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M.R.O. 1-39,000-16-10-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1309

Press
Mis.

Dated 25-8-

19 1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
25th August 1871.*

No. 136. Read the following letter from the Government Astronomer and Meteorological Superintendent, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras Observatory, 16th August 1871 :—

I have the honour to bring under your consideration the enclosed application from C. Ragoonatha Charry, First Assistant in the Observatory, with reference to a pamphlet which he is desirous of having published, for the enlightenment of the native population along the shadow line of the total eclipse of the sun on December 12th next. The similar pamphlet which Government kindly aided him to publish in 1868, before the total eclipse in August of that year, was much sought after and rapidly sold out. In the case of the forthcoming eclipse, it appears desirable that the work should be printed in four dialects, viz., Tamil, Telugu, Canarese, and Malayalam, which will render it a considerably more expensive undertaking. I have read over a rough translation of Ragoonatha Charry's paper, and consider it well calculated to instruct, and at the same time to dispel the superstitious fears of the ignorant native masses, while it goes farther, and by its quotations from the Puranahs, and other weighty arguments, shows that the absurd notions which render eclipses so alarming are not authorized by their own religious writings. He also shows, by comparison of results, the vast inferiority and gross inaccuracy of the calculations of Hindoo Astronomers, and urges them to abandon their worthless methods and antiquated tables, and avail themselves of modern improvements. He describes, in familiar terms, the effects which were really witnessed in August 1868, as well as those to be expected in December next. There will probably be about fifty pages of printed matter altogether.

2. If the Government should see fit to encourage the author by the purchase of a number of copies, for sale or distribution in the districts visited by the eclipse, I should suggest that a considerably larger number than on the former occasion should be taken, with a view to their being sold at each Collectorate at such a price as shall cover the expenses incurred with certainty. The estimated cost will be about eight Annas per copy, and if 600 Tamil, 400 Telugu, and 100 each of the other two dialects were taken at the above rate, and sold for 12 Annas or 1 Rupee per copy, there would be little or no risk in the transaction.

3. Ragoonatha Charry's researches upon the eclipse have already been published by the Royal Astronomical Society of London, and a copy of the same is herewith enclosed, as the best evidence of its acknowledged value.

From C. RAGOONATHA CHARRY, First Assistant, Madras Observatory, to the Government Astronomer, dated Madras, 8th August 1871.

Herewith I have the honour to bring to your notice a pamphlet which I have recently prepared on the total eclipse of the sun which will occur on the 12th of December next, and I hope that the popular explanation of the phenomenon and the quotations from Sanskrit works, which are cited, will help to remove the absurd and superstitious notions that prevail regarding eclipses in general in the minds of the great mass of uninformed Hindoos. I have endeavoured to show that the calculations of Hindoo Astronomers made by the aid of their antiquated astronomical tables are unworthy of comparison with those based upon modern observations and researches. I may add that the pamphlet contains also an exposition of many other interesting phenomena which, though pretty

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
25th August 1871.*

familiar to Europeans, are unknown to Hindoo Astronomers. I propose that my pamphlet shall be published, not only in Tamil and Telugu, but also in Canarese and Malayalum, as the shadow of totality passes in or near the districts marginally noted, in which these dialects are used. You will confer a great favour upon me, and I think on the native public also, by recommending my work and securing for it the patronage and encouragement of the Madras Government and also of the Travancore and Cochin Sirkars and of the Commissioners of Mysore and the Neilgherries.

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1871, No. 1309.

The Government will take 200 Tamil, 50 Malayalum, and 50 Canarese copies of Mr. Raghunatha Charry's pamphlet, provided they are delivered by the 1st October next.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R. E.,
*Under Secretary, P. W. D.,
for Chief Secretary.*

To the Government Astronomer, with book returned.
,, Accountant-General.

Obbt. of 1871 30 adrs.

PUBLIC.

To

THE GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER
&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 25th.

Recd.

Incl.

G. O., 25th August 1871, No. 1309.

AUGUST.
Nos. 136-137.

Intimating that the Government will take 200 Tamil, 50 Malayalam, and 50 Canarese copies of Mr. Raghunatha Chetty's pamphlet on the Solar Eclipse of December 1871, provided they are delivered by 1st October next.

~~My dear Sir~~
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

N. R. Poyson Esq. F.R.S.

Government Astronomer
Ser. I have the honor to

bring to your notice a pamphlet which I have recently prepared on the total eclipse of the sun which will occur on the 18th of December next and I hope that the popular explanation of the phenomenon and the quotations from Sanskrit works which are cited will help to remove the absurd and superstitious notions that prevail regarding eclipses in general in the minds of the great mass of uninformed Hindus. I have endeavored to show that the calculations of Hindu Astronomers made by the aid of their antiquated astronomical tables are unworthy of comparison with those based upon modern observations and researches. - I may add that the pamphlet

contains also an exposition of many
other interesting phenomena which though
pretty familiar to Europeans are unknown
to Hindu astronomers. I propose that
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Canarese and Malayalam, as the shadow
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favor upon me, and I think on the native
public also, by recommending my work
and securing for it the patronage and
encouragement of the Madras Government
and also of the Travancore and Cochin
Rajars and of the Commissioners of
Mysore and the Pudukottahs.

I beg to remain
Sir

Your most obedient and

humble servant

C. Raghunatha Chari

Canara
Coorg
Mysore
Malabar
Cochin
Coimbatore
Pudukottahs
Palani
Trichonopoly
South Arcot
Tanjore
Madurai
Pondicherry
Tinnevely
Trivandrum

Madras Observatory, August 16th 1892

N. R. Pogson, Esq.,
Government Astronomer and Meteorological Superintendent.

The Hon R. S. Ellis C. B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Votacamund

Sir,

I have the honor to bring under your consideration the enclosed application from G. Nagaratnam Chetty, First Assistant in the Observatory, with reference to a pamphlet which he is desirous of having published for the enlightenment of the native population along the shadow line of the total eclipse of the Sun on Dec 12th next. The similar pamphlet which Government kindly aided him to publish in 1888, before the total eclipse in August of that year, was much sought after and rapidly sold out. In the case of the forthcoming eclipse, it appears desirable that the work should be printed in four dialects, viz: Tamil, Telugu, Canarese & Malayalam which will render it a considerably more expensive undertaking. I have read over a rough translation of Nagaratnam Chetty's paper, and consider it well calculated to instruct, and at the same time to dispel the superstitious fears of the ignorant native masses, while it goes further, and by its quotations from the Puranas, and other weighty arguments, shows that the absurd notions which render eclipses so alarming are not authorised by their own religious writings. He also shows

Plg. of 25 Aug 92
in B. No. 136
in Pub. 1769/71

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If the Government should see fit to encourage the author by the purchase of a number of copies, for sale or distribution in the districts visited by the eclipse, I should suggest that a considerably larger number than on the former occasion should be taken, with a view to their being sold at each Collectorate at such a price as shall cover the expenses incurred with certainty. The estimated cost will be about eight annas per copy and if 600 Tamil, 400 Telugu and 100 each of the other two ~~languages~~ were taken at the above rate, and sold for 1 anna or 1 Paisa per copy, there would be little or no risk in the transaction.

Thakurathachary's researches upon the eclipse have already been published by the Royal Astronomical Society of London and a copy of the same is herewith enclosed, as the best evidence of its acknowledged value.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

N R Pogson

Government Astronomer and

~~Astronomical Superintendent~~

Public Department
 From
 The Government Astronomer and
 Meteorological Superintendent
 To
 The Hon. P. B. Ellis C. B.
 Chief Secretary to Government
 Cochin

Received August 31
 1871 August 16. Madras Observatory
 Enclos - Two No 1769

Offering for the consideration of
 Government a pamphlet in four
 vernacular dialects upon the Total
 Eclipse of the Sun in December
 next with suggestions thereupon

With an intro

Cochin. 25 Aug. 1871. No. 13091

The Govt will take 200 Tamil 50 Malayalam
 & 50 Sanskrit copies of the "Raghuvamsha Chari"
 pamphlet, provided they are delivered by the 1st Decr
 next.

Govt Astronomer - not to be used
 as a stamp

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Govt. of 1871; Madras.

Public

Government Astronomer
Jen

Dated Aug. 25.
Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 25 Aug. 1871, No. 1009.

1/12/23
Nos. 136. 137.

Estimating that the Govt. will
take 200 Tamil, 50 Malay a.
-lum & 50 Canarese Copies
of Mr. Raghunada Charry's
Pamphlet on the Solar Eclipse
& Decr. 1871, provided they
are delivered by 1st Oct. next