No. 434. Read the following letter from H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 14th September 1860, No. 165:—

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Proceedings of Government, No. 1,538, dated 6th September 1860, I beg to report that I did not consider that it appertained to my duty to fix the price of Charcoal, although the Contractors were in my presence cautioned against unduly raising the price of this necessary. There have been very large quantities consumed at Ootacamund; more, indeed, than the adjoining Sholas can supply prospectively. Steps have been taken to instruct* the Contractors in the economical manufacture according to the English method.

* *By two Sappers selected for the purpose.*

2. I understand that two persons (Rangaswámi Pillái and Madana) make Charcoal in large quantities, and there has been no deficiency in the amount available. A somewhat enhanced price will probably reduce the general consumption and lead to a partial substitution of peat fuel, which is most desirable.

3. If the Improvement Committee suggest it, I would put up another Shola, but it is necessary to be careful of our resources in this respect.

P. S.—The subject being one of general importance, the enclosed Circular, No. 10, has been prepared and 75 copies have been supplied to the Board of Revenue and 170 to the Chief Engineer for distribution.

No. 435. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1860, No. 1,700.

1. It appears from this letter that the Conservator did not fix a maximum price for sale of Charcoal at Ootacamund. Dr. Cleghorn expresses the opinion, (paragraph 2) that the present high price will tend to reduce the consumption and lead to the employment of peat instead; but he states his readiness to put up another Shola to auction, if the Ootacamund Improvement Committee should suggest it. He mentions also (paragraph 2) that besides Rangaswámi Pillai the Contractor for the Déva Shola, Madana, the Contractor for the two Sholas let for firewood, also makes Charcoal in large quantities.

2. The Government resolve to refer to the Collector for his opinion whether another Shola should be put up to auction. They do not consider that it is a matter pertaining to the Improvement Committee.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

20 Sept/60

My Dear Mr Bourdillon

You have stated exactly what I meant to say. Rungaseamy obtained a Contract expressly to make charcoal - in the Sea Shola. Madana observing him buying it in began to manufacture it largely in the two fire-wood Sholas - My first wish was to restrain him from making Kilns 3 miles from the Station as

the order of the Collector previously had been that "Charcoal shd not be made within 5 miles of the station." but I found that not having specially interdicted charcoal burning in the Firewood Contract - it wd be better to allow Makers to go on, hoping that competition would lower the price.

Charcoal is light and bears carriage for some distance - wh firewood does not - I think that Charcoal should not be made within 5 or 10 miles it is very destructive to the Shooting and disfiguring to the Landscape.

It wd be very easy to fix a rate on equitable principles - and this wd (Strangers especially) relieve residents from Extortion - but I thought that this measure might be disapproved by You as interfering with Manufacture - I hope the Troops now drawn to Ten so called.

Yours truly
H. Leyburn

No. 1700

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 25th September 1860

Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests.

States that he did not fix the price of charcoal and encloses a Circular explaining the process of economical manufacture.

(Here enter 14th Septr 1860 No. 165)

1. It appears from this letter that the Conservator did not fix a maximum price for sale of charcoal at Dotacamund. Dr. Cleghorn expresses the opinion, (para 2.) that the present high price will tend to reduce the consumption and lead to the employment of peat instead, but he states his readiness to put up another shola to auction, if the Dotacamund Improvement Committee

Should

...ld suggest it. He men-
...rs also (Para 2) that besides
...myasawmy Pillay the contractor
...n the Déva shola, Madura,
... contractor for the two sholas
...t for firewood, also makes
...harcoal in large quantities.

The Government re-
...solve to refer to the Collector for
...his opinion whether another
...shola should be put up to
...uction. They do not consider
...that it is a matter pertaining
...the Improvement Committee.

...Copies
...Cons. of Forests Dis. C. 26'
...Coll.r of Coimbatore "
...Bd. of Rev.e for inf.n "

Revenue 1860 Departt.
Pro: of Govt for Septr

No 1700.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 25th Septr 60.

From Collr of Coimbatore
4th October 60 No 2208.

On the subject of
putting to auction another
Shola at Potacaumund -
Referred to the Collector for
opinion -

No 434 & 435.

Revenue Pros. of Govt. 6th September 60 Nos 106 & 108.
13th July 60 — 154 155.

Copy in a L. to Co.
of 6th Apl 61 No 44