

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From Captain H. H. COLE, R.E., Curator of Ancient Monuments in India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 27th March 1882.

I have the honor to report that I arrived in Madras on the 18th instant, my visit having for its object—

- (1) arrangements for conserving monuments during the present year ;
- (2) conference with Dr. Burgess, whom I hoped to have met in Madras, but who is on tour in the northern part of the Presidency.

As regards the first, agreeably to the Orders of Government, dated 22nd November 1881, No. 1583, my draughtsmen have recently surveyed the celebrated temples at Srirangam and Madura, in order that the disrepair and neglect noted in my preliminary report on Madras buildings of 23rd June 1881 may be brought to the notice of the Trustees.

2. In submitting this report, I solicited orders for ameliorating the condition of various buildings, and hope that the whole of the measures suggested by me in regard to those under the care of Government may be sanctioned and carried out this year.

There is sufficient work at the Seven Pagodas and at Hampi to occupy an executive officer of the Public Works for some months, and I would suggest that application be made to the Government of India for any necessary grant-in-aid (*see* Sections 3 and 4 of letter, No. $\frac{1}{8}$, of 12th August 1881, from the Government of India to the Madras Government).

3. As regards the Buddhists remains at Amarāvati, photographs of which were sent to me under cover of Madras G.O., No. 244, dated 23rd February 1881, I mentioned in my letter, No. 52, of 18th June 1881, that I hoped to be able to visit the Kistna District and to submit a report during the year.

4. Unfortunately, my tour this season has been much shortened by examinations for promotion necessary under the regulations in G.O., No. 130, of 1st October 1880.

5. I observe, however, from the various letters addressed by Dr. Burgess to you, copies of which I have had an opportunity of perusing (*see* G.Os., 11th January 1882, No. 42; 12th January 1882, No. 45; 19th January 1882, Nos. 84 and 105), that Government has been inclined to adopt the suggestions made by him to *remove the sculptures from Amarāvati to the Madras Museum*.

I now understand that the sculptures from Bezvāda have already reached the Madras Museum, but that Amarāvati has not yet been denuded of all its marbles.

6. I hope that no further steps will be taken in respect of any of the Amarāvati stones until I have visited Amarāvati, had the locality surveyed, and submit a report on the best means of conserving these very valuable Buddhist remains. I may remark that the late Mr. Adam last year assured me that nothing should be done until I had made my recommendations.

7. I also hope that pursuant to the orders of the Madras Government, No. 187, of 11th February 1881, and letter, No. $\frac{1}{8}$, of 12th August 1881, to you from the Secretary to the Government of India, I may be informed of any suggestions offered by Dr. Burgess for the conservation of ancient monuments, and that all schemes may be considered in consultation with me before they are ordered to be carried out.

8. With reference to the letter, No. 10, of 20th January 1882, addressed by Dr. Burgess to the Government of India, a copy of which was forwarded to me by the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, in his No. 24, of 25th February 1882, I have now reported to the Government of India that the surveys at Srirangam and Madura were undertaken with the consent and knowledge of the Madras Government and for the purpose of suggesting remedies for conservation.

9. I have already explained in my letter to you, No. 608, of 24th December 1881, that Dr. Burgess's and my departments are quite distinct, and the orders, &c., referred to in this letter very definitely describe my functions, showing them to trench in no way on the area of archaeological investigation.

From Captain H. H. COLE, R.E., Curator of Ancient Monuments in India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 28th March 1882.

I have the honor to request that a list of the sculptured stones, which have recently arrived at the Government Central Museum from Amaravati *via* Bezvada, may be sent to me for information; and, with reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I hope that no arrangements will be made for the exhibition or disposal of these stones until my report on Amaravati has been considered by the Madras Government.

2. I also hope I may be supplied with any reports on Amaravati furnished by Mr. Sewell or Dr. Burgess, and with a copy of the lists under preparation by Mr. Sewell.

3. My address after to-day will be Simla.

MEMORANDUM—dated 27th April 1882, No. 45-E, Public Works.

1. *Ruins of Hampi*.—G.O. of 6th March 1882, No. 572 W., with the report of the Collector of Bellary, shows the latest action taken in regard to these remains. The report therein called for from the Consulting Architect has not as yet been received, and it is not known when he may have time to visit the place.

In the meanwhile, it will be observed that watchmen have been sanctioned, and the means provided for at least removing all hurtful vegetation.

Whenever Mr. Chisholm is enabled to make his inspection, his attention may be drawn to the passages I have marked (pages 24 to 28 of Captain Cole's Report).

Although it may now be assumed that the conservancy of these most interesting ruins is receiving attention, it is clear that great vigilance will have to be maintained, in order to counteract the mischief to which they are exposed from the crowds of pilgrims. It is also clear that any restorations worthy of the name must involve large outlay.

As regards the detailed survey stated to be necessary in paragraph 135, page 24, of Captain Cole's Report, a very complete one was executed subsequent to the visit of the Duke of Buckingham by the Revenue Survey Department, and a copy of this was, I think, furnished to Captain Cole. This subject is alluded to in paragraph 2, G.O., 22nd November 1881, No. 1583, Public, which has as yet not been disposed of in this department.

2. *Seven Pagodas*.—Much of the important work needed for the conservation of the ancient monuments here was provided for in G.O., 12th April 1881, No. 967 W., sanctioning Rs. 1,190, and has been completed to the extent contemplated.

A call was made late last month for a detailed report, and a reply thereto has just now been received from the Superintending Engineer, (*see* Lieutenant-Colonel Burton's letter, No. 251, of 21st April 1882, herewith). The Executive Engineer, who carried out the work, is no longer in the Chingleput Division, and the report now submitted is merely a completion statement without any details; it will, however, be generally noted that clearances of sand and planting round the monolithic raths; carrying off the drainage which injured the Kistna mandapam; replacing the Naga Raja's head; wedging up the masonry of the Shore Temple, &c., have all been carried out.

Major Brockman, Executive Engineer of the Buckingham Canal, is also absent at Bangalore (engaged in passing examinations for his Military promotion), but, on his return, I should like to place him in charge of any of the remaining work which may be required on Captain Cole's Report.

Much of the conservation, it is thought, will have to devolve on the Collector in the same way as at Hampi, and this being the case, it might be desirable that a joint visit and report should be made by that officer and Major Brockman as they can arrange.

It appears to me doubtful whether some of the work recommended by Captain Cole, *e.g.*, the frames and galvanised wire-netting in front of many of the excavations, will be desirable or suitable.

His suggestion in paragraph 14, page 2, to secure the masonry of the shore temple is what I had previously recommended, and has, as above stated, been carried out; but as regards any "replacing" of the blocks, it would be a hazardous proceeding, though possibly here and there a few blocks may be so dealt with.

3. *Vellore Temple*.—No remarks seem to be called for in reference to this work, as this had received great attention prior to the receipt of Captain Cole's Report under the orders of the Duke of Buckingham. All the needful clearances, &c., had been capitally executed by Captain McNeill Campbell, and watchmen have been appointed.

4. *Trichinopoly*.—The two works here to which the attention of this department has been drawn in G.O. of 22nd November 1881, No. 1583, Public, are—

- (1) the Dar-ul-Umra or Nawab's Palace;
- (2) the Bath in which Bishop Heber was drowned in 1826.

As regards (1) I am personally not acquainted with the work, but judging from Captain Cole's observations (paragraph 53, page 10), only such care as can probably be best exercised by the Collector appears to be called for.

As to Bishop Heber's bath, the work here has been the subject of a late demi-official correspondence with the Superintending Engineer on a reference which reached me from Colonel Yule.

The real character of the bath will best be observed from the appended copy of Colonel Beatty's letter.

I have requested that officer to frame an estimate for surrounding the bath with a suitable iron railing, so as to prevent all intrusion, and for placing a memorial granite slab on the centre of one of the side or end walls. The bath itself to be cleared out, but otherwise to be left intact.

These arrangements met with the general approval of His Excellency the Governor, to whom the correspondence was sent for information.

The needful orders of Government will be taken on receipt of the estimate adverted to.

In conclusion, I would venture to suggest that, as regards all matters of simple conservancy as recommended by Captain Cole, the several Collectors who are interested in the monuments reported on by that officer should be furnished with copies of his remarks, and directed to state how the requirements can best be met.

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engr. and Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, with papers, in original,
returned, and with letter from Superintending
Engineer, 5th Circle, to be returned.

ENCLOSURES.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. BURTON, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, 5th Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 21st April 1882, No. 251.

With reference to your Memorandum, No. 740 C, dated 29th March 1882, I have the honor to forward a statement showing, in detail, the work carried out at the Seven Pagodas from the allotment of Rs. 1,190, sanctioned in G.O., No. 967 W., dated 12th April 1881.

Statement showing Work carried out at the Seven Pagodas on the allotment of Rs. 1,190, sanctioned in G.O., No. 967 W., dated 12th April 1881.

Item.	Description of Work.	Amount.
		RS. A. P.
	<i>Round the Ratham and Slopes.</i>	
1	Clearing sand	306 14 9
2	Planting rabbit wort	44 11 5
	<i>Arjunan's Penance.</i>	
3	Executing similar work (viz., clearing sand, &c.)	20 0 0
	<i>Kristna Mantapam.</i>	
4	Draining the above and the adjoining unfinished Mantapam	134 4 0
	<i>Naga Raja's Head, &c.</i>	
5	Replacing Naga Raja's head and the Elephant tusk and other works connected with the bas relief called Arjunan's Penance	250 0 0
	<i>Shore Temple.</i>	
6	Underpinning and wedging	125 0 0
	<i>Other Works.</i>	
7	Clearing root of trees	10 0 0
8	Pointing with chunam all the cracks in Beema's Ratham	50 0 0
	Total ..	940 14 2
	<i>At Salivancuppam, Tiger's Cave.</i>	
1	Clearing sand	36 8 5
2	Planting rabbit wort	9 0 0
	<i>Cave of the Lingam.</i>	
3	Clearing sand	164 11 8
4	Planting rabbit wort	20 11 11
	Total ..	231 0 0

From Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, 5th Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Trichinopoly, 4th April 1882.

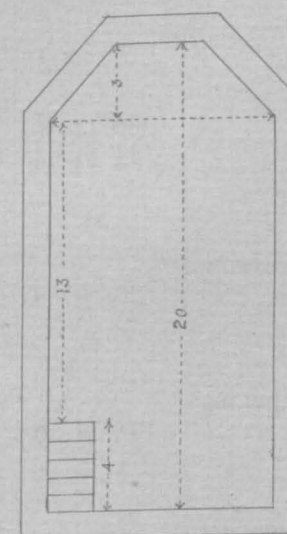
I write now to give you the information you asked for about what Captain Cole described as "the small open tank in which Bishop Heber was found dead on the 3rd April 1826."

2. The tank in question would have been better described as a *plunge bath*. It is situated outside and in rear of the house which, in 1826, was inhabited by the Collector, whose name I am told was Bird, and with whom the Bishop was stopping at the time of his death. It is now uncovered; but in 1826 it had, doubtless, a roof of some kind over it, and probably a covered way leading to it from the house, from which it is only twenty feet; all trace of this* has disappeared.

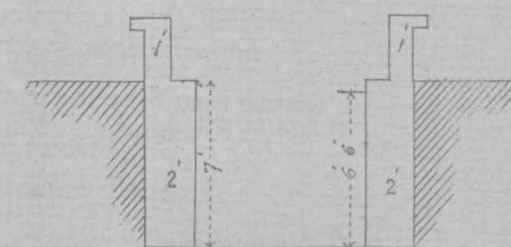
* The roof and covered way.

3. The house, which, in 1826 and for many years after, was occupied as a private residence, has for about ten years been the Civil and Sessions Court of Trichinopoly; and I inspected the bath a few days since with the present Judge, Mr. Brandt:—

PLAN



SECTION



4. It is built of brick-in-chunam, and of the shape I have roughly drawn; about ten feet broad, twenty feet long, and six and-a-half feet deep.

5. The compound of the Judge's Court is very extensive, and is bounded on the side nearest to this plunge bath by the channel from the Cauvery called the Wyacondan. The distance from the bath to the Wyacondan is about 160 feet. There is also at a distance of sixty-four feet from the bath and one hundred from the Wyacondan an old well with water in it now. The bath was most probably supplied with water from the well, either by means of wheel and buckets, or by picottahs. There are traces of a masonry channel between the well and bath.

6. The Wyacondan, you know, is an artificial channel from the Cauvery, the head sluices being about eighteen miles higher up the river than Trichinopoly, and there would be water flowing in the Wyacondan all the year round; but that the Executive Engineer finds it necessary to close the head sluices sometimes for short periods in the dry weather while repairs are going on. This fact of the constant supply in the Wyacondan probably gave rise to Sir G. Birdwood's story of perennial spring, or it may be that the old well I have mentioned above has never been known to run dry, and that it is supplied by springs in the rock quite independent of the Wyacondan.

7. The bath is now entirely surrounded by a brick-in-chunam parapet which probably did not exist in 1826, and has doubtless been built since to prevent people falling in. The bath is not now used for any purpose, and should, I think, be filled in, as it is likely if at all neglected, to become a receptacle for rubbish. Mr. Brandt quite agrees with me in this; in fact he suggested it.

Owing to its very retired position, some hundreds of feet away from the nearest public road, and not easily seen until you come quite near it, visitors to Trichinopoly, even when reminded of it, seldom go to see it.

I think Captain Cole's suggestion of a brass tablet unsuited to the present structure of brick-in-chunam; but if the bath were filled in, the present brick parapets removed and replaced by a light wall of granite, an entablature with suitable inscription might be introduced on the same

wall facing the road that leads to the rear of the building, and by which the Judge drives up to the Court. Or a large slab of granite, supported on masonry, might be laid over the centre of the bath, and the inscription put on the slab.

On the morning of the Bishop's death he had attended Divine Service at the Cantonment Church and afterwards in the Fort, and had returned, probably heated and fatigued, between 9 and 10 A.M., when he proceeded to have a bath, and was soon after found dead. There was no mark of a bruise on the body, and the doctors attributed the death to the sudden stoppage of the action of the heart. He is buried at the north side of the Communion Table in the Cantonment Church. His grave is covered with a marble slab inlaid with brass, bearing this inscription:—

"HERE RESTS THE REMAINS OF
REGINALD HEBER, D.D.,
THIRD BISHOP OF CALCUTTA."

On the north wall of the chancel, there is a tablet with this inscription—

"SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
REGINALD HEBER, D.D.,
LORD BISHOP OF CALCUTTA,
WHO WAS HERE
SUDDENLY CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL REST
DURING HIS VISITATION
OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES
OF HIS EXTENSIVE DIOCESE
ON THE 3RD DAY OF APRIL A.D., MDCCCXXVI,
AND IN THE THIRD YEAR OF HIS EPISCOPATE."

"BE YE ALSO READY."

I have read the brief notice of "the tank in which Bishop Heber was drowned," at page 10 of Captain Coles's Preliminary Report on the "Preservation of National Monuments," and I now return you Colonel Yule's letter.

ORDER—dated 16th June 1882, No. 411, Public.

Paragraph 2.—Captain Cole will be referred to the accompanying copy of Colonel Sankey's Official Memorandum, No. 45-E, dated 27th April 1882, and its annexures.

2. Paragraphs 5 and 6.—No stones have been received at Madras directly from Amarávati; but some which form part of the ancient structure at Amarávati, but have for many years been lying in the verandah and sheds of the old Museum at Bezvada, are now at the Central Museum. When they have been unpacked, copy of the Superintendent's report will be furnished to Captain Cole. As to the marbles from the Tope itself, the Government, after careful consideration, agree with Dr. Burgess that it is impossible to secure their preservation by leaving them where they are. Unlike the ancient remains at Sanchi and other places where conservation has been found practicable, the Amarávati stones are not lying *in situ*, but, most of them, scattered over a wide area, nor are they formed of durable granite, but of soft and perishable marble, which, besides falling a ready prey to wanton injury and to atmospheric influences, is much sought after by the surrounding villagers to burn into lime. Both from this circumstance and the great extent of the remains, efficient guarding is a work of the greatest difficulty and very considerable expense. The packing of the marbles commenced in January, and it is expected that delivery in Madras will commence towards the close of this month, when the canals permit transport to take place. In view, however, of the opinion indicated by the Government of India in a recent letter to this Government, favoring the retention of the marbles *in situ*, His Excellency the Governor in Council has despatched a telegram to the local authorities to refrain from sending down the packages; which will remain where they are till Captain Cole has had an opportunity of visiting Amarávati, which it is hoped he will do on the earliest opportunity; great inconvenience resulting from his not having proceeded to the Kistna District in either of his tours in this Presidency.

3. Paragraph 7.—Care will be taken to supply Captain Cole with all papers of the nature described. He will also receive copies of the papers specified in paragraph 2 of his second letter.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Curator of Ancient Monuments with Book and papers.
" Dr. Burgess, Archaeological Surveyor-General of Madras.
" R. Sewell, Esq., C.S., on Special Duty.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Collector of Kistna.
" the " of Bellary.
" the " of Chingleput.
" the " of North Arcot.
" the " of Trichinopoly.
" F. Brandt, Esq., Judge of Trichinopoly.

Edw. T. O'Connor.

18.4.04

No 1863 W d/21st/7/82

Communicated to
the Suptg. Engrs
Second to Sixth
Circles

Thos. R. J.

14/7/82

8. S. Copus
Rev. Genl. 4602
Govt. of (1882) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Recd 11th July 1882

Order, dated 16th June 1882, No. 411.

No 1863 W d/21st/7/82

Archaeology.—Passing orders on letter from
the Curator of Ancient Monuments in India
requesting to be furnished with a list of the
sculptured stones which have recently arrived at
the Government Central Museum from Amaravati.

See's Second to Sixth
Circles