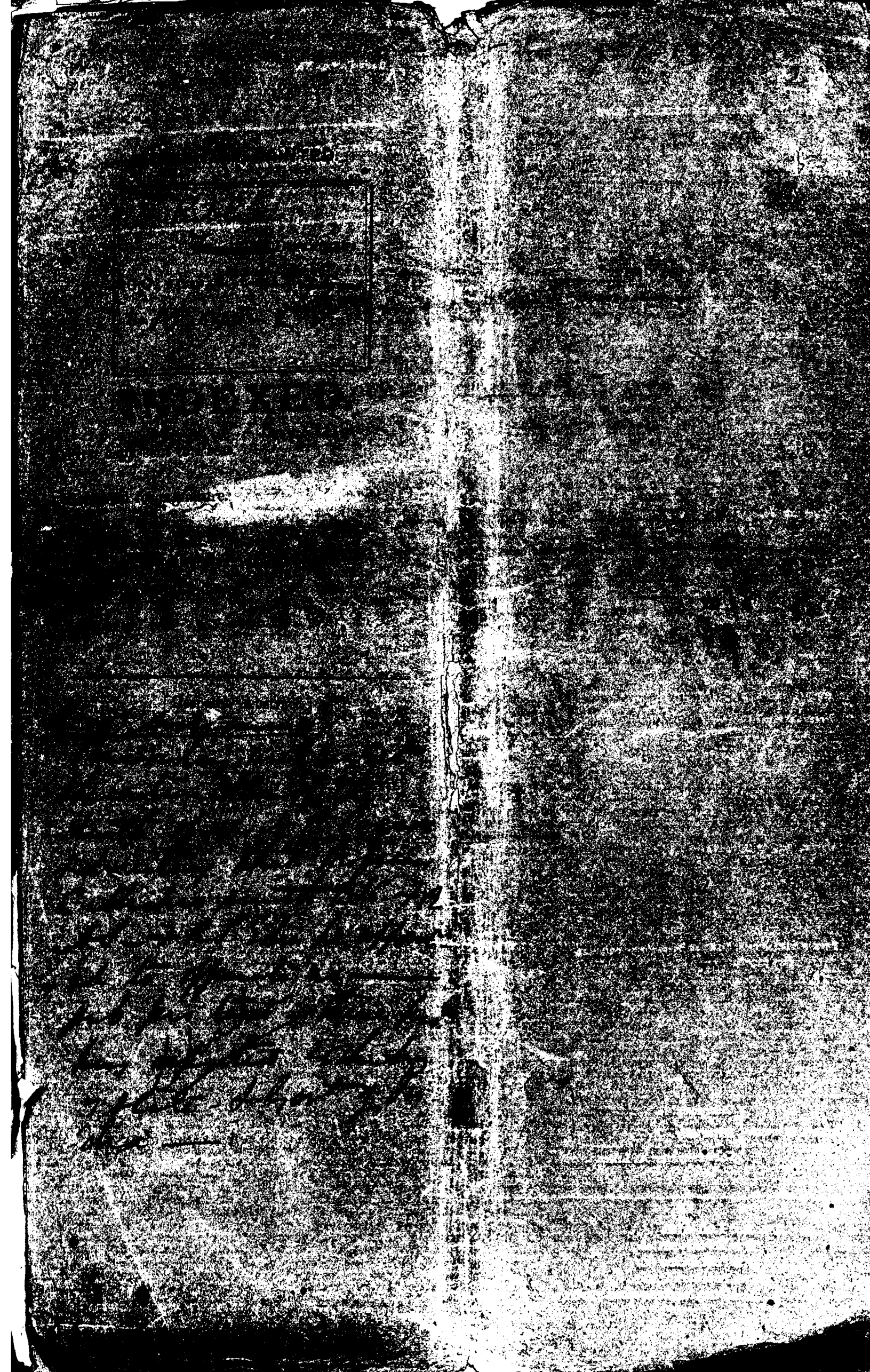




ORDINARY, PRINTED.

Public
G.O. DATED 3 rd July 1891
No. 540 - 542

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

[Signature] Assistant

Government Astronomer
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intimation of the death of Mr.
N. R. Pogson, and directing that
Professor C. Michie Smith B.Sc.
F.R.A.S., F.R.S. &c., be
appointed to officiate as —
sole pro tem, these proceedings
being reported to the Secretary
of State and the Govt. of India

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No.

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20/6/91

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3RD JULY 1891, No. 540, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From N. R. POGSON, Esq., C.I.E., Government Astronomer, to the Chief
Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 20th June 1891.

I have the honour to submit herewith an official report upon myself to afford the Government correct information as to the recent management of the Observatory and what I would respectfully suggest as the most advantageous course to be pursued under present extraordinary circumstances. Up to the commencement of last month, though not in sound health, I saw no reason to doubt that I should be able to continue my duties to the end of the official year and to turn out two more Astronomical volumes and one Meteorological. I should then, most probably, have retired on my pension to complete the remaining works in England as so kindly recommended by the Madras Government in their G.O., No. 706, 21st October 1890. Showing further how little anticipation I had of any immediate serious illness I had taken a house at Yercaud for three months intending to avail myself of privilege leave, getting on with the volume in hand, as I hoped, all the more rapidly from being relieved of the routine of office work. On the evening of the very day on which I had taken the house, my very able medical attendant, Brigade-Surgeon E. F. Drake-Brockman, came in and informed me that he felt so uneasy as to my condition that he intended to bring in Surgeon Major Branfoot in consultation with himself at 1 p.m., on the 20th ultimo. They came and after careful examination and consultation informed me that I was suffering from virulent cancer in the liver of rapid growth, against which medical science was powerless and advised me not to think of going to Yercaud or to England, as if I attempted the latter especially I should certainly not live to get there. They assured me however that, whether sooner or later, the end would be painless and that I should retain full possession of my faculties to the last. I received their intimation with, I trust, manly resignation and decided forthwith to put my official and private affairs in as good order as my brief remaining time might permit. Two brief paragraphs in a local paper appear to have misled the public and the Government to imagine that I had left the Observatory for a time and when better returned to my duties, whereas I have never been absent from my post from the hour at which my two Doctors announced my impending fate. I hope to leave such clear and full directions as may guide my successor, if so disposed, to complete my unpublished works. But considering the differences between works accomplished by English Assistants and those done by natives of India it is scarcely to be expected that the most highly trained individual sent out from England could do this so well as one experienced in the habits and peculiarities of natives.

2. The individual who is most intimately acquainted with all the details and steps of my past labours in the Madras Observatory is Professor C. Michie Smith, B. Sc. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and has for several years past been entrusted by the Royal Society of London with a large and valuable spectroscope for researches on the Zodiacal

light. I may add that he has undergone a course of training in Practical Astronomy under Dr. Copeland, Astronomer Royal of Scotland. I would, therefore, urgently advise and solicit as my dying wish that the said Professor C. Michie Smith might be appointed my successor as I am convinced that if this were done all my unfinished works will be completed as closely as possible as if I had lived to finish them myself. As precedents for this I would point out that Captain Jacob (B. Engineers) was simply an amateur Astronomer and neither he, Major Worster, R.A., nor Major (now Lieutenant-General) J. F. Tennant, R.E., had any of them previously received training in any public or private Observatory.

3. Lastly, I venture to express my hope that the Secretary of State will mercifully take into consideration the very unprovided condition in which, I regret to say, my wife and two infants will be left. My long service of over 30 years without a day's leave of any kind, my numerous discoveries of new planets and variable stars both at Madras and previously, surely entitle those I sorrowfully leave so unprovided for to liberal consideration at the hands of the Government.

Letter from PROFESSOR C. MICHIE SMITH, B.SC., F.R.A.S., F.R.S. EDIN., to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 23rd June 1891.

I have been asked by Mrs. Pogson to intimate to you that Mr. Pogson died at about 7 A.M. today. He retained full consciousness to within about 5 minutes of his death and even so late as yesterday afternoon he was able to give directions and to sign some official papers. Though he was unable to do everything that he had intended in the way of leaving written instructions he explained most things verbally to me and I will be happy to render any assistance to his successor that is possible. As regards the publications and instruments I can, I think, give full information.

It is, I suppose, quite unnecessary to even mention it, but Mrs. Pogson hopes she will be permitted to stay in the Observatory for a short time as a good deal has to be done before everything can be settled up.

Telegram from the Secretary, to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 24th June 1891.

Government of India regret to learn the death of Mr. Pogson. They have no objection to the employment of Miss Pogson on Time Ball and Meteorological work at the Observatory pending future arrangements, if this course is desired by and convenient to the Madras Government.

Telegram from Meteorological Reporter to Government, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 26th June 1891.

During Government Astronomer's illness, Meteorological Reporter India desired me to go and start a Meteorological Observatory at Kodaikanal. Shall I proceed forthwith or have you any further instructions. Please wire urgent.

Telegram from the Chief Secretary to Government, to PROFESSOR C. MICHIE SMITH, B.SC., F.R.A.S., F.R.S. EDIN., Madras, dated Ootacamund, 26th June 1891.

No. 204. Government desires to know if you would be willing to undertake to carry on the duties of the Observatory on a *sub pro tem.* footing pending orders of the Government of India or the Secretary of State.

From the Chief Secretary to Government, to PROFESSOR C. MICHIE SMITH, B.SC., F.R.A.S., F.R.S. EDIN., Madras, dated Ootacamund, 26th June 1891.

In reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, I am directed to express the regret of His Excellency the Governor in Council in receiving the intimation which it conveys of the death of Mr. Pogson. I am to say with regard to the request contained in the concluding portion of your letter that Government accords with pleasure the permission sought by Mrs. Pogson.

With reference to your kind offer of assistance and information, for which I am to thank you, you will ere this reaches you have received my telegram enquiring if you will be willing under the conditions mentioned in it, to undertake to carry on the duties of the Observatory.

Telegram from PROFESSOR C. MICHIE SMITH, B.SC., F.R.A.S., F.R.S. EDIN., to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 26th June 1891.

Yes, if allowed to do necessary work at College, which can be reduced. Letter follows.

From PROFESSOR C. MICHIE SMITH, B.SC., F.R.A.S., F.R.S. EDIN., to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 27th June 1891.

In expansion of the telegram which I sent last night, I have the honour to submit the following reply to your telegram No. 204 of the 25th which did not reach me till the afternoon of the 26th:—

2. It is, of course, impossible for me to throw up my present appointment for a temporary one and even if willing I could not do it without notice. At the same time I believe there will be little difficulty in my getting such relief from my College duties as will enable me to carry on the necessary work of the Observatory. By 'the necessary work' I mean the continuance of the time service in its present high state of efficiency, the due supervision of the Meteorological work, and the decision of such questions as may from time to time be referred to the Astronomer by Government. In addition to all this there is the question of publication which, I take it, can on no account be allowed to stop. As far as I can judge I would be able to carry this on quite as rapidly as in former years, I hope more rapidly if I could get assistance in one direction.

3. Mr. Pogson left all his Astronomical work in admirable order, but I regret that I cannot say the same for his official correspondence, and any one taking up his duties would, at first, have to spend a great deal of time in getting that put in order. There is no writer on the Observatory Staff with any knowledge of these matters, and it seems to me that the only way to get this put right economically would be to place, temporarily at least, on the staff an experienced clerk. I feel little hesitation as to accepting the Astronomical responsibilities but without any training in the conduct of a Government office, I do feel hesitation in accepting without clerical assistance the merely business side of the work. Since the cost of the establishment would, even with this addition, be less than at present this assistance might perhaps be granted. I am willing to try without it, but the time spent on what can be equally well done by a clerk would be so much taken away from the time that could be spent on publications.

4. I have thought it best to put this clearly at once as I see how much of Mr. Pogson's troubles arose from failure in the matter of official correspondence.

ORDER—3rd July 1891, No. 540, Public.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has learnt with deep regret the death of the distinguished Astronomer, who has for so many years presided over the Madras Observatory.

2. The Government is pleased to accept Professor Michie Smith's proposal for carrying on the duties of the office rendered vacant by Mr. Pogson's death. Professor Michie Smith will accordingly be gazetted to officiate as Government Astronomer *sub pro tem.* As it is most important that the publication of the late Mr. Pogson's observations should be proceeded with and concluded as early as possible, arrangements will be made for deputing a clerk acquainted with office routine to work under the Government Astronomer as requested in para. 3 of Professor Michie Smith's letter dated 27th June.

3. The following telegrams will be despatched :—

To Professor MICHIE SMITH, Madras.

No. 422. Your proposals accepted. His Excellency appoints you to officiate as Government Astronomer, *sub pro tem.*: arrangements are being made for deputing an experienced clerk to work under you.

To Miss I. POGSON, Meteorological Reporter, Madras.

No. 423. Professor Michie Smith appointed to officiate, Government Astronomer. No objection your proceeding Palnis as proposed.

4. These proceedings will be reported to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State and the Government of India and a letter of condolence will be addressed to Mrs. Pogson.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.
" Meteorological Reporter.
" Accountant General.
" Revenue Department.

LETTER—to Mrs. Pogson, Madras, dated Ootacamund, 3rd July 1891, No. 541, Public.

I am directed to convey to you the sympathy and condolences of His Excellency the Governor in Council in the bereavement which you have lately sustained in the loss of your husband, and to express to you the appreciation which this Government entertained of Mr. Pogson's unremitting labours in the cause of science and of his astronomical discoveries during the course of thirty years spent by him in directing the Madras Observatory.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

LETTER—to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated Ootacamund, 3rd July 1891, No. 542, Public.

With reference to your telegram of the 24th ultimo, I am directed to enclose for the information of the Governor-General in Council, a copy of the Proceedings of this Government of this date, No. 540, regarding the appointment of Professor Michie Smith to officiate as Government Astronomer, *sub pro tem.*, pending a decision on the correspondence now being carried on with regard to the future establishment of Indian Meteorological Stations.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., &c., 3rd July 1891,
Nos. 540—542.

JULY.

Government Astronomer.

Recording with regret the intimation of the death of Mr. N. R. Pogson, and directing that Professor C. Michie Smith, B.Sc., F.R.A.S., F.R.S. EDIN., be appointed to officiate as — *sub pro tem.*, these proceedings being reported to the Secretary of State and the Government of India.

3RD JULY 1891, No. 542, PUBLIC.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—from

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
FORT ST. GEORGE,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

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I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Chief Secretary.

OOTACAMUND,
3rd July 1891.

1891.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From the Government of
Fort St. George.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

Letter 3rd July 1891, No. 542.

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No. 422. Your proposals accepted. His Excellency appoints you to officiate as Government Astronomer, *sub pro tem*.: arrangements are being made for deputing an experienced clerk to work under you.

To Miss I. Pogson, Meteorological Reporter, Madras.

No. 423. Professor Michie Smith appointed to officiate, Government Astronomer. No objection your proceeding Palnis as proposed.

4. These proceedings will be reported to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State and the Government of India and a letter of condolence will be addressed to Mrs. Pogson.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Government Astronomer.
„ Meteorological Reporter.
„ Accountant General.
„ Revenue Department.

Dec. 22. 7. 91

Public Department.

Letter

To
The Right Honorable the
Secretary of State for India

Madam,

We regret to have to re-
port the death at Madras on
the 23rd ultimo, of Mr. N. R.
Pappan, the Government Astronomer.
As a temporary measure and
pending the result of certain
correspondence in which we
are now engaged with the
Govt. of India regarding the
future of the Madras observa-
tory, we have appointed
to the vacancy thus created
Mr. C. Michie Smith, B. Sc.,
F. R. A. S., F. R. S. Indiv. who
is a well known observer
and is employed as a Professor

on

on the staff of the Madras
Christian College. This
gentleman has consented
in addition to carrying on
the current work of the ob-
servatory, to proceed with
and conclude as early as
possible the publication
of the late Mr. Pagan's
observations.

2. There being no native
of India competent to
perform the duties of
Government Astronomer in
a satisfactory manner and
it being imperatively neces-
sary to make immediate
^{steps} arrangements for carrying
on the work of the observatory
we have deemed the appoint-
ment mentioned above
the best that can, under the
circumstances

circumstances be made
and therefore with reference
to Lord Cranbrook's despatch
of 10th July/78, No 9, we
have the honour to request
Your Lordship's sanction
to our proceedings

2
3/12/78

Letter

Public Department

No. 542

To

The Secretary to the

Govt. of India,

Rev & Agricultural Dept.

Sir,

With reference to your
telegram of the 24th ultimo,
I am directed to enclose for
the information of the Governor
General in Council a copy of
the Proceedings of this Government
of this date ^{re} regarding
the appointment of Professor
Michie Smith to act as Govern-
-ment Astronomer sub pro tem.
and pending the decision on
the correspondence now being
carried on ^{with} regarding the future
establishment of Indian
Meteorological Stations.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

18

, No.

Again G.O., dated

18

, No.

Current No. 1782 of 1891, dated 20th June from the Government Astronomer

D.O. 306

of 1891

" 23rd

" Mr. C. Michie Smith

C. No. 1800

" "

" 24th

" Govt. of Madras Res. & App. 1891

Current No. 1840

" "

" 26th

" Mr. C. Michie Smith

of 1891, dated 27th fromOrder 3rd July 91 No. 540

His Excellency the Governor
in Council has learnt with deep
regret of the death of the ~~well known~~
Astronomer who has for so many
years presided over the Madras
Observatory.

2. The Govt. is pleased to accept
Professor
Mr. Michie Smith's proposal for
carrying on the duties of the office
rendered vacant by Mr. Pogson's
death. Mr. Michie Smith will
accordingly be gazetted to officiate
as Govt. Astronomer sub pro tem.
As moreover it is considered most
important that the publication of the
observations
late Mr. Pogson's should be proceeded
with and concluded as early as
possible

CURRENT No.

Public DEPARTMENT.

[9]

From Mr. C. Michie Smith,
Madras.

No.

Dated 27thReceived 28thEnclosures 29th

June 1891

SUBJECT.

Regarding his services at
the Observatory, Madras.

(1830)
C. No. 1839 1840 1891

For address

29 June

seems to me that the only way to get this put right econo-
cally would be to place, temporarily at least, on the
an experienced clerk. I feel little hesitation as to
accepting the astronomical responsibilities but
without any training in the conduct of a govern-
ment office I do feel hesitation in accepting,
without clerical assistance, the merely business
side of the work. Since the cost of the establishment
would, even with this addition, be less than at
present this assistance might perhaps be
granted. I am willing to try without it but
the time spent on what can be equally well
done by a clerk would be so much taken away
from the time that could be spent on
publications.

4. I have thought it best to put this clearly at once
as I see how much of Mr Poyson's troubles arose
from failure in the matter of official corres-
pondence.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
C. Michie Smith.

I agree with Mr. the Governor, and I am glad
that he has found it feasible to move the
kind of state to obtain this kind of pension
for Mr. Poyson.

I think Mr. Michie Smith's proposal should
be accepted & that he should be together to
speciate his pro tem as just is proposed
in arrangement & the means of it being
referred to him & the Gov. & the
a clerk, a poor one might be directed
temporarily, from the Gov. & the
an on Rs 500 or 600 would do. If the
Chief Gov. can do better, necessary
just? & formal sanction can be had
through. H.C. my.

Let's give him a clerk on 100
of necessary. H.C.

I am very glad to hear it
H.C.

I quite agree
H.C.

I think it would be well to accept
Mr. Michie's Smith's proposals as he
lays them down - viz: that he should carry
on the work of the Observatory temporarily
and that he should be given the services of
an experienced clerk - as it is most
important that the publication of Mr.
Poyson's observations should be proceeded
with, and concluded as soon as possible.
This appointment is I think most desirable
pending the result of the discussion now
taking place as to the future establishment
of Indian meteorological relations. Should
this eventuate in the closing of the Madras
Observatory, which seems probable, Mr.
Michie Smith can then easily drop back
into his place at the Xian College.

Regarding the remarks of Mr. H.C. on Mr.
Poyson's position, I should like them to
know that I have this day written to Lord
Cross, saying on her behalf that a civil dis-
pension be granted to her.

I think the Govt. might address a letter
of condolence to Mr. Poyson - as a mark
of their appreciation of his 30 years' unswerving
labours in the cause of science at Madras.
W.

CURRENT No. 1840.

CHIEF SECRETARY
28 JUN 91
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

20 Paranthoon Road
Madras, 27th June 1891

From C. Michie Smith Esq.

To The Chief Secretary to Government
Ootacamund

Sir

In expansion of the telegram which I sent last night I have the honor to submit the following reply to your telegram No 204 of the 25th which did not reach me till the afternoon of the 26th.

2. It is, of course, impossible for me to throw up my present appointment for a temporary one & even if willing I could not do it without notice. At the same time I believe there will be little difficulty in my getting such relief from my College duties as will enable me to carry on the necessary work of the Observatory. By 'the necessary work' I mean the continuance of the time service in its present high state of efficiency, the due supervision of the meteorological work, and the decision of such questions as may from time to time be referred to the Astronomer by Government.

In addition to all this there is the question of publication which, I take it, can on no account be allowed to stop. As far as I can judge, I would be able to carry this on quite as rapidly as in former years, I hope more rapidly if I could get assistance in one direction.

3. Mr Pogson left all his astronomical work in admirable order but I regret that I cannot say the same for his official correspondence, and any one taking up his duties would, at first, have to spend a great deal of time in getting that put in order. There is no writer on the Observatory staff with any knowledge of these matters, and it

CURRENT No. 1840

Public DEPARTMENT.

[9]

From Mr. C. Michie Smith,
Madras.

No.

Dated 26th
Received 27th
Recd for registry 29th
Enclosures } June 1891

SUBJECT.

Shating his unwillingness to take up the work of the Govt astronomer on certain conditions.

C921839/91

CURRENT No.

Public DEPARTMENT.

[9]

Telegram

From

The Meteorological Reporter.
to the Govt of Madras.

No.

Dated 26th } June 1891
Received 26th }

Enclosures —

SUBJECT.

Inquiring whether she may
proceed to Kodaikanal &
start a meteorological —
observatory there as desired
by the Meteorological Reporter
India or has she any further
instructions from Govt.

1891 1477

INDIAN TELEGRAPH			
To (Person)	From (Person)	Class	Local No.
Chief Secretary	Mr. Michie		
1. To Govt.	Smith		
2. Store House			
3. Hill.			

Yes if allowed to do —
necessary work at
College which can
be reduced letter
follows

Madras

RECD. FROM		L. N.		SENT TO	
At	Hrs.	Mts.	By	At	Hrs.

COOTACAMUND 26-6-91

Telegram Master

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.

Monthly Number. 1147.

Code Class.

205

From

(Office)

Madras

To

53

Words.

26

Hour.

11

Minute.

40

Official

Instructions.

Urgent

From

(Person)

To

Chief

Post

Government

Madras

Stonehouse Hill.

During government astronomer

lines meteorological reports

India desired one to go

and start a meteorological

observations at Kodairana

shall I proceed forth

with or have you

any further instruction

These were urgent.

64 Word Form.

Recd. from

LN.

Sent to

LN.

At

By

By

At

By

By

OOTACAMUND

26-6-91

Telegraph Master.

No.

From

Dated

18

FOR ORDERS.

I have noted on these
prints in the papers
in circulation.

W
24 June

Let Mr. Smith be asked if
he will take it sub problem.

W
26/6/91

W
26 June

The Madras Mail contains the announcement
of Mr. Pagson's death.
Orders are requested as to whether any
instructions with regard to carrying
on his duties are to go out and if
so to whom.
Mr. Michie Smith might be willing
to take charge until other arrangements
can be made.
Should India be informed?

W
24 June

CURRENT No.

Public DEPARTMENT.

[9]

Tele.

From

G of I Rev & Agri. Dept

No.

Dated 24thReceived 25th

June 1891.

Enclosures —

SUBJECT.

Regret to learn the death of
Mr. Pagson & states that they ^{have} no
objection to the employment of Miss Pagson
on time-bill & meteorological work
pending future arrange-
ments

June 26th 1891.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 23rd Inst. I am directed to express the regret of H.E. the Governor in Council in receiving the intimation which it conveys of the death of Mr. Popson.

I am to say with regards to the request contained in the concluding portion of your letter that Govt. accords with pleasure the permission sought by Mr. Popson.

With reference to your kind offer of assistance and information for which I am to thank you you will see this morning you have received my telegram enquiring if you will be willing under the conditions mentioned in it to undertake to carry on the duties of the Observatory.

Yours Truly,
Edw. J. Price.

To
C. Michie Smith Esq.

CURRENT No. 306

[9]

DEPARTMENT.

From

Mr C. Michie Smith

No.

Dated 23rd }
Received 25th } 1891

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Submitting the death of Mr. Popson and stating that he would give all possible assistance to his successor.

Govt. desires to know if you would be willing to undertake to carry on the duties of the Observatory as a substitute for the duties of the Secy. of State.

(In Council)

26.6.91

Note.

Secy. of State to be addressed if Mr. Michie Smith is put in.

21/10/90 No 706 aigl
22/6/91 DO 260
27/11/90 No 876 aigl

From The Government Astronomer



To The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

Madras Observatory 1897 June 20.

Subject,

Regarding Government authentic information concerning the sudden & incurable illness of the Government Astronomer & submitting suggestions as to the best & only successor who would be able to carry on & complete his unfinished work. Also commending the unprovided state of his wife & two children to the merciful & liberal consideration of Government.

Madras Observatory,
1891 June 20.

From

N. R. Popson, Esq., C.S.E.

Government Astronomer.

To

The Hon. G. F. Price
Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Sir, I have the honor to submit herewith an official report upon myself to afford the Government correct information as to the recent management of the Observatory and what I would respectfully suggest as the most advantageous course to be pursued under present extraordinary circumstances. Up to the commencement of last month, though not in sound health, I saw no reason to doubt that I should be able to continue my duties to the end of the official year & to turn out two more Astronomical volumes & one meteorological. I should then, most probably, have retired on my pension to complete the remaining works in England as so kindly recommended by the Madras Government in their G.O. No 706, 21st October 1890. Showing further how little anticipation I had of any immediate serious illness I had taken a house at Arcand for three months intending to avail myself of privilege leave, getting on with the volume in hand, as I hoped, all the more rapidly from being relieved of the routine of office work. On the evening of the very day on which I had taken the house my very able medical attendant - and Brigade Surgeon E. F. Drake Brockman came in & informed me that he felt so uneasy as to my condition that he intended to bring in Surgeon Major Brauford in consultation with himself at 1 P.M. on the 20th ult. This came & after careful examination & consultation informed me that I was suffering from virulent cancer in the liver & rapid growth, against which medical science was powerless & advised me not to think of going to Arcand or to England, as if I attempted the latter especially I should certainly not live to get there. They assured me however that whether sooner or later, the end would be painless & that I should retain full possession of my faculties to the last. I received their intimation with I trust, kindly resignation & decided forthwith to put my official & private affairs in as good order as my brief remaining time might permit. Two brief paragraphs in a local Paper appear to have misled

the public & the Government to imagine that I had left
the Observatory for a time & when better returned to my
duties whereas I have never been absent from my post from
the hour at which my two Doctors announced my impending
departure. I hope to leave such clear & full directions as may guide
my successor if so disposed to complete my unpublished works.
But considering the differences between works accomplished by English
assistants & those done by natives of India it is scarcely to be expected
that the most highly trained individual sent out from England could
do this so well as one experienced in the habits & peculiarities of
Natives.

2. The individual who is most intimately acquainted with all
the details & steps of my past labours in the Madras Observatory
is Prof. C. Michie Smith B.Sc. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical
Society & of the Royal Society of Edinburgh & has for several years
past been entrusted by the Royal Society of London with a large
& valuable spectroscope for researches on the Zodiacal light. I may
add that he has undergone a course of training in Practical
Astronomy under Mr. Copeland, Astronomer Royal of Scotland.
I would therefore urgently advise & solicit as my dying wish that
the said Prof. C. Michie Smith might be appointed my successor
as I am convinced that if this were done all my unfinished
works would be completed as closely as possible as if I had lived
to finish them myself. As precedents for this I would point
out that Captain Jacob (B. Engineer) was simply an amateur
Astronomer & neither he, Major Hoister B.A. nor Major (now
Lt. General) G. F. Tennant B.E. had any of them previously re-
ceived training in any public or private observatory.

3. Lastly I venture to express my hope that the Secretary of State will
mercifully take into consideration the very unprovided condition in
which I regret to say my wife & two infants will be left. My long
service of over 30 years without a day's leave of any kind, my numerous
discoveries of new planets & variable stars both at Madras & previously
surely entitle those I sorrowfully leave so unprovided for to liberal con-
sideration at the hands of the Government.

I have the honor to be

Sir
Your most obedient servant
N. R. Pogson
Government Astronomer

24/10/90 No 706 aigl
22/6/91 D.O. 260
27/11/90 No 876 aigl

From The Government Astronomer

22 JUN 91
To The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

Madras Observatory 1891 June 20.

Subject,

Affording Government authentic information concerning the sudden & incurable illness of the Government Astronomer & submitting suggestions as to the best & only successor who would be able to carry on & complete his unfinished work. Also commending the unprovided state of his wife & two children to the merciful & liberal consideration of Government.

I can, think, give full in-
formation.

It is, I suppose quite unnecessary
to even mention it, but Mrs.
Payson hopes she will be permitted
to stay in the Observatory for
a short time as a good deal
has to be done before everything can
be settled up.

I am

Yours faithfully
C. Michie Smith.