

19TH APRIL 1888, No. 415, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. BURGESS, Esq., LL.D., C.I.E., Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Bombay, 22nd March 1888, No. 381.

Mellor
I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from Mr. A. Rea, Archæological Surveyor, No. 100, of 28th February, respecting some very early remains at Kanuparti in the Kistna district. I would specially request attention to paragraphs 4 and 7, which might be brought to the notice of the Collector, that the Public Works Department contractor may be warned against lying obstructiveness, and the mounds preserved under Circular 5 of Public Works Department, Government of India, until they can be properly examined.

ENCLOSURE.

From A. REA, Esq., M.R.A.S., Archæological Surveyor, Presidency of Madras, to the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, dated Kanuparti, 28th February 1888, No. 100.

I have the honor to report, for your information, an important discovery of marbles at this village.

2. While at Chinna Ganjam, I heard that white marbles, similar to those I was excavating at Bogandanidibba, had been found some time previously at Kanuparti, and that they were built into temples there. On finishing the work at the former place, I therefore decided to come and investigate the matter.

3. On arrival here, I found the following marbles :—

In the Isvara Temple.

I. A marble column, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, built in the door step of the east gopura. It is longer, but the ends are covered by the side walls.

II. Two columns, each 7 feet long, built in the steps leading from the mahamandapa into the shrine.

III. Two columns, one 9 feet and the other 6 feet long, built in the floor of the north-east mandapa.

In the Vishnu Temple.

IV. A column, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet clear length, in the sill of the gopura; the ends are built in the walls.

V. Two blocks, one 3 feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ and the other 2 feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$. These are at present used for supporting an immense wooden dvajastambha.

VI. Close to the west of the temple is an upright broken-off base of a column 3 feet high above ground.

In the Komittis' Temple.

VII. Three portions of columns, each from 3 to 5 feet long, above ground; the ends are sunk in the ground. These are stuck against a mud wall which encloses the temple.

VIII. Close to the Komittis' temple, thrown out into the street, is a marble pedestal or pitam, 3 feet 3 inches square and 1 foot 6 inches high, with mouldings and figure sculptures on the sides and a naga encircling two feet on the upper side.

IX. North from the village, by the road side, is a marble slab with twelve figures; 4 feet long by 1 foot 3 inches broad. It was found in a mound north-west of the village.

X. West by north from the village is an upright white marble pier with a coiled naga on a square base, with the column resting above it; a moulded capital with trisula on top surmounts the column; it measures about 5 feet high above ground.

XI. On a mound on the north bank of the canal, and north from the village, is a white marble linga pillar about 8 feet long.

In addition to these, there are marble blocks at various places, and there may be others which I have not yet seen.

4. Nos. I to VIII were found in a mound north from the village. After inquiry I learned that some four or five years ago, the owner of the ground, one Suriya Vencata Reddi, was digging for bricks which he sold for building some indigo vats; the columns and pedestal were then found *standing upright* about 8 feet below ground. The bricks and marbles were removed, and the latter distributed among the three temples named. The two first shrines are modern, and built of bricks taken from the mounds around the village; the third temple is an erection in mud.

5. I was told that another marble column had then been seen underground, and that the brick wall also proceeded further in a north and south direction. I dug at the place, and at 9 feet below ground brought up a white marble post over 6 feet long, and a short column in black marble; it appears to be one of the *arya stambhas* which faced each of the gateways on the four cardinal points. The fact of the piers having been found upright is important, and might lead us to expect the remaining portions of the sculptures to be complete. For want of coolies the digging is at present stopped, else I should proceed and prove the matter at once. Of the three piers in No. VII, two are said to have inscriptions. I asked the Munsif—if no one had any objections—to temporarily remove them so that these might be copied. He went to do so, when a resident, one Vencatasami Chetti, a Public Works Department contractor, said there were no inscriptions and that it was useless to move them. The Munsif, however, moved one, which proved to have an inscription (a copy of which I enclose). The contractor then said if the others were touched, he would raise a complaint, so these have not been as yet examined. The objection is frivolous, as the stones are facing the street, built against a mud wall. I would request that orders might be given to have the stones removed; if they have inscriptions, they should go to the Museum and other stones could replace them in their present position. It would be absurd that probably an historical inscription belonging to the first or second century should remain covered up by mud for such a piece of sheer obstructiveness. I may mention that the man in whose field they were found had no objection to their being moved and states he is still the owner of them. No. VIII was intended to have been used as a base for a dvajastambha, but one faction objected, saying it was not a suitable stone, so it was thrown out into the street where it lies partly buried in the mud. I think no serious objection would be urged against its removal to the Museum.

6. No. X the people say has always been in the position it now occupies, and, as it seems the top of a gate pillar, should it be really *in situ*, it would point to other remaining sculptures existing below ground.

7. The whole ground around the village is one vast series of mounds, but as they are all under cultivation, they cannot be properly examined just now. I will, however, in my forthcoming progress report, describe them as far as they can be judged by a surface examination. The sculptures scattered about in all directions show that extensive remains exist.

8. As several contractors reside in and around the village, should occasion arise, they might possibly be tempted to make use of the material thus ready at hand. I would therefore suggest that strict orders be given to prevent all digging for bricks or other material in the mounds in and around the village except by officers of this department.

ORDER—dated 19th April 1888, No. 415, Public.

Communicated to the Collector of ~~Kistna~~ ^{Nellore} and to the Public Works Department, in view to orders being issued as suggested in paragraph 7 of Mr. Rea's report.

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of Mr. Rea's letter, the Collector will report at an early date whether there is any valid objection to the removal to Madras of the stones having inscriptions, and endeavour to procure this result.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.
„ A. Rea, Esq., First Assistant, Archaeological Survey.
„ the Collector of ~~Kistna~~ ^{Nellore}
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

No 1368 W of 9th May 1888

Caused by the S. E. II
order for the necessary
action, with reference
to G.O. No. 59 of 7th May 1888.
(S.) J. O. H.

Govt. of (1888) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 19th April 1888, No. 415.

No 1368 W. of 9th May 1888

APRIL.

S. E. II order

Archæology.

Passing orders on Director-General's letter forwarding Mr. Rea's report respecting some very early remains at Kanuparti, in the Kistna district.

W. H. S.

Public Department

Ootacamund 12th May 1888.

Erratum

In para 1 Sub. G.O. 415, dated 19th April 1888
for "Kistna"
Substitute "Kallora".

W. H. S.
Assistant Secretary to Govt.

To The Public Works Department.

PTWC No 4541
Miles Department

1888

Section

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No 1442 w.d. 16th
May 1888

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