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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2626. Press Mis.
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Dated 28 — 8 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 28th August 1867.

Read again Petition from the Reverend A. BATUL, S. J., Rector of Saint Joseph's College, Negapatam.

Requesting that, for the reasons stated, orders may be issued for the removal of the old tower at Negapatam. } (Here enter 5th February 1867, No, 425.)

No. 637. Read also the following letter from the Magistrate of Tanjore, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Point Calimere, Tritrapundi Talook, 9th August 1867, No. 153 :—

1. I have the honor to report on Petition No. 425 of 1867, addressed to Government by the Rector of Saint Joseph's College, Negapatam, asking that the brick tower in the compound of the said College may be removed.

2. Previous to entering into the subject-matter of this petition, I think it my duty to mention that I do not consider that the Reverend Jesuit Missionaries in Negapatam can for one moment claim the removal of this tower as a matter of right, for I find that when the land round it was handed over to them in 1846, the second clause in the Agreement taken from them was as follows :—

" We understand that the land occupied by the old tower, called the Pudu-
" villy Gopuram, is excluded from the land defined above, and we are hereby bound
" not to pull down or injure that building, which now serves as a land-mark to
" ships, but are at liberty to repair or convert it into any useful purpose."

3. In 1859 a petition, similar to that under report, was made to Government by the Jesuit Missionaries, and the following Government Order was passed after the tower had been inspected first by the District Engineer, and subsequently by His Excellency Sir Charles Trevelyan in his tour through this district in the beginning of 1860 :—

" In this letter the Chief Engineer in reply to the Order of Government
" noted in the margin,* reports on
" the ruined tower at Negapatam. He

* 4th June 1859, No. 1,357.

" states that the building is in a dilapidated and dangerous state, that it is gradually
" crumbling to pieces, and that the proposed repair can but very partially arrest
" the progress of decay. He recommends, therefore, that it should be demolished,
" and that the sanction for its repair (amounting to Rupees 400) should be cancelled.

" The Government deferred passing orders on this proposal till the Honorable
" the President should be able to examine the structure in the course of his con-
" templated tour to the southwards ; this he has now done. His Excellency found
" the structure in the state described by Colonel Bell ; the style of construction,
" being burnt-brick-in-clay, with the tops of the doorways or windows supported by
" timber (still remaining in some cases), lead him to share the doubts expressed by
" Captain Oakes as to the antiquity of the building ; he considers also, that it does
" not deserve the name of an ancient monument, because it is destitute of any
" inscription, sculpture, or other characteristic marks, and does not appear to have
" even a consistent local tradition attached to it.

" He is of opinion that the effectual restoration of it would cost vastly more
" than the small sum formerly sanctioned for the purpose ; but, for the reasons
" above given, he does not advise a restoration. Neither does he concur in Colonel
" Bell's recommendation for the demolition of the structure. The course which he

" proposes is that it should be fenced round, to secure it from wilful injury as well " as to prevent danger from falling materials, and that it should so be left to the " progress of natural decay. He is also of opinion that good photographs should " be taken of the tower in its present state, and he has made arrangements for " ensuring this being done.

" The Government resolve to adopt the course thus recommended. The Chief " Engineer will be instructed to cause the necessary enclosing fence to be con- " structed out of the amount sanctioned as above noticed. A simple palmyrah fence " will be sufficient."

4. With reference to the above order of Government directing that the tower should be fenced round, I find from the report of the Superintending Engineer that nothing of the kind has been done, owing " to objections by the Principal of the " College, who disapproved of the space within the College enclosure being in any " way curtailed." The tower is, in this respect, therefore at the present time in exactly the same condition as when inspected by Sir Charles Trevelyan in 1860.

5. When I was lately at Negapatam I carefully inspected this tower with Colonel O'Connell, then Acting Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division, and we both of us came to the conclusion that it is at present in a dilapidated and dangerous condition, in consequence of the bricks having fallen out of the lower corners, and the angles having thus become undermined. Colonel O'Connell accordingly had an estimate prepared for making the tower safe, a copy of which I herewith forward for the inspection of Government.

6. With regard to the fact noticed by Government in their endorsement on this petition, viz., " that the tower acts as a land-mark on the low coast at Nega- " patam for vessels approaching the roadstead," I have consulted both the Super- intendent of Marine at Madras and the Master Attendant at Negapatam, and I find that they both agree in stating that it is used as a land-mark by vessels navigating the coast. The Superintendent of Marine adds that he " does not think that its " removal would be any great inconvenience, as there are the five white columns at " Nagore, only four miles from Negapatam, which sufficiently indicate the locality," and the Master Attendant at Negapatam writes, " my opinion is, that as a land-mark " it is not of great importance, but should you authorize the tower to be pulled " down, I feel assured that the Native population will petition you to let it stand."

7. The Reverend Jesuit Missionaries have really four reasons for asking to be allowed to remove this tower, and they are, firstly, because they consider it unsafe in its present condition; secondly, because they find that it obstructs light and sea breeze from a Chapel which they have built behind it; thirdly, because they would very much like to get the land on which it stands; and, fourthly, because they think that the bricks of which it is built would be very useful to them for building purposes.

8. The first of these reasons is the only one which I think ought to have any weight in this matter, and as it will also be removed if Colonel O'Connell's estimate for repairing the tower is sanctioned, I beg to recommend that the Government be pleased to sanction the estimate accordingly, and allow the tower to stand, since there is no doubt that it is used as a land-mark by vessels approaching the Nega- patam roadstead.

No. 638. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1867, No. 2,626.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 84.

1. After full consideration of the report from the Magistrate of Tanjore upon the condition of the old tower at Negapatam to which Mr. Batul alludes, and of various other papers bearing on the same subject, the Government are of opinion that nothing will be gained by allowing the tower, which is confessedly in a dangerous state, to remain in existence, and they accordingly order its removal.

2. With reference to the last clause of Mr. Batul's letter, the Government consider that a proposal should in the first place be made to the Negapatam Municipality, to the effect that they should undertake the removal of the tower in exchange for the bricks, which the Government have reason to believe are much wanted for various municipal purposes.

3. The Magistrate of Tanjore will accordingly make the above proposal to the Municipality, and will report the result to Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Tanjore.
,, Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.
To the Reverend A. Batul, S. J.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

down or injure that Building which now

No 153

Tanjore Dt. Magistrate's Office
Point-Calimere Pitrapundi Taluk
9th August 1867

From

G. Lee Morris Esq.
Magistrate of Tanjore

To

The Honble R. S. Ellis C.B.
Actg Chief Secretary to Government
Madras

Sir

I have the honor to report on Petition No. 425 of 1867, addressed to Government by the Rector of Saint Joseph's College, Negapatam, asking that the brick Tower in the Compound of the said College may be removed—

2 Previous to entering into the subject matter of this Petition, I think it my duty to mention, that I do not consider that the Revrend Jesuit Missionaries in Negapatam can for one moment claim the removal of this Tower as a matter of right, for I find that when the land round it was handed over to them in 1846, the second clause in the agreement taken from them was as follows—

"We understand that the land occupied "by the old Tower called the Pudu villy "Gopuram is excluded from the land defined "above, and we are hereby bound not to pull "down or injure that Building which

now

"now serves as a Landmark to Ships, but
"are at liberty to repair or convert it into
"any useful purpose"—

3 . In 1859 a Petition similar to that under report was made to Government by the Jesuit Missionaries and the following Government Order was passed after the Tower had been inspected first by the District Engineer, and subsequently by His Excellency Sir Charles Trevelyan in his tour through this District in the beginning of 1860—

"In this letter the Chief Engineer in
"reply to the order of Government noted
"in the margin, reports on the ruined tower
"at Negapatam. He states that the
"building is in a dilapidated and dangerous
"state; that it is gradually crumbling to
"pieces, and that the proposed repair can
"but very partially arrest the progress of
"decay. He recommends therefore that
"it should be demolished, and that the sanction
"for its repair (amounting to Rupees 400)
"should be cancelled—

"The Government deferred passing
"orders on this proposal till the Honorable
"the President should be able to examine
"the Structure in the course of his contemplated
tour

* L. 4th June 1859 No 1357

"tour to the Southwards; this he has now done
"His Excellency found the Structure in the
"state described by Colonel Bell; the
"style of construction, being burnt brick
"in clay, with the tops of the doorways or
"windows supported by timber (still remaining
"in some cases) lead him to share the doubts
"expressed by Captain Oakes as to the antiquity
"of the building; he considers also, that it
"does not deserve the name of an ancient
"monument, because it is destitute of any
"inscription, Sculpture, or other characteristic
"marks, and does not appear to have even
"a consistent local tradition attached to it—

"He is of opinion that the effectual
"restoration of it would cost vastly more than
"the small sum formerly sanctioned for
"the purpose; but, for the reasons above
"given, he does not advise a restoration.
"Neither does he concur in Colonel Bell's
"recommendation for the demolition of the
"Structure. The course which he proposes
"is that it should be fenced round, to secure
"it from wilful injury as well as to prevent
"danger from falling materials, and that it
should

"should so be left to the progress of natural
"decay. He is also of opinion that good en
"photographs should be taken of the tower
"in its present state, and he has made arrange
="ments for ensuring this being done —

"The Government resolve to adopt
"the course thus recommended. The Chief
"Engineer will be instructed to cause the
"necessary enclosing fence to be constructed
"out of the amount sanctioned as above
"noticed. A simple palmyra fence will
"be sufficient —

4 With reference to the above ordin
of Government directing that the Tower
should be fenced round, I find from
the report of the Superintending Engineer
that nothing of the kind has been done
owing "to objections by the Principal of
"the College who disapproved of the space
"within the College enclosure being in any
"way curtailed" The Tower is in this
respect therefore at the present time in
exactly the same condition as when inspected
by Sir Charles Trevelyan in 1860 —

5 When I was lately at Neza=
=patam I carefully inspected this
Tower

Tower with Colo Connell, then acting
Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division,
and we both of us came to the conclusion
that it is at present in a dilapidated
and dangerous condition, in consequence
of the bricks having fallen out of the
lower corners and the Angles having thus
become undermined. Colo Connell
accordingly had an Estimate prepared for
mending the Tower safe, a copy of which
I herewith forward for the inspection of
Government —

6. With regard to the fact noticed
by Government in their Endorsement
on this Petition, Viz, "that the Tower
"acts as a landmark on the low Coast
"at Negapatam, for vessels approaching
"the roadstead", I have consulted both the
Superintendent of Marine at Madras and
the Master attendant at Negapatam,
and I find that they both agree in
stating that it is used as a landmark
by vessels Navigating the Coast. The
Superintendent

Superintendent of Marine adds that he "does not think that its removal "would be any great inconvenience as "there are the 5 white Columns at Negore, "only 4 Miles from Negapatam, which "sufficiently indicate the locality." and the Master Attendant at Negapatam writes "My opinion is that as a land- "mark it is not of great importance, "but should you authorize the Tower "to be pulled down, I feel assured "that the native population will petition "you to let it stand"—

7. The Revered Jesuit Missionaries have really four reasons for asking to be allowed to remove this Tower, and they are, firstly, because they consider it unsafe in its present condition; secondly, because they find that it obstructs light and sea breeze from a chapel which they have built behind it; thirdly, because they would very much like to get the land on

which

which it stands; and fourthly, because they think that the bricks of which it is built would be very useful to them for building purposes—

8 The first of these reasons is the only one which I think ought to have any weight in this matter, and as it will also be removed if Colr. O'Connell's Estimate for repairing the Tower is Sanctioned, I beg to recommend that the Government be pleased to sanction the Estimate accordingly, and allow the Tower to stand, since there is no doubt that it is used as a land mark by vessels approaching the Negapatam roadstead—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant
[illegible]
Lee Morris—
Magistrate

Repairs
79

Estimate No 8 1867/68
Tanjore District
Negapatam Taluk
Pellikolum limit-

Work — Repairing the watch Tower, Negapatam, in order to render the building safe —

Measurement B.	Measurement H.	Contents	Description of Work	Rate	Per	Amount
2¼	6	135	Ensuer running base on South side			
2½	6	150				
2	5	120	Do — East side			
1½	5	105				
1½	6	360	Do — West side			
1¾	6	63	Do — inside			
1½	6	63				
		1026	C/Ft of Brick work in Chunam	3 ..	C/Ft	192 6 ..
		1	Sq^re Plastering Crown of Building & filling in fissures	28 ..	Sq^re	2 8 ..
			Removing Cornice in five different places over hanging the building	.. ..	..	20 .. ..
			Removing accumulation at base	.. ..	..	2 .. ..
			Do Shrubs & burning the roots	.. ..	..	15 .. ..
			Scaffolding	.. ..	..	30 .. ..
			Sundries & contingencies	.. ..	..	13 2 ..
			Total of Estimate			275 .. ..

4th Range Office
Kadambore
15th June 1867

(Signed) W. O. Donaghue
Superintendent D.P.W.

(Signed) D. L. Connell Esq^r C.E.
Ag^t Supt Engr 6th Do

C. Lee Morris
Magistrate

Rec^d 22nd Oct^r 1867
Rec^d 24th Oct^r 1867 Repairs Engineer
Rec^d 7th Nov^r 1867
P 2222

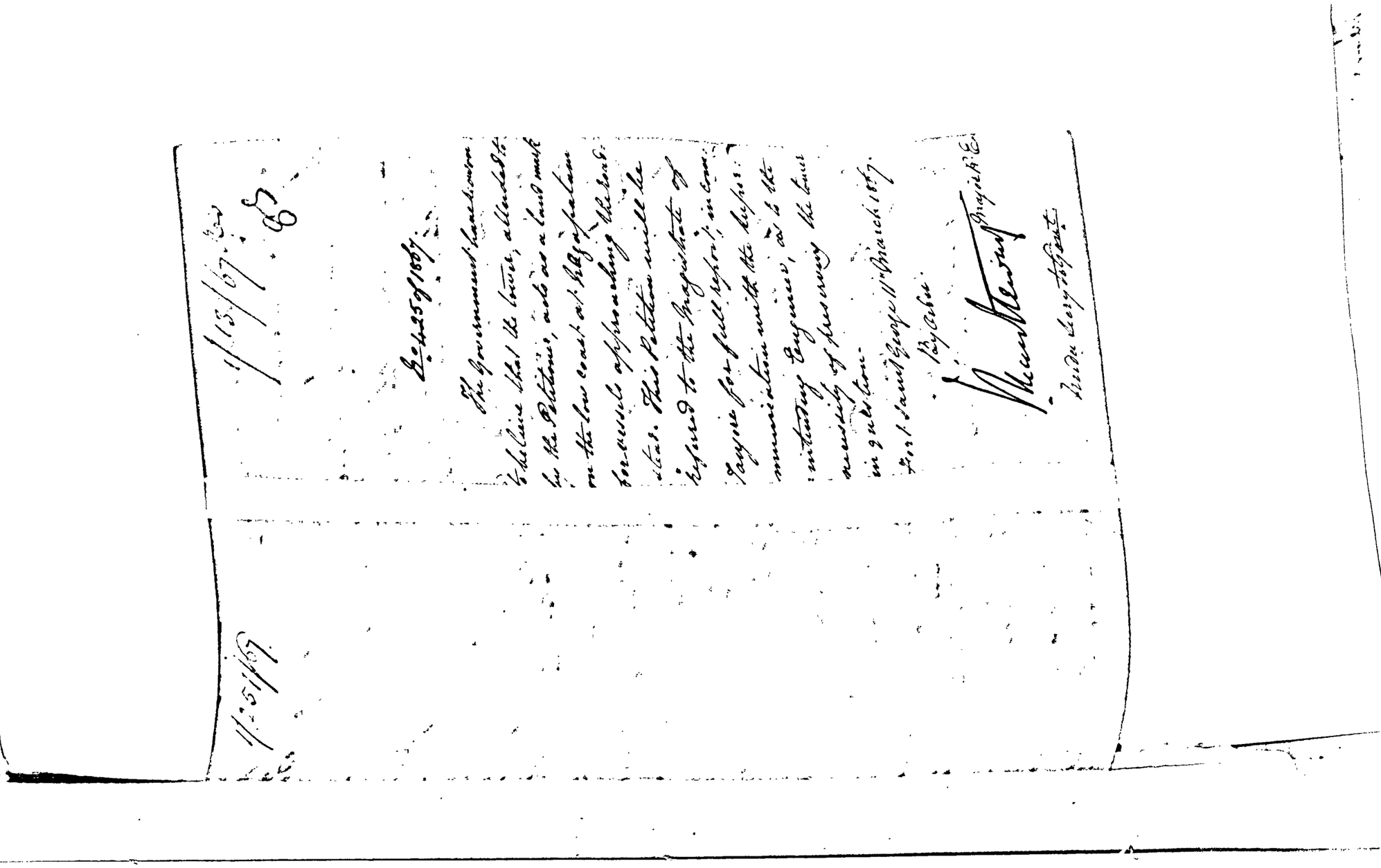
Tanjore
The D^t Engineer
is
The Estimate finished
& Countersigned
Dated 9th Aug^t 67
Rec^d 29th Aug^t 67
No 153
Enclosures 2

No

Estimate re
Petition No 495
of 1867. —

Rec^d 26th Oct^r 1867

Ag^t Engr



Sewerage of Washington

Estimate of Cost

For Government Sanction

Estimate shall be known, all Landed Property in the Petition, and as a Land must in the Law case, and Registration thereunto subscribing Witnesses to each. This Petition must be signed & to the Magistrate of Jurisdiction for Land Tax, in case Registry for Land Tax is not made immediately upon the Execution of the Deed: otherwise Registry may be void against any subsequent Purchaser in good Faith for Valuable Consideration unless such Deed or Conveyance shall be duly registered within the Time limited by Law.

Thos. P. Laird Esqre. 11th March 1847.

By Order

Thos. Laird Esqre. Magistrate &c.

Wm. Hazard Clerk to Magistrates

Washington

Dec. 15th 1847.

Sir

In a letter

From

The Dt. Inspecting Engineer

To The Chief Clerk

to Government

Dated 9 Augt 1847

Rcd

No 153

& H 2232

Estimate for re-

pairing the wate-

Tower, in order t-

render to render

the building saf-

Memorandum for orders

I believe the Tower is of Jain origin and is considered by the Natives, very few of whom however are Jains, as of great antiquity.
It is not used I believe for purposes of worship - and there would probably be little Mussulman objection to its removal.
The mosque minarets of Nagore are a well known & prominent landmark, and the

Calls 27 Dec 1867 Dec 28th
Rec'd 28 Dec 1867
From the Rev. A. Batut S.J. Rector of St. Joseph's College, Negapatam.
No 3231
ex 2626 28 Dec 1867
Dated 5 Feby 1867
Rec'd 8 Feby 1867
Ans 26 Sept 67.

States that within the Compound in which this College is built, there are the remains of an old Tower in a most dilapidated and dangerous state; that the ruin being situated in the most frequented part of the Compound, the lives of a community consisting of 200 persons, endangered; that he being under the necessity of enlarging the buildings of the College, he applied to the Collr for the removal of the ruins, but that he received no favorable reply in consequence of a report sent to him by the officers of the Public works Department in this matter.

Prays that for the reasons stated herein, Govt will issue orders for the inspection of the place & for the removal of the ruins.

Rec'd 14-3-67.

Hands as landmarks
Kincardine.
It might be proposed to the
Lieutenant-Governor
immediately the removal
of the Tower as [illegible] do
not the Tower which will do
capability for road material
as at Inchcape is much
wanted.
The Lieutenants of the
R.C. Establishments
have no objection to
the Tower
19 August

does not seem necessary for
this purpose.
I submit that as it
is allowed to be dangerous
& useless and unsightly
a Nuisance & obstruction it should
be removed. JNS

I would order the
Removal of the Tower. The
R.C. College and Chapel or
Church in front of which it

Public Department

No. 2626

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT Under date the 28th August 1867

Read again Petition from the Reverend A. Batut, S. J. Rector of Saint Joseph's College, Negapatam.

(Received 5th February 1867 No. 425.)

Read also the following Report from the Magistrate of Tanjore.

(Received 9th August 1867 No. 153.)

Order thereon 24th August 1867.

After full consideration of the Report from the Magistrate of Tanjore upon the condition of the old tower at Negapatam to which Mr. Batut alludes, and of various other papers bearing on the same subject, the Government are of opinion that nothing will be gained by allowing the tower, which is confessedly an dangerous state, to remain in existence and

and they accordingly order its removal.

With reference to the last clause of Mr Batut's letter the Government consider that a proposal should in the first place be made to the Negapatam Municipality, to the effect that they should undertake the removal of the tower in exchange for the bricks, which the Government have reason to believe are much wanted for various municipal purposes.

The Magistrate of Tanjore will accordingly make the above proposal to the Municipality, and will report the result to Government.

To
The Collector of Tanjore
" Supdg Engr of the 6th Dn
" Revd A Batut S. J.

Desp 29/8/67
A copy of the order only without the report from the Magistrate of Tanjore, despg to Revd A Batut S.J. in Manuscript—

186 . *Department.*

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated.

No 637 & 638

Pub: Works 1867 Depart.

Pro: of Govt. for August

No. 2626

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

Dt 28th. August 1867

Issuing instructions for the removal of Old Tower at Negapatam by the Municipality