

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	694	(w) Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17.3.	1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th March 1876.*

No. 266. Read the following letter from T. D. HARRIS, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, Malabar, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Calicut, 10th March 1876, No. 210:—

I RESPECTFULLY beg you will be so good as not to consider it a liberty I take in addressing you on the subject of a close harbour about to be constructed on a design by Mr. Parkes in the Madras Roads. I am the last man in India that would oppose an undertaking so necessary as that of a harbour for Madras if I had any assurance of the success of the undertaking, but in this case there is none; on the contrary, I am convinced that if the harbour when constructed on Mr. Parkes' design does not prove an utter failure, it will certainly be found to be of little use in the hour of need, and probably worse than useless. Mr. Parkes admits himself that he wants a proper survey; he does not know the increments or decrements of tides, the *mean sea datum*, and in fact he has had no accurate data to go by in framing his plans or estimates; he has had no tidal diagram showing rise and fall of tides daily throughout the year; the height of storm waves, &c.; the direction and duration of litoral currents have not been duly registered or considered by him, and as for the action and direction of storms in the Madras Roads he evidently knows but little or nothing about them; he does not even touch upon the subject of cyclonic gales. I am surprised how he can confidently put forward a plan and estimate for such a work under such circumstances. I therefore, as a good and faithful servant of State and people, feel it conscientiously my duty to enter a protest against the present plan under the circumstances set forth above, and for the following reasons, viz.:—

1st.—The opening seawards, right in the direction of a cyclonic wave and gale, is a great mistake.

2nd.—One opening only a mistake, and that also being absolutely insufficient in ordinary weather, not to speak of storms and in the wrong place.

3rd.—No vessel could leave such a harbour in anything like a severe gale in the Madras Roads, not to speak of hurricanes.

4th.—The area enclosed under the circumstances is altogether insufficient on the grounds of safety to vessels anchoring in the time of storms or having to stand out the action of a storm wave or cyclonic gale.

2. To enter more fully into the subject and accurate details would occupy more time than I can spare at present, and I trust I may be excused, under the circumstances set forth above, if my zeal has betrayed me into error in thus addressing you, knowing that you have men at your call far better qualified than Mr. Parkes or any Civil Engineer in England to design, plan, and carry out a suitable harbour for Madras on the safest and most economical grounds, and feeling that I have done my duty I will not presume to say more.

No. 267.

ORDER THEREON, 17th March 1876, No. 694.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 27.

ORDERED to be recorded,

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Malabar.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Madras 1836 Dept
 The Offg. Dist. Engr.
 Malakad
 To Mr. Secy. to Govt.
 P. W. D.
 Madras
 No. 210.

Dated 10th March
 Recd 13 1836.

offering certain
 opinion on Mr.
 Parkes design for
 a Close Harbour
 in the Madras
 Roads.

Recd 17 March 76 B/ 266

FORMER CASES.

Current No.	of 187
"	"
"	"
"	"
"	"

LATER CASES.

Current No.	of 187
"	"
"	"
"	"

M. WORKS FORM No. 3.

Current No. 1833

From

The D. E. Malabar

No. 210
 Dated 10
 Recd. 13

March 1876

Subject:—

offering remarks
 on Mr. Parkes design
 for a close Harbour at
 Madras. No. 694 of 17/3/76.
 Recorded

ENCLOSURES.

From

to

D. E. Malabar
 Recd - 29/3-76
 Orders and Proceedings in file.

Depart- ment.	No.	Date.	ENDORSEMENTS.		
			Depart- ment.	No.	Dated.
P. W. D.	2360	18/11/63			
"	3617	8/12/63			
"	54	7/1/64			
"	281	26/1/64			
"	643	13/3/76			

266- 267

1873

Govt. of Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Dt Engineer
Malabar

From

20/3

By

For

G. O. 17 March 1874

194

1874

266-267

Madras Harbour Letter
from the Dt Engr Malabar
offering certain remarks
on Mr Parker's design
of the — Vended.

1873

Govt. of Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Dt Engineer
Malabar

From

20/3

By

For

G. O. 17 March 1874

194

1874

266-267

Madras Harbour Letter
from the Dt Engr Malabar
offering certain remarks
on Mr Parker's design
of the — Vended.