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தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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Submitted to
Post Office for
information

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13TH FEBRUARY 1888, No. 172, Public.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., dated 14th September 1887, No. 1329, Public.

READ—also the following paper :—

From the Government Astronomer, Madras, dated 15th November 1887. *Print*

ORDER—dated 13th February 1888, No. 172, Public.

In paragraph 4 of the Government order read above the Government observed that they could not but regard the progress made by Mr. Pogson in publishing the records of his Observatory as most unsatisfactory. Mr. Pogson having contested the justice of this censure, His Excellency in Council will briefly recapitulate the grounds upon which it was based.

2. Mr. Pogson entered on his appointment as Government Astronomer in 1861. At that time, the following records of observations made by his predecessors had yet to be published :—

- (1) A quarto volume of about 300 pages; containing observations made under the successive superintendence of J. G. Taylor, Esq., Captain W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, and Major W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery, all prior to 1860.
- (2) Separate results of observations made with the transit instrument and the mural circle in 1853, 1854, 1855 and 1856; with the deduced catalogues for each year.
- (3) Separate results of observations made with the transit instrument and the mural circle in 1857, 1858 and 1859; with the deduced catalogues for each year.
- (4) Catalogue of about 2,200 stars, for the epoch 1855: from observations made with the transit instrument and mural circle between the years 1853 and 1858; under the superintendence of Captain W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, and Major W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery.
- (5) Quarto hourly magnetical observations made at the Honorable East India Company's Magnetical Observatory at Madras between the years 1841 and 1845; under the superintendence of Captain S. C. E. Ludlow, Madras Engineers.
- (6) Quarto hourly magnetical observations made at the Madras Observatory between the years 1856 and 1860; under the superintendence of Majors W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery, and J. F. Tennant, Bengal Engineers.
- (7) Quarto hourly meteorological observations made at the Madras Observatory between the years 1856 and 1860; under the superintendence of Majors W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery, and J. F. Tennant, Bengal Engineers.

Up to 1882 none of these observations had been published, and Mr. Pogson's own observations with the meridian circle since 1861, a star catalogue for 1875; a variable star atlas with catalogues, and other less important works had yet to be issued. A list of these is given on pages 17 to 20 of the pamphlet forwarded by Mr. Pogson with his letter of 23rd March 1882.

3. The volume of observations which figures as No. 1 on page 17 of that pamphlet was stated by Mr. Pogson, in his letter of 3rd May 1882, to have been "ready for the Press for the last 15 years." It has not yet been published. Mr. Pogson now explains that he has had to withhold it owing to the necessity of revision. But nothing was said about this at the time.

The magnetical * observations from 1856 to 1860 and the hourly meteorological observations for the same five years, which Mr. Pogson, in 1882, described as having been "ready for the Press" many years back, have not yet been published.

* Page 20 of the pamphlet.

The same remark applies to the meteorological observations since 1860, which is the last work mentioned in the pamphlet in question, although in 1882 "the copy for the Press was nearly ready throughout."

Similarly, with regard to the observations which were to form No. 2 of the "subsidiary volumes" referred to on page 18 of the pamphlet. In 1882 this volume was "nearly ready for publication." It has not yet been issued.

4. The volumes actually issued by Mr. Pogson since 1882 are—

- (1) Singapore Magnetical Observations, 1841—1845.
- (2) Madras Magnetical Observations, 1851—1855.
- (3) Telegraphic Determinations of Longitude in India.
- (4) Observations with the Meridian Circle at Madras in the years 1862—1864.

The Singapore observations had been printed in 1852. In July 1874 † Mr. Pogson stated that he did not know what had become of the volumes, but presumed they had been sent to England and distributed;

† G.O., 30th July 1874, No. 842.

subsequently, it was discovered that the books had never left Madras, and in G.O., 28th November 1881, No. 1604, orders were issued as to their distribution. Mr. Pogson took no notice of these directions for 2½ years ‡ and the result was the

‡ G.O., 28th April 1884, No. 845.

G.O., 23rd September 1885, No. 2220.

volumes were not finally distributed till 1885.

The Madras Magnetical Observations, which Mr. Pogson reported to be "already in print," in June 1882, were not finally distributed till 1885.

The longitude determinations relate to eight stations. With regard to five of these stations the determinations had been already worked out in 1882. Writing in June of that year, Mr. Pogson "hoped to have the whole in print during the current year." They were not published till 1885.

As to the meridian circle observations, the "separate results" were nearly ready for the Press in 1882. The "deduced catalogues" had not yet been prepared, but Mr. Pogson wrote that this could be done while the "separate results" were being printed and the proofs revised. Notwithstanding, the work was not ready for distribution till March 1887.

5. Looking at these very meagre results of the last five years, and considering—

- (1) that Mr. Pogson, during this time, has been unhampered by meteorological work, as had been the case between 1867 and 1881;
- (2) that, so far back as 1870, it had been impressed on him, under orders from

§ G.O., 7th April 1870, No. 399.

Mr. Christie's letter of 14th April 1838, recorded in G.O., 9th October 1883, No. 1983.

the Government of India, that the publication of the observations already recorded was in future to be looked upon as his principal § work, and that special attention had been drawn to the importance of such publication by the Astronomer Royal;

(3) that, as a stimulus to industry, a special *bonus* of Rs. 1,800 for every volume published had been promised to G.O., dated 15th March 1884, No. 537. Mr. Pogson in 1884;

the Government cannot consider that the work of publication has been adequately attended to. And they are compelled to express their belief that, but for the special pecuniary inducement above alluded to, it is probable that even the first instalment of the meridian circle observations would be still unpublished.

6. Mr. Pogson's excuses for his want of progress have been many and various. Sometimes it was the Press that was at fault; sometimes the want of European assistance, with which he has been provided for several years past; sometimes the pressure of meteorological work, of which he was accordingly relieved; sometimes the work of the native assistants, whom he has himself selected and trained, was declared to be unreliable.

7. But that, in spite of all these obstacles, much better progress *could* have been made is admitted by Mr. Pogson himself. Writing in March 1884 to complain of not having the right to distribute the publi-

cations of the Observatory as he thought fit, he says: "Every Director of an Observatory in the world is charged with distributing the publications which emanate from his Observatory, whether it be purely astronomical, meteorological, or magnetical; and had I been similarly treated, volumes would have been regularly issued years back from Madras as from other Colonial Observatories. This degrading want of confidence in Madras Astronomers has been the reason why my predecessors and myself have alike hung back from publication."

And, again, in July 1884; "Had this customary privilege only been conceded to my predecessors and myself in past years there would probably have been no arrears awaiting publication at the present time." The Government do not know upon what grounds Mr. Pogson claims to interpret the feelings of his predecessors in this matter, but if the statements above made with regard to himself are to be taken literally, they amount to this: that because Mr. Pogson did not possess a petty privilege, the want of which, so far as can be ascertained, he first brought to the notice of Govern-

* Letter, dated 27th December 1887, recorded in G.O., 10th March 1881, No. 329. ment in 1877,* and which was granted to him as soon as it became of practical importance (G.O., 28th April 1884, No. 345), he deliberately delayed the publication of works which were not only due to the Government which he served, but which would have been of advantage to the whole scientific world. Such an admission speaks for itself.

8. Lastly, His Excellency in Council has to observe that it is not merely the present Madras Government which has expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Pogson's work. In their letter of the 21st March 1870 (G.O., dated 7th April 1870, No. 399) the Government of India expressed the opinion that the usefulness of the Madras Observatory had been materially affected by want of attention to the publication of observations, and called for an annual report showing the work done by Mr. Pogson during the year. And on several occasions subsequently the Governor-General in Council has noted the large accumulation of arrears in the Astronomer's hands, and urged the necessity of speedy publication

(e.g., letter from the Government of India dated 18th December 1884, recorded in G.O., dated 5th February 1885).

Of the serious complaints of delay in the submission of meteorological information, which resulted in Mr. Pogson's being relieved of the duties of Meteorological Reporter, it is not necessary to speak here.

In his Review Minute of September 1886 (paras. 123 and 124), His Excellency Sir M. E. Grant Duff, whose sympathy with science and scientific men Mr. Pogson will probably not dispute, was obliged to use very plain language regarding the constant accumulation of unpublished materials in the Observatory.

Finally, there is the judgment of a very high scientific authority, the present Astronomer Royal. Writing in September 1884, after a perusal of Mr. Pogson's explanations recorded in G.O., dated 5th February 1885, No. 308.

9th October 1883, No. 1983, Mr. Christie says:

"7. As regards Mr. Pogson's letter of 8th September 1883, to which my attention is specially directed by the Government of Madras, I would remark that my suggestions in regard to the observations to be carried out at the Madras Observatory were made in view of the expected retirement of Mr. Pogson, and that, if that gentleman continues to hold his office, steps should be taken to secure the speedy reduction and publication of the arrears of observations in which he appears to have made hardly any progress since 1875, though in his report for that year he announces that the work 'was, as far as possible, limited to the reduction of the heavy arrears of observations accumulated during the last 15 years, and with such success that the report of another year will probably announce nearly all completed and up to date.' After a lapse of eight years he states in almost identical terms in paragraph 2 of his letter of 8th September 1883: 'Nothing up to date at the end of this year.' I am at a loss to conceive how Mr. Pogson can be held to have complied with No. VIII of the Code of Instructions for the Madras Observatory, drawn up by the Surveyor-General in 1870, and ordered by the Government of India to be adopted in the Observatory without delay. It seems quite clear that it was Mr. Pogson's duty to 'suspend astronomical observations whenever they interfered with the reduction and publication of previous observations and their results,' and that, at the present time, he is simply concerned with his arrears, and not with fresh observations which it might be desirable to take up at Madras or at a hill station.

"8. Confining myself, then, to the question of arrears, I remark that Mr. Pogson's letter is in itself of a vague and unsatisfactory character, and that the printed list of 'Discovered' observations, calculations, &c., to which Mr. Pogson refers (without, however, specifying the date at which it was drawn up) does not accompany it. There is generally a lack of information here as to the work of the Madras Observatory, no results of any importance having, so far as I am aware, been communicated by Mr. Pogson to the Royal Astronomical Society, or to any other scientific society in this country."

9. Under these circumstances, the Government regret that they are unable to withdraw or in any way modify the censure conveyed in paragraph 4 of G.O., dated 14th September 1887, No. 1329.

10. The Governor in Council wishes it, however, to be clearly understood that he has the highest respect for Mr. Pogson's attainments as an astronomer, and for the high position which his discoveries have deservedly secured for him in the scientific world. Mr. Pogson's work as an observer has always received full appreciation both from this Government and the Government of India, instances of which will be afforded by the Proceedings quoted in the margin. But the valuable character of Mr. Pogson's observations makes it all the more desirable that they should be published without delay, and the Government cannot allow neglect of their repeated orders on this point to pass unnoticed.

No. 1462, dated 2nd November 1877.

"1699, " 17th December "

"851, " 9th April 1885.

Letters of Government of India, dated 9th September 1879 and 13th April 1880, recorded in G.O., 10th March 1881, No. 329.

11. Turning, now, to Mr. Pogson's proposal that the Observatory should be annually inspected and reported on by a committee to be nominated by Government, His Excellency in Council observes that Mr. Pogson's annual reports are now forwarded to the Astronomer Royal for examination by a committee of the Royal Society. Thus, the Government will, in future, be in a position to obtain the judgment of the highest scientific authorities as to the character of the work done during the year. And with regard to the question whether Mr. Pogson has or has not done all he could to expedite the publication of his arrears, His Excellency in Council considers that, with the facts already before him, he is perfectly qualified to form an opinion on that point. As to inspection, it is noted that Mr. Pogson was strongly opposed to the Observatory being officially visited and reported on either by the Surveyor-General or the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India. If, however, after receipt of this order, he

G.O., 9th October 1883, No. 1983.

" 6th July 1885, No. 1544 M.

still desires to submit his work to the inspection of a local committee, the Governor in Council will be prepared to consider the matter further.

12. The suggestion made at the close of paragraph 7 of Mr. Pogson's present letter should, if necessary, be made the subject of a separate communication. The Government are willing to give him all reasonable liberty in the matter of the selection of a Press.

(True Extract.)

W. S. MEYER,
Asst. Secy. to Govt.

To N. R. Pogson, Esq., F.R.A.S., &c.,
Government Astronomer, Madras.

Exd. E. Fernandez.

Gobt. of 1888 Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Exp.

G.O., 13th February 1888, No. 172.

FEBRUARY.

Mr. Pogson.

Passing orders on his appeal against censure in connection with the delay in publishing the records of his Observatory.

Dr. Compton

13th FEBRUARY 1888, No. 172, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., dated 14th September 1887, No. 1329, Public.

READ—also the following paper:—

From N. R. POGSON, Esq., C.I.E., Government Astronomer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras Observatory, 15th November 1887.

I have the honor to submit a few remarks upon paragraph 4 of G.O., 14th September 1887, No. 1329, Public, in which it is recorded that "the Government cannot but regard the progress made by Mr. Pogson in publishing the records of his Observatory as most unsatisfactory."

2. So severe a censure, duly communicated as it is in G.O., 14th September 1887, No. 1330, Public, to the Government of India, and also made public through the daily Press, cannot but convey to the Supreme Government and the public the idea that I have been guilty of gross negligence and unpardonable delay in regard to the publications referred to; and as I am honestly conscious that such a charge is utterly unfounded and based only upon a complete misunderstanding of the nature of the work in hand and the true causes of the deeply-regretted but inevitable delay, I venture most respectfully to offer a few brief explanations, and to request that such means of proving the same may be granted me as may induce Government to modify the unmerited aspersion cast upon me in the paragraph under consideration.

3. The circumstance that a substantial honorarium awaits me upon the publication of each successive volume, granted by Government instead of increased salary after my long, arduous, and, I may say, successful services at Madras, renders it obvious that any unnecessary delay on my part would be such incomprehensible folly as nobody in his senses could be guilty of. If the progress of publication is unsatisfactory, it must manifestly be most so to myself, depriving me, as it does, of the additional remuneration I should be so thankful to secure by bringing out the successive volumes as rapidly as they could be printed. It would be easy for me to accomplish this by sacrificing accuracy in the results, but were I to do so, my scientific reputation would be deservedly forfeited, the work would be discreditable, and, like too many statistical returns, so full of mistakes as to be unworthy of publishing at all. In the first paragraph of my report, I have stated that "the numerous errors in the calculations of the old native Assistants render it absolutely necessary for the Astronomer personally to revise the reductions, to an extent never dreamt of at any Observatory in which only Europeans are employed. The precessions and secular variations, and in fact nearly all the minor calculations, elsewhere safely entrusted to responsible Assistants, have to be checked throughout at Madras by the Astronomer himself."

This explanation, if duly weighed and understood, amply accounts for the past delay; but the difficulty of appreciating its full meaning and the long, tedious details required to enable gentlemen who are not practical astronomers to realize the unexpected difficulties encountered at commencing the publication of so long a series of

calculations, presumed to be tolerably accurate but found to be much otherwise, should surely lead them to hesitate before inflicting severe censure for supposed shortcomings they have had no opportunity of investigating. Simple justice requires that the matter should be examined into and reported upon by a committee of experts before I am charged with negligence for delay which, after all, is only temporary and which is chiefly due to the inefficient aid granted me, especially during the first ten years when I had no European assistance whatever.

4. Having repeatedly urged, in years long past, the necessity of an annual inspection of the Observatory and a report upon its proceedings, by a duly-constituted Board of Visitors, as the only satisfactory way of informing Government as to the wants of the institution and the actual value of its little-understood proceedings, I have the honor to solicit that a committee of gentlemen acquainted with the nature of scientific calculations may be appointed to report upon the progress of the publications under consideration. I would especially suggest that Professor C. Michie Smith, Mr. E. B. Hanna, Mr. G. K. Winter, and any other Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society available, should be requested to be members of such a committee. A single inspection of my office books and very brief consideration of the presentations I am compelled to adopt to insure accuracy would enable them to pronounce a decisive and authoritative opinion and to satisfy Government that no unnecessary delay has been incurred, and that future progress cannot be fairly measured by the time at first required in correcting the errors of reduction detected in the earlier years of the work which is now going through the press.

5. I do not wish to convey any charge of intentional dishonesty against the native Assistants of the past. They were unavoidably entrusted with calculations only made by European Assistants at all other Astronomical Observatories. Had publication then been possible, the errors would have been at once corrected, but their accumulation for several years now makes the task of revision a very formidable one. It must not be forgotten that the restriction which prevented Madras Astronomers from publishing the results of their labors was only removed as recently as April 1864, and that previous publications emanating from the Observatory were simply food for white ants in Government store rooms, or were sold by auction as waste paper, instead of being distributed by the Astronomer to the scientific institutions and individuals for whom they were intended.

6. The statement in paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1329, "that one work has been ready for the press for the last 20 years," also calls for further remark. It is true that the press copy of the volume referred to, No. 1 of my "List of works in hand awaiting publication," was nearly completed by the Assistants before I was appointed Astronomer in 1860, and would have been printed in its turn had I not intentionally withheld it. The vague doubts which chiefly made me do so have since been unfortunately confirmed, and the manuscript referred to will require very scrupulous revision before it can be ready for printing.

7. A further very annoying source of delay arises from the tardy supply of proofs from the press employed by Order of Government. When it is known that I am compelled to have my work done at a particular press, the natural consequence is that it will often be made to wait until the requirements of free agents are satisfied. I have no wish to change the press employed, as I believe no better exists in Madras; but if I had the option of doing so if necessary, my work would probably meet with far greater promptitude in its execution to prevent me from taking it elsewhere.

ORDER—dated 13th February 1888, No. 172, Public.

In paragraph 4 of the Government order read above the Government observed that they could not but regard the progress made by Mr. Pogson in publishing the records of his Observatory as most unsatisfactory. Mr. Pogson having contested the justice of this censure, His Excellency in Council will briefly recapitulate the grounds upon which it was based.

2. Mr. Pogson entered on his appointment as Government Astronomer in 1861. At that time, the following records of observations made by his predecessors had yet to be published:—

- (1) A quarto volume of about 300 pages; containing observations made under the successive superintendence of J. G. Taylor, Esq., Captain W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, and Major W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery, all prior to 1860.
- (2) Separate results of observations made with the transit instrument and the mural circle in 1853, 1854, 1855 and 1856; with the deduced catalogues for each year.
- (3) Separate results of observations made with the transit instrument and the mural circle in 1857, 1858 and 1859; with the deduced catalogues for each year.
- (4) Catalogue of about 2,200 stars, for the epoch 1855: from observations made with the transit instrument and mural circle between the years 1853 and 1858; under the superintendence of Captain W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, and Major W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery.
- (5) Quarto hourly magnetical observations made at the Honorable East India Company's Magnetical Observatory at Madras between the years 1841 and 1845; under the superintendence of Captain S. C. E. Ludlow, Madras Engineers.
- (6) Quarto hourly magnetical observations made at the Madras Observatory between the years 1856 and 1860; under the superintendence of Majors W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery, and J. F. Tennant, Bengal Engineers.
- (7) Quarto hourly meteorological observations made at the Madras Observatory between the years 1856 and 1860; under the superintendence of Majors W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, W. K. Worster, Madras Artillery, and J. F. Tennant, Bengal Engineers.

Up to 1882 none of these observations had been published, and Mr. Pogson's own observations with the meridian circle since 1861, a star catalogue for 1875, a variable star atlas with catalogues, and other less important works had yet to be issued. A list of these is given on pages 17 to 20 of the pamphlet forwarded by Mr. Pogson with his letter of 23rd March 1882.

3. The volume of observations which figures as No. 1 on page 17 of that pamphlet was stated by Mr. Pogson, in his letter of 3rd May 1882, to have been "ready for the Press for the last 15 years." It has not yet been published. Mr. Pogson now explains that he has had to withhold it owing to the necessity of revision. But nothing was said about this at the time.

The magnetical * observations from 1856 to 1860 and the hourly meteorological observations for the same five years, which Mr. Pogson, in 1882, described as having been "ready for the Press" many years back, have not yet been published.

The same remark applies to the meteorological observations since 1860, which is the last work mentioned in the pamphlet in question, although in 1882 "the copy for the Press was nearly ready throughout."

Similarly, with regard to the observations which were to form No. 2 of the "subsidiary volumes" referred to on page 18 of the pamphlet. In 1882 this volume was "nearly ready for publication." It has not yet been issued.

4. The volumes actually issued by Mr. Pogson since 1882 are—

- (1) Singapore Magnetical Observations, 1841—1845.
- (2) Madras Magnetical Observations, 1851—1855.
- (3) Telegraphic Determinations of Longitude in India.
- (4) Observations with the Meridian Circle at Madras in the years 1862—1864.

as to the work of the Madras Observatory, no results of any importance having, so far as I am aware, been communicated by Mr. Pogson to the Royal Astronomical Society, or to any other scientific society in this country."

9. Under these circumstances, the Government regret that they are unable to withdraw or in any way modify the censure conveyed in paragraph 4 of G.O., dated 14th September 1887, No. 1329.

10. The Governor in Council wishes it, however, to be clearly understood that he has the highest respect for Mr. Pogson's attainments as an astronomer, and for the high position which his discoveries have deservedly secured for him in the scientific world. Mr. Pogson's work as an observer has always received full appreciation both

No. 1462, dated 2nd November 1877.

" 1699, " 17th December "

" 851, " 9th April 1885 "

Letters of Government of India, dated 9th

September 1879 and 13th April 1880,

recorded in G.O., 10th March 1881, No. 323.

from this Government and the Government of India, instances of which will be afforded by the Proceedings quoted in the margin. But the valuable character of Mr. Pogson's observations makes it all the more desirable that they should be published without delay; and the Government cannot allow neglect of their repeated orders on this point to pass unnoticed.

11. Turning, now, to Mr. Pogson's proposal that the Observatory should be annually inspected and reported on by a committee to be nominated by Government, His Excellency in Council observes that Mr. Pogson's annual reports are now forwarded to the Astronomer Royal for examination by a committee of the Royal Society. Thus, the Government will, in

G.O., 2nd September 1885, No. 2057.

future, be in a position to obtain the judgment of the highest scientific authorities as to the character of the work done during the year. And with regard to the question whether Mr. Pogson has or has not done all he could to expedite the publication of his arrears, His Excellency in Council considers that, with the facts already before him, he is perfectly qualified to form an opinion on that point. As to inspection, it is noted that Mr. Pogson was strongly opposed to the Observatory being officially

G.O., 9th October 1883, No. 1983.

" 6th July 1885, No. 1544 M.

visited and reported on either by the Surveyor-General or the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India.

If, however, after receipt of this order, he

still desires to submit his work to the inspection of a local committee, the Governor in Council will be prepared to consider the matter further.

12. The suggestion made at the close of paragraph 7 of Mr. Pogson's present letter should, if necessary, be made the subject of a separate communication. The Government are willing to give him all reasonable liberty in the matter of the selection of a Press.

(True Extract.)

Asst. Secy. to Govt.

To N. B. Pogson, Esq., F.R.A.S., C.I.E.,
Government Astronomer, Madras.

Ed. A. Raitt.

Govt. of 1888 Madras.

• PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th February 1888, No. 172.

FEBRUARY.

Mr. Pogson.

Passing orders on his appeal against censure in connection with the delay in publishing the records of his Observatory.

From

N. R. Pogson, Esq., B.A.

Government Astronomer.

To

The Hon. H. E. Stokes
Chief Secretary to Government Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a few remarks upon Paragraph 4 of G.O. 14th September 1887, No 1329 Public, in which it is recorded that "The Government cannot but regard the progress made by Mr Pogson in publishing the records of his Observatory as most unsatisfactory."

2. To send a censure, duly communicated as it is in G.O. 14th September 1887, No 1329 Public, to the Government of India, and also send public through the daily Press, cannot but convey to the Supreme Government and the public the idea that I have been guilty of gross negligence and unpardonable delay in regard to the publications referred to, and as I am honestly conscious that such a charge is utterly unfounded and based only upon a complete misunderstanding of the nature of the work in hand and the true causes of the deeply regretted but inevitable delay, I venture most respectfully to offer a few brief explanations, and to request that such means of proving the same may be granted me as may induce Government to modify the unwarranted aspersions cast upon me in the Paragraph under consideration.

3. The circumstance that a substantial honorarium awaits me upon the publication of each successive volume, granted by Government instead of increased salary after my long, arduous and I may say successful services at Madras, renders it obvious that any unnecessary delay on my part would be such incomprehensible folly as nobody in his senses could be guilty of. If the progress of publication is unsatisfactory, it must manifestly be most so to myself, receiving me as it does of the additional remuneration I should be so thankful to secure by bringing out the successive volumes as rapidly as they could be printed. It would be easy for me to accomplish this by sacrificing accuracy in the results, but were I to do so my scientific reputation would be necessarily forfeited, the work would be unreliable.

and like too many statistical returns so full of mistakes as to be unworthy of publishing at all. In the first paragraph of my report I have stated that, "The numerous errors in the calculations of the old native assistants render it absolutely necessary for the Astronomer personally to revise the reductions, to an extent never dreamt of at any Observatory in which only Europeans are employed. The precessions and secular variations, and in fact nearly all the minor calculations, elsewhere safely entrusted to responsible assistants have to be checked throughout at Madras by the Astronomer himself."

This explanation, if duly weighed and understood, amply accounts for the past delay, but the difficulty of appreciating its full meaning and the long tedious details required to enable gentlemen who are not practical astronomers to realize the unexpected difficulties encountered at commencing the publication of so long a series of calculations, presumed to be tolerably accurate but found to be much otherwise, should surely lead them to hesitate before inflicting severe censure for supposed shortcomings. They have had no opportunity of investigating. Simple justice requires that the matter should be enquired into and reported upon by a committee of experts before I am charged with negligence for delay which after all is only temporary and which is chiefly due to the insufficient aid granted me, especially during the first ten years when I had no European assistance whatever.

4. Having repeatedly urged, in years long past, the necessity of an annual inspection of the Observatory and a report upon its proceedings, by a duly constituted Board of Visitors, as the only satisfactory way of informing Government as to the wants of the institution and the actual value of its little understood proceedings, I have the honor to solicit that a Committee of gentlemen acquainted with the nature of scientific calculations may be appointed, to report upon the progress of the publications under consideration. I would especially suggest that Prof. C. Michie Smith, Mr. G. R. Hanna, Mr. G. R. Winters and any other Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society, desirable, should be requested to be members of such a Committee. A single inspection of my office books and very brief consideration of the prescriptions I am compelled to adopt to ensure accuracy would enable them to pronounce a decisive and authoritative opinion and to satisfy Government that no unnecessary delay has been incurred, and that future progress cannot be fairly measured by the time

at first required in correcting the errors of reduction detected in the earlier years of the work which is now going through the Press.

I do not wish to cover any charge of collusion or dishonesty against the native assistants of the past. They were unavoidably entrusted with calculations only made by European assistants at all other Astronomical Observatories. Had publication then been possible the errors would have been at once corrected but their accumulation for several years now makes the task of revision a very formidable one. It must not be forgotten that the restriction which prevented Madras Astronomers from publishing the results of their labors was only removed as recently as April 1884 and that previous publications emanating from the Observatory were simply good for white ants in Government store rooms or were sold by auction as waste paper, instead of being distributed to the Astronomers to the scientific institutions and individuals for whom they were intended.

b. The statement in paragraph 3 of G.O. No 1329 that one work has been ready for the press for the last 10 years also calls for further remark. It is true that the press copy of the volume referred to, No 1 of my list of Works in Hand awaiting publication was nearly completed by the assistants before I was appointed Astronomer in 1860 and would have been printed in its turn had I not tentatively withheld it. The vague doubts which chiefly made me do so have since been unfortunately confirmed and the M.S. referred to will require very scrupulous revision before it can be ready for printing.

7. A further very annoying source of delay arises from the tardy supply of proofs from the press as placed in Order of Government. When it is known that I am compelled to have my work done at a particular press the natural consequence is that it will often be made to wait until the requirements of the agents are satisfied. Had we no wish to change the press employed, as I believe no better exists in Madras, but if I had the option of doing so if necessary, my work would probably meet with far greater promptitude in its execution to prevent me from taking it elsewhere.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient Servant

M. R. Pogson
Government Astronomer

16/11/87 G. 2535-Vis
14/9/87 G. 2535/50 Res

4863

From
The Government Astronomers.
To
The Chief Secretary to Government

Madras Observatory
1887 November 16.

Respecting re-consideration of the
charge made against Mr. Popper
in G. 2535/50 Res. 1887.
1920 Public in regard to Popper's
Madras Observatory publications.

8. 172 8/3/2/88

172
13

Read again G. 2535/50 Res
1887 G. 2535/50 Res

At G. 2535/50 Res from the
1887 G. 2535/50 Res
Order of 25/2/88 G. 2535/50 Res

In para 4 of the G. 2535/50 Res
above the following is stated that
they could not but regard the
progress made by Mr. Popper
in publishing the results
of his observations as most
unsatisfactory. Mr. Popper
having indicated the justice
of this censure, H. 2 in C
will briefly recapitulate
the grounds upon which it
was based.

Mr. Popper was in his
appointment as Government
Astronomer in 1882. At
that time the following
existing observations made
by his predecessors had not
been published.

(H. 2 has from the last paragraph
put up with the original of
G. 2535/50 Res 1887 G. 2535/50 Res
under no. 1223 on G. 17
1. p. 18
1223 p. 20

Up to 1882 none of these
observations had been

published, ~~with~~ Poggendorff's
own observations with the
Meridian Circle since 1864.
a star catalogue for 1875
his variable star atlas
with catalogues, & other less
important works had not
been issued. a list of
these is given on page 7, &
is of this pamphlet forwarded
by Mrs. Poggendorff with his letter
of 23rd Jan 1882.

The volumes of observations
which figures as no 1 on
p 17, that pamphlet was
stated by Mrs. Poggendorff in his
letter of 3rd Aug 1882 to
have been ready for the
press for the last 15 years.
It has not yet been published.
Mrs. Poggendorff explains that
he has had to withhold it
owing to the necessity of
revision. But nothing was
said about this at the time.

The magnetical observations
from 1857 to 1860 & other many
magnetological observations
for the same five years
which Mrs. Poggendorff in 1882
described as having been
ready for the press many
years back have not yet
been published.
The same remark applies

to the pamphlet

the magnetological observations
since 1860, which is the
last work mentioned in
the pamphlet in question,
although in 1882 the copy
for the press was nearly
ready throughout.

Similarly with regard to
the observations which were
to form book 2 the observations
whenever referred to in
the pamphlet in 1882
his volume was nearly
ready for publication
has not yet been issued.

The volumes actually
issued by Mrs. Poggendorff
since 1882 are

- (1) Singapore magnetical
observations 1841-65
- (2) magnetical
observations 1837-55
- (3) Telegraphic determinations
of longitude in India
- (4) Observations with the
Meridian Circle & circles
in the years 1862-64

The Singapore observations
had been published
in 1852. In July 1874 Mrs.
Poggendorff stated that he

not found
4.0 30 July 1874 60842
m 5280.181

did not know what had
 become of the printed volumes
 but presumed they had
 been sent to England and
 distributed. Subsequently
 it was discovered that the
 books had never left
 Madras, & in 4.0. 25. Nov
 1881 no more orders were
 issued as to their distri-
 bution. Mr. Poyson delayed
 could take no notice of
 these directions for 2 1/2
 years the result was
 the volumes were not
 finally distributed till

4.0. 24 April 1884 no 345
 4.0. 25 Sept 1885 no 345

The Madras Magazine
 observations which Mrs.
 Poyson reported the chiefly
 imperfect in June 1882
 were not finally distributed
 till 1885

The longitude determinations
 relate to 8 stations, with
 regard to 5 of these stations
 the determinations had
 been already made out
 in 1882. During in June
 of that year, Mrs. Poyson
 hoped to have the tables in
 print during the current
 year. They were not
 published till 1885
 as to the Indian circle
 observations the separate

Results were nearly ready
 for the press in 1882. The
 reduced Catalogues had
 not yet been prepared, but
 Mrs. Poyson wrote that this
 could be done while the
 separate Results were being
 printed & the press used.
 Notwithstanding the work
 was not ready for distribution
 till March 1887

Looking at these very
 large results of the last
 5 years, & considering
 (1) that Mrs. Poyson during
 this time has been con-
 stantly hampered by her
 work as had been the case
 before 1887 & 1881

(2) that as far back as 1870
 it had been imp. to send
 in under orders from
 the Govt of India that the
 publication of the observations
 already recorded was in
 future to be looked upon
 as his principal work,
 & that special attention
 had been drawn to the
 importance of such publi-
 cation by the Astronomical
 Royal

(3) That as a stimulus to

4.0. 7 April 1870 no 395

Mrs. Christie's letter of 14th
 April 1883 recorded in
 4.0. 9th Oct 1883 no 1983

industry & special cases
of the 1800s for every volume
published had been pro-
vided (Mrs Poppin in
1884)

the pub. cannot consider
that the work of publication
has been adequately attended
to. And they are compelled
to express their belief that
but for the special pecuniary
inducement above alluded
to it is probable that even
the first instalment of
the translation under the
operations would be still
unpublished.

6. Mrs Poppin's excuses for
his want of progress
have been many, various
Sometimes it was the
poor that was at fault;
Sometimes the want of
European assistance, with
which he has been provided
for several years past;
sometimes the pressure
of meteorological work, of
which he was exceedingly
occupied; sometimes the
baleful work of the native
assistant, whom he has
himself selected & trained.

G.O. 15 June 1884, L^o 537

para 5 of letter recorded in
G.O. 20 Dec 1882 L^o 1478
para 7 of the letter was
under review

13/8

G.O. 24 April 1884, L^o 849

and declared the unreliable
that that in spite of all
these obstacles, much better
progress could have been
made is admitted by
Mrs Poppin herself.
Writing in March 1884
to complain of not having
the right to distribute the
publication of the Memories
as he thought fit he says
Every Director of an Observatory
in the world is charged
with distributing the publi-
cations which emanate
from his Observatory, whether
it be purely astronomical,
meteorological, or magnetical,
and had I been similarly
tasked elsewhere would
have been regularly engaged
year by year for books
as from the Observatory
of Paris. Thus depriving
every confidence in books
astronomers has been the
reason why my predecessors
& myself have alike being
back for publication.

G.O. 18 July 1884, L^o 1605 P.L.

and again in July 1884
had this customary privilege
not been conceded to me

predecessors urgently in
past years there would
probably have been no
answers awaiting publication
at the present time"

The fact do not know upon what grounds Mrs Popen claims to interpret the feelings of her predecessors in this matter, but if the statements above made with regard to himself are to be taken literally they amount to this, that because Mrs Popen did not possess a ^{family} ~~family~~ privilege, the want of which, so far as can be ascertained he first brought to the notice of fact in 1877, & which was pointed them as soon as I became of practical importance (i.e. 24 April 1884, p. 365), he deliberately delayed the publication of books which were not only due to the fact which he served, but which would have been of advantage to the whole scientific world. Such an admission speaks for itself.

Letter of 27th Dec. 1877 recorded
in Geo. 10 vol. 1881 p. 329.

3. Lastly, the fact before us
shows that it is not
merely the present teachers
fact which has expressed
dissatisfaction with Mrs.
Pogson's work.

In their letter of the 21st
Mar. 1870 (S.O. 7 April 1870
US 299) the part of India
expressed the opinion that
the usefulness of the Madras
Observatory had been
materially affected by
want of attention & the
publication of observations,
& called for an accurate
report showing the work
done by Mr. Pogson during
the year. And on several
occasions subsequently
Mr. Sadler & I in & has
asked the same question
in connection with the Observatory's
records, & the necessity
of a speedy publication of
the results of the observations
for the purpose of the
decade work. (S.O. 7 April 1870)
The result of the various
inquiries & the
information obtained
in the Mr. Pogson's being

reported on by a Committee
 the nominated by Govt.
 Lt. in C. Brewer that Mrs
 Popen's Annual Report
 are now forwarded to the
 Astronomer Royal for
 examination by a Committee
 of the Royal Society. ^{21/12/85} ^{20/5/87}
 Govt. 18/1/85 18/1/85 18/1/85
 Govt. will therefore be in a
 position to obtain the judgment
 of the highest scientific
 authorities as to the character
 of the work done during the
 year. And with regard to
 the question ~~as to~~ whether
 Mrs Popen has ~~or~~ has not
 done all that she is capable
 of in the publication of her work,
 Govt. is to consider that with
 the facts already ~~for~~ before
 him, he is perfectly qualified
 to form an opinion on that
 point. As to inspection, it
 is noted that Mrs Popen was
 strongly opposed to the Observatory
 being ~~so~~ officially visited &
 reported on either by the
 Inspector General or the
 Meteorological Reporter to
 the Govt of India. It however
 after receipt of this order
 he still desires to submit his

work & the inspection of a
 local committee, the Govt.
 will be prepared to consider
 the matter further.
 The suggestion made at
 the close of para 7 of Mrs
 Popen's present letter
 does, if thought necessary,
 be made the subject of a
 separate communication.
 The Govt are willing to give him all
 reasonable liberty ^{to} ^{of}
 with the matter of the
 selection of a Press.

H. R. Popen Esq., C. I. E.



Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again G.O. 4th September 1887 No. 1329.

Read the following paper:—

From the Government Astronomer, Madras dated 15th November 1887.Order: 13th Feb'y 88, No. 172.

In para 4 of the G.O. read above the Government observed that they could not but regard the progress made by Mr. Pogson in publishing the records of his observations as most unsatisfactory. Mr. Pogson having contested the justice of this censure, His Excellency in Council will briefly recapitulate the grounds upon which it was based:

2. Mr. Pogson entered on his appointment as Government Astronomer in 1861. At that time the following records of observations made by his predecessors had yet to be published.

- (1) A quarto Volume of about 300 pages, containing Observations made under the successive Superintendence of J. G. Taylor Esq., Cap. W. S. Jacob, Bombay Engineers, and Major W. K. Wooster Madras Artillery, all prior to 1860. These observations comprise, 1331 of the Sun, 345 of the Moon, 1682 of the Principal Planets, 333 of Minor Planets and 25 of Donati's Comet of 1858. Also a long list of Occultations of Planets & Stars.

and

of the Eclipse of Jupiter's Satellite.

- 2) Separate Results of Observations made with the Transit Instrument and the Mural Circle in 1853, 1854, 1855 & 1858, with the deduced Catalogues for each year.
- 3) Separate Results of Observations made with the Transit Instrument and the Mural Circle in 1857, 1858, & 1859, with the deduced Catalogues for each year.
- (4) Catalogue of about 220 stars for the Epoch 1855, from Observations made with the Transit Instrument and Mural Circle between the years 1853 & 1858, under the Superintendence of Captain W.S. Jacob, Bombay Engineer, and Major W.K. Webster Madras Artillery.
- (5) Quarts. Hourly Magnetical Observations made at the Honourable East Company's Magnetical Observatory at Madras, between the years 1841 & 1845, under the Superintendence of Captain S.C.L. Dundas, Madras Engineer. (The observations made between the years 1844 & 1850 were published in 1854, and those between the years 1851 & 1855 are printed but not yet distributed).
- (6) Quarts. Hourly Magnetical Observations made at the Madras Observatory between the years 1856 & 1860, under the Superintendence of Major W.S. Jacob, Bombay Engineer, W.K. Webster Madras Artillery, and J.F. Tennant, Bengal Engineer.
- (7) Quarts. Hourly Meteorological Observations made at the Madras Observatory between the years 1856 & 1860, under the Superintendence of Major

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Major W.S. Jacob, Bombay Engineer, W.K. Webster, Madras Artillery, and J.F. Tennant, Bengal Engineer.

28th 1862 some of these observations had been published,

3. Mr Pogson's own Observations with the Meridian Circle since 1861, a Star Catalogue for 1875, a variable Star Atlas with catalogues, & other important works, had yet to be issued. In his letter of 23rd March 1862 on pages 17 & 20 of the pamphlet forwarded by Mr Pogson with his letter of 23rd March 1862.

4. The volume of observations which figures as, No. 1 on page 17 of that pamphlet was stated by Mr Pogson in his letter of 3rd May 1862 to have been ready for the press for the last 15 years. It has not yet been published. Mr Pogson explains that he has had to withhold it owing to the necessity of revision. But nothing was said about this at the time. The Magnetical observations from 1856 to 1860 & the Hourly Meteorological Observations for the same five years which Mr Pogson in 1862 described as having been ready for the press many years back have not yet been published.

The same remark applies to the Meteorological Observations since 1860, which is the last work mentioned in the pamphlet in question, although in 1862 the copy for the press was nearly ready for the press.

Similarly with regard to the observations which are from No. 2 of the 'Observations' referred to on page

* page 20 of the pamphlet.
* (see list)

Page 18 of the pamphlet in 1882 this volume was
nearly ready for publication. It has not yet been issued.

4. The Volumes actually issued by Mr. Pogson since
1882 are:

(1) Singapore Magnetical Observations 1861-65

(2) Madras Magnetical Observations 1853-55

(3) Telegraphic Determinations of Longitude in India

(4) Observations with the meridian circle at Madras
in the years 1862-64.

The Singapore Observations had been printed in 1882.

In July 1874 Mr. Pogson stated that he did not
know what had become of the volumes but presumed
they had been sent to England and distributed.
Subsequently it was discovered that the books had
never left Madras, & in G.O. 28th November 1881
no 1604 Order was issued as to their distribution.

Mr. Pogson took no notice of these directions for
2 1/2 years and the result was the volumes were not
finally distributed till 1885.

The Madras Magnetical Observations which
Mr. Pogson reported to be 'already in print' in June
1882 were not finally distributed till 1885.

The Longitude Determinations relate to 8 Stations.
With regard to 5 of these Stations the Determinations
had been already worked out in 1882. Writing in
June of that year, Mr. Pogson 'hoped to have the whole
in print during the current year'. They were not
published.

published till 1885.

At the meridian circle observation, the 'Separate
Results' were nearly ready for the press in 1882.
The 'Desired Catalogues' had not yet been prepared,
but Mr. Pogson wrote that this could be done while
the 'Separate Results' were being printed & the
proofs revised. Notwithstanding the work was
not ready for distribution till March 1887.

5. Looking at these very meagre results of the
last 5 years, & considering

(1) That Mr. Pogson during this time has been
unhindered by Meteorological work as had
been the case between 1867 & 1881.

(2) That so far back as 1871 it had been
impressed on him under orders from the
Government of India that the publication
of the observations already recorded was in
future to be looked upon as his principal
work, & that special attention had been drawn
to the importance of such publication by the
Astronomer Royal.

(3) That as a stimulus to industry, a special
bonus of Rs. 1800 for every volume published
had been promised to Mr. Pogson in 1884,

the Government cannot consider that the work of
publication has been adequately attended to.
And they are compelled to express their belief that
but

G.O. 7th April 1870
no 349

Mr. Christie's letter 7th

14th April 1883, recorded

in G.O. 9th October 1883

no 1983.

G.O. 15th March 1884 no 537.

but for the special pecuniary inducement above alluded to, it is probable that even the first instalment of the meridian circle observations would be still unpublished.

6. Mr. Pogson's excuses for his want of progress have been many and various. Sometimes it was the press that was at fault; sometimes the want of European assistance, with which he has been provided for several years past; sometimes the pressure of meteorological work, of which he was accordingly relieved; sometimes the work of the native assistants, whom he has himself selected and trained, was declared to be unmanageable.

7. But that in spite of all these obstacles, much better progress could have been made is admitted by Mr. Pogson himself. Writing in March 1884 (G.O. 28th April 1884 No. 845) to complain of not having the right to distribute the publications of the Observatory as he thought fit, he says "Every Director of an Observatory in the world is charged with distributing the publications which emanate from his Observatory, whether it be purely astronomical, meteorological, or magnetical; and had I been similarly treated volumes would have been regularly issued years back from Madras as from other colonial Observatories. This depending want of confidence in Madras Astronomers has been the reason why my predecessors & myself have alike
hung

G.O. 18th July 84
No. 1609 Pk.

Letter 4/27th Dec 1877
referred to
G.O. 10th March
1881 No. 329

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hung back from publication"

And again in July 1884 "Had this customary privilege only been conceded to my predecessors and myself in past years there would probably have been no articles awaiting publication at the present time".

The Government do not know upon what grounds Mr. Pogson claims to interpret the feelings of his predecessors in this matter but if the statements above made with regard to himself are to be taken literally they amount to this, that because Mr. Pogson did not possess a petty privilege, the want of which, so far as can be ascertained he first brought to the notice of Government in 1877, & which was granted to him as soon as it became of practical importance (G.O. 28th April 1884 No. 345), he deliberately delayed the publication of works which were not only due to the Government which he served, but which would have been of advantage to the whole Scientific world. Such an admission speaks for itself.

8. Lastly Mr. Sackbury in Council had to observe that it is not merely the present Madras Government which has expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Pogson's work. In his letter of the 21st March 1870 (G.O. 7th April 1870 No. 399) the Government of India expressed the opinion that the usefulness of the Madras Observatory had been materially affected by want of attention to the publication of observations & called for an annual

Annual report showing the work done by Mr Pagan during the year. And on several occasions subsequently the ~~Madras~~ Governor General in Council has noted the large accumulation of arrears in the Astronomer's hands, & urged the necessity of speedy publication (e.g. Letter from Government of India, dated 18th December 1884 recorded in G.O. 5th February 1885) Of the serious complaint of delay in the submission of meteorological information which resulted in Mr Pagan's being relieved of the duties of meteorological Reporter, it is not necessary to speak here.

In his Review minute of September 1886 (paras 123 & 124) N.E. Sir M.E. Stuart Duff, whose sympathy with Science & Scientific men Mr Pagan will probably not dispute, was obliged to use very plain language regarding the constant accumulation of unpublished materials in the Observatory. "Especially this is the judgment of a very high Scientific authority, the present Astronomer Royal." Writing in September 1884, after a perusal of Mr Pagan's explanations recorded in G.O. 9th October 1883 & 1983, Mr Christie says:

"I beg to refer to Mr Pagan's letter of 8th September 1883 which my attention is specially directed by the Govt. of Madras, & would remark that my suggestions in regard to the observations to be carried out at the Madras

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1758

"Madras Observatory were made in view of the expected retirement of Mr Pagan, and that, if that gentleman continues to hold his office steps should be taken to secure the speedy reduction and publication of the arrears of observations in which he appears to have made hardly any progress since 1875, though in his report for that year he announces that the work was, as far as possible, limited to the reduction of the heavy arrears of observations accumulated during the last 15 years, and with such success that the report of another year will probably announce nearly all completed and up to date." After a lapse of eight years he states in almost identical terms in paragraph 2 of his letter of 8th September 1883 "Nothing but publication of this work remains, as all the observations will be completed and nearly reduced up to date at the end of this year." I am at a loss to conceive how Mr Pagan can be held to have complied with No VIII of the Code of Instructions for the Madras Observatory, drawn up by the Director General in 1870, and ordered by the Government of India to be adopted in the Observatory without delay. It seems quite clear that it was Mr Pagan's duty to suspend Astronomical observations whenever they interfered with the reduction and publication of previous observations & their results,"

and

"and that at the present time he is simply concerned with his arrears, and not with fresh observations which it might be desirable to take up at Madras or at a hill station."

8. Confining myself, then, to the question of arrears, I remark that Mr Pogson's letter is in itself of a vague & unsatisfactory character, & that the printed list of "Discoveries, observations, calculations &c.", to which Mr Pogson refers, (without however specifying the date at which it was drawn up) does not accompany it. There is generally a lack of information here as to the work of the Madras Observatory, as regards of any importance having, so far as I am aware, been communicated by Mr Pogson to the Royal Astronomical Society, or to any other Scientific Society in this country.

9. Under these circumstances the Government regret that they are unable to withdraw or in any way modify the conclusion conveyed in para 4 of G.O. 14th September 1887 No. 1329.

10. The Governor in Council wishes it however to be clearly understood that he has the highest respect for Mr Pogson's attainments as an Astronomer, and for the high position which his discoveries have deservedly secured for him in the Scientific World. Mr Pogson's work as an observer has always received full appreciation both from this Government & the

Government

1462 of 2nd March 1887
No. 1649 of 17th Feb 1887
No. 51 of 4th April 1887
Letter of 1st of 2nd March
dated 9 Feb 1879
6/3 April 1880
recorded in 40
10th March 1881
No. 329

40, 2nd Sept 1887
No. 257.

40, 9th Oct 1883
No. 1982
40, 15th July 1885
No. 1544 m.

Government of India, instances of which will be approved by the Proceedings quoted in the Margin. But the valuable character of Mr Pogson's observations makes it all the more desirable that they should be published without delay, & the Government cannot allow neglect of their repeated orders in this point to pass unnoticed.

11. Turning now to Mr Pogson's proposal that the observatory should be annually inspected and reported on by a Committee to be nominated by Government, H.E. in Council. Observers that Mr Pogson's Annual Reports are now forwarded to the Astronomer Royal for examination by a Committee of the Royal Society. Thus the Government will in future be in a position to obtain the judgment of the highest Scientific Authorities as to the character of the work done during the year. And with regard to the question whether Mr Pogson has or has not done all he could to expedite the publication of his arrears, H.E. in Council considers that, with the facts already before him, he is perfectly qualified to form an opinion on that point. As to inspection, it is noted that Mr Pogson was strongly opposed to the Observatory being officially visited & reported on either by the Engineer General or the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India. If however after receipt of this order he

he still desires to submit his work to the inspection of a local Committee, the Governor in Council will be prepared to consider the matter further.

12. The suggestion made at the close of para 7 of Mr Rogers's present letter should, if necessary, be made the subject of a separate communication. The Government are willing to give him all reasonable liberty in the matter of the selection of a Press.

/ True Extract /

J. A. K. Rogers Esq. Major }
 Asst. Adjutant Genl. }
 24/2

7/10/80
13-2-80

10/90
OK

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ORDINARY, PRINTED.

Public
G.O. DATED 15 Feb/80
No. 172

26
Sheets

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

23/2

Despatched in print.

24/2

[REDACTED]

Mr. Pagan - Passing
orders on his appeal
against censure in connection
with the delay in publishing
the records of his obscurity