to fall in during the rains. Brick monuments are to be discouraged, as they soon fall into decay in this climate.

VIII. The dimensions of no monument shall be allowed to exceed nine feet in length, and four and a half feet in width. In special cases, where more space is desired, a fee, calculated at the rate of Rupees 3 for every square foot, shall be charged by the Chaplain. The sum collected shall be placed to the credit of the Fund for improving the Burial Ground, and repairing the monuments in it and the Church.

IX. The Chaplain shall communicate with the friends of the deceased when a monument requires repair. Should a monument fall into a ruined condition, and no one be willing to undertake its restoration, the ruined monument shall be made level with the ground, and any slab it may have contained shall be placed over the grave.

X. Every reasonable effort shall be made by the Chaplain, not only to keep the Cemetery in decent order, but to preserve the sacred associations of the place, by suggesting appropriate designs for monuments, and by planting the ground with suitable trees. The money obtained by the sale of the grass, and the fees above mentioned, shall be laid out in the improvement of the Cemetery.

XI. The Cemetery shall be inspected once a year by the Chaplain, in company with the Executive Engineer, and a report made to the Archdeacon; such reports shall be recorded in the Ecclesiastical Record Book of the station, and also in the Engineer's Office.

XII. The Collector, or one of his Assistants, shall annually, or as occasion may require, visit all Cemeteries in his District, as well those disused as those still in use, and shall make suggestions to the Clergymen or Lay Trustees in charge, and, if necessary, shall make a brief report to the Government or Archdeacon, regarding the condition of such Cemeteries.

XIII. Officers Commanding Regiments or Detachments shall cause a report to be made to the nearest Civil Officer of graves dug for Commissioned Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Solders dying on the lines of march, in order that measures may be taken for the effectual protection and preservation of such graves.

XIV. At stations where there is no Chaplain or other Clergyman in the pay of Government, the Lay Trustees will perform all the duties assigned to the Chaplain by these rules, with the exception of the approval of the inscriptions, which are to be forwarded to the Chaplain of the

station, or, during a vacancy, to the Archdeacon; such inscriptions shall not be engraved till the sanction of the Chaplain, or Archdeacon, is obtained. The Lay Trustees in stations where there is no Chaplain, shall place the key of the Cemetery at the disposal of the visiting Chaplain, on the occasion of that Minister's periodical vistis to his out-stations. In the absence of a Clergyman of the Church of England, one of the Lay Trustees, or some Officer appointed by him, shall read the burial service at the interment of all persons entitled to burial according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, and shall forward a return of the same, in duplicate, by the first post, one copy to the Registrar of the Diocese, Madras, and the other to be deposited in the Office of the Collector of the District. Forms can be obtained by application at the Office of the Diocesan Registrar, Madras.

(True Extract).

L Bruce

Secretary to Government.

To the Right Reverend the Bishop.
" Venerable the Archdeacon.
" Registrar of the Diocese.
" Right Reverend Dr. J. Fennelly.
" Public Works Department.
" Military Department.
" Accountant General.
" Collector of

Exd. J. H. Burns.

26 Nov

575.

No 3578

Comm'd to the
Supt Engineer

St Louis
January 1866

Supt F. Navigation

No. 1,536 Dated

Pro: of Govt for November

No 4411

Pro: of the Madras Govt

in the Ecclesiastical Dept

D/29
Rec. 31st } Oct 1866

No 221.

F.C.R. 20/88

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Sanctioning
the (revised) Rules, sub-
-mitted by the Right
Revd the Bishop, relating
to Burial Grounds
in the Diocese of
Madras.

E.L.R. 3578 - 5 m. Nov. 1866

With 11 Rules

No 79-80.