

1. Number of pages. 8
2. Date of repair. 7-11-8
3. Initials or Reference.

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M.R.O. 1-29,000-16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	392	Press Mis.
Dated	26-3-	19/868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/8

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th March 1868.*

No. 191. Read the following letter from Captain J. MITCHELL, Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 14th March 1868, No. 30.

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that there is much work to be done on the Neilgherries in the way of collecting and preserving specimens from the animal kingdom, and this, I believe, cannot be thoroughly done unless I am on the spot to superintend it. I beg further to add that I have received, through my friend Mr. Neill, a communication from Mr. Jansen, Secretary to the Entomological Society of London, who states that he believes the Entomology of the Neilgherries is almost untouched, and that he considers it very desirable I should have an opportunity of working it out.

2. As a commencement I sent my head Taxidermist to the hills last year and he collected upwards of six hundred birds, of about sixty species, with a few reptiles, insects, and fish; but according to Jerdon there are still sixty or seventy species of birds to be obtained either on the hills or their slopes. I am very anxious to obtain good examples of the so-called Ibex to set up, and also a good skeleton, but all my endeavours to do so have hitherto failed. There is also a small Otter about the hill streams that has not yet been described, although its existence on the hills has long been known. It is probable that a large proportion of the insects will turn out to be unknown to Entomologists, and the same may, to some extent, be said of the fish in the rivers flowing from the hills.

3. Believing that a residence of about six months would not only enable me to add much to the Museum collection, but in all probability result in the discovery of many new species, particularly of insects, I beg respectfully to solicit permission to reside on the hills on duty from April to September next inclusive. Government would not be put to any additional expense on this account, as I am quite prepared to pay my travelling expenses, and the expense of collecting and preserving specimens will, of course, be defrayed from the established allowance.

4. Should Government be pleased to sanction the foregoing I should like to leave Madras about the 2nd of April, by which time I hope to have my Annual Report and Account Current ready to send in. It will not be necessary to appoint any one to act for me at Madras, as I can confidently entrust the ordinary work and superintendence of the Museum to the Curator, Rungasawmy Moodelliar, and all correspondence would be disposed of by myself at Ootacamund.

No. 192. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1868, No. 392.

The Government authorize Captain Mitchell to reside on the hills on duty for three months.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent, Government Central Museum.]

„ Accountant General.

„ Examiner of Claims.

Ed. J. Talloch.

Government Central Museum
Madras 14th March 1868.

From,
Captain J. Mitchell
Supt^d Government C. Museum

To,
The Honorable R. L. Ellis C.B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to report
for the information of Government
that there is much work to be done
on the Nilgherries in the way of
collecting and preserving specimens
from the animal kingdom, and this,
I believe, cannot be thoroughly done
unless I am on the spot to superintend
it. I beg further to add that I have
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of London, who states that he believes
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of the Museum to the Curator Rungasammy.
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be disposed of by myself at Ootacamund.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servant,

J. S. S. Captain
Suptt Govt Central Museum.

Office 186
Government Museum

No 30

From
Captain. P. Whitehall
Agent for Museum

The Hon. Mr. W. P. M. P.

Chief Secy to Government

Fort St. George

1861
March 1868

No 116
March 1868

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26. March 1868 No 30.

For information

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Agent for Museum

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Agent for Museum

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