

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>333</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>31-3-</i>	<i>1866</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

31/
22/9/06

No. 145. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary to the Madras Literary Society, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 15th March 1866.

I am directed by the Committee of the Madras Literary Society to submit, for the consideration of Government, the accompanying communication from the Messrs. de Schlagintweit, with reference to a valuable collection which they have made of the different soils found in India. The Committee suggest that these specimens would form a valuable addition to the Madras Museum.

From Messrs. HERMANN DE SCHLAGINTWEIT SAKUNLUNSKI, Faegersburgh Castle, and ROBERT DE SCHLAGINTWEIT, Professor at the University of Geissen, to the Honorary Secretary to the Madras Literary Society; dated Faegersburgh, near Torchheim, Bavaria, 26th January 1866.

We have the honor to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter, dated Madras, November 18th, 1865, and take the liberty to make the following communications, with reference to the letter despatched by us in August or September 1862, which, as we are kindly informed by you, "has never been received, as far as you could learn."

2. This letter contained communications and proposals, with reference to our very numerous collections of different soils all over India, including specimens for comparison from the Himalayas and Thibet. We had the honor to give over one set of the complete collection, consisting of more than 1500 different samples, filled in large, wide mouthed glass-bottles, to the India Museum, and we were particularly happy to see that this collection was carefully put up, and did not fail to attract general attention and great interest. An elegant, nicely varnished label is pasted upon each of the glass bottles, containing detailed scientific remarks, with reference to the quality, locality, geographical distribution, &c.; of the respective soil. Our soils have also been fully appreciated in the International Exhibition of 1862—see "Dr. Forbes Watson's classified and descriptive Catalogue, Indian Department, 1863;" where together with the analysis of some of them, also the importance of such collections for agricultural purposes is fully detailed and pointed out.

3. A second set was worked up by us in an identical manner with the India Museum Collection, and consists of 750 different soils, all filled in wide mouthed glass-bottles of two sizes; the larger bottles being filled with the objects of more general importance, or of more coarse granulation. The contents of each bottle are defined by a printed label with scientific remarks. For the sake of science, we then had the honor to propose to you in August or September 1862, that this collection, or, if it should be found too large, a part of it, might be put up in the splendid Madras Museum, and we allowed us, at the same time, to express the hope, which we are sure will be considered just, that, in such a case, our work in connection with the soils, as far as including, besides the scientific, analytical, and geographical remarks, the actual expenses for glass-bottles, printing and varnishing of the labels, stationery, leather-covers, engagement of workmen and clerks, &c., might be paid to us. The sum total, which we allow ourselves to name for the complete collection, amounts to 1200 Rupees. Should a part only be desired, we would make no objection, as far as it would be your wish, the bottles then being at two Rupees each, though we would have reason to regret seeing separated a collection, which, exactly by remaining so very complete and complementary, must be of special importance for practical questions in India.

4. We should feel much obliged, if your Committee would take this proposal into kind consideration, and beg to say that any communication on the subject is sure to reach us, if addressed

To Messrs. de Schlagintweit, Faegersburgh, near Torchheim, Bavaria.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

31st March 1866.

No. 146.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1866, No. 333.

The Governor in Council does not consider that the collection referred to will serve any useful purpose. He must, therefore, decline to sanction its purchase.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Madras Literary Society:

Exd. J. H. Burns.

N:322.

Public.

From the Secretary to the Madras Literary Society of 15th March 1866.
For Orders.

I do not think such a collection is worth purchasing - The soils cannot be used for comparison except as to the external resemblance which serves nothing. I don't think it worth the bother which it is entailed

I don't think it worth the expense to have a collection on one hand - It would merely lie in the Museum & be lost - with no practical or scientific account - It seems that the large collection of 1500 samples in the Indian Museum in London JH

I don't see any reason for paying a very large sum for a collection which will not be practically benefited by any one in this country

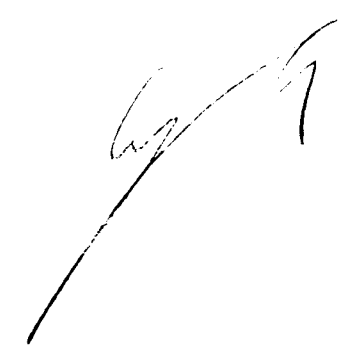
5
Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Print the following letter
from the Secretary to the Madras
Library Society.
(Dated 15 March 1866)

Order thereon 31st March 1866 No. 333

The Governor in Council
does not consider that the collec-
tion referred to will serve any
useful purpose. He ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{must} ~~cannot~~
~~prepare~~ ^{decline} therefore to sanction
its purchase.



To the M. L. Society desd 6/4

List of 1000 miles

Public 1866. Department.

No. 333.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

W. L.

Dated 31 March 1866

145-146.