

1. Number 34
2. Date 22/1/87
3. Initials of

M.R.O. 1-32,400-22-11-80-

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	<u>1168</u>	Press <u>Mis.</u>
Dated	<u>19-8-1869</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th August 1869.*

No. 154. Read the following letter from the Right Reverend Dr. S. FENNELLY, Bishop and Vicar Apostolic of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Nellore, 31st July 1869, No. 25.

I have the honour to forward a communication to your address from the Right Reverend Dr. Depommier, the Vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore, who is dissatisfied with the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners of that town in reference to the Roman-Catholic burial-ground. I forward also a Memorandum in French from Dr. Depommier containing the names of several places suitable for a cemetery for the Roman Catholics, and which the Commissioners could secure at a trifling cost. The Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore may possibly be in conformity with law ; but they are in striking contrast with the Proceedings of our Madras Commissioners who carried out their sanitary improvements in Madras without giving offence or cause of complaint to any of the Christian communities whose burial-grounds were closed a few years ago.

From the Right Reverend Dr. C. M. DEPOMMIER, Vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Coimbatore, 13th July 1869.

I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, copies of correspondence which has passed between the Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore and myself, regarding the Roman-Catholic cemetery at that place.

2. The ground selected for the new cemetery by the Municipal Commissioners is unsuitable, firstly, because it is too far distant, a mile and a half, from the residences of the Roman Catholics, who will feel it a great hardship to have to carry their dead so great a distance for interment ; secondly, because the ground is not only outside the Municipal limits of Coimbatore, but outside the town limits of Coimbatore, and belongs to another village ; Raunapoorum and the Roman Catholics of Coimbatore regard it a great grievance and dishonour to them to be compelled to carry their dead for interment outside the grounds of the town ; thirdly, because the place being deserted by men, and being the haunt and abode of jackals and other wild animals, bodies interred there could, with very great difficulty, be saved from being devoured by the wild animals that infest the place ; and, fourthly, because the ground measuring only 60 coojies (three-quarters of an acre) is scarcely large enough to meet the requirements of the Roman-Catholic population : especially if the cemetery be divided, as is usual with us, into three divisions, one for Europeans and East Indians, a second for the interment of Christians of high caste, and a third for Pariah Christians. For these reasons I consider the place selected objectionable. Nevertheless, as I was anxious to cooperate, as far as possible, with the Municipal Commissioners in the sanitary arrangements proposed for the benefit of the public, I would have accepted the ground offered, if the Municipal Commissioners had been willing to incur the necessary outlay to make the place in some measure a suitable place for the interment of the dead. The place cannot be suitable for a burial-ground until the prickly-pear trees are removed, the ground levelled and enclosed by a wall ; without the enclosing stone-wall there will be no protection for the bodies entered in this place against devourment by the jackals and other various animals that infest the place.

3. At the request of the Municipal Commissioners, I sent them an estimate of the cost of clearing, levelling, and enclosing the ground so as to fit it for its new use. The estimated cost was Rupees 600, viz., 100 rupees for clearing and levelling, and 500 for enclosing with a stone-wall without mortar. The Commissioners offer Rupees 100, and decline to be at any further expense ; saying that though the duty of providing a new burial-ground in lieu of the one closed by their order devolved upon them, (which they desired in their Proceedings of the 22nd August 1867,) the duty of the walling the ground does not seem incumbent on them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th August 1869.*

4. I am very sorry to find myself at variance with a respectable public body, to whom I am very desirous to afford any assistance in the discharge of the onerous public duties intrusted to them; but I have been reluctantly forced to the conviction that their manner of dealing with me and the Roman Catholics of Coimbatore is not fair or generous, and is entirely at variance with the proceedings of other Municipalities and of Government in similar cases. The Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore ordered the Roman-Catholic cemetery to be closed without providing another place of interment for Catholics; and when requested to provide another place of interment for Catholics in lieu of the one closed, they positively refused to do so, (Proceedings, dated 22nd August 1867). When it was shown to them that the Municipal Act obliged them to provide a new burial-ground, they selected the most objectionable spot of ground that could be found in the neighbourhood of the town. When the ground selected has to be abandoned, another piece of ground very little less objectionable is selected, though a suitable place might have been found in the vicinity of the burial-ground of the Church of England, as I suggested to them; and when rather than be at variance with the Commissioners, this objectionable ground is accepted on condition that the Commissioners undergo the expense of rendering it a fit and proper place for the interment of the dead, the Commissioners offer to bear one-sixth part of the expenses.

5. When the Municipal Commissioners of Madras closed up, for sanitary reasons, all the cemeteries in the town, they provided new cemeteries in lieu of those closed up, and met from the Municipal Funds all the expenses, purchasing and clearing the ground, of enclosing the ground with a substantial wall, with substantial doors and gates, and further built in each a vestry-room for the convenience of the officiating Clergyman. When the duty of closing a cemetery devolves upon the Collector, the Board of Revenue orders "that before the graveyard is closed against interments, a fresh piece of land in a convenient situation outside the town or village should be given in lieu of it; the ground must be purchased by the Magistrate, and the entire cost of procuring it and adapting it to its new use should be borne by the Government, who would also be at the charge of walling in the old cemetery to preserve it from desecration."

6. In the old cemetery the Roman Catholics of Coimbatore had a small Mortuary Chapel which will, after the cemetery is closed, be rendered useless and unnecessary. A new Chapel will have to be built in the new cemetery; and it seems unfair that the Roman Catholics of Coimbatore, who are a very poor community, should be called to enclose this new cemetery and rebuild their Mortuary Chapel, while these expenses were all voluntarily defrayed out of public funds by the Municipal Commissioners in other places.

7. I have the honour, on behalf of the Roman-Catholic community of this place, to submit the case for the favourable consideration of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.

No. 155.

ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1869, No. 1168.

Ordered that the foregoing letters from the Right Reverend S. Fennelly and the Reverend Dr. Depommier be forwarded to the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, with the expression of the opinion of Government that, under the provisions of Section 119 of the Towns' Improvement Act, the Municipal Commissioners are required to provide a suitable cemetery for the Roman Catholics at that station, if the place at present used by them is closed.

2. The Reverend Dr. Depommier points out that the ground selected by the Commissioners for the cemetery is limited in extent, and at too great a distance from the town, while a more suitable site might be found in the vicinity of the Protestant cemetery. If, as suggested by Dr. Depommier, a better and more convenient site can be found, the Government consider it desirable that it should be selected in preference to the site to which exception has been taken.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th August 1869.*

3. Any site which may be finally determined upon as a burial-ground should be enclosed by a wall by the Municipal Commissioners, and the Government will be prepared to sanction the expenditure necessary for the purpose, from Municipal Funds.
(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore.

„ Right Reverend Dr. S. Fennelly.

„ Right Reverend Dr. C. M. Depommier.

Ed. J. Wright.

Mme

Nom des terrains qu'on pourrait
demander pour faire le Cimetière ;

1^{re} - Notre ancien Cimetière au Sud-Est de
notre Eglise ~~serait le endroit qui nous~~
~~conviendrait le mieux~~ . —

2^o - à l'Est de Notre Eglise, et au Sud-Ouest
du Cimetière actuel des Mahomédans, se
trouve un terrain appartenant à Coondya-
Gavoundan, qu'on pourrait acheter.

3^o - à l'Ouest de l'ancien Cimetière des Mahomédans,
qui est contigu au Cimetière des Européens
se trouve un terrain du Gouvernement
qui pourrait faire notre Cimetière.

4^o - à l'Est du jeu de Paume, il y a un
champ planté de Cannaïns et
appartenant au fils de Magarassen.
Une partie de ce champ nous suffirait.

5^o - à l'Est du Prangalon de Sambagien-
Naikien, il y a un autre terrain du
Gouvernement, qui pourrait être destiné
pour Notre Cimetière . —

6^o - à l'Est de la Route qui conduit au
Rond point du côté du Prangalon de St. Thomas
il y a un champ que M. Martin vendit, il y
a quelques années à l'ex-Administrateur de Coimbatore
et qu'on pourrait acheter . —

Govt. of 1860 Madras.

PUBLIC.

THE PRESIDENT of the
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Coimbatore
Dist. Dec.

Dated August 1860.

End.

G. O. Dated August 1860, No. 1168.

AUGUST.

Nos. 154-155.

Passing orders with reference to the provi-
sion of a suitable Cemetery for the Roman Catho-
lics at Coimbatore, if the place at present used by
them is closed.

N. 25

Nellre

31 July 1869

9

To the Honorable R. S. Ellis C.B.
Chief Secretary

Sir, I have the honor to forward a Communication to your address from the Rt Rev. D. Depommier, the Vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore, who is dissatisfied with the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners of that Town in reference to the Roman Catholic Burial Ground. I forward also a Memorandum in French from D. Depommier containing the names of several places suitable for a Cemetery for the Roman Catholics & which the Commissioners could secure at a trifling cost. The Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore may possibly be in conformity with law; but they are in striking contrast with the Proceedings of our Madras Commissioners who carried out their sanitary improvements in Madras without

Proc. 19 Aug 69 L. 154
20th 1869/89

giving offence or cause of complaint to
any of the Christian Communities whose
Burial grounds were closed a few years ago.

I have the honor to be

~~Yours~~
Sir

Your most obedient Servant

+ Affectionately

From
Prov = 19" Aug 12/189.

Printed for J. S. G. & Co. by J. S. G. & Co.

To
The
Chief Secretary to
Government
Fort St. George.

Dated 2/4/

Rec^d have July 1864

Enclosures-3 ✓

Dec 18 39
 Forwarded a communication from the Right Hon. Mr. Deane, relating to the Commission relative to the "Commonwealth of Massachusetts" and "Municipal Commissioners of Cambridge."

2258

[illegible]

The Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore have been brought to the notice of the Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore that the Roman Catholic burial ground situated in the ~~vicinity of the~~ in such a position as to be dangerous to the health of persons living in the neighbourhood thereof and whereas at a meeting of the aforesaid Commissioners held on Thursday the 8th August 1867 it was resolved to prohibit the further use of the said burial ground you are hereby required to close the same within 2 months from the date of this notification failing which you will render yourself liable to the penalty provided by Section 118 of Act X of 1865.

Countdown
9th August 1873

~~W. A. R. 11/10/18~~ C. A. Galton
Vice President

The President of the M. C. of Combatants

of the notice of the Municipal Commissioners about
the closing of the Roman Catholic Cemetery, & that
as the Irish Bazaar is a public request you
to have the intention to improve the site, that
it is the intention of the Municipal Commis-
sioners to grant us some proper ground for

a Cemetery instead of that which is prohibited
to us within two months. The Roman Catholics
have not been any pointed ground for that purpose.

I am yours &c
Sgt/ + C. M. DePomiers -
Bishop, U. S. A.

Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners
Cantonment dated 22nd August 1864

Read letter dated the 10th Instant
addressed by the Roman Catholic Bishop of
Cantonment requesting to be informed whether
it is the intention of the Municipal Com-
missioners to grant some proper ground for
Cremation instead of that which was prohibited.

Resolved that the Bishop be
informed that the Committee are unable to
meet his wishes.

(True Extract)

Sgt/ P. Grant
President

The President of the Municipal Commission
Cantonment

... the ...
... the ...
... the ...

burial ground instead of that prohibited by
the provisions of the aforesaid Comm. ...
... 22nd August 1864 ...
... Please allow me to give you the
explanation by which you may understand
the situation made to the Roman Catholics
by that ... Since a long time the Roman
Catholic ... in the ...
to bury in two places ... in a ground of
possible ... at the ... of the
... may be ... by some
... in the place
... years ago
... in the ...
... to bury
... we are ...
... of the Municipality
... to those ...
... decided that our burial ground
is in such a position as to be dangerous
to the health of persons living in the neigh-
bourhood thereof but that seems to me
very bad unless some suitable ground for a
Cremation be granted no instead of that where
burial is intended to be ...
understand certainly the No. 18019 of the
Lords' Improvement Act. I am inclined
to think that the Municipality is not
entitled to close our burial ground without
giving us compensation. Indeed according
to the No 118 our Cremation cannot be prohibited
unless a suitable place for interment
exists within a convenient distance and is
available.

cash; and as for such persons which I ~~supposed~~
to be the last letter, addressed to you, that the
Municipality never concerned to make
use of the burial ground the Mission possess.
when the Council first
did intend to build a ~~new~~ ~~burial~~ ~~ground~~
probably not known to the members of
the Municipality, that the N. C. has the
best Indians and natives are inhabiting the
western part of the town, not far of our Church,
& consequently should the aforesaid piece of land
be their cemetery, they always shall be obliged
to go along all the town, this is the distance
of one mile, for their interments which in
time of epidemical diseases especially
will be dangerous and without any necessity
very offensive to the population.

This is another reason for which
those who are Christians will never consent to
bury in the aforesaid piece of land: this is
that some years ago only, that was a burial
ground for the heathens of the Shedus and
Okikis Caste, as it is known by
every one, and is to be seen by the bones
very ~~recognizable~~ ^{recognizable} and the bones still
here & there spread on the ground, that I saw
myself this morning.

Consequently, Sir, I request
you, together with all the Roman Catholic
community of this place, to be kind
enough as to point out another piece
of land which may be in the
side of our Church, or a little farther
off, if some one is not far from the

the Council of the Municipality were to visit
protestant Cemetery, can be selected for our burial
ground. In Madras, Bangalore or other places
where the Municipal system has been established,
pieces of land enclosed by walls, have been
given to the N. C. in the name of the
Cemetery, and it is to be seen that the members of
the Municipality will not be in the
same spirit, and instead of the two Cemeteries
of which we have been deprived in the time
of the Municipality, one very suitable will
be granted to us.

Respectfully, Sir, I request the Commission
that the ~~burial~~ ~~ground~~ to be selected for
our Cemetery must be spacious enough
as to be divided conveniently into three parts;
one for the Europeans (where they may be buried
in the locality) and last Indians, and then
for the Christians of the High Caste, and the
third for Christians of the Low Caste, as it
is very where the curious in the country,
among the Roman Catholics.
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
your obedient servant, and I am, Sir,
in the High Caste Low Caste, until we
have another ground suitably prepared for
that purpose.

Cum gratia
14 Oct 1867

I have &c.

F. M. De Souza
Bishop, Secy. A.

The President of the M. C. of Combarua
 I received your letter of the 20th inst. in
 regard to the burial ground. I have been re-
 ceived for a burial ground as the Roman Catholics
 in view of that which has been first assigned
 them. I did not object to that piece of land
 as it is not within a convenient distance,
 nor is required by No 118 of the Town Improv-
 ement Act. In fact the newly assigned
 burial ground is distant about a mile &
 a half from the Christian community
 by which the necessarily increased ex-
 penses & difficulties will be severely felt.
 On a former occasion, I requested that
 the same kindness which was shown by
 the Municipality to the Catholics of Madras
 & Bangalore, viz. a place would be like-
 wise be granted to us. Instead of the
 old cemetery, a fitting place appropriately
 prepared & surrounded with a fence
 required by section 119 of the said Act.
 I was waiting in the confident hope
 that some thing similar would be done -
 but as up to the present I have received
 no answer, I suppose that my request
 has been forgotten, & in consequence they
 by the present to remove it.
 I feel convinced that if

the members of the Municipality were to visit
 the place, they would agree with me in saying
 that the newly assigned burial ground, unless only
 prepared & surrounded, is not a fitting place.

Our Christians are generally very
 poor, so that it would be very difficult to receive
 subscriptions from them for that purpose. Besides,
 they believe that ~~proposed~~ the Municipality should
 come in aid to give them a fitting burial ground.
 I hope therefore that the Commissioners will
 look indulgently upon this request.

I have &c.

J. C. M. Depommier
 Bishop, Vicar &c.

Combarua }
 20 April 1847 } - No 10
 To

The Right Rev. D. D. C. M. Depommier
 Roman Catholic Bishop
 Combarua

With reference to your application of 20th
 inst. I have the honor to request that you will fur-
 nish the Municipality Commissioners with a rough
 estimate of the probable cost of clearing the new
 burial ground of prickly pear so that they may
 be able to determine to what extent they can
 help with funds for the purpose.

I have &c.

J. C. M. Depommier
 Bishop, Vicar &c.

According to your request of the 3^d. I will
have the house to send you herewith the rough estimate
of the expenses which would be necessary for the
the land assigned to us a tolerably getting ground.

estimate of the probable cost of building boundary wall to the
Mural ground of R. C. community of Conibetion

Total Estimated Repair - 10017

Lyd / J. B. P. no. 10

1st

1. Read letter from the Roman Catholic Bishop, dated 18th Instant, forwarding an Estimate (amounting to Rs 600-1-4) of the expenses necessary for putting the new burial ground altogether at the Roman Catholics in order.

2 The Municipal Commissioners are unable to provide the whole of the funds requisite to defray the expenses considered necessary by the Roman Catholic Bishop to transfer the new burial ground a fitting place of sepulture. But we have to make a grant of £100 towards that object.

*Ld / C. A. Johnson
Pres President*

The President of the M. C. of Cambridge

I have received the notice N^o 55 in which it is stated that "the Municipal Commissioners are unable to provide the whole of the funds requisite to defray the expense considered necessary by the Roman Catholic Bishop to render the new burial ground a fitting place of sepulchre - But will be to make a grant of £100 towards that object."

This only the sixth part of the sum which has been considered by a contractor necessary for a tolerably convenient burial ground, & clearly sufficient to fill up the large excavation which is in it.

As according to N^o 119 of the Town's Improvement Act 1806, The Municipal Commissioners shall from time to time provide fitting places to be used for burial ground, the R. C. community is in the urgency to wait until that may be done, and decline to receive the grant which is entirely improper. Unwilling with the expenses required.

They do collect that the place assigned for a burial ground, 1st is not within a convenient distance, as it is required to be, nearly one & a half a mile from the R. C. Community - 2nd is out of the Municipal limits - & 3^d in a wilderness haunted by numerous jackals always wandering to dig the tombs, if not surrounded by a substantial fence, and feed upon the dead corpses. However, until now I did not object for convenience, to that place on the belief that it will be made by the Municipality convenient for the expenditure.

They do observe again that one burial ground, which was in front of our compound & used many years by the R. C. has been prohibited some years ago &

removed
V. the

moreover that which near the Fort & beyond that has been prohibited ~~on former days~~ for reason of health. For all these reasons, I cannot believe, unless I am very mistaken, that the Govt. every where so liberal to the Roman Catholics here, will of all the matter is brought before it. Compel them here to make repairs, of which they are unable, to make the place assigned for a burial ground, a convenient one.

In consequence, I and all the R. C. of this place, among whom are nearly 50 servants of Govt. by the Municipal Commissioners to consider the matter, & act in a new spirit with a greater liberality towards us.

I have &c

Comptroller

2^d June 1860

Sept. 2^d 1860
Bishop, Vicar apoc

Extract from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Comptroller, dated 2^d June 1860.

Read letter from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Comptroller pointing out objections in regard to expenses for utilizing the new burial ground assigned by the Committee, objecting to the receipt of Rs. 100 as being only 1/6th of the sum required to make the burial ground convenient. Further objecting to it on account of distance being out of Municipal limits & unprotected, requesting reconsideration.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Right Rev. D. S. Lavelly.
/ Here enter 31st July 1869. N^o 25 /

Order thereon 19 August / 69. N^o 1168

Ordered that the
foregoing letters from the
Right Reverend S. Lavelly
and the Reverend Doctor
Nipomunier be forwarded
to the President of the
Municipal Commission,
Coimbatore, with the ex-
-pression of the opinion of
Government that, under
the provisions of Section
119 of the Town's Im-
-provement Act, the Mu-
-nicipal Commissioners are
required to provide a
suitable cemetery for the
Roman

N.
W.M.

Copies of correspondence
to & from the Muni-
-cipal Commissioning
Commissioner, regarding the
Roman Catholic Cemetery

31st July 1869
Received 31st July 1869

Roman Catholics at that Station, if the place at present used by them is closed.

2. The Reverend Doctor Depommier points out that the ground selected by the Commissioners for the Cemetery is limited in extent, ~~unsited~~, and at too great a distance from the Town, while a more suitable site might be found in the vicinity of the Protestant Cemetery. If, as suggested by Doctor Depommier, a better and more convenient site can be found, the Government consider it desirable that it should be selected in preference to the site to which selection has been taken.

3. Any site which may

as a burial ground
upon, should be enclosed
by a wall, and the
Government will be pre-
pared to sanction the
expenditure necessary for
the purpose, from Mu-
nicipal funds.

M.A.

To
The President, Municipal
Commission - Coimbatore
Right Revd. ^{D.} Feenelly
Rev. D.C. Depommier,

Sept 2/8

Cort. of 186 } Madras.

Public

To

The Pres^t. Genl. Comm^r.
Coimbatore
&c

Dated

Augst. 19.

1869, No.

Recd.

1168.

Nos. 154. 155.

Passing orders with re-
ference to the provision of
a suitable Cemetery for
the Roman Catholics at
Coimbatore, if the place
at present used by
them is closed.