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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. *473* (W) Press
B.P. No. *-* Mis.

Dated *22-2-* 18 *76*.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd February 1876.*

No. 386. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Ecclesiastical Department, dated 7th February 1876, No. 25:—

ABSTRACT.—*Churches—England.*—The opinion expressed by Colonel P. M. Francis, late Madras Royal Engineers, in regard to certain alterations, &c., proposed to be made to the Church at Coonoor in the Nilgiris, communicated to the Public Works Department.

No. 387. ORDER THEREON, 22nd February 1876, No. 473.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 17.

COMMUNICATED, and the plans and estimates returned, sanctioned, to the District Engineer, Nilgiris. That officer is at liberty to carry out any work, the private contributions on account of which shall have been paid in.

2. This sanction has been registered as Provincial, No. 12 W. of 1875-76.
(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Nilgiris, with enclosures.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Ecclesiastical Department.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Ecclesiastical Department,
7th February 1876.*

Churches—England.

Read the following papers:—

- No. 3. From Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 7th October 1875, No. 334.

With reference to Public Works Department G.O., No. 13, of the 2nd

1. Letter from the District Engineer, No. 262, of the 15th August 1875, with one letter and two estimates to the Chaplain.
2. Plans showing the proposed additions and alterations to the Coonoor Church.
3. Letter with one estimate, amounting to Rs. 500, for certain alterations to the Coonoor Church from the District Engineer to the Chaplain.

September 1875, I have the honor to forward the report and documents as per margin.

From Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to the Reverend W. S. TROTMAN, Chaplain of Coonoor, dated Ootacamund, 16th August 1875, No. 262.

With reference to the concluding portion of your letter of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to forward plans and an estimate (the latter amounting to Rupees 6,800) for enlarging the Coonoor Church as suggested by His Lordship the Bishop.

2. I beg again to return my letter, No. 128, of the 30th July 1873, portions of which will help to elucidate the subject.

3. I also beg to enclose my former estimate for stained glass, &c., amounting to Rs. 3,460.

From Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to the Reverend G. ENGLISH, Chaplain of Coonoor, dated Ootacamund, 30th July 1873, No. 128.

At the request of His Lordship the Bishop of Madras, and with reference to your letter of the 24th instant, enclosing his rough memorandum herewith returned, I have the honor to forward you plans and estimate relating to the Church of All Saints at Coonoor.

The proposed additions and alterations in this pleasing little church are as follow:—

1. To lengthen the east end (not including aisles) ten feet from the outside of the present eastern wall, keeping this extension of the same width as the nave, viz., eighteen feet and nine inches, and raising it by four steps (one end three) to one foot and four inches above the nave floor.

2. To place a new window in the new east gable and two narrow windows in the new north and south walls of the proposed chancel.

3. To enclose that portion of the south aisle immediately adjoining the present sanctuary so as to form it into a vestry, the corresponding part of the north aisle being screened off for the organ or harmonium.

4. To throw open the present vestry and form it into a baptistery.

5. To remove the present low chancel arch with its inner supporting pillars and to turn a new and loftier arch supported on small corbel pillars.

6. To remove also the inner supporting pillars on one side of the two nave arches immediately adjoining and to the west of the large chancel arch, and to replace them by small corbel pillars.

The reasons for the above proposals are these:—

1. The east end as it now exists does not afford sufficient room to the performing priest for the proper conducting of the services of the holy communion, &c., nor is there convenient space for communicants and others in front of the altar rails. The lengthening of the present chancel is an absolute necessity.

2. The present east window has not only nothing to recommend it, but adds to the much light so as to produce an unpleasant glare, which is a great discomfort to those attending the services. It also heats the whole church to an unpleasant extent. To partially obviate this, a thick curtain has, as you are aware, been provided to draw across the lower part of the window but this is, it will be admitted, a clumsy and unusual contrivance. Moreover the present window has several broken panes of glass, and leaks through the joints of the window in several places. More glass would probably be broken while the present window is changed, and it would be impossible to re-erect it and at the same time to prevent its leaking. A new window with stained glass is, therefore, really necessary. The new chancel will require side lights in its north and south walls, because the present chancel, which will form a part of the new wall, will afford no light, the clerestory windows being removed and the aisle windows shut out from the new vestry wall and the other by the organ or harmonium. These windows will cost very little, and are also required for the outward appearance of the church.

3 & 4. The position of the present vestry is certainly inconvenient and unusual, whereas the portion of the south aisle, which it is proposed to convert into the vestry, is set at an angle for seats. Persons there can neither hear nor see, and it is, I believe, generally occupied for these reasons. Moreover the font, as now placed in the nave near the west end, occupies a position well suited for seats. By its removal eight additional seats in a good position in front of the altar, &c., could be provided. The removal of the font, therefore, seems a very important matter of much utility, and no other place seems so suitable for it as the present vestry.

5 & 6. No one can attend service at the Common Church without being struck with the enormous size of the chancel pillars. They are actually thicker than the lower part of the western tower. They have evidently been copied from some English design where it was intended they should support a central tower or lantern. Here they support nothing, and are entirely unnecessary. They take up a great deal of room in this small church and intercept both sight and sound. Even now they are much in the way and ought to be removed, but this inconvenience will be much more felt when the chancel is lengthened and the altar thrown back some ten feet. It is, therefore, proposed to cut away the small supporting pillars in front of the chancel arch, as also the same pillars on the western sides of these large chancel pillars. These alterations, in my humble opinion, will improve the appearance of the church and afford much more room for the pulpit, reading desk, and to communicants attending the communion, thus materially adding to the hearing and seeing capabilities of the edifice.

I beg now to explain in detail the manner in which the above improvements are proposed to be carried out.

I must premise that the body of the church is constructed in that style of English architecture called "Late Decorated," while the tower is evidently in that called "Perpendicular."

The proposed additions and alterations have been designed in the "Late Decorated" style.

1. The chancel will be lengthened ten feet from the exterior of the present eastern wall. There will be one step rising four inches at the present chancel arch and three steps each rising four inches at the present eastern wall.

In rebuilding the chancel arch (which will be explained farther on) it will be necessary to remove the roof at that part. I, therefore, at the same time propose to lower the roof of the present chancel to the same height as that of the new additional chancel. The two clerestory windows at this part will thus be removed; the roof crest externally will be pleasingly broken, and an opportunity will be afforded, at no additional expense, of inserting above the chancel arch between the two roofs the pleasing and usual feature of a small apex gable window of the shape of a spherical triangle. The new east wall will be capped externally with an apex saddle holding a stone cross, and the gable eaves will terminate with stone gablets. In other respects the new east end will be exactly similar to the present one.

2. The new east window has been carefully selected. It is fifteen feet high by nine feet wide, and consists of three lower lights with a heading of geometrical tracery. The jambs and

mullions are to be of granite stone and the inner tracery of teakwood. It will not admit too much light, and, if properly glazed, will, I consider, be a pleasing feature. The proposed north and south windows of the chancel are each six feet and nine inches by two feet and nine inches, and consist of two lights with a geometrically-traced head.

3. The new vestry at the east end of the south aisle will be formed by walling up the easternmost arch in the aisle, and the larger arch opening into the sanctuary inserting the present vestry door (which will be removed from where it is now) in the centre of the walled space. The corresponding part of the north aisle might very suitably be screened off from the congregation on its western side by an ornamental metal or wooden screen of open work.

4. You will perceive from the interior side elevation that I propose to throw open the present vestry (and bring it into the church as it were) by two arches four feet wide supported on a single polished stone shaft with moulded cap and base. This will be, I trust you will agree with me in thinking, a pleasing feature. The low flat roof of the present vestry forbids a single arch entrance. It will cost a little over Rupees 100.

5 & 6. The present huge chancel pillars will be greatly reduced on their inner and western sides. On their inner sides this can best be done by turning over the present low chancel arch a new and higher one (the present arch after serving as a centering for the new arch being then removed) and by cutting away the small supporting pillars, replacing them by the usual and graceful form of small corbel pillars with floral cap, polished stone column, and moulded base. On their western sides the small supporting pillars being also cut away, corbel pillars of a similar kind will be inserted to support one side of the adjoining nave arches. The chancel arch pillars in their new form will be chamfered at their edges as shown in the detailed drawings. These alterations at the chancel arch, which are not expensive, have been well considered, and I now propose them confidently as being the best under the circumstances.

The improvements to the church, which I have above detailed will, I trust, meet His Lordship's approval, and I hope Government will be pleased to provide their estimated cost, viz., Rupees 3,710 :—

But, in addition to these absolutely necessary improvements, I would beg to be allowed to suggest that you be so good as to endeavor to obtain private subscriptions for the following very requisite wants, which could be so very conveniently carried out while the other works were in progress, and would cost Rupees 3,460 :—

1. Stained glass for the east window.
2. A reredos under the east window containing the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments, &c.
3. A new pulpit and new reading desk.
4. A new communion rail with brass standards and teak hand rail.
5. A metal or wood screen for organ chamber.
6. Encaustic tiles for the new chancel.

Regarding the 1st, I would beg leave to suggest that, if ordered, it be obtained with figures subjects in the three large lower lights and with smaller figures and symbols in the upper tracery. The east window in the new (St. Thomas') church at Ottacamund was procured from Cox and Co. of London, and, from being nothing but a combination of rich bright colors without any subject or apparent meaning, is the reverse of pleasing. I would beg to suggest, as the kind I think desirable, the east window, lately glazed in Sawrey Church, Winderemare, or like that at St. Stephen's Church, Chorlton, Medlock, Manchester.

The subject would, of course, be selected in accordance with the title of the church ("All Saints") and other local matters.

Donors might readily come forward if asked to supply the whole of the glass for one light, and so on.

2nd.—A reredos below the east window would be a very desirable addition to the east end and one that in most churches is considered a *sine qua non*. It might well be similar to the one

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7th February 1876.*

in St. Thomas' Church, Ooty, but should be of far better material and workmanship. Some of the gilding and coloring is peeling off, and the carving is rough.

3rd.—I propose a new pulpit as the present one is too high and large and takes up too much room and obstructs sound. That and the reading desk would cost only Rupees 360.

4th.—The present communion rail is unsightly and inconvenient: a new rail could be procured for Rupees 190.

5th & 6th.—These additions would cost only Rupees 290, and would add greatly to the appearance of the church. The person who performs on the organ ought certainly to be screened off from the rest of the congregation.

In concluding this report, I beg to explain that I have not confined myself to an approximate estimate because in a subject of this kind it is impossible to do so satisfactorily. It is obvious that, in proposing alterations to an existing church (particularly of one so pleasing in its general features as that of All Saints at Coonoor), the greatest care must be taken, not only that the additions and alternations are such as to increase convenience or accommodation but that they are such as to harmonize with the existing architecture and to give pleasure to those who attend the church. This cannot be effected (as I suppose will be readily admitted) by an approximate and necessarily imperfect estimate, and can only be attained by a careful study of every newly proposed feature and by having all drawn out pictorially on an adequate scale.

In order to assist in determining whether the proposed alterations are such as to satisfy the above conditions, I beg to append a plan of the church as it now exists and some photographs. As the copies which I have kept of these plans are very imperfect, may I beg the favor of all the plans and photographs being returned when done with.

[Letter from the District Engineer, Nilgris, No. 334, dated 7th October 1875.]

The Chief Engineer is of opinion that, before any of these alterations to the Coonoor Church be sanctioned, it is highly desirable that the proposals be referred to Colonel Francis, late of the Madras Engineers, by whom the church was designed and built, with a view to his stating whether the material of which the arches which it is proposed to alter or remove are composed is such as to allow of the work being carried out without endangering the structure.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
—October 1875. Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

No. 648.

Transferred to the Ecclesiastical Department.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
12th October 1875. Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

No. 261.

Ordered that the foregoing papers,* with the plan, be forwarded to Colonel P. M. Francis, late Madras Royal Engineers, for his opinion.

* In original, to be returned.

6th November 1875. (Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

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7th February 1876.*

No. 4. To Colonel P. M. FRANCIS, late Madras Royal Engineers, London, dated Fort St. George, 5th November 1875, No. 262.

* Detailed estimate, No. 39 of 1875-76, for alterations to the Coonoor Church, with specification.

Letter from District Engineer, Nilgris, to the Rev. W. S. Trotman, Chaplain of Coonoor, dated 3rd August 1875, No. 232.

Abstract estimate, No. 40 of 1875-76, with specification.

Detailed estimate, No. 40 of do.

Abstract estimate, No. 23 of 1873-74, with specification.

Letter from District Engineer, Nilgris, to the Rev. G. English, Chaplain of Coonoor, dated 30th July 1873, No. 128.

Letter from District Engineer, Nilgris, to the Rev. W. S. Trotman, Chaplain of Coonoor, dated 16th August 1875, No. 262.

Letter from District Engineer, Nilgris, to Secretary to Government, Public Works Dept., dated 7th October 1875, No. 334.

Plan showing proposed additions and alterations to Coonoor Church.

* To be returned.

I am directed to transmit to you the papers and plan marginally noted relating to certain alterations, &c., proposed to be made to the church at Coonoor on the Nilgris, which was designed and built by you, and to request you will be good enough to favor this Government with your opinion whether the material of which the arches which it is proposed to alter or remove are composed is such as to allow of the work being carried out without endangering the structure.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

No. 5. From Colonel P. M. FRANCIS, late Madras Royal Engineers, London, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 10th January 1876.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th November 1875, No. 262, and in reply beg to state that I should apprehend no danger in carrying out the alterations and extensions to the Coonoor Church proposed by Captain Morant; the pillars were certainly built of moulded tiles made from the excellent clay found at the Wellington Barrack-ground, and I believe that the eastern arch, which it is proposed to remove and replace by one loftier, was also built of good sound bricks brought from the same place.

2. I am very pleased to have been allowed to see the plans of the proposed alterations, and I may say that some such arrangement of the chancel would have been made originally had the means at hand allowed; failing that, I built the easternmost pillars with perhaps unnecessary solidity.

3. Remembering the fall of the first tower when it was nearly completed owing to the bricks at the base which had been made near Coonoor crushing under the weight, I am not surprised at being asked the present question, but I do not think that the structure, which has now stood twenty-three years, is likely to be endangered by the alterations if carried out by experienced and careful workmen, and I am glad to think of the church being thus enlarged and further adapted to the wants of the inhabitants of Coonoor.

4. The east window was presented by the late General Kennett, and the glass was in great part painted by his own hand. I should have liked all the tracery

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7th February 1876.*

to have been cut in stone, but we did not think granite a suitable material; no other was available, and therefore the whole was made of teak.

5. All the documents accompanying your letter are returned herewith.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1876, No. 25.

Communicated to the Public Works Department with reference to endorsement from that Department, No. 648, dated 12th October 1875.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

To the Public Works Department.

[Signature]

£822 Sept 12/75. No 13

Q. W. 1876 Dept.
No: 1230

Recd. 17 Feb/76
E. 2) No 473 8/25 Feb/76
Communicated, and
the Plans & Estimates
returned, sometimes
to the Dist. Engineer,
Neilyherrie. That
Officer is at liberty
to carry out any
work the private
contributions on
account of which
shall have been
passed in. This sanction
has been registered at Exeter.
* D. 2 with Encls. No 12
On 12/2/76
* W. 11th Plan
Estimate

386 - 387

10/19-2-76

1280
G.O. of 1876
PUBLIC WORKS.

22
O.S. Kilgiris

22 Feb. 473

386-387

Comoor Church, Kilgiris
Int. — Pres. of the Eccle-
siastical Dept. about the pro-
posed alterations to the
Communicated to the Brit
Eng. and the present P. M.
ates, returned with remarks
sanctioned

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th February 1876.

No. 233. Read the following letter from W. A. GOODCHAP, Esq., District Engineer, Kurnool, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Kurnool, 25th January 1876, No. 6 :—

I HAVE the honor to report that the whole of the Cumbum Range Office Establishment and the Overseer of the Cumbum taluq have been laid up with epidemic fever.

2. The Overseer, Deputy Accountant, and Draftsman have been ordered by the medical officer to proceed to Madras for a change at once.

No. 234. ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1876, No. 396.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 12.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Colt. of 118701 3020
PUBLIC WORKS.

Date: February 1876.

From:

To:

G. O. No. 233 234

FEBRUARY.

No. 233 234

Canal Range Office, Excavations
General District. — Letter from the District
Engineer reporting that certain subjects
of the — have been ordered by the
Chief Officer to proceed to Madras.
Range, recorded.

No 233-234

No 236

Report that certain
subordinate of Government
Range Office to be, have
been ordered by the District
Officer to proceed to —
Madras for a change.
Recorded.

From
The District Engineer
To The Chief Engineer
D. H. D. H.
Dated 25th Jan'y 1876.
Madras.

1876

G.O. No 236. 18. 1. 76

7/11



Col. of Asst. Engrs.

PUBLIC WORKS

10/12

15 Feb. 39

233 - 234

Cambay. River official
- Shikhar, Thurner, Brit

Letter from the Brit Engr. Co.
- stating that certain labor
- details of the — have been
ordered by the Medical Offr.
to proceed to Madras for —
Change, recorded