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[Despatch Abstract.]

H.E. Jones Irish Tour

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READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
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ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT NO.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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J. O. No.

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Ootacamund

My dear Sir

SECRET
4 MAY 91
GOVERNMENT

As desired to see
You a dozen copies of
Addresses received and answered
made by His Excellency The
Governor on his late Tour, which
may be of use to the Chief
Secretariat or to His Depart-
ments in the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. J. F. Price

Price

ADDRESSES, &c.,

PRESENTED TO

AND

REPLIES MADE

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD WENLOCK,
G. C. I. E.

ON HIS FIRST TOUR.

March 1891.

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ON HIS FIRST TOUR.

March 1891.

ADDRESSES, &c., PRESENTED TO AND REPLIES MADE BY HIS
EXCELLENCY THE LORD WENLOCK ON HIS FIRST TOUR.

Address of the Union Panchayat of Wandiwash.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with feelings of sincere gratitude and loyalty that we, the Members of the Union Panchayat, beg leave to offer a most cordial welcome to your Excellency, on this the occasion of your arrival amongst us.

2. This, we believe, is the first time in the annals of Wandiwash that it has been honored with a gubernatorial visit. And this rare visit is all the more precious and gracious that it is made at a time of trying distress.

3. The season has been unfavorable in the district and particularly in this taluk for two successive years, and the effects of a dire distress would have been already felt, but for the interference of the district authorities by adopting timely measures of relief, in the way of opening a large field of labor for the poor and distressed ryots who were in need of work, and in suspending the collection of land revenue; and your Excellency's observations in reply to the address of the Mahajana Saba at Madras in connection with the present state of the season in the Presidency have inspired us with a confidence that no attention would be wanting on the part of the Government to take all possible precautions to avert the worst effects of a famine.

4. The natural poverty of the soil, the want of irrigation works in sufficient number, and the absence of any forest growth that may serve to conserve moisture, may probably account for the periodical visits of distress which this taluk in the district is being afflicted with. The Cheyár Anicut channel is the only source of irrigation of any importance in this taluk, but only a small portion of the taluk benefits by it. But the major portion has to depend for its water-supply and irrigation on such precarious provision as tanks fed purely by rainfall can yield, and it seems to us that unless measures are taken to permanently connect these with the Cheyár Channel so as to extend its sphere of usefulness, there will, we believe, be but little chance of preventing effectually these periodical visits of distress to which this taluk is liable.

5. Another disadvantage which the people of these parts are laboring under is the want of railway communication with important centres. The opening of a railway line between the South Indian Railway and the Villupuram-Guntakal State Railway is an urgent desideratum and will, we are sure, confer a great boon to the people and prove also a profitable concern to the railway authorities.

That these our wants will receive your Excellency's best attention and meet with your warm support, we do not entertain the slightest doubt.

6. In conclusion, we beg to offer our heartfelt thanks, and express our sincere gratitude for your Excellency's kindness and condescension in having come over to this out-of-the-way place at no small personal inconvenience to your Excellency.—*Wandiwash, 16th March 1891.*

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency thanked the members of the Union Panchayat for the very cordial welcome they accorded him and said that he felt really sorry that the state of the season was a source of great anxiety to the Government as well as to the people. From what he had seen all round on his way from Acheravak, he believed that there was an amount of distress, to stave off which preventive measures would be adopted after necessary and careful investigations. He came to this out-of-the-way place all the way from Madras with the special object of ascertaining the real extent to which the severity of the distress was being felt, and he wished that Providence would soon send forth sufficient showers to save the taluk from the effects of a famine. As regards the extension of the facilities for irrigation, His Excellency said that the question had to be considered from an engineering point of view. From official reports received, he was aware that the taluk suffered from scarcity of wells, and he said that he would see that the necessary provision was made to supply this want. The Cheyár Anicut channel, he believed, was the only source of irrigation in the taluk, and after a reference to the Public Works Department, he would see to that, if the demands of the people were feasible and possible. As regards the Railway extension, while recognising the disadvantages accruing from want of Railway communications, he said that it was really not possible to place the Railway within easy reach of every one; but that he would see what Government could do in this direction. In concluding, His Excellency hoped that this would be the last of bad years, and that it would be followed by a series of prosperous ones.

Address from the Priests of "Our Lady of Lourdes."

MONSIEUR LE GOUVERNEUR,—C'est avec bonheur, qu'au nom de la chrétienté de Notre Dame de Lourdes et du peuple auquel nous avons consacré notre vie, nous osons venir vous présenter l'hommage de notre respect et de notre reconnaissance.

Nous aimons à reconnaître en votre personne le digne représentant de la grande et glorieuse Reine, que la divine providence a bien voulu donner et conserver de si longues années à la magnanime Angleterre.

Où ! nous aimons à honorer en votre Excellence la puissante impératrice de toute l'Inde ; car c'est sous sa bénigne protection que nous avons le bonheur de prêcher Jesus Christ, notre divin Sauveur.

Dès les premiers jours de votre arrivée dans les Indes, la démarche charitable et généreuse que vous avez l'insigne bonté de faire en faveur de cette pauvre portion de votre peuple est pour nous un témoignage indubitable de votre dévouement sans bornes, et un garant du gouvernement paternel sur lequel peuvent compter les sujets qui vous sont soumis ; car à la première nouvelle de la détresse d'un certain nombre, vous avez bien voulu vous transporter près d'eux pour être vous-même le témoin de leur souffrance.

Nous croyons en effet pouvoir dire que le peuple ouvrier et les petits cultivateurs sont dans la souffrance et souffriront plus encore les mois qui vont suivre parce que les travaux ont cessé et que les denrées sont à un prix élevé et encheriront encore.

Nous ne pouvons donc trop vous témoigner votre reconnaissance pour le soin et le zèle que vous apportez à leur venir en aide.

Laissez nous donc nous vous en prions, Monsieur le Gouverneur, présenter à votre Excellence, avec nos remerciements les plus respectueux, l'assurance d'un dévouement réel et cordial et d'une soumission entière fondée sur les principes mêmes de notre sainte religion, qui est toute de dévouement et de charité.

Agréez, Monsieur le Gouverneur, l'expression la plus sincère des sentiments avec lesquels nous osons nous dire.

Address from the Inhabitants of Arni.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned, representing all classes of the Indian subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, in this part of the North Arcot district, crave permission to offer your Excellency a loyal welcome to this though small and out-of-the-way town, still of great historical importance.

Your Excellency's visit itself, especially in the beginning of a trying season as the present one, is considered by us as an immediate relief for the distress apprehended owing to the failure of the N. E. Monsoon.

During the Famine of 1877-78, there was great mortality among the distressed, notwithstanding State relief afforded in various forms, and we have every confidence that timely instructions will now be given by your Excellency to all the responsible officers of the district for watching closely the state of this present season of great anxiety, and arranging for the relief of the distressed by opening up useful public works at the recommendation of the Local Boards and Public Works Departments ; we would respectfully suggest the construction of a bridge across the Arni river.

We express our heartfelt thanks to your Excellency's Government for the fact of our possessing an able and energetic Collector in W. J. H. LeFannu, Esq., who has already taken some measures to mitigate the evils of the approaching famine.

It will not be out of place to mention here the pressure of Income-tax on the mercantile community of this Division (Arni). Incomes have been over-estimated in several cases, and the whole tax of the Division was suddenly raised from about Rs. 2,000 to 7,000 within the past two years. The rate of the tax is so high that men of small incomes prefer closing their business.

In addition to the pressure of such an Income-tax, the present rates of school-fees are so high that we apprehend the middle department of the Arni Local Fund school will eventually get thinned, and we specially and most respectfully solicit your Excellency to order a revision of the scale of fees.

In conclusion, we beg to submit that the working of the Forest Act in this Presidency and especially in this part of the district is much felt and the wants of the public, in general, with regard to fuel and timber required for domestic and cultivation purposes are consequently great. Felling fuel and timber is now let on contract to the highest bidders, who bid as they please and proportionately raise the price ; and the hardships felt by the people in procuring fuel and timber are greater. The outcry of the public for want of pasturage for cattle is too well known to need repetition.—Arni, 18th March 1891.

Address from the Chairman and Members of Arni Union.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and Members of Arni Union, under the Local Fund Act V of 1884, beg to embrace this opportunity of your Excellency's personal inspection of these rural parts to welcome your Excellency heartily and cordially, as loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, whose beneficent rule has secured to us peace and happiness to present our humble and brief address on this happy occasion, trusting it will meet with your Excellency's approbation.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY TO PERMIT US TO SAY AS FOLLOWS:—

2. That we really sympathize for the hard and tedious journey your Excellency has undertaken in travelling over a land above 50 miles, specially in a season as this, in the tropical climate before your Excellency has been long in India. We are, however, highly pleased and gratified ourselves with your Excellency's presence here this day among us, though the unexpected stay is but for a few hours, and for which we feel ourselves much indebted, and find no place in this to express our grateful thanks adequately for the interest and grand objects evinced in the well-being of your subjects in the early stage of your auspicious administration, and we are assured that good results will turn out in all our future expectations.

3. That the failure of monsoons this year has, no doubt, created an alarm and anxiety in this district, especially in the most southern parts of the district, and it would be no exaggeration of facts in saying that there is famine though it has not assumed its full shape as yet, and the sufferings of the poor classes are undeniable owing to the failure of partial crops to the great extent in some parts, and it is not unlikely, we fear, to apprehend that the season would grow still worse after the harvest of the standing crops. But, we are glad to find that W. J. H. LeFannu, Esq., our zealous Collector, from his able administration of the district and as a long experienced Revenue officer, was capable of understanding the real facts and sufferings of ryots and had already adopted precautionary steps in checking the growing misery of the people by opening some relief works in some parts through his exertions. We should be thankful to him for his sympathetic feelings towards the poorer classes of people. There are also people of middle classes who have not been accustomed for such relief works, suffering owing to the enhanced prices of grain, staple articles and the standard high price of salt and other things. Your Excellency may be aware that salt is an ingredient much required among all classes for daily consumption. Now, even well-to-do ryots find difficulty in supplying daily raggy food to their farm servants with salt, and they are alarmed thus, in this adverse season, how to meet with such requirements. Nor is this all. The costly price of fuel which the Forest Department had, since of late, let out on contract system, block by block which the contractors sell at their discretion to their best advantage, without allowing access to ryots for felling the fuels on payment of seigniorage as hitherto. A cart-load of fire-wood was to be obtained a few days ago at Rs. 2-8-0 which the contractors have now increased to Rs. 4 or 5.

4. Merchants who depend upon their small trade are clamouring at the oppression of heavy income-tax. These are the main grievances evidently working in the minds of poorer classes which may be easily alleviated, if your Excellency be gracious enough to remedy them and dispel their fear of famine.

5. That Arni is important in historical point as a place of battle and it had been given to the ancestors of the present Jaghirdar for some eminent and distinguished services rendered by them to the rulers more than a century ago, and its present holder is an intelligent and enlightened gentleman who maintains its administration with much tact and discipline, adopting the rules of Government in its management.

6. That the town of Arni has been greatly improved in its sanitation, &c., by the introduction of Union under the Local Fund Act. The recent enumeration of Census shows an increase in population for the town from 12,000 to 14,000 and upwards. But want of good sources of fresh water-supply for drinking purposes is a great draw-back, and the town people are therefore anxious to have a water scheme started, and propose to move the Government through the instrumentality of the President, District Board, and if it so happened, we are rest assured that your Excellency will never hesitate in sanctioning the project as a matter of vital importance, and the people will ever remember it as a boon conferred upon them.

7. We will feel ourselves ungrateful if we omit to say on this occasion that the opening of a Railway Line at a distance of 6 miles from this is highly advantageous. The people in these parts have hitherto been put to much inconvenience and difficulty in travelling 22 miles to Arcot Railway Station and in crossing the Palár river during the rainy season, and much thanks are therefore due to Government ; but regret that the line has not been capable of being brought into the town. A branch line will however, we earnestly hope, develop the resources of the town.

8. Having thus already trespassed much on your Excellency's precious and valuable moments while on rapid and hard march after visiting the affected parts of the district in the interests of the public, it is feared that we have tired your Excellency's patience in this direction. We, however, beg to apologise for the same and conclude this with our fervent prayer :

"May God bless our gracious Queen-Empress and your Excellency and the Lady for longevity and prosperity."—Arni, 18th March 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency replied that he had heard, with great interest the two addresses they had read, and thanked them for the great kindness with which they welcomed him in their midst on the first occasion he had an opportunity of leaving Madras. In the first place, they referred to the condition of the district which had been grievously affected by want of rain. He was sorry to say that their remarks with reference to that were, to a certain extent, borne out by facts, and that in certain quarters there was great scarcity, and in others a certain amount of

distress. They might depend upon it that the Government of the country would always watch with the greatest interest and attention the condition of the subjects over whom it presided. They said—and they truly said—that in Mr. LeFanu they had a gentleman of great experience and one in whom they placed the greatest confidence. He would thoroughly endorse all they said about him, and from what he had seen of Mr. LeFanu he was perfectly convinced that nobody took greater interest than he in looking after the people in his division. His experience was very great, and his exertions, they all knew, were never ceasing. He was always going about the country, and His Excellency sincerely hoped that he would be able to send in to Government a report noticing a better condition of affairs in all parts of the district. The addresses pointed out among other things that the prices of grain and salt were high. There was no doubt they were high; but he was glad to find that the prices were not rising with that rapidity with which they did in 1877. He hoped that meant that the railways which had been constructed had gone a great way in equalizing prices. As regards salt, he found that in Arni during the last two years, there had been no variation in the selling price of salt. The Government were watching with great attention the conditions of salt monopoly, salt duties and the price of salt, and were doing all they could to reduce the price of salt as far as possible; as they knew, salt duty was levied by the Government of India as an Imperial tax and should be borne by the whole community; and he did not think he need tell such an enlightened and educated body of gentlemen that it was absolutely necessary that Government should raise its revenue from one source or another, to confer on them the blessings of peace and prosperity by careful administration, which alone could enable a country to go ahead and occupy its position in the eyes of the world. His Excellency next referred to the question of fuel, and said that if there was anything that could be done in the matter it would be done after consideration. Referring to the income-tax, His Excellency said that he quite agreed with them in thinking that it pressed heavily on certain members of the community. He remarked that he felt and did not like it himself and that he would be very grateful if it was done away with; but there again the Government had a means of raising revenue. It was no doubt an unpopular tax, and had to be collected in accordance with certain rules, and he was sure if there was anything like undue pressure or injustice, it was perfectly unintentional and that any representations would receive most careful consideration. He referred to the mention made in one address of Arni being the property of a gentleman who had distinguished himself by his intelligent and enlightened management, and said that he was glad to hear that such was the case. He wished that the Jaghirdar's example of good management and careful watching over the interests of those who lived on his estate would be followed throughout the country generally. With respect to the question of water-supply touched on in the address, His Excellency said that it was open to those present to form a Municipality and collect large sums of money and devote them to useful purposes, namely, water-supply, sanitation, &c., and he stated that if Government had money at its disposal to assist them, he did not think it could devote it to a better purpose. He congratulated the people on having a railway within 6 miles from their town; but surely the railway could not be brought to everybody's doors. About the Branch Railway, His Excellency said he could not say whether such a project was feasible, but he would mention it to the Railway authorities. He acknowledged the good wishes expressed towards himself in the address, rejoiced to think that in Arni they had a prosperous community, and hoped that they might go on in that course and continue to be prosperous and successful.

Address from the Inhabitants of Chittoor.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—With deep feelings of loyalty to our Sovereign, we, the inhabitants of Chittoor, most humbly beg to approach your Excellency with this humble token of our appreciation of the honour your Excellency has done us by visiting the head-quarters of this historically important district; and we beg to accord to your Excellency our sincere welcome. It is no small privilege to be honored with a visit by so august a personage as the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. This visit of your Excellency will be rendered ever memorable by its connection with the opening of a most important and useful line of Railway. A long felt want in a tract of country often subject to seasons of drought and distress has thus been supplied, and the hopes which we ventured to express nine years ago, in our humble address to one of your Excellency's predecessors, Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, have now been realized. We are deeply sensible of, and grateful for, the very great interest the Government evinces in the well-being of its subjects. We trust we shall not be considered either vain or bold, when we express the hope that your Excellency's administration will see its way to giving effect to the scheme of connecting together by Railway some of the important towns in the western parts of this district, such as Punganur and Palmaner—a scheme which, we hear, is under the consideration of the Government. We are highly grateful for the many blessings that we enjoy under the benign British rule, and we shall not be doing our duty as citizens, if we let slip this opportunity of your Excellency's visit without bringing to your Excellency's notice some of our needs and requirements which, though few and simple, are none the less important. We shall content ourselves with a brief mention of them in the hope that they will receive due consideration at your Excellency's hands. The drainage system and the water-supply of this town are exceedingly defective notwithstanding the natural facilities that this town affords for their improvement, the local administration not being able to do as much as it would from want

of funds. Though there has been an increase in the population, there has been no corresponding extension of the town; and this has partly contributed to its insanitary state. While fully aware of the many benefits that the line of Railway that your Excellency is to open is sure to bring to us, we have to bring to your Excellency's notice that the proposed time-table for the working of the trains puts us in a worse position than at present, as regards the delivery and the despatch of Mails; for while, under the present arrangement, there is an interval of ten hours between the delivery and the despatch of Mails, the proposed arrangement would allow of only about four hours' interval and that during the busiest part of the day. The inconvenience that is thus caused will be specially felt here, as this is the head-quarters of the district. We have already addressed a memorial on this subject to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, wherein we have prayed for the running of local trains between Chittoor and Katpadi. We are glad to observe that under the system of combined Post and Telegraph offices, almost all the important towns of this district are connected by telegraph lines. But, there remain a few stations such as Palmaner, Punganur, Sholinghur and Wandiwash, which are not so connected, and we beg that ere long this want may be supplied. It is with considerable pain that we have to observe that temples and other public charitable institutions are not properly managed. The law, as it stands at present, does not provide the safeguards necessary to ensure the proper administration of their funds. While it is a matter of very great difficulty for an outsider to ascertain whether the managers of temples properly discharge their duties, the expensiveness of the litigation he has to involve himself in prohibits any attempt on his part to bring offenders to justice. We take the liberty of suggesting that a provision of law be enacted, making it compulsory on the part of the managers of temples, &c., to publish in the local official Gazette and newspapers, annually, the budget of probable expenses and a statement of the actual receipts and disbursements for the year committee. We beg also to suggest that your Excellency will be pleased to direct the committee appointed in connection with Religious Endowments so long ago as July 1887, to submit its report to your Excellency's Government at an early date. The prompt measures which your Excellency's Government has taken on the timely representation of our energetic Collector, to relieve distress in the affected parts of this district, such as the granting of special facilities for sinking wells, the opening of irrigation works, and the tour that your Excellency now makes to personally acquaint yourself with the extent of the distress that prevails here, have already made a deep impression on us, and have placed us under a debt of gratitude to your Excellency. In this connection, we would respectfully request that Government be pleased to sanction, as a famine relief measure, the construction of two causeways across the Palár, similar to the one that is under construction connecting Ranipet with Arcot, for which we are greatly thankful,—one of the proposed causeways to connect Dusi with Conjeeveram, and the other, Gudiyatam with Pallikonda, as such causeways will afford great facilities for the heavy traffic that is carried on in those parts. We cannot conclude this address without once more expressing our heartfelt thanks to your Excellency for the honour your Excellency has done us by visiting this and other places in the district. In the hope that your Excellency's administration will be in every way a success, and that Lady Wenlock and your Lordship will find your stay in our midst a period of uninterrupted health and happiness.—Chittoor, 18th March 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency thanked those present for the reception and welcome accorded to him. He congratulated the Chittoor people on their now having a railway, and he hoped that greater prosperity and happiness would accrue to them from this communication, and that distress like that which prevailed in the district would become less possible in future. He was very sorry that fever prevailed at Chittoor, and that it had baffled all medical skill in discovering its cause. But, much of the bettering of their condition depended on themselves and their local experience and knowledge. His Excellency then paid a compliment to Mr. LeFanu, and said he was glad to see that he was sparing no pains to make the people of the district happy and prosperous. As for the extension of the Government telegraph line, it was a matter for the consideration of the Government of India, and he would do what he could to help in that direction. He hoped that there would be frequent train services between Katpadi and Chittoor, and trusted that the new railway would be profitable to its owners and the people, and keep them in continued prosperity and happiness.

Address from Municipal Council of Vellore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council, Vellore, most respectfully beg leave to submit that we feel proud of the present occasion in cordially welcoming your Excellency. We do not like to miss this favourable opportunity and beg to submit our humble representations. Your Excellency's arrival at Vellore at this auspicious hour forebodes a noble future to the town. Vellore is the largest town in the North Arcot District and is of historical importance. The Fort, which is one of the strongest and most beautiful in the whole Presidency, the Fort temple, which even in its present abandoned condition presents to the eye indications of great splendour, the battle fields of Clive and Hyder Ali and other

brave Captains of former days, and the tombs of the wives of Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan, are all objects of considerable interest. The town has commercially lost nothing of its former importance and now has a population amounting to nearly 45,000. The number of political pensioners is not small. It is an important centre of trade in the Presidency and has been a Military Station. It is a favourite place with all classes of people. Officers of all ranks, Civil and Military, and men who have retired from active duties, have settled here. The town can boast of a thriving and artistic industry in brass-work. The importance of the town has been further enhanced by the new Villupuram-Guntakal Railway. The Municipality has ever been unsparing in its efforts to improve the condition of the town. Among the many wants which are felt by the town, the first and most important is a complete system of drainage and water-supply. The first of these had often attracted the prominent attention of the Municipal Council and Government. Finally, the scheme was drawn up at a large cost by an expert, and it was decided that the water-supply scheme should also be simultaneously carried out with drainage. The total expenditure is estimated to cost nearly 5 lakhs of rupees. We would represent to your Excellency that the resources of the Municipality are such as not to enable us to take up the works at once. It would, however, be a great mistake to neglect these important sanitary improvements considering the almost annual visits made by epidemics. These two projects, which we most sincerely trust, will not fail to commend themselves to your Excellency's approval, are too heavy a charge for the Municipality alone to bear without the help of Government. We venture, therefore, to request that, having regard to the interest and importance of the town, and in view to promote the happiness and welfare of Her Majesty's most loyal and devoted subjects, your Excellency's Government will be pleased to extend a helping hand to the Municipality to enable it to accomplish its long-cherished object. A donation by Government of half the expenditure, supplemented by the funds which will be raised by the Municipality by a loan from Government, would meet the requirements and would ensure the lasting remembrance of your Excellency's name. Before concluding, we respectfully beg to represent that the towns-people are suffering very much on account of the increased rate at which fire-wood and bamboos are sold since the time the forests were let on contract. This, we beg to submit, is a great hardship on the people, and humbly request on their behalf that the old system of licenses to wood-cutters may be revived. Vellore was for more than a century a very important Military Station, and the regiment stationed in it was a great benefit, and encouraged recruiting for the army. Its removal since 1885 has been much regretted. We, therefore, most humbly and respectfully solicit your Excellency to arrange to have a regiment again stationed here. In conclusion, congratulating ourselves on the honour we have had in being the first mofussil city to welcome your Excellency, we regret that your arrangements will not permit of your making a longer stay, and we pray for the long life and prosperity of your Excellency and your family.—
Vellore, 20th March 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you in the first instance for the very kind words in which you express your welcome to me upon this occasion of my coming amongst you for the purpose of paying your town a visit, though not for the first time, as I had the pleasure of passing Vellore the other day, when, in consequence of having to go to Madras, I was not able to stop here. I am glad, however, to be able to devote this day to a visit to your town, which is of very great importance not only in the North Arcot District, but also in the Madras Presidency. You point out in your address that it is a town of very great historical interest, and in other ways also well worth visiting. I look forward with much pleasure to see the sights which you have to show, and I am sure I shall be very well rewarded for the stay I shall be able to make amongst you. You allude to the opening of the new railway, and I am glad to think that you have at last a railway service at your door; and I believe, from what I was told by the officials of the South Indian Railway, that they will do their best to accommodate your requirements and give you a train service which I hope will be considered satisfactory to you. You then say that among the particular wants of your town, you feel very much the want of a proper drainage and water-supply, and, from what I can ascertain, this question is one which has been agitating your minds for some time past. You started with a scheme of very modest proportions, and, as far as I can find out, the Government of the day, unfortunately, was of opinion that your scheme was not sufficiently comprehensive to meet with its encouragement; and since then you have been at considerable expense to ascertain what it would really cost, and you now find that the amount of money required is so very large that you are unable to deal with the subject without the assistance of the Government. I am not in a position to say anything definite with regard to this subject; but I can say this, that you seem to have a very strong case. If it can be found possible to assist you, I will do my best to give to this matter my most careful consideration; and I hope it may be found possible to meet your wishes in this respect. The next point you raise is one which, I have no doubt, is a matter of very great importance to you and to your fellow-citizens, that is, that the rate at which wood-timber is now sold presses hardly on the consumers at Vellore. I am told that at the present moment wood can be had in the streets of Vellore at Rs. 3-8-0 per cart, and that at that price—which is not very considerable—it meets with very few purchasers. Vellore is some distance off the forests at which timber is sold by

auction; and it has been found necessary to alter the system on which the felling of timber was carried on. The old system was very unsatisfactory to Government; it caused a great deal of loss to Government, and deterioration of good timber by the careless manner in which it was cut. The felling was not always carried on under proper supervision; and the wood was no doubt sold at Vellore at a much cheaper price. But very unsatisfactory arrangements existed then; and the Government is very anxious now to take proper precautions for preserving the forests. I am glad that the Department is very careful to see that the purchasers and contractors sell wood at the rates the Department itself lays down. I hope this will be found satisfactory, and that the price of wood, which includes cost of cartage and felling among others, will not be found in any way excessive, but will be within the reach of all members of the community. You then mention the fact that Vellore is a very important Military Station and possesses a Fort. The question naturally attracted my attention the other day when passing, whether there were any troops in it, and I was told there were not, and that there had not been any for some time past. You are aware that troops in the Madras Presidency have been considerably reduced. There has been a large drain on the Madras Army for service in Burma, and the proposal sanctioned to station two companies in the Fort has not yet been carried out in consequence of this drain. I am told, however, that the question of the distribution of the Madras Army will come up for consideration in a very short time before Government, and I can only say that the claims of Vellore to have soldiers stationed here will then be very seriously and carefully considered. You finally say that you wish me long life and prosperity and all good wishes; and in returning them, I have only to say that I thank you very much for the kind expressions of your goodwill. I shall be only too happy to see what you have to show me in your town, and I can only wish you long life and prosperity, and continued success for the town of Vellore.

Address from the people of Salem District.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In the name of the people of not the least important of the twenty-two great divisions of the Presidency over which your Excellency has, by the good providence of God, been called to rule, we, their chosen representatives, on this auspicious occasion respectfully bid you welcome to the district of Salem. Having as loyal subjects of the beloved Queen-Empress whose gracious representative you are, cordially welcomed your Excellency amongst us, we feel we may, without impropriety, proceed briefly to lay before you our humble requests, which we deem not unworthy of your Excellency's benign consideration. We are pre-eminently an agricultural people and hail your early presence in our midst as the happiest augury of that continued interest in the land for which all our knowledge of the traditions of your illustrious ancestry and of your relations with your tenantry have fully prepared us. We venture to think our practice of agriculture at once enlightened and successful, and trust that it may receive careful attention and be the subject of close inquiry before any attempt be made to force on an unwilling and conservative people changes and systems of doubtful advantage. Though bringing agriculture prominently forward, we do not wish to lose sight of the many claims of a different nature upon your Excellency's attention—notably, the encouragement of those industries which are India's chief economic want. By universal admission, this collectorate stands greatly in need of railway connection with that of South Arcot; and the project for so connecting these districts being a most feasible one, and having already, we believe, commended itself to your Excellency's immediate predecessor, would seem to await only the continued favor of your Excellency to become an accomplished fact. There are no formidable engineering difficulties in the path, and fiscal success is certain. But whether or no this project be capable of early achievement, we would press on your Excellency's attention the inconvenience of having our station nearly four miles away from Salem, and would urge that the railway be brought into the Salem town itself. There can be now no reason for the maintenance of the station at so great a distance from this large town. It was, we believe, placed thus far away at a time when the country had not, under our gracious Queen-Empress, attained its present assured peace and prosperity, and when it was therefore deemed prudent, for strategic reasons, that the line of rail should not lie close to large towns which might be the centres of disaffection. The execution of schemes for bringing a supply of good water into the town of Salem and for the improvement of its drainage is, we venture to say without exaggeration, a want of pressing necessity which will doubtless be urged upon your Excellency with the requisite details by the Municipal Council. We do not deem it necessary to dwell at length upon the subject, but would remark that Salem has in past years attained a grievous reputation for insalubrity. We fear that reputation is still too well deserved, and it is only to the introduction of a supply of pure water, supplemented by an effective drainage system, that we can look for an improved state of things and hope to make our Capital sweet and healthy. We rejoice in the conviction that your Excellency will endeavour to govern all classes of the vast community committed to your care in such wise as may tend in the immortal words of Bacon, "to the glory of the Creator, and to the relief of man's estate." That sublime end of noble statesmen being slow to reach, your ultimate success, when tested by tangible results, may (perhaps we might say, must) appear to fall short of your efforts and expectations; but, as Bacon also says, "the master

of the ship is judged by directing his course aright, and not by the fortune of the voyage." Meanwhile your Excellency cannot fail to draw comfort from the thought that your immediate operations are helping to increase the amount of happiness in the country and to take away some of its evil and suffering. So aiming and so working, we may devoutly say—God speed your labors.—*Salem, 21st March 1891.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you most extremely for the very kind manner in which you welcome me upon this my first visit to your important and flourishing town of Salem. I understand that the address which has just been read is one not so much from the town of Salem as from the district surrounding it, and that those who are more immediately connected with the town itself are going to address me later on during the day. All the same I feel very much the kind manner in which you welcome me to this particular part of the Presidency. I know well, as you say, that it is not the least important of the 22 divisions in the Presidency, and I am glad to think that your life is carried on under conditions of success and prosperity, and that you are able to come forward and assert that your condition is one which affords you gratification and satisfaction under the rule of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. You point out that your chief occupation is, and that all your interests centre in, agriculture, and you deprecate any interference on the part of the Government with the ways which you consider best, and which you think are most likely to conduce to the prosperity of the agricultural classes. I must say that I am at one with you, and I believe that we have a great deal to learn from the Indian agriculturist as regards practical agriculture. But at the same time it is not impossible that we may have something to impart, and while thinking so and feeling that, I think we ought to approach this question with very great caution, and not to try to force upon the people methods and customs different from those to which they have been so long accustomed, and that it may be found possible, by giving careful attention to the subject, to still further improve those customs. As you know, an experienced agriculturist, Dr. Voelcker, has been sent out by the Government of India to report generally on the state of agriculture, and we await his report with the greatest interest, because we hope that it may give us some idea of the direction in which any improvement should be made, and I hope it may be found possible that any changes that may take place may be such as will not be considered inadvisable by those in whose interests they will be put forward. You also mention that there are other industries besides agriculture in Salem, and I am glad to think that there are throughout India. And I am pleased to find that in Salem itself these industries have prospered to a very considerable extent, though, like many others, they have to face the fiercest competition. Competition at the present day is greater than what it has been for a long time past; but I believe that the energy and industry of the people of Salem will enable them to carry on their industries with the success they formerly attained, and that the name of Salem will still be connected prominently with the commercial annals of the country. You then say that this particular district in which you live is one which is extremely badly off in the matter of railways, and you ask that something should be done in that matter. As far as I can gather, this subject is one which has occupied the attention of the people for some time past, and a proposal submitted to Government last time did not meet with approval, as it was considered unsatisfactory. I thoroughly agree with you in thinking that the Railway station being four miles from the town seems to be the most absolutely foolish thing that men could have devised; but when you ask that the line should be brought down here, you must remember that it involves a large expenditure, and that it cannot be done unless you see that there is a fair return for it. If anything can be done to extend the line to Salem, I think it would be a very good thing; failing that, we may consider how we can connect the station with the town either by a tramway, or by a branch railway. I must say I think you have a very strong case for something being done, and if anything can be done, I can assure you that I will do my best to meet your wishes. You must remember that I cannot commit myself to anything definite, because such schemes are very often put forward in a light-hearted way, and, when it comes into a question of rupees and annas, they are rather looked at from another point of view. No doubt, it is an extremely bad arrangement under which you at present labor. You then allude to the question of drainage and water-supply. As neighbours of the town, I suppose you have naturally to conduct business there, and that when you are in it, you naturally dislike the abominable odours which I am given to understand prevail here. I think this subject is one which engages your attention at present, but one thing I am afraid of is that yours is not the only town in the Presidency which suffers in this way. I am sorry to say that I left Madras under similar circumstances. The dear old Coom was getting less and less and the smells very much worse and worse. In such circumstances we have to meet a very large expenditure of money there; and if I can do anything in the matter of forwarding any representation from you on this subject, you may be sure that I shall do my best. These seem to be the principal points which my attention is directed to. I have not had the pleasure of being in Salem long, and both in prose and verse have been assured of three great wants. I can only say that I have got them by heart, and will do my best to assist you. I thank you for the kind manner in which you have expressed your good feeling towards me, and I wish you all success and prosperity in the future.

Address from the Municipal Council of Salem.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and other members of the Municipal Council of Salem, beg most respectfully to offer your Excellency a very hearty welcome to this town, and to express our best wishes that, during your Excellency's term of office as Governor of Madras, you may experience much of the brighter and happier side of life in the midst of the labors and anxieties which form an inevitable accompaniment of that dignified office. We have naturally perused your Excellency's speeches after your appointment both in England and since your arrival in Madras, with anxious interest, in the hope of obtaining some glimpse of the spirit which may animate your Excellency's administration of this Presidency; and it has been most gratifying to find in those speeches expressions of deep interest in the welfare of all classes of Her Most Gracious Majesty's subjects, whose interests are so much at your Excellency's disposal. We regard those expressions as pregnant with happiness for ourselves and all our fellow-subjects, and also with reciprocating appreciation and gratitude which are the natural results of kindness and sympathy shown to us by our rulers. The growth of the population of Salem during the present century has been very remarkable. In 1801 the population of the town was 10,145; in 1835 it had risen to 19,021, and in 1855 to 25,600; in 1871 it was 50,012, but in the succeeding decade it was grievously interrupted by the great famine of 1876-78 and the census returns of 1881 showed only 50,667. That great loss of population has led to some amount of curiosity to know what has happened to us during the last 10 years, and we are rejoiced to find by the abstract of the census just completed that we now form a city of 67,750 souls. The area of the municipality has, however, been extended during this last decade, and deducting the population of the two villages by which it was so extended, the increase is 6,115. We will not mar the pleasure connected with your Excellency's first visit to us—so early too after your arrival in the country—by any recital of grievances or even by an enumeration of the general wants of the people; but there are one or two important matters which we think ought to have a place in even an address of welcome. One of these forms at present a topic of correspondence between your Excellency's Government and our Council, viz., the water-supply and drainage projects, in which we know the Government is much interested. We are anxious to have a sanitary survey made of the catchment basin embraced in the Panamaruthupatti project; for, if the report of that survey should be a favorable one, that project will probably be adopted by our Council. We have already conveyed our decision to Government that the water-supply and the drainage works should be carried on simultaneously, as no system of drainage can confer the fullest benefit on the town without an adequate supply of water. We cannot but know that the cost of these works will be very great, whatever the amount of the final estimates may turn to be: we know also that it will be quite impossible for the municipality to carry out these works unless its means are supplemented by a Government subsidy to the extent of at least one half of the entire cost. We know that there is a prevailing feeling throughout Southern India that the water-supply of the principal towns of the Presidency and their sanitation have a legitimate and pressing claim upon the general revenue for such support and assistance as we here crave for; and we earnestly hope that when the subject comes up for disposal before your Excellency in Council it will be favorably considered. We also very respectfully request that the Government will be pleased to confer on this town the full benefit of section 12 of the Madras District Municipalities Act IV of 1884, viz., the right to elect the full three-fourths of the whole number of the councillors. In our opinion no reason exists for placing the town within the exception of the said section 12 of the Act. The extended power will enable the inhabitants the better to bring in councillors representative of all classes of people. Of the ten members elected during the last election, two were Brahmins, two Mussalmans, one a Native Christian, and the rest, other Hindus, of whom two were Zemindars and the other three merchants. If the full benefit be conferred, five more will be added to the number who will be distributed at the rate of one for each ward. As election is by the ward and not for the whole town, voters find it next to impossible to bring in a representative of each community in the existing state of things. We pray, in conclusion, that by the blessing of Divine Providence your Excellency's health may be preserved to complete your appointed term of office, and we earnestly trust that when you leave us at its termination, you will carry back with you to your own "sweet home" the same kindly feeling with which you now enter upon your gubernatorial career towards the warm-hearted and most loyal people whose welfare our Most Gracious Queen-Emress has been pleased to place in your hands.—*Salem, 21st March 1891.*

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency said that he was very much pleased with the account he had heard of the Municipality of Salem, and felt glad that the population of the town had increased so much within the past ten years. He hoped that corresponding prosperity and happiness would attend them. He said that Her Majesty the Queen-Emress had the deepest sympathy for her subjects here in India, and that she would be very glad to hear of their progress in every direction. Referring to the Panamaruthupatti water-project and to the claims of the local water-supply and drainage on the general revenues of the State, His Excellency said that whatever was possible to be done to bring about such important objects would certainly be done. Referring to the prayer

of the Council for the right to elect the three-fourths of the whole number of councillors, His Excellency said that he was in perfect sympathy with it; but as in some towns local administration under the elective system had not been what it ought to be, Government had of necessity to proceed very slowly and cautiously in the matter. Nevertheless, nothing would be wanting on the part of the Government in conferring on deserving local bodies further rights and privileges. He would, he said, give the matter his careful attention.

Address of the Anjuman-i-Islam of Salem.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the President and members of the Anjuman-i-Islam, Salem, beg most respectfully to welcome your Excellency to this town, which is much connected with historical facts and is also second to none, except the Presidency town, in point of importance. We congratulate ourselves on our being so fortunate as to have in your Excellency's person a statesman of recognised administrative talents and admitted genial disposition, the very commencement of whose career in the gubernatorial office holds out a very fair promise of a peace and prosperity to the millions of Her Imperial Majesty's subjects of this Presidency. We beg to bring to your Excellency's notice our deep sense of loyalty and attachment to our most Gracious Sovereign, the Empress of India, and to assure your Excellency that we are not behind any race in sincerely praying for the stability of Her Imperial Majesty's Power in the Eastern Empire and the continuance of her benevolent rule. During the short period that your Excellency has been in charge of the high office of Governor of this Presidency, from what we have seen in different newspapers we are sanguine that your Excellency will win the hearts of all the people of this Presidency by attending to their wants. We are aware that, with due regard to good manners, we ought not to trouble your Excellency with any requests on this occasion of your visit to this town, but at the same time we shall be doing injustice to ourselves if we let slip this golden opportunity of submitting the following facts for your Excellency's kind and favorable consideration. Our Association is alive to the fact that the Government of India, as well as the Government of this Presidency, has issued several orders with a view to ameliorate the condition of our community, and has taken several steps to ensure a fair share of Government employment being given to us, but in the high posts we see that our Muslim brethren are not in proportion to the other classes, and our Association therefore most humbly submits that the following concessions may be granted. That so long as the existing system of recruiting for the Statutory Civil Service continues, the competitive examination held for the selection of young men may be confined to Mussulman graduates at least once in five years; that at least one Deputy Collectorship be reserved every year for a Mussulman graduate; that a certain percentage, say, 10 per cent., of vacancies in the grades of District Munsifs, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Police Inspectors be reserved for Mussulman graduates; that these appointments be subject to such probation as may be deemed necessary and such departmental examinations as may be prescribed, but that they be exclusive of appointments or of promotions of Mussulman graduates and non-graduates who are already on the service or who may join the service in subordinate grades. The town of Salem is four miles from Suramangalam, the Railway station on the Madras line. It is one of the best mercantile towns in the Madras Presidency. It has a population of nearly seventy thousand inhabitants, and is at a distance of 207 miles from Madras by railway. One of the sore complaints of the town-people is its distance from the Railway station. The extortion of the jutkah-wallahs, the inconvenience caused by having to go over the distance during dark nights, and the anxiety of the unknown travellers can better be imagined than described. It is a matter of great regret that a town like ours, noted for its commerce, should be so far away as four miles from the Railway station. It was a request in the addresses presented by the municipal body of this town to your Excellency's predecessor that the railway line should be extended to this town, but the prayer has not as yet been granted. We hope that your Excellency will grant this request and render the same a matter of remembrance by the people for ever. One of the most pressing present wants of our town is a supply of good drinking water. The Municipal Council of this town, although desirous to supply this want, cannot do so without being pecuniarily helped by the Government, and we believe the subject in question is discussed at length in the address of the Municipal Council, and we therefore need not assign the manifold reasons that indicate the necessity for having a good water-supply here, except praying that your Excellency will uphold this cause and make the Government contribute liberally in this benevolent work. We cannot conclude this address without thankfully bringing to your Excellency's notice that our much-esteemed Collector, Mr. G. Stokes, has shown some encouragement to Muhammadans by promoting two to Tahsildarships and also by duly considering the claims of some in the clerical line. Our kind-hearted Judge, Mr. L. A. Campbell, also, has duly considered the claims of the Muhammadan subordinates of his department whenever opportunity occurred. There are still hopes that these District officers will entertain more Muhammadans in their respective departments should there be opportunities for so doing. We conclude our address by fervently praying that your Excellency and Lady Wenlock may enjoy uninterrupted and unalloyed happiness.

—Salem, 21st March 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency thanked the members of the Muhammadan community for the expressions of good will conveyed to him in their address. Referring to their requests for railway extension and water-supply, His Excellency repeated his previous remarks on the subjects made in connection with the other addresses. Referring to the prayer for three concessions to the Muhammadans in the matter of appointments in the public service, His Excellency said that the Government was hardly prepared to adopt any such measure; that vacancies did not occur every year; that even when they did occur the heads of departments were compelled by pressure of work to recommend the best and the most efficient men for the places, which recommendations had necessarily to be sanctioned by the Government; that the percentage of Muhammadan employes in the lower grades of the service was quite as large as it ought to be, and that he hoped the members of the Muhammadan community, by their exertions, would soon show the Government the way in which this particular grievance of their community could be redressed. His Excellency paid a compliment to Messrs. G. Stokes and L. A. Campbell, saying that he felt glad that they were doing their best for the Muhammadans of Salem, and trusted that they would continue so to do.

A song of welcome to His Excellency, the Right Honorable Beilby Baron Wenlock, Governor of Madras, representing the chief wants of the Salem people, composed by S. Saravana Pillai, Tamil Pandit, Salem College.

கொம்மிப்பாட்டு.

(A Free Translation.)

1. கொம்மியடியுங்கள் கொம்மியடியுங்கள்
கொம்மியடியுங்கள் கோதையே.
நம்மையாரும் வெந்லாக் கவர்னரை
நாடிக்கொம்மியடியுங்கடி - இசை
பாடிக்கொம்மியடியுங்கடி.
2. ஆயிரத்தெண்ணூற்றுத் தொண்ணூற்றேராமாண்டில்
அடித்த மார்ச்சு மாசம்தில்
ஏயிருபத்தொன் றுகியதேதியில்
இங்குவந்தாரென்று கொம்மியடி - யார்க்கும்
இன்பந்தந்தாரென்று கொம்மியடி.
3. சேலத்துக்குநல்ல காலம்வந்ததென்று
சிறக்கக்கொம்மியடியுங்கடி.
சேலத்தரையிவர் வேண்டியயாவும்
செய்திடுவாரென்று கொம்மியடி - துன்பர்
கொய்திடுவாரென்று கொம்மியடி.
4. நல்லதுரையிவர் வந்ததனாலினி
நல்லஜலமும் நமக்குவரும்
நல்லவழிகண்டு நன்மைசெய்வாரென்று
நாடிக்கொம்மியடியுங்கடி - களி
கூடிக்கொம்மியடியுங்கடி.
5. சாக்கடைநீருக்குப் போக்கிடமில்லாமல்
சார்ந்திடுநாற்ற மதனாலே
மூக்கடைத்துக்கொண்டு செல்பவர்க்கடம்
போக்கிடுவாரென்று கொம்மியடி - சுகம்
ஆக்கிடுவாரென்று கொம்மியடி.
6. எங்கும்புகைவண்டி மார்ச்சுமெருக்கியே
இந்தநகர்க்கும் ரயில்மார்ச்சும்
சிகரமாயவந்து கூடலூர்போகவும்
சேர்த்திடுவாரென்று கொம்மியடி - யிடர்
தீர்த்திடுவாரென்று கொம்மியடி.
7. நங்குறைதீர்த்திட நல்லகவர்னரை
நாடியதுபு மஹாராணி
மங்கைக்கரசிமேன் மேலுந்தழைத்திட
வாழ்த்திக்கொம்மியடியுங்கடி - முடி
தாழ்த்திக்கொம்மியடியுங்கடி.

We all clap our hands
In the happiest of bands
At the news that comes to us together,
Lord Wenlock arrives,
We hope that he thrives
In this horribly grilling hot weather.

Our wants they are small,
So we'll tell him them all,
And the first is a question long parried;
We want water to drink,
Then drains that don't stink,
And for both of them long we have tarried.

Our drains are so bad
There's no air to be had;
But that which is perfectly horrid;
As every one knows
We all close our nose
In the streets of our town known as Torrid.

And then there's a tale
Of a line called a rail
That runs from Madras down to Salem;
But as we're concerned
It might well be termed
The ass that carried old Balaam.

For us it's no good,
And therefore we would
That it should have a four miles' extension;
That's not much to ask,
'Tis no difficult task
To concede us our modest pretension.

Then drink, drains, and rail
We hope you won't fail
In your bounty to kindly extend us;
And then we shall laugh,
And gladly shall quaff
The glass of pure liquor you tend us.

Address from the Planters' Association of Shevaroy Hills.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the undersigned Members of the Planters' Association and others, resident on the Shevaroy Hill, desire to offer your Excellency a hearty welcome, both as the representative of our Most Gracious Sovereign and as Governor of the Madras Presidency, and we do so with more than ordinary pleasure, in view of the interest your Excellency has always taken in agricultural and local matters in England, of the admitted ability you brought to bear on their administration there and of the fact that this is the first hill station and almost the first station in the Presidency which your Excellency has honoured with a visit. These hills were one of the earliest sites in India of coffee cultivation—an industry which was introduced and is chiefly carried on by Europeans with European capital, which largely employs native labour and thus assists native agriculture, both by example, by finding work in the slack season, and, in fact, all the year round for native agriculturists, and by thus enabling them at all times to earn money sufficient to pay the Government revenue, and which also very considerably contributes to the commerce of the country. The soil and climate are well suited for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables; and large quantities of oranges, pears, guavas, &c., are sent to the low country. The climate of Yercaud is mild and equable; and cholera, that scourge of the plains, is practically unknown. It is nearer to Madras and more accessible than any other hill station; it has always been a favourite resort for European officials and men of business during the holidays, and for their families and invalids during the hot season. For these reasons we feel we are entitled to hope for liberal consideration from Government; and as we are by no means averse to helping ourselves—(we have without any assistance from Government built our own church and parsonage; we provide our own clergyman; many of the roads on the plateau were originally made and maintained by planters; and most of us have joined and got our writers to join at considerable inconvenience, a Corps of Volunteers which we have raised, and as we are treated far from liberally, compared with other sanatoria and planting districts)—we have the less hesitation in asking Government to help us. We wish therefore to mention the points on which we desire assistance. (a) A ghât road for wheeled traffic is very much required and has been under consideration for years, but, like so many other things, has come to nothing for want of funds. Now that there is a large Provincial surplus, we feel that this is a most propitious time for again bringing forward our claim to this and other much needed improvements. The ghât is a trifle for strong healthy men, but the case is very different when invalids, and, especially, delicate ladies and children have to be considered. If a good road is made, the cost of carriage to and fro—on the one hand of manures, of which large quantities have to be imported, building materials, &c.; and, on the other, of coffee, fruit, &c., would also be materially reduced. Other places which are planting districts or sanatoria, or both, e.g., Coonoor, Ootacamund, Kodaikānal, and even small out-of-the-way places like Pachmarhi in the Central Provinces, Matheran near Bombay, and Rāmandrūg in Bellary, have been provided with excellent roads and other things at Government expense; and some at least of these have not the same claims to consideration as Yercaud. (b) The grant for the upkeep of roads on the hills themselves urgently requires to be increased; the bare statement that only Rs. 240 per year is allowed for all the station roads will, we think, suffice to show this. It may possibly be objected that more is already spent on these hills than is received (for local purposes) from them, but we venture to reply that it is largely spent on objects other than roads, for instance, Rs. 2,804 goes on the upkeep of a hospital and of a first-class apothecary kept greatly for the convenience of Government officials and other visitors; and further that, in a place like Yercaud, where scattered planters are almost the only permanent residents, and where our claims to consideration rest largely on the fact that it is a sanatorium, it is only to be expected that Government *should* have to assist and assist largely, and that it does so in other places has been pointed out. What we would ask is that the grant for roads should be increased to a reasonable extent, and that their upkeep should in all cases be first offered to the planters (who are chiefly interested in keeping them in good repair) at the full rate per mile allotted. But a short time ago it was proposed that a certain bit of road, for which the grant was Rs. 150 a mile, should be made over to us, but the grant offered us was only Rs. 50 a mile, and we were of course compelled to decline the offer. Where planters have taken over roads, they have generally spent more than the allotment, themselves making good the deficiency. (c) In connection with the subject, we would ask that there be always one member, selected from amongst European planters, to represent planting interests on the District Board and on the Salem Taluk Board. (d) The great delay in disposing of applications for land, sometimes extending to three years, is a considerable hindrance to the spread of cultivation, and one which seems to us remediable and to which we would respectfully invite your Excellency's attention, and we would also ask that, in the case of land required for coffee, the forest rules may be relaxed and permission given to take up parts of the reserved tracts. It is now well understood that coffee must be grown under shade, and a well planted coffee estate while the amount of labour employed is many times greater than with ordinary cultivation. (e) There being so many Europeans here, it is generally felt that it would be expedient whenever possible to have an European or Eurasian Deputy Tahsildar, and that when, for any reason this officer is a native, an European or Eurasian head constable should be stationed here.

(f) The grant of the powers of a District Munsif to the Deputy Tahsildar at Yercaud is most desirable. The Deputy Tahsildar of Kodaikānal has Munsif's powers, so has the Head Assistant at Gúdalur. At present the want of them is the cause of much inconvenience, delay and expense. The Deputy Tahsildar now here has passed all the necessary examinations. (g) Considering all the circumstances of this station, we think there ought to be a larger supply of medicines in the dispensary; that they should be more frequently reserved; and that the prices charged should be nearer the market rate than they are. Provision is made in the hospital only for native in-patients. Wards for Europeans and Eurasians are much needed. There are many writers of these races on coffee estates, some of them many miles from Yercaud, and cases have occurred where, it is believed, deaths have resulted from their inability to come to Yercaud for treatment owing to there being no accommodation for them. We look forward to again welcoming your Excellency on these hills—happily described by one of your predecessors as "Sorrento without the sea;" and we trust that we may then have the pleasure of thanking you for the improvements which we have now asked for. In conclusion, we trust that your Excellency's rule in this Presidency may be guided by a higher power, may be blessed with every possible success, and may result in the happiness and prosperity of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects committed to your care.—Yercaud, 23rd March 1891.

His Excellency's reply.

HIS EXCELLENCY REPLIED TO THE FOLLOWING EFFECT:—(a) That it depended greatly on what the District Board and the planters themselves could contribute. (b) This was a matter for the Local Board to settle, as Government could not interfere. (c) The hills would have to take their turn when there was a vacancy, but at present the Salem taluk was over-represented. (d) After considerable discussion Mr. H. Gompertz was asked to show how the delay could be remedied in a manner that would satisfy Government as to the competence of the surveyor on whose work the grant depended. (e) There was a difficulty in finding European and Eurasian Tahsildars, but when a competent man could be found, he would be appointed. (f) The grant of District Munsif's powers to the Deputy Tahsildar depended upon the High Court; His Excellency thought that such powers would be granted if proper representations were made. (g) There was no precedent for granting this request.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Beilby, Baron Wenlock, Governor of Madras.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the agents of the Danish Missionary Society and the Malayalee pupils of the schools on the Shevaroy Hills, most submissively beg to approach your Excellency on this auspicious occasion with words of sincerest welcome and express to your Excellency our heartfelt joy and pleasure which your august presence has given us. It is not often that we, the residents of these hills, are favoured with gubernatorial visits, and the fact that your Excellency has so soon after the commencement of your administration of this province paid us this high honour is a sufficient guarantee to us that our prayers will be heard and our welfare watched and that nothing will be left undone to ameliorate the condition of the ignorant Malayalees.

The Malayalees are densely ignorant and highly superstitious, and nothing but systematic education will prove their status and make them keep pace with the folks of the plains, who are advancing with rapid strides under the benign sway of western education.

We pray that your Excellency will be graciously pleased, by framing suitable rules and regulations, to help the cause of education among the Malayalees on a much larger scale than at present, and thus confer on this forsaken race of people the full benefit of your Excellency's administration.

In conclusion, we wish your Excellency and Lady Wenlock long life and prosperity.

This address was acknowledged and referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

Address of the Municipal Council of Coimbatore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the Municipal Councillors of Coimbatore, beg to accord to your Excellency a most hearty welcome to our town, and to express our humble gratification at the privilege of welcoming your Excellency in our midst at an early period of your administration. The inhabitants of this town are second to none in the Presidency in their loyalty and devotion to the Government of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen

Empress, and in the warm and intelligent interest which they evince in all matters of local and general administration. We beg leave to state that the liberal and sympathetic spirit which characterised your Lordship's recent public utterances, has kindled in the minds of the people a widespread hope and belief that your Excellency's administration will be marked by practical and judicious measures in relation to the wants and aspirations of the people. We beg respectfully to bring to your Excellency's notice on this occasion the defective condition of this town in the matter of the supply of drinking-water and drainage. Consequent on the partial, and, in some years, almost total failure of the monsoons, the private wells, which are the only existing sources of drinking water in the town, generally run dry during the greater part of the year, and water drought to a large majority of the residents, especially of the poorer classes, has become a serious and oft-recurring calamity. The sanitation of the town is also imperfect on account of the absence of an effective system of drainage, the first requisite of which is a plentiful supply of water. The Municipal Council have been making efforts to remedy the existing state of things, and in view to the preparation of a scheme for water-supply and drainage, the levels of the town are being taken under the supervision of Mr. Jones, Sanitary Engineer to Government, and we earnestly pray that, on a final scheme being decided upon and submitted for sanction, your Excellency's Government will be pleased to give due encouragement and support to the measure. We beg once more to tender our grateful thanks for the honour of your Excellency's visit to this town, and we fervently pray that your Lordship and Lady Wenlock may be blessed with long life and prosperity and a period of happy and beneficent reign in this Presidency.—*Coimbatore, 24th March 1891.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN.—I beg to thank you very much indeed for the address which you have just presented to me and for the language in which you have couched that address. It is a great pleasure to me to come at this early period of my career to the thriving city of Coimbatore and to find that you have largely extended your borders during the last ten years, and that therefore we may conclude that you are in a prosperous condition, and that you have been able to increase in numbers, and, I hope, to improve the condition of your people generally. You point out, as so many other people point out in this country, that you are suffering from a shortness of the supply of pure water, and in that I am bound to say that I sympathise with you most deeply. Nobody knows better than the municipal body, with whom are entrusted the affairs of their fellow-citizens, how absolutely necessary it is that a pure supply of water should be provided for their fellow-citizens, and I think it is only right that you should come forward when you have any opportunity of addressing members of the Government and call attention to the wants of your particular city. I am bound to say that my sympathy goes with you as far as it possibly can, but unless you are able and willing to give a certain amount of your support to the scheme in connection with it, it will be found impossible to carry out the excellent work. I have ascertained what the position of the question of the water-supply of this municipality is, and it appears that it has occupied the attention of yourselves and of the Government for some time past, and I find that the Sanitary Engineer has already visited Coimbatore with a view of preparing schemes. The entertainment of the necessary establishment for the purpose is now under consideration, and I understand that you had one or two little schemes submitted, and that the question of diverting water from the Siruvani into the Noyil river near Coimbatore for irrigation purposes has been abandoned, as the Sanitary Engineer now considers that this scheme is financially impossible. There is also another proposal made by Colonel Scott for supplying water to the town from the Bhavani river by constructing an aqueduct at its junction with the Siruvani. But this has also been condemned by the Public Works Department as impracticable. The question of getting your water-supply from wells dug on the banks of Noyil river has been brought forward by the Sanitary Engineer—a scheme which may be connected with any project to supply water to the Central jail where the supply of water is not satisfactory, and the matter is under consideration, and plans for furnishing water by means of artificial surfaces and storage are now before the Public Works Department. So it appears that steps are being taken to ascertain the best means of meeting your difficulty, and all I can say is that, if you come forward with an assurance of being able to undertake the work, and if the plans and estimates are such as to justify Government in assisting you in the matter, I hope it will be found possible to assist you. Of course, as you know yourself, it is a very difficult matter, but it is a source of great satisfaction to me at all events that your calling my attention to it shows that you are thoroughly alive to the position, and that you feel that it is one which ought to be remedied as soon as possible. All I can say is that yours is not the only municipality in this country which is brought face to face with this very great problem. As the population increases, old means of supplying water to the citizens become defective or the water becomes impure, and hence all municipalities are awakened to this very difficult and very large question—one which I hope will before long receive proper attention and be properly dealt with. I only point out the difficulties of the situation, and hope we shall be able before long to place this matter on a more satisfactory footing. I am sure this can be done and that, when done, nobody will be so much

pleased as the people of Coimbatore. You finally express on your behalf all good wishes, and say that the inhabitants of this town are second to none in loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen Empress. Wherever I go I am bound to say that I have met with marks of the most unfailing loyalty and devotion to British rule under which you now live. I am pleased to find that the same feelings animate you in Coimbatore, and beg to thank you for the expressions of loyalty and devotion which you have been good enough to lay before me. I beg to thank you for your kind expressions towards me, and assure you that it has given me much pleasure to be here this afternoon to ascertain what your requirements are and to find that though you have certain difficulties to face, which all municipalities have to face for the proper maintenance of the happiness of the people committed to their care, you are equal to the duties devolving upon you, and I hope that you will have a career of continued prosperity before you.

Address of the Devasthanam Committee, Coimbatore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Coimbatore Devasthanam Committee, most humbly beg permission to express the sincere pleasure that we feel in being honoured with this visit to our ancient shrine and to accord to your Excellency a most hearty welcome.

2. The committee, of which we have the honour to be members, has under its management nine places of worship, all situated within the limits of this taluk and supported by ancient endowments and by the contributions made by the community from time to time on festive occasions.

3. Of all the institutions in our charge, the most important is the one in which we are now assembled. It is said to have been built more than 700 years ago by a king of the Chola dynasty and to have been subsequently added to and improved by a brother of Tirumala Naick, who ruled at Madura some 250 years ago. The sculptured hall before us is the work of this latter prince, who seems to have intended the erection of a thousand-pillared mantapam, but was prevented from carrying out his original intention by some untimely calamity. Pillars intended for the above purpose lie buried all about the vicinity. Some of these have been unearthed and utilized in the improvement of two of the adjacent blocks which have been only recently completed.

4. The committee most respectfully beg leave to avail themselves of this opportunity to press upon your Excellency's attention the necessity for amending the present Temple Committee's Act (No. XX, 1863). The Act was framed at a time when education was very backward in the province and when the intricacies of temple management were not understood. The result is that the rights and duties of the various parties concerned have been left in a vague and undefined condition, leading to wholesale misappropriation of temple funds and giving rise to long and expensive if not vexatious law suits. We are aware that several attempts have been made to revise the Act but without effect. We are aware too that a bill is now awaiting the report of a committee of experienced gentlemen to whom it had been referred for consideration some years ago. What the delay is owing to, we do not know. All that we pray for is that your Excellency will be pleased to expedite the submission of the report so that it may be brought for early consideration by your Excellency in Council.

5. We cannot conclude this address without expressing our sincere gratitude to your Excellency's Government and its local representative, Mr. Sturrock, for the restoration to this temple of the Perur village as an entire inam after its having been regarded for a long time as a partial inam through some misconception of the temple's rights.

6. In conclusion, we again beg to tender our hearty thanks to your Excellency for having honoured us with this visit and to request that you will be pleased to convey to Her Gracious Majesty our Queen Empress our deep sense of loyalty and gratitude for the manifold blessings that we are enjoying under her benign rule.

திருச்சமுக விஞ்ஞாபனம்.

(An address to much the same effect as the last, in verse.)

அறுசீர்க்கழி நெடிவடி யாசிரிய விருத்தம்.

ஆட்சிபெறு மரசுரிமை யனைச்சென்னை செய்தவந்தா லடைந்தி யாவர்க்குந்
காட்சியினுற் குறைமுறைகள் கண்டுகேட் டொருந் ககற்றுந் கவர்னரான
HIS EXCELLENCY BELBY LAWLEY LORD WENLOCK
மாட்சிபெறு கனம் பெய்லி லாவி லார்ட் வென்லாக்கா மகிபா மிக்க
தாழ்ச்சியுட் னிந்துதே வந்தானச் சபையார்வந் தனந்தந் தேமால்.

(1)

ஊருந் கொறுந்தொறும்போ யாங்காங்கு நிகழ்விடய முய்த்து நோக்கிச்
சீருரச் செய்துவரு மமயத்துச் சிற்பவினைச் சிறப்பா லெங்கும்
பேருரும் பெருமை பெற்ற மண்டபமுந் திருக்குளமும் பிறவுஞ் சேர்ந்த
பேருரிந் கிருத்தவினா னினசமுகத் தனைக்காணப் பெற்றுமின்றே.

(2)

இதுகாறுஞ் சென்னைவந்த கவர்னரொலா மிக்கிலாந் தியவொன் றோர்வா
ரதுபோலா திந்நாட்டி னிகழ்ச்சியெலா முன்பயின்றே யனைத்துந் தேர்ந்த
மதியேறு முனதுகுடை நிழலமரப் பெறுமெமக்கு மனத்தாழ் வென்ப
தெதுமுரு தெனறுலு மெளியேங்கள் வரமிரண்டிந் கிரவாநின்றே.

(3)

தேவத்தானந் கனெல்லாந் துரைத்தனத்தார் கைவிட்ட திறத்தா விந்நாட்
பாவத்தானந் கனெனப் பழுதுபட்டுத் தாயிழந்த பாலராதி
மேவத்தா மிகமெலிந்த வவைமுன்போல் விசாரிக்க விதித்த லுடனே
சேவைத்தானு வந்தேறுஞ் செவ்வர் பட்டிநாடகர் தம்பேரைத்தலத்தில்.

(4)

புலநிலங்கள் புரவலர்பா மாச்சேர்ந்தன பலசாட்சிக ளிருந்தது கண்டே
பலநிலங்கள் பண்புடனளித் தேபூசை விழாச்சிறக்கச் செய்தனர் மகிழ்ந்தோஞ்
சிலநிலங்களுள் வலையும் பண்டுபோல நிலைநிறுத்தி நீவொழுவாய்
கலையுணர்ந்த மதியுக்கவி மேன்மை பெறுஞ் சென்னைக் கவர்னரோறே.

(5)

Coimbatore, 24th March 1891.

His Excellency's reply.

GENTLEMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COIMBATORE DEVASTANAM COMMITTEE.—I beg to thank you very much for the address which you have been good enough to present to me on this occasion of my visit to this temple. I am glad to be present amongst you and to be able to witness some of the most beautiful specimens of Hindu architecture. I am glad to find that the temple is in the hands of a committee who, I believe, are administering its affairs with the greatest possible ability and with the greatest possible intelligence. I am sorry to find that this intelligence and this ability are not always brought to bear on temple management by such committees in this Presidency. Complaints have often reached me on this subject that matters are not as satisfactory as they ought to be, and it has been urged, as you urged upon me to-day, to press the members of the special committee to furnish a report to the Government. I shall be only too glad, I must say, to do all I can in the direction you point out and to get the report as soon as possible from the committee. I am glad to find that the committee is composed of gentlemen who are thoroughly acquainted with the subject, and I believe they will be able to present an extremely interesting report and one which will show where the move should be made to improve the condition of affairs. You point out in your address that this temple is one of very great historical interest. I have often heard of it before, and I am glad to come and see all about the temple myself. You then pass on to say that you express your gratitude to the Government for the restoration to this temple as an entire inam of the Perur village which previously was a partial inam. It is an act which was carried out before I had the honor of coming to govern this Presidency, but I am glad to find that this matter has been dealt with satisfactorily. I beg again to thank you for your kind address and shall, as you wish me to do, convey all the expressions of loyalty and gratitude.

Address from ryots holding lands under the Noyel, Coimbatore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the undersigned ryots holding lands under the river Noyel, most humbly beg to approach your Excellency with a hearty welcome, and venture to bring the following facts for your Excellency's gracious consideration:—

1. The town of Coimbatore known for its healthy climate both in the European and Hindu communities now a days has begun to lose its salubrity, and cholera and such other epidemics often visit the town with serious result; for instance, the loss in cholera in the Central Jail, Coimbatore, was not ordinary. The chief cause of such a virulent epidemic is ascribed to the want of good drinking-water and the impurity of the available scanty supply also.

2. To obviate these difficulties, to bring in a good supply of water for irrigation and domestic purposes is absolutely necessary, to effect which we suggested the diversion of the streams—Pattiyar and Muthikulam—into the river Noyel, a proposal not of our own; but one emanated from officials of rank and experience, such as Mr. W. B. Thomas, late a Collector of Coimbatore, and Mr. Collier, an Engineer so far back as 30 or 40 years.

3. The two rivers Sinnar and Periyar rising from the Velliyanghiri hills and Kunjaramudi mountain, respectively, unite and form into one river and flow eastward, being named the Noyel, which, passing through Coimbatore, Palladam, Dharapuram and Erode taluks utilizing its water chiefly for irrigation purposes, falls into the river Cauveri at Kodimudi.

4. The taluks of Coimbatore and Palladam solely depend upon the river Noyel for the irrigation of their nunjah (wet) lands extending over an area of 19,350 acres, assessed rupees 2,62,379, of which, owing to scarcity of water in the river, cultivable area of between 6,532 and 7,368 acres was without cultivation, and the Government revenue amounting to between rupees 20,617 and 88,296 had to be remitted between the years 1867-68 and 1884-85.

5. The river Noyel being more or less a mountain torrent during the season of heavy monsoon, and an insignificant stream during the ordinary season, the water during occasions of flood are taken to different tanks by means of anicuts and channels and stored up for irrigation.

6. Except in the year 1882, an unusually heavy south-west monsoon, there has been continuous remissions to a large extent causing serious loss of revenue to the State. The statement hereunder will convince Your Excellency of the state of irrigation affairs under the river Noyel, from which it will be seen that on an average about Rs. 58,810 was lost annually in the way of remissions between the years 1867-68 and 1884-85.

7. While the loss to the State in land revenue is Rs. 58,810, the loss of the ryots in the way of seed grain, implements, labor, &c., is enormous, and their sufferings very great. The loss of the ryots may be calculated to be, in the least, treble the amount of revenue lost and their sufferings more than partial starvation of numerous families, each family consisting of not less than seven souls including children not fit for work. In this connection, we beg to quote the remarks of Mr. Nicholson who knows personally the sufferings of Coimbatore ryots in his very valuable Manual of the District: to wit "loss ensures certainly to the cultivator and often to the Government"—vide page 389, para. 2, wherein he has given detail account of the sufferings of the cultivator.

8. Apart from the irrigation difficulties there is also a sad want of sufficient supply of water for drinking and other domestic purposes in the town of Coimbatore, as well as in the interior of the taluk, which fact has already been noticed by the Sanitary Commissioner and the Sanitary Engineer who have remarked that speedy arrangements must be made to favor Coimbatore with a sufficient supply of pure water and have reported the matter to your Excellency's Government.

9. In July 1838, the people of Coimbatore sent in a memorial to your Excellency's Government praying that the project may be taken into consideration, which was supported by the Collector and the Board of Revenue, who have in strong terms advocated the project and recommended that a special officer may be deputed to investigate into the sources of the Noyel and to carry out the project.

10. This was referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Mr. Welch, who to our misfortune based his decision on the imperfect so-called investigation of the project by his subordinate and reported to the Government that the proposed diversion would seriously affect the interests of the river Bhavani, and that therefore deputing a special officer for any investigation in connection with it would be unnecessary. The Government accordingly dropped the matter.

11. The ryots, however, pressed the matter again, and an officer who is not a specialist in the irrigation branch was directed to inspect the locality and report. Mr. Baker, Assistant Engineer, was accordingly entrusted with this most important duty without prejudice to his other heavy works already on hand. A few of the leading ryots accompanied Mr. Baker to the locality and inspected all the places in question along with him, who then reported that the supply intended to be gained by the diversion would be a great boon to the Coimbatore ryots, and that any objection raised on the ground that it would diminish the supply of the Bhavani need not be noticed. Colonel Vibart, the then Superintending Engineer, seems to have reported that the project might prove a feasible one with an intimation that any objection that it would affect the Bhavani supply is not tenable.

12. Thereupon, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation required certain additional information and sections and measurements of the proposed project, and Mr. Baker, not being in a position to make a thorough investigation within the limited time at his disposal in the out-of-the-way hilly jungle tract, calculated the requirements as follows:—

A dam 137-93 feet high above the bed of the river, 900 feet long on top and a tunnel 4,310 feet long. This estimation, we submit, is apparently an exaggerated one, and we humbly suggest that a dam 80 feet high and 105 feet long would answer the purpose, and also to submit that the correct drainage area appears to be 25 square miles, and not 5 miles as arrived at by Mr. Baker. *The rainfall in this locality is enormous during the monsoon, and the proposed diversion will give us plenty supply to store all the tanks.*

13. In the meantime, the ryots of Coimbatore submitted a memorial to the Governor in Council through the Collector of Coimbatore who strongly supported the same, and has, in the concluding portion of his letter, said that, if it would be a matter of money alone, the ryots would find that among themselves.

14. Mr. Baker's report received no attention nor scrutiny from the then Executive Engineer Mr. Martin, who seems to have arrived at a hasty decision that the project would not prove a remunerative one; and so, the matter was allowed to be dropped.

15. The assertion of Mr. Walch or his Executive Engineer Mr. Martin that the project would not be beneficial to the State, we beg, does not appear to be consistent with the existing state of affairs, and we have every hope that the project will, if undertaken, produce an income of about Rs. 90,000 per annum as detailed below:—

There are under the river Noyel 3,695 acres of unoccupied wet and dry lands capable of being brought under wet cultivation, and 6,599 acres of single-crop wet lands that can be compounded for second crop, assessed in all Rs. 31,802. This, when added to the average annual remission calculated from 1867-68 to 1884-85, as shown in paragraph 4 *supra*, comes to the above sum of Rs. 90,612.

16. This project was considered as beneficial to both the ryots and to the State, and feasible to carry out by Colonel Montgomerie, and Mr. Fraser and Colonel Vibart, Engineers; and Messrs. Collier, Thomas, Wedderburn, Sturrock, Tremenheere and Thomson, Collectors.

17. Under these circumstances, we pray that your Excellency will be pleased to depute a specialist in irrigation projects to investigate thoroughly into all that concerns the project in conjunction with the Collector and leading ryots which is hoped to satisfy the long felt sad want of water-supply, both for irrigation and domestic purposes; but for which, the cocoanut topos, &c., of Coimbatore which are the most valuable will not live long; and this is visible by the fact that this year the water intended for the topos was taken away to the paddy fields which were about to fade, the water being insufficient to supply both. Topos also have begun to fail in addition to the usual loss of paddy.

18. We further beg to add that we would feel fully satisfied with the decision which a specialist may arrive at after thorough investigation of the project.

In conclusion, we pray that God may bless your Excellency's most beneficent rule in this Presidency with success and your Excellency and Lady Wenlock with long life and prosperity.

Coimbatore, 25th March 1891.

Address from the Landholders, ryots and cultivators of Coimbatore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the landholders, ryots and cultivators of Coimbatore, respectfully beg to welcome your Excellency to the head-quarters of our district. It affords us immense joy to be allowed this opportunity of paying our respects to the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress, under whose benign rule we are enjoying innumerable blessings and for whom as our august sovereign in whose hands Providence has entrusted the destinies of the ancient land we entertain feelings of the deepest loyalty.

Your Excellency's desire to become acquainted with our wants so early in your administration augurs well for our future. As an agricultural people, our wants are mainly connected with the cultivation of the soil. This district, excepting portions watered by the Cauvery and the Bhavani, consists chiefly of dry lands, with here and there a few tanks to irrigate them. In this taluk, the only source of irrigation is the river Noyel which supplies during rainy seasons a number of reservoirs from which our lands are watered. In consequence of the want of timely rains during the last three years, we have had very bad crops and are not at present without apprehensions of scarcity, as this year there has been a total failure of rains. The rules relating to the remission of taxes do not afford us any relief, as they do not apply to cases where crops have not totally withered. If a revenue officer manages to discover a grain of paddy, the full amount of taxes is rigorously collected; it does not matter what the yield is—it may be an one-anna crop or even less, but the full assessment must be paid. As the Government dues come up to half the net produce in cases of wet lands, it presses heavily upon us if we are made to pay the entire amount even when the yield is a sixteenth or twentieth of the usual quantity. We beg your Excellency to make the remission rules somewhat liberal by allowing remission wherever the produce is less than an one-anna crop and by providing proportionate remission in cases where it is less than a 8-anna crop. The rules are altogether inapplicable, and no concession whatever is made, if the lands are enfranchised inams for which quit-rent at the rate of 10 annas in the rupee is due to Government. We beg your Excellency to extend the rules to inam lands also, as the hardship is none the less severe in their cases.

The proper maintenance of tanks is of the greatest importance to us. There are now two tanks, one of them close to the town known as the Pallapalyam tank and the other within a distance of 5 miles known as the Narasambathyyeri, that have been left in a ruinous condition. There are about 800 acres of land depending for irrigation on the Narasambathyyeri; but in view of some project which appears to have been given up now, it was neglected. The Pallapalyam tank is dry and the Public Works Department have given it up as useless. We beg to submit that the former tank, if repaired and kept up, will be a source of comfort to many a poor ryot who is now paying nunja rates without any adequate supply of water. The latter tank may not be serviceable for purposes of irrigation. But the water-supply to the town in the western portion of Coimbatore depends mainly on it. It may be made over to the Municipality after repairs.

We beg to submit that much difficulty is experienced by the Public Works Department taking up tanks for annual repairs during the months of July, August and September, when the river receives freshes and is likely to fill the tanks. As they are not allowed to have their supply during repairs, the little chance there is of the tanks getting water is lost. With all deference to professional opinion, we venture to suggest that these annual repairs can, without any inconvenience, be completed before the beginning of April.

Our prospects are so entirely dependant upon the proper supply of water that any irregularity in its distribution results in serious consequences. The duty of distributing water is left altogether in the hands of low-paid servants without any sort of check or supervision, thus giving them opportunities of neglecting the poor ryots in favor of the rich. Introduction of some system and constant supervision by officers holding the position of Tahsildar, Division-officer or Collector is necessary. But, among the multifarious duties they have to attend to, this most important work is left alone. To secure exclusive attention to revenue matters, separate officers for performing magisterial work should be appointed; and as the Government are convinced of the advantage of doing so, we beg that the arrangements may be carried out as early as possible.

The Forest rules and procedure, whatever advantages to the ryots they may ultimately produce, are now felt by us as unbearable hardships. The hill tribes and the poorer population residing in the jungles were mainly occupied in rearing valuable bulls and cows which they are now abandoning on account of the limited pasture allowed to them. The rules are too strict, and, as against ignorant hill tribes, are administered with no little rigour by Government servants on receipt of small salaries. We beg that they may be relaxed to some extent, and that in granting licenses and sanctioning prosecutions, departmental officers may be asked to be lenient towards the unfortunate men.

Wishing health and prosperity to your Excellency and Lady Wenlock.

Coimbatore, 25th March 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency said that he thanked the people of Coimbatore very much for their kind expressions concerning him in their addresses on this his first visit to their town immediately after his appointment as Governor of Madras, and that no town or district afforded him greater pleasure than those of Coimbatore. Government was more deeply interested than themselves in the several matters laid before him, such as better supply of water to people and crops, &c. It was true that crops had failed and scarcity existed in several districts, and it was but reasonable that he and his Government should spare nothing in their power to make the people of these districts happy and comfortable. While one of the addresses presented to him urged the extension of irrigation in the district, the other brought to his notice affairs of agriculture. He was quite alive to the respective importance of both of these subjects. Referring to the subject of remission of revenue, His Excellency said that it was impossible for Government to make a universal or general remission; but, as a matter of fact, Government would grant it in certain instances on the recommendation of local authorities who were the proper judges of the situation. He hoped the deputations would understand that, as regards the grant of proportionate remission or anything under a half-crop, Government was not prepared to take such a wholesale step, and proposals for proportionate remissions in cases calling for such treatment would be placed by the local authorities before Government for its consideration. Referring next to the subject of remissions of revenue on enfranchised inams, His Excellency said that Government regretted that it could not do anything in the matter, as the assessments on these lands were like the *peishush* on permanently settled estates. If the people had a bad year and consequent loss in that year, in another year they had a better year and consequent gain. Referring next to tanks and irrigation, His Excellency said that the question of the Noyel scheme was most important. It had been a matter of considerable interest to Government for some years past. When it was last brought before the Government, it was given up as fearfully and hopelessly expensive, and therefore as not feasible. Referring to the prayer for a thorough investigation into the matter, His Excellency said that he quite sympathised therewith and that he was quite willing to order on investigation in order to

ascertain if a certain quantity of water could not be let into the Noyel river. An inquiry regarding this would, he said, be held; and he would see what could be done in the matter. Referring next to the Narasampathy tanks being handed over to the Coimbatore Municipality to improve the water-supply of their town, His Excellency said that Mr. Sturrock had already recommended this important subject to the Government for its favorable consideration. Referring then to the repair of Sembathyera, His Excellency said that the matter was under reconsideration, and, if possible, arrangements would be made to put that tank in proper order. The Irrigation Department was quite as anxious as the people to increase the area under cultivation and at the same time the revenues of Government. As regards distribution of water, the Public Works Department had the control of head-slucies alone, and what could possibly be done in the matter would certainly be done by that Department and the Government. Referring to Forest Rules, His Excellency said that Government regretted very much that hardships should be caused by these rules to the people for whose benefit alone they had been framed. Grazing rates in this district were not so high as in other districts; the proposals of the Conservator for improving the conservation of forests and for giving proper amount of grazing at the same time to cattle were under consideration. His Excellency pointed out that in Coimbatore the maximum grazing rates did not prevail, and that they were only half what they were elsewhere, while in Vanampatti and some other villages no such rates were levied at all. The Forest Department was fully alive to this great question of conservation and grazing, and rules as little irksome to the people as possible would soon be framed. He himself only wanted to see due care and management taken with regard to the forests. He thanked the deputations again for their loyalty and good wishes.

Translation of Sanskrit Slokas, read at the Coimbatore College.

Welcome to Lord Wenlock, the Governor of Madras, in whom all good qualities and merits exist in plenty (as water in the ocean); thou diamond amongst good and great men; thou who bring to us the good wishes of our Empress as bees bring honey from flowers; thou art most welcome amongst us; welcome be thou to our city which may be called *Prasnasu-mauktika* (because it is as beautiful as a pearl); welcome to our famous College; welcome be thou, our Lord, brighter and more beautiful than the lightning of heaven.

2. Thou sun who give joy to the minds of good men as the sun to the lotus; thou who could wipe out all sorrow and grief from the face of the earth; thou Lord Wenlock, may blessings hundredfold be showered on thee.

3. Ye people of Bharata Mandala (Deccan), have ye no fears that the monster elephant of Famine will any longer harass the people as Lord Wenlock, as the kingly lion of the woods, is ready to protect ye. The monster elephant has been conquered and so may ye all rest in peace.

4. Thou Lord, we pray that this College, the seat of learning, may in the next year be rendered more and more famous and honored and give more joy to the Members of the College Committee by distinguished success in the B.A. Examination.

5. May the great and merciful Lord of the Universe, who creates and protects with his bountiful mercy all the worlds, protect the Queen Empress and all her family, and your noble self and Lady Wenlock.