

6-3-37
M.R.O. 1-20/200-10-10-25

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1093	Press No.
Dated	30-8-1970	10

Not to be folded or roughly handled

148

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
30th August 1870.

No. 150. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 28th July 1870, No. 22, (Public):—

In continuation of my Despatch of the 28th of April last, No. 12, and with reference to the Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated the 12th of that month, No. 9, I forward, herewith, for the information of your Lordship in Council, a copy of a further letter received from Captain E. D. Lyon in relation to the photographs of architectural structures in the Madras Presidency, together with a copy of the reply which I have caused to be addressed to that officer on the subject of his communication.

—

From Captain E. D. LYON, Geneva, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, dated 9th May 1870.

I have the honour to acknowledge copy of a Despatch from your Grace to His Lordship the Governor of Madras, dated 20th January 1870, No. 2, Public, in which allusion is made to the conditions on which I was engaged on the duty of photographing architectural structures in that Presidency, and your Grace seems to think that the “Negatives should be considered the property of Government.” I beg leave to bring to your Grace’s knowledge the following facts :—I received no pay whatever while on duty as I am no longer in the service having left Her Majesty’s 68th Light Infantry many years ago. The cameras, lenses, glasses, chemicals, &c., &c., were all supplied by me. All I received from the Government was the exact amount paid by me for travelling expenses, and a maintenance allowance of seven rupees per day while employed, out of which I had to feed myself and pay my whole staff of assistants and servants. The Government further undertook to ascertain, as far as possible, the position where the temples were situated, but the information obtained was meagre in the extreme, and many dreary miles I travelled looking for temples which could not be found, or if found, could not be entered. Thus much time was necessarily lost, and yet I was only (7) seven months engaged, and during that time I traversed the whole of the southern part of the Peninsular, the whole of Mysore, Bellary, the ruined city of Vizianuggur, and Tarpooty, a distance little short of 2000 miles. I secured two hundred and seventy-nine negatives in Madras alone, which have been universally allowed to be the best ever taken in the east, and quite equal to any taken in Europe by the very best photographers. These negatives (which I have had the expense and risk of bringing home) are all that remain to compensate me for the labour and toil I underwent while engaged, travelling by night over roads that can scarcely be conceived, and necessarily exposed by day to a fierce tropical sun within 8° to 10° of the line, also the great expense incurred by me in chemicals and glasses, and the loss of time while employed.

2. As to my selling the negatives I confess I can hardly bring myself to consent to do so ; but there is a process lately invented near this by means of which really wonderful copies of them could be taken on zinc-plates, and then by means of an ordinary lithographic press any number of copies struck off in ink at a mere nominal cost. I send, herewith, a copy of one of my negatives of Malta, which I sent to have copied by this process. If your Grace thinks well of the idea, I will make further inquiries and see what arrangements could be made. This process is very superior in every way in the results that I have seen to the process alluded to in your Grace’s Despatch, much simpler and more easily worked and as permanent as ink and paper can be.

3. Should it be in contemplation to continue the work of photographing the ancient remains of temples, &c., in that country, I beg to tender my services to the Government to complete the work I have begun, it being my earnest desire that the splendid subjects that are to be found in that part of the world should be reproduced as they deserve to be.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
30th August 1870.

From the Under Secretary of State for India, to Captain E. D. LYON, Geneva, Switzerland, dated
India Office, London, 22nd July 1870.

I am directed, &c., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th of May last in relation
to the photographs taken by you of architectural structures in the Presidency of Madras.

2. In reply, I am desired to state that the Duke of Argyll, having had under his consideration
in Council the contents of that communication, as well the Proceedings of the Madras Government
on the subject to which it relates, will not ask you to surrender the negatives of the photographs in
question.

3. The Duke of Argyll, I am to inform you, does not require to avail himself of your suggestion
to have copies of the photographs struck off by means of a process adverted to in your letter.

4. His Grace, I am to add, when the prosecution of the work of photographing architectural
objects in the Madras Presidency is further considered, will not fail to bear in mind the offer you
tender of your renewed services with a view to the execution of additional photographs in that
Presidency.

No. 151.

ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1870, No. 1093.

To be recorded.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

India Office, London

28th July 1870

My Lord

In continuation
of my Despatch of the 28th
of April last, No 12, and
with reference to the Despatch
of your Excellency in
Council dated the 12th of
that month, No 9, I forward
herewith, for the information

Public

No 22.

N
W.H.C.

A.A.
J.D.S.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
The Governor in Council
Fort St George

Bot. of 1870: Madras.

PUBLIC.

Dated August, 30th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 30th August 1870, No. 1093.

AUGUST.
Nos. 150-151.

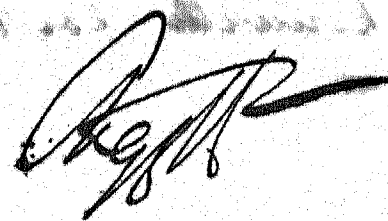
Recording Despatch from Home Government,
enclosing correspondence with Captain Lyon regard-
ing the photographs of architectural structures
taken by him in this Presidency.

of your Lordship in
Council, a copy of a
further letter received
from Captain E. D. Lyon
in relation to the photographs
of Architectural Structures
in the Madras Presidency
together with a copy of
the reply which I have
caused to be addressed
to that officer on the
subject of his communication.

I have the honour to be

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servant



9th of May 1870

22nd July 1870

Recd 28 Sept 1870

No 2.

Public

28th July 1870

The
Letter to Fort St George
No 22.

Recd 24 Aug 1870

No 1327.

Forwarding copy of a
further letter from Captain
E. W. Lyon in relation to
the photographs of Archi-
tectural structures in the
Madras Presidency, with
a copy of the reply thereto.

Order. Acknowledged
30th August 1870. N^o 103.

Recorded.

ML

Govt. of 1870 Madras.
Public

Dated *Aug. 30.*

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. *30 Aug.* 1870, No. *493*

Nos. *152. 151*

Receiving des. from Rome
Govt. enclosing correspondence
with Captain Lyon regarding
the photographs of the historical
structures by him in
this city.