

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 14
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 2.2.89
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 10/8

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

(41)

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	8 30	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	19. 3. 1 88	108

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

Signature

7 sheets

ஆவண, கா-1-18,000-18-8-87.

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 Government, dated Lahore, 25th December 1888, No. 914.

I have the honor to forward, herewith, the progress report of the Archæological Surveyor, with his covering letter No. 431, dated Kávali, 11th instant. Owing to Mr. Rea's absence on privilege leave, this report covers a longer period than usual, but most of this time fell within that devoted to office work.

2. The report presents a large number of notes collected by Mr. Rea in the short time in the field which is included in the review—notes collected at Pulicat, Nellore, Narasimhaswamikonda, Kávali, and Dasaripalle, and I trust will give satisfaction to Government.

ENCLOSURES.

From A. REA, Esq., M.R.A.S., First Assistant to the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, dated Kávali, 11th December 1888, No. 431.

I have the honor to forward the progress report on the survey operations conducted in the Presidency of Madras subsequent to the report embodied in G.O., No. 896, Public, dated 11th September 1888.

2. As noted in paragraph 13 of my covering letter to the above report, I proceeded to Scotland on three months' privilege leave, from the 19th June to 18th September. During that period the staff were placed under the charge of Mr. Henry Consens of the Archæological Survey of Western India at Poona, who very kindly superintended their office-work during my absence. On my return from leave, they accompanied me to Madras. During the time at Poona, and up to the date of my proceeding on tour, they were engaged in inking-in drawings, the usual work at head-quarters during the hot season. The whole of last season's drawings were finished and a number from previous seasons also.

3. Government had sanctioned the removal of the office to Bangalore at the beginning of the present year; but you suggested that, as I would be on leave for three months out of the head-quarter's period, a saving would be effected if the office remained for the present in Madras; the transfer has thus been deferred till the end of the present field season. Owing to the inability of the clerk to accompany me because of the sudden death of a near relative, I had at the last moment to defer my departure on tour and endeavor to make arrangements for securing another incumbent which, however, were given up, and the incumbent will rejoin in February. My departure was thus delayed till the 19th November; this has also retarded the submission of this report.

4. I went north by canal, and made a short stay at the remains of the ancient Dutch settlement at Pulicat, examining the interesting old Dutch cemetery, and had a drawing made of a "lich-gate" and of one of the carved tombstones. These latter exist in considerable numbers, in perfect preservation and show some highly interesting carved ornament in much variety of detail. A set of drawings representing the whole of these, with a plan of the cemetery to show the position of each carved slab with their quaint inscriptions, would make an interesting monograph or portfolio by itself. I would suggest that at some future date this should be done by sending a survey party for the purpose.

Instructions had been given to the village munsif to have as many coins collected from the villagers as possible. They brought a number, of which sixteen small copper ones were selected.

5. On arrival at Nellore on the 25th ultimo, I inspected a number of temples which had not been before noted, had a series of drawings made representing them, and copied a number of early inscriptions which exist in the Vishnu temple. I visited some places in the neighbourhood and noted several temples and inscriptions at villages in the taluk not before recorded.

6. From Nellore, on the 5th instant, I went to Kávali. Though there are several temples in this town, none of them are of special interest. From my camp here, on the 7th instant, I made a flying visit west to the cave temple at Dasaripalle. I found it to be simply a natural cavern, which had been adapted for use as a shrine now deserted.

Parties have been sent to places reported to be of interest around Kávali. This work is at present being proceeded with, and will be included in a future report.

7. In May last, I suggested to the Collector of the Kistna district that the Buddhist chaitya remains near Bezváda might be preserved by the erection of a stone and earth wall or bank above the site; and a diversion made of the hill water-course in which the building stood, so that when the rains set in, no damage might be done. I also suggested that during the work, a look-out might be kept for any old coins. The work has just been carried out, and four copper coins found. Government directed that these be sent to the Madras Museum through myself. I have just received them, and find they are — 1 small round Garuda coin and 3 Muhammadan inscribed coins. The finding of such a majority of these latter might show the building to have remained till comparatively recent times, and to have been ultimately destroyed by the Muhammadans.

8. During the period under note, some conservation matters have been dealt with, and some suggestions made as to grants being given for the preservation of certain works, the principal being the caves with paintings at Tirumalai in the North Arcot district.

9. The drawings recently made, and inscriptions copied since the 25th ultimo, are noted in appendices.

10. I may add a note to the effect that, in printing the Latin and Dutch inscriptions from Pulicat, simple thick capital and italic letters might be used, as near to the forms given in the text as possible. I might also request the favor of a proof before final printing.

I.—PULICAT

(Tam. பழுவேர்க்காடு Palavêrkādu.)

Though formerly a seaport of considerable importance and extensive trade, it is now nothing more than an insignificant fishing-village on the banks of the Buckingham canal, distant about 35 miles north from Madras.

Traditions still exist as to the opulence of the former inhabitants; and, at one time, its trade bade fair to rival that of Madras; but for adverse circumstances, it might have outstripped the now capital town. Though probably a settlement has existed from comparatively early times, it first came prominently under notice when the Dutch founded a fort and factory on the spot in 1609. Dr Burnell identifies Pulicat as "Palakkada" mentioned in an inscription of the 5th or 6th centuries A. D., and seems to think that the place may have had a Buddhist origin, being probably derived from the Tamil *palu* (a tooth) and *kada* (place), e.g., the place of a tooth relic (of Buddha). This is, however, very doubtful, and it is improbable that these two Tamil words could have been transformed into the

* South Ind. Paleog., p. 36., p.n., 2.

vernacular name as given above. The English name is modern, and cannot be quoted as a correct rendering of the original appellation.

The English gained a footing here in 1621. A few years later, or in 1639, they secured an independent site for a factory and the fort of Saint George at Chennaipatnam, 25 miles further south on the coast, and were thus able to consolidate their strength so that they subsequently succeeded in wresting Pulicat from the sway of Holland, during the memorable period when the different European powers, English, French and Dutch were contending for supremacy in India, or, in 1781. Again restored to the Dutch, it finally fell into the hands of the English in 1825, from which time its trade, once so flourishing, seems to have gradually deserted it, the merchants migrating and settling in Madras.

A great proportion of the present inhabitants are Muhammadans, who seem to eke out a scanty and precarious livelihood. Streets with large and pretentious houses still exist to show the opulence of the former merchants. Of these mansions, some are entirely deserted; while in others a few solitary individuals have taken up their abode in some out-of-the-way corner; or they have in cases been divided and occupied by a number of families. The feeling of desolation is very manifest on walking through the deserted bazaars with their lofty houses on either side; and one cannot but meditate on what might have been, had other causes been at work, but it is simply an example of the survival of the fittest.

(2) Remains of the Fort.

Of the works of the early Dutch settlers, but few traces remain. The fort, which has been a brick-structure, a few hundred yards square, enclosed by a wide and deep moat, has very little but the site remaining. The moat still exists, at present partly filled with water, in almost perfect condition. The buildings themselves have been completely razed, and only some few masses of dismantled and fallen brickwork project in places through the soil. From its small area, there can have been no considerable settlement inside the fort itself, and it must have been much inferior in strength and accommodation to Fort St. George. The settlers, if numerous, may have lived outside the walls; and it can have been simply a place of refuge or citadel to enclose or protect the factory.

(3) Dutch Cemetery.

Directly on the west outskirts of the site of the fort, is the ancient Dutch necropolis, walled-in, and kept in perfect order and preservation by Government. A quaint and interesting Romanesque "lich-gate" enters at the south-east corner (drawing No. 726). On each side of this gateway, a square pilaster, abutting on the court walls, supports a semi-circular arch, over which is a horizontal classical cornice with a ball-finial on each outer ledge; and surmounted by a circular moulded tympanum, open in the centre to receive a carved and foliated vase. The pilasters have a moulded base, and capitals with egg-and-dart ornament between two Ionic volutes or scrolls. On the front face of each pilaster is a standing skeleton, almost life-size. Carved on the key-stone, or central voussoir at the crown of the arch, is a death's-head. On the left front face of the archivolt is the following Latin quotation from the Apocalypse, in quaint Roman letters of the 17th century:—

BEATI QUI IN DOMINO MORIUNTUR.
QUIESCUNT ALABORE SUO. A.
APOCALYPS : CAP : XIV V : XIII.

On the corresponding right curve of the arch is an inscription in Dutch with the date 1656.

SALICH SYNSEDIE IN DEN HERE
1656-STERVEN-SY RUSTEN VAN
HAREN ABBEY. OPENB : XIV VXIII.

The gateway is 7 feet 3 inches wide; 6 feet 4 inches to the springing of the arch; and 9 feet 3 inches to the apex or under side of the key-stone of the archway.

The cemetery is a square enclosure, with an area of about an acre. In it are a large number of beautifully sculptured tomb-stones. The majority are large flat slabs of black granite, carved, generally with a foliated border ornament, a large representation in bas-relief of the coat-of-arms of the deceased, and an inscription, often dated, below. The method of design is in most cases similar, though the carvings in every example vary. One slab, of which an illustration has been made (drawing No. 727), measures 8 feet 5 inches by 4 feet 2½ inches. Around the edge is a broad foliated scroll, with a patera at each corner, and on the middle of each length of the ornamental band. On the top, or upper end of the slab, is a rectangular panel, with ornaments at the angles, enclosing a foliated octagonal arabesque. Below are two inscriptions. The first in Roman capital letters records particulars of the age, date of birth and death of him who had found a place of sepulture below. The second seems a sort of *memento mori* in old italics, and from the measured cadence of the metre at the end of every second line, appears to be a quotation from some hymn.

First inscription.

HIER ONDERLEGD BEGRAVEN
Jan Martens; INSYNLEVEN
COOPMANINDIENSTDERE: COM;
EN OPPERHOOFDDESES COMPTES
Palliacatta, ALDAAR GEBOOREN
DEN 21 JUNY 1667, EN OVERLEDE:
OPULTO: MAART 1717, OUD 49 IAREN.
9 MAANDEN, EN 10 DAGEN:

Second inscription.

Hierrusthy, diegeenrustenhad,
zoolangesigberondint leven,
desalhettyd' lykmaed'enzad,
synziel Godverheestgegeven,
ommetheminde Eeuwigheyd,
daarhemelingenvreugd bereven,
tesmaakentzatigheyl, bereyd,
voordie, dieinden Heeresterven;

A few of the tomb-stones are plain, but the majority are ornate in design. Some three or four are covered by domed canopies, decorated with minarets, and moulded work in stucco. A collection of drawings representing the ornamental slabs with their quaint inscriptions would make an interesting portfolio by itself. It would be instructive to know whether the sculptors were Dutch or Indian. In all these examples, the design is in a free classic, while in the detail, where foliage is introduced, the treatment is decidedly Hindu. From this, it would seem that the designs had been prepared by the Dutch, according to their ideas of classical art, and handed over to native carvers for execution. The design and working of the floral ornament would be principally left in the hands of the latter, who would use his own discretion in carrying it out, thus giving it its quasi-Indian character.

(4) Structures in the modern village.

The village itself presents no striking features, and differs in few respects from most Indian villages. The houses are built of mud, and their squalidness contrasts with the ostentation displayed in the deserted houses in the old bazaars. No ancient remains exist, and with the exception of two comparatively large Hindu temples, none of the buildings present any attempt at architectural ornamentation. The temples referred to are built of brick, and ornamented in stucco; they cannot be more than a hundred years old, and have no striking features to merit more than a passing notice.

(5) Coins.

Coins are often picked up in considerable numbers on the site of the ancient settlement, by the villagers, after rain has fallen and disturbed the surface of the ground. The great majority are small round Dutch copper coins; others are Pondicherry cash: English East India, Muhammadan, and various Hindu ones, with inscriptions in Nagari, Telugu or Tamil. Very often among the lots offered for sale, are foreign coins, which may or may not have been found on the spot. None are of any intrinsic value, and it is but seldom that coins of any rarity are found. Sixteen coins procured here are of the following varieties:—

Nine small round copper with the Dutch emblem  on the obverse, and a representation, evidently of the sun, moon, stars, and sea on the reverse.

One with the Dutch emblem, and two lines of a Nagari inscription which, through want of clearness in the letters, I have been unable to definitely decipher; the first line appears as क(नी)त(क?); the second as (...) (वा?)ग.

One has the date 1731 and an emblem which I take to be a figure on a cross, surrounded by a line in the form of a heart.

All these measure on an average $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch in diameter by $\frac{3}{16}$ nds thick.

Two others have, respectively, the figures or dates 78 and 80, with a portion of a circle divided into quadrants and the letter C in one of them. These are thick, round, and measure about $\frac{1}{2}$ ths of an inch in diameter by $\frac{1}{4}$ ths thick.

The remaining three are modern, and represent two from Native States, and one foreign coin.

II.—NELLORE.

(Sans. लिङ्गपुरी Lingapuri,
सिंहपुरी Simhapuri, and
धान्यपुर Dhanyapura.
Greek Μάλαγγα)

History of the Fort.

The chief town of the present revenue district of Nellore: an extensive seat of trade. It is 107 miles north of Madras, and stands in latitude $14^{\circ} 28'$ north, and longitude $88^{\circ} 3'$ east. It is built on some high ground on the south and east bank of the Pennéru river.

In former times it was strongly defended by a mud fort; the gateway and a few towers were of brick or stone. The parapet was 6 feet high, with port-holes—for small arms—made of earthenware pipes set in the clay walls.* The fort extended about 1,200 yards from east to west, and 600 yards from north to south.

With the exception of the Sarvepalle gateway it has now completely disappeared. It was built in the time of the Muhammadans, and was once surprised and taken by the adventurer Muhammad Komal who obliged the Governor Muzibulla to flee to Arcot. This adventurer in

trying to take Tirupati before the annual feast at that temple in September of the following year was captured and beheaded A.D. 1753. In 1757, the Governor of Nellore, Nuzibulla, revolted; and, in support of the Suzerain Nawab, an English force was sent against him on the 1st April 1757. The detachment was a small one, and quite inadequate for the work it was expected to

* *Ib.*, page 451.

accomplish. It consisted of * 100 Europeans, over 350 Native troops, and some field pieces, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Forde. Through various delays in transport, the force did not encamp before Nellore till the 27th of the month. Colonel Forde was joined by a force of 7,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry under the Nawab's brother Abdul Wahab. On the approach of this army the rebel Governor Muzibulla retired with 1,500 horse, leaving the town to be defended by an officer with a garrison of 4,000 peons.† The fort stood about 500 yards from the river bank, and along this the English troops encamped in face of the town;

† *Ib.*, page 452 *et seq.*

while the Nawab's forces were at a distance higher up. The details and results of the siege are fully gone into in the *District Manual*, but need not at present be further referred to.

(2) Legendary origin of the town.

The town stands on what is traditionally stated to have been the ancient forest of Dhandakā Aranyam. A large town is said to have stood on the present western suburb of Durgametta; this was known by the name of Simhapuram. This name is traced to the existence of lions in the adjoining forest, but it is more probable to suppose that it shows it to have had a Pallava origin, the name being taken from the simha as the emblem of the dynasty of the Pallavas.

‡ *Ib.*, page 689.

The following legend ‡ mentions a chief named Mukhunti as having founded the town; and though his name is mentioned along with a temple of the eleventh century, the traditional connection of the Pallava king Mukhunti with the origin of the town may have some foundation in fact. The legend is common to hundreds of other places, and states that Mukhunti Reddi owned large herds among which was a cow which contained the soul of a Brahman woman. This cow had a revelation that Siva had appeared on earth as linga which stood under a Nelli tree (*Philanthus emblica*) and used to bedew this stone with its milk. Mukhunti observed the cow's loss of milk and charged the herdsman with theft. The latter watched the cow, and seeing what happened, struck the linga with a sword, when blood flowed from it. Mukhunti then had (of course) a vision in which he was directed to build a temple over the spot. He gave this temple the name of Mulasthanēsvara, and the neighbouring village the name of Nelli-ūr, from the tree under which the linga was found. This is the *purana* attached to the large Siva temple of that name at present in use in the town. Like almost all other legends of the class, it is repeated in many other places, and the cow standing over a linga, with its mouth drawing its own milk to sprinkle the linga, is a favourite subject of sculpture in many Dravidian temples. Some good examples exist in the temples at Vijayanagar. I have seen no specimens of a date earlier than the end of the 15th century, and possibly it may have been invented about that date.

It has been suggested § that the Mukhunti referred to may have been the sovereign known in the Telugu country as Mukhunti Mahārāja, this being possibly a Telugu translation of the name of the Pallava king Trinetra or Muk-

hunti Pallava who is said to have reigned at Kanchi about the 2nd or 3rd century. It seems probable that the individual referred to is the Mukhunti Raja, of whom an inscription dated A.D. 1408, is stated to exist at Tirupati in the Godāvāri district. In any case he must have been more than a local chief when his name is so widespread. It exists in connection with Dharanikota in the Kistna district, a stronghold of which the Pallava origin there can be no doubt.

The Pallava king may possibly have had some connection with the founding of the traditional or earlier town at Nellore; or with an earlier temple that may once have existed on the spot; and this shadowy legendary connection be the only trace that remains of their former existence. The present temple of Malasthanēsvara can have had no existence in the time of the Pallava king, for the majority of its buildings are comparatively modern, dating subsequent to the beginning of the 15th century. The shrine itself dates from about A. D. 1060, or from the time of the Cholas. Though the inner temple had been in existence since the 11th century, it was a shrine of small dimensions, and but ordinary sanctity. Some additions in the 15th century perhaps raised it to be a temple of some importance. It would then rise in popularity as a place of religious note. To give it the requisite sanctity, the legend was applied to it in the local *purana*; and a Mukhunti, who may have lived in the 15th century was made the founder of a shrine which had been built some centuries previously. From the numbers of their various remains that exist in this and the adjoining districts to the north, the Cholas seem to have

overrun all this part of the country on the defeat of the Pallavas. Numbers of small Chola temples exist at various places in the Kistna district; and in the town of Nellore itself, there are others, the principal of which is the shrine of the now large Vaishnava temple. The walls of this *garbhagriha* are covered with a number of lengthy Chola-Tamil inscriptions of the 11th century A.D.

Another explanation of the name Nellore is given in its derivation from the Tamil equivalent for the name of paddy grain. Should this be the real one, it might have been given by the Tamil conquerors or Cholas when they took the town in the 11th century in supersession of one or other of the old Sanskrit names applied to the town by its former rulers—the Pallavas. After following the various fortunes of that dynasty, the many Chola-Tamil inscriptions show that it passed into the hands of the Cholas. It would afterwards come under the power of the Vijayanagar kings, who have left records of their presence in the surrounding district. Krishnadeva Raya passed in that direction in 1515, but the later fort would not then be in existence, and, being at the time a place of no strength, would be considered of no importance.

(3) *Mulasthanēvara Temple.*
(Drawing No. 728).

This temple is mentioned in the legend given above, being that connected with the founding of the town. It is enclosed in a large, almost rectangular, court, whose greatest interior dimensions are 197 feet by 164 feet 6 inches. The enclosure is not quite a rectangle, as the back length only measures 190 feet. On the front is a projection of from 7 to 12 feet, with a frontage of 123 feet 6 inches. In the centre of this is the entrance *gopura*, a comparatively modern structure. In the open square outside the temple enclosure is a lofty four-pillared *mandapa*, and a huge *Ganēsa* built of bricks and plaster; these are not in the temple grounds proper. Inside, and directly in a line with the entrance *gopura*, is the principal shrine enclosing a *linga* dedicated to the deity after which the temple is named. It is a small chamber with an entrance porch in front, both with thick walls, constituting what must have been for long after the foundation the only portion of the temple then in existence. A roofed enclosure was then built around it, forming a pillared *mandapa* in front, with one prolonged row of the piers forming a *prakara* round the sides and back of the shrine. On the right side of the *mandapa* is a small bed-chamber for the god. On the south-west back corner is a small chamber for Siva's son, Subrahmanya; this and the main shrine each have a *vimāna* tower over them. This group of buildings is comparatively old, dating within a century of the founding of the shrine.

Alongside, and north of the main shrine, is the temple of Bavanēvara, dating from the beginning of the 15th century, similar in plan, but smaller than the principal shrine. In the space outside, and between these two buildings, is a small cell with a *linga*. Each of the two *mandapas* in front of the Mulasthanēvara and Bavanēvara shrines is a pillared portico, with the usual group of *dvajastambhas* and *pitams* in front. In the north-east corner of the court is the *vāhana mandapa* or receptacle for the vehicles used in the processions of the gods on festival occasions. It is comparatively modern, but in its construction are some ornamental base and cornice details, which might almost be said to be Pallava in their character, so early is the style they display. They are mere fragments, and may be portions of the supposed earlier temple: they might belong to the 7th century.

In the south-east corner of the court is a small building used as a *madapalle* or cookroom, with a well in connection with it.

An interesting building stands in the open space in the south-west corner. It is a small shrine dedicated to *sahasra linga*. The superstructure is plain and of little interest, but the moulded basement is in the Chalukyan style which is usually found in Maisur and the districts of Madras bordering on the Tungabhadra river. These remains might show an occupation of the town subsequent to the Cholas, midway between the advent of this dynasty and that of Vijayanagar. It may have been erected by Pratapa Rudra, who built the temple at Worangal* in A.D. 1163; and be the same king, whose

* Fergusson's *History of Ind. and East Arch.*, p. 389.
† See below under Dasaripalle.

name is traditionally connected with the Udayagiri fort †.

The building must have been an early temple that had never been completed, or had gone to ruin; and as it stood conveniently adjacent to the Mulasthanēvara shrine, walls were afterwards placed on the early base, and a new shrine constructed to be enclosed in the court and form a component part of the one place of worship.

(4) *Ranganāyakasvami Temple.*

This occupies the same position as a place of worship for the Vaishnavas, as does the last described for the Saivas. It is not dissimilar to, though more elaborate in plan than, the other; and the date of its principal buildings is somewhat the same; but buildings have been added up to the present century. It stands on the east bank of the river Pennēru—which flows past its

west side—and has a river-gate on the west side of its court. On the east side stands a lofty and ornate *gopura*, built by some wealthy merchants within the present century. On the south is some waste land, and on the north is a road, on which is a four-pillared *mandapa*.

The central shrine, with its enclosing buildings, is dedicated to the god from which the temple is named. It has an *ardhamandapa* and *antaralamandapa* each with its entrance to the west, though the main *gopuras* of the temples enter on the east side. In the shrine is an image of Ranganāyakasvami, who lies on a bed formed by the five-hooded *naga*; his head is towards the south, and his feet to the north. Around is a pillared *prakara*. The walls are ornamented with pilasters and niches; and on them are a number of lengthy inscriptions in Chola Tamil. Above is a brick and chunam tower. In the front *mandapa* are four rows of piers with eight pillars in each row.

In describing the buildings in the court, they will be taken in succession from the south-east to south-west, and thence round the court.

In the south-east corner of the court is the *madapalle* or cooking-room, where no Sudras—and none but Brahmans—are allowed to enter.

To the west of the south-east corner of the court is a shrine with an image of Vudayanagara. In front is an *antaralamandapa* and *mahamandapa* with six piers.

In the south-west corner is a shrine of Sri Ranganachar or Aundalammal. The shrine has an *ardhamandapa* and in front is a *mahamandapa* with twelve piers. A *prakara* with four piers surrounds the shrine.

Almost in the centre of the space on the south of the main shrine is a four-pillared *mandapa* with four iron chains hanging from the roof for the use of the car during festivals.

On the west side is a bell-tower, with staircase from floor to roof.

The west gate is surmounted by a tower, and has a raised platform on two sides of the entrance, with a pillar over each. On the west side, a stair for the use of pilgrims leads down to the river.

In the north-west corner is a shrine of Tayasammal. It has the usual arrangement of *mandapas* and pillared *mahamandapa*. Over the shrine is a *vimāna* tower complete.

To the east of the shrine described is a *vahana mandapa*.

On the east of the last is a temple with a *mandapa* in front. Around the shrine is a *prakara*, and in the cell are a number of stone images.

At the north-east corner is a *madapalle*, with a well.

The east gate in the court-yard wall has pillars, raised on a platform on each side of the entrance, supporting a roof.

Outside the last is a four-pillared *mandapa*.

Still further to the east of the east gate is the large *gopura* previously noted. It is at present outside the temple proper; but is evidently so arranged, or planned, that when convenient for the temple authorities, an outer entrance court can be formed by extending the present court walls right up to it.

(5) *Irukamma or Gramadeva Temple.*

(Drawings Nos. 729, 730, 731.)

This shrine stands on the northern bank of the large reservoir or tank south-west of the town. The general plan is a shrine with stone tower, and *mandapas* in front, all enclosed by a long and narrow court measuring 132 feet from east to west, with a breadth of 45 feet 2 inches: and an entrance *gopura* on the east. The temple is built of the red laterite common in the neighbourhood, is of stone throughout, and dates from the 11th century. On the jambs of the *gopura* are two inscriptions in Telugu, one dated S.S. 1285 (A.D. 1363-4).

The shrine has an image of Irukamma standing on a square base or pedestal; close to it is a round stone shaft on which to place the *dipa* or lamp. The tower over the shrine is of stone to its summit, and is devoid of ornament—in fact, the coarse nature of the material would hardly admit of any. The tower and temple have thus a more ancient character from this enforced simplicity, than one would expect from its actual age.

The *antarala mandapa* has a perforated stone window in the north wall, and round piers in the front portico.

The *mahamandapa* has four pillars with responding pilasters on the north and south walls. In front of its east entrance door is a portico with two piers.

In front of the last is a detached *mandapa*, walled in on three sides, and open to the back.

In the north side of the court is a slab with a figure of a goddess seated with her *vahana* the vyal-headed bird Gandabirandapakshi (Drawing No. 729, Figure 1). Another image stands close by, and on a slab near the *gopura* is a worshipper (I b., Fig. 2).

(6) *Dharmarāja Temple.*

This is a small building standing some distance to the north of the last temple, and north-west from the modern temple of Mailasvāmi. It is plain throughout, and is noted simply from its being a sort of temple comparatively rare. It is enclosed in a court with a *gopura* on its east side. Outside the *gopura* is a four-pillared *mandapa*. The shrine seems to date from the 16th century, while the outer walls are more modern. Everything is, however, so thickly coated with plaster, that it is difficult to accurately fix its date.

The main building has a shrine, *ardha* and *mahamandapa*. In the shrine is a central figure of Dharmarāja, with Krishnamurti on the south side, and Draupadidevi on the north; the two former are seated and the latter standing. The walls of the shrine have pilasters and niches; and the tower over is decorated with mythological figures, all thickly plastered.

The *mahamandapa* has four piers. At the north side of its entrance is an image of Ganēsa, and a sculptured panel in the wall (Drawing No. 729, Figure 3) is said to represent the king who built the temple, and his four wives. At the south side of the door is an image of Vishnu.

In front of the *mahamandapa* stands a four-pillared *mandapa* or *balipitam* with a small octagonal pointed domed object representing Potaraja. In the north of the court is a well, with an inscribed stone laid across the top. The inscription is almost illegible.

(7) *Miscellaneous Objects.*

In front of the Gausa choultry (modern) are two carved stones—one with an elephant and a few letters of an inscription; and the other with a horse and rider.

On the north-east back of the tank are two inscribed stones. At the end of last century some Roman gold coins were found in a pot by a peasant who was ploughing a field near Nellore.* When the anicut across the river was being made, some earthenware coffins were found in the quarries from which the laterite was taken. From the description† given, they seem to have been

* Nellore District Manual, p. 688.
Sowell's Lists of Antiquities, vol. I, p. 144.

† Manual, p. 689.

similar to the earthenware sarcophagi met with in other districts of the Presidency.

Information has been received of antiquities existing at the following places around Nellore. They seem to have been hitherto un-noted:—

Jaonavāda—Temple and inscription. Narasimhasvāmi konda—Temple. Tiravidhipādu—Temple of Ahobalēsvara. Vangalu—Temple and inscription. Velupādu—Temple.

III.—NARASIMHASVAMI KONDA.

This is a portion of a range of hills lying about 8 miles north-west of Nellore. Near the summit is the temple of Narasimhasvami. It is a rambling series of buildings standing on an artificial terrace. The groups of rocks prevent any regularity of plan; and the result is, that each structure has been placed wherever space could be utilized for it. They date from about the beginning of the 16th century. A large *gopura*—comparatively modern—stands in a position apart from the others so as to afterwards form the entrance to an, as yet, unbuilt courtyard. On a beam is a Telugu inscription of which the following is a transliteration in Sanskrit characters:—

श्रीमत् होबलगिरियन्तु रुनल
कोण्ण लक्ष्मी गरसिमस्वामि
वारुले जयम् चेतिसारु ।

Transliteration of the Telugu.—Sri mat hobalagiriyanturnumala konnalakshminarasimhasvami varuli jayam chesinaru.

Translation.—“In the holy temple of the hill of Ahobala, Lakshminarasimhasvami has for ever sat.”

On a fallen pillar, now used as a step to a doorway, is an illegible inscription in Telugu.

On one of the rocks within the temple grounds is a large bas-relief of Trimurti. On another adjacent boulder is a similar carving of Hanuman, or, as he is known in the Telugu country, Anjaneya: each is nearly 8 feet high.

On the east and front sides are long flights of steps leading from the base of the hill to the temple. They are formed of medium-sized blocks of stone, and their construction must have been a work of immense labor, time, and expense. At the base of the east flight is a large square masonry tank, with steps built down the four sides to a considerable depth. The south roadway is the principal one, up which flock the crowds of pilgrims who resort thither on the great annual festival. *Mandapas* and shrines are placed at intervals in the ascent, and the rent of the former

must bring a considerable income to the temple funds. At the base is a small temple of Govindaraja. And accommodation is provided for the pilgrims' ablutions in sixteen fairly large reservoirs or tanks.

IV.—KAVALI.

The town of Kāvali is the head-quarters of the taluka of the name, about 34 miles north of Nellore. There are in all about six temples or shrines, none of which are in any way remarkable. They are mostly comparatively modern, and built of brick. The remains of the ancient ruined temple of Virabhadra, elsewhere noted,* consists of a very small, square, roofless cell, without ornament of any sort, and almost buried in rubbish.

* Topograph. Lists of Antiq., Vol. I, p. 142.

On the west side of the tank west from, and about 3 miles distant from the town is a square pillar, inscribed in Telugu characters on three sides. Two sides have the letters nearly all perfect, but the third has been so worn as to be almost illegible; this inscription has been hitherto unnoted.

V.—DASARIPALLE.

(Drawing No. 732.)

It has been noted that on a hill named Govartanagiri, a mile west of the village,† “there exists a cave carved out of the solid rock in the form of a half-moon. The entrance is wide enough to admit a man. Within is an image of Vishnu as Krishnamurti under a canopy. Upon the steps are inscriptions. The pagoda is in ruins.” This has been quoted elsewhere‡ with the addition that there are “eight inscriptions” at the cave entrance.

† Nellore District Manual, p. 427.

‡ Topograph. Lists of Antiq., Vol. I, p. 140.

This place has proved on examination to be, not a rock-cut cave, but a natural hollow or cavern which has at one time been used as a temple or the abode of a jogi. On the east face of the hill, at a height of 250 feet from the base, are some groups of huge white limestone rocks. Under an overhanging mass of rock which has been scooped out of the face of one of the large boulders, by the action of the weather, is a narrow opening in the form of a natural arched entrance with rounded top. The scooped-out portion of the rock is that referred to as having the appearance from the outside of a “half-moon.” The opening in its lower wall forms the entrance or passage leading into a natural cavern (Drawing No. 732, Fig. 1), roughly circular in plan, with an average diameter of about 25 feet; and sufficiently high in the roof for one to stand upright inside. Against the back wall is a platform or *pita* for images. It is about 3 feet high, and stretches from one side to the other; it is built of dressed blocks laid closely together. The floor of the cave, and top of the platform are thickly heaped with small blocks of stones, evidently brought from outside, and thrown there. On the face of the platform are some roughly-cut letters of an inscription in Telugu, in which the name of king “Krishnadēvamaharāyalu” of Vijayanagar can be deciphered. The other “inscriptions” on the outside of the entrance are mere modern scrawls in paint, tar, or charcoal on the white-washed surface of the wall. On the sides of the entrance passage are traces of paintings, but almost obliterated, and it is now quite impossible to make out even what the subjects have been. There is now no image of “Krishnamurti” inside; and it was stated that it had been removed long ago. Outside were found portions of three images (Figs. 3, 4, 5), which, when complete, might have been 2 feet high; they had their heads smashed off, and were lying in a heap of stones. Around the large boulder of rock—inside of which is the cave—ascending the two exterior sides, and returning at a height of about 20 feet along the back, are flights of stairs formed of large blocks of quartz. These go right round the rock, and, it is explained, were used as a sort of primitive *parakrama*, or procession path around the shrine: they are rather novel in this respect. The cave, the villagers say, is the entrance to a passage which goes under this hill to the adjoining one of Udayagiri; but no appearance of any such passage is visible, and the story is, like all others of the sort, a myth. Rough steps lead up from the base of the hill to the cave; and in front of it is built a platform faced with three sides of a square, with a doorway in its north side. It measures 21 feet along the north face. The side walls are not broken off at the ends, but are returned in regular faced courses of brickwork. This must be the ruined “pagoda” above referred to; and, as it stands almost opposite the north flight of steps, must be the remaining half of an entrance *gopura*, of which the other portion of the plan has disappeared. Its present height is about 8 feet.

The place is one of those natural caves which have been adapted as a temple, without any hewing out of the rock; and it dates long subsequent to the latest time when the art of cutting the rock for cave-temples was practised. It must have been in use about the end of the 15th century, and probably destroyed afterwards by the “Muhammadans.” The way in which the images are defaced would seem to point to this.

17. Dasaripalle.—On the base of a platform in cave: 3 feet 3 inches $\times$ 7 inches; 2 lines of 32 letters in Telugu. (No. 368.)

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2. Mr. Rea's report contains, as usual, matters of much archaeological interest.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archaeological Survey.

- „ all Collectors of districts.
- „ the First Assistant, Archaeological Survey.
- „ R. Sewell, Esq.
- „ the Public Works Department.
- „ V. A. Smith, Esq., Ben. C.S.

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MARCH.

(7)

Archæology.

Recording, with remarks, the Progress Report of
the Archæological Surveyor, dated 11th December
1888.

Is Mr. G. H. V. C. C. C.
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