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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 956	Press ~~Mis.~~
105-106	
Dated 9-6- 1869.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 105. Read the following letter from H. F. C. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Octacamund, 14th May 1860, No. 19.

I have the honor to forward an interesting Report of Lieutenant Beddome, describing an excursion made by him and Mr. E. C. G. Thomas, C. S., into the little known country near the sources of the river Ambravati. The paper may be considered supplementary to the "Notes on the higher ranges of the Ánamalai Hills," recorded in the Proceedings of Government, 18th May 1859, No. 684, and contains additional information regarding the supplies of water and the timber resources of the District. Lieutenant Beddome also indicates a tract of country which he considers eligible for Coffee cultivation.

From Lieut. R. H. BEDDOME, Assistant Conservator of Forests, to H. F. C. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests, dated Anamalai, 17th April 1860, No. 50.

I have the honor to report, that I have made a trip to the higher ranges of the Ánamalai Hills, and explored much of the country lying to the south of Michael's valley: and also the Anjeenaud* valley, lying between the Anamalais and Pulnies. I was accompained by Mr. E. Thomas, Assistant Collector of Malabar. Proceeding round the ridge of hills which form the south side of Michael's valley, we came upon a track, which led us over a beautiful undulating country, to the southern ridges of the Ánamalais which overlook the Anjeenaud valley. We found a well beaten path leading down to Anjeenaud, the head of the ghát is six or eight miles to the south of Michael's valley. We here found a beautiful piece of table land, situated to the right of the pass down to Anjeenaud, well watered, and sheltered by high hills to the south, and lying about 6,000 or 6,500 feet above the sea level; I encamped here for several days and explored the surrounding country; Mr. Thomas proceeded down the Anjeenaud ghát, crossed the valley, and ascended the Pulnies by Munjaputty. To the left (or east) of the pass down to Anjeenaud there is much higher table land probably 7,000 feet above the sea, copiously watered by several springs and streams, this spot and the table land on which I was encamped, would, I think, form an admirable site for a station, they are only separated from each other by a valley which is the head of the pass down to Anjeenaud; the ghát down into the Anjeenaud valley is no where precipitous, and I think that a good road might easily be made up from Anjeenaud; the scenery here is most magnificent, the view to the north towards the Akka and Tangachee peaks is very grand, and to the south, lies the Anjeenaud valley, thousands of feet below, with the Pulnies towering up beyond.

* In the Survey map marked "Kujeenad."

2. I explored for about ten miles the country to the west of my encamping ground; these southern ridges of the Ánamalais are the chief water sources of the whole range. In four or five different places along these ridges I found regular channels which conduct much of the water, which would otherwise flow towards Michael's valley, down into the Anjeenaud valley, these channels have been dug by the Moodoowars and Pooliars, who inhabit this valley and the slopes down to it. To the west of my encamping ground I found several other beautiful spots of table land and also another fine valley, similar to Michael's valley but with the slopes less precipitous.

3. Hitherto I have only known three tribes, inhabiting the Ánamalai Hills, viz., Kaders, Pooliars and Mulcers; there is, however, a fourth tribe "the Moodoowars." Ten of this tribe joined us when first we ascended the mountains, and told us that they lived in a small village on the high land to the north of the Akka and Tangachee peaks, they carried our baggage famously for one march, but they all decamped in the night, and we saw nothing more of them; we were afterwards joined by about a dozen Pooliars, who remained with me the whole time. From the southern ridges of the Ánamalais another Moodoowar village was pointed out to me, it was a little below my encamping ground, and on the slopes towards the Anjeenaud valley, this village was known by the name of Kodakárá; there appeared to be rather an extensive clearance of the Shóla near the

village. I one day met three Moodoowars from this village not far from my encampment, they were armed with very powerful bows and arrows, and were in search of Ibex and Sambre, they had a large dog with them.

4. The Shólas on these higher ranges are composed of very large trees and are generally very open, there being little or no underwood. Amongst the trees, the following orders are chiefly represented "*Myrtaceæ*," "*Lauraceæ*," "*Olacaceæ*," "*Araliaceæ*," "*Oleaceæ*," "*Terustræmiaceæ*," and "*Magnoliaceæ*." I found a few new plants; but two attacks of fever whilst upon the hills prevented my exploring as much as I could have wished. In many of the streams and rivers there were perfect beds of most lovely balsams, beautifully in flower, even at this season of the year; two very gorgeous flowers are most characteristic of these hill streams, viz, "*Sonerila grandiflora*," and a new and very large species of "*Exacum*" or Hill Gentian. There is apparently no trace of either the Rose or Strawberry on these mountains, which is curious, as they are both so abundant on the Pulnies and Nilgiris; the three species of Raspberry are, however, very common.

5. The Anjeenaud valley is about 1,500 feet above the plains, I proceeded down the slopes to this valley, and from different parts of the slopes I obtained perfect views of the whole valley, I was much disappointed in it, there is no forest worth mentioning in any part of the valley; about the village of Anjeenaud (or Marraoor as it is sometimes called) and in fact, all over the valley; there is a great deal of rice cultivation, there is some bamboo jungle, and where there is forest, it is very open and the trees much stunted, with the exception of a few scraggy trees, there is no teak.

6. Between the higher ranges of the Ánamalais and the valley of the Ambravati, there are some very fine plateaus of superb Shóla forest admirably adapted for the cultivation of Coffee.

No. 106. ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1860, No. 956.

1. Copy of Lieutenant Beddome's report will be furnished to the Literary Society for publication in their Journal.

2. Doctor Cleghorn will be good enough to report what he has done in consequence of the Order of Government, dated 18th May 1859, No. 684. If the memoir and sketches therein referred to are being published, the present report might be affixed.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Revue Deptt.

No. 956.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 9th June 1860
Read the following
letter from the Conservator
of Forests.

Forwarding report of Lieut.
supplementary to the
the higher ranges of
malai Hills, re-
Prosp. of Govt. 18th
No. 684.

(Here enter 14th May 1860 No. 19.)

malai

Copy of Lieut.
Beddome's report will
be furnished to the
Literary Society for pub-
-lications in their Jour-
-nal.—

2.— Dr. Cleghorn will
be good enough to re-
-port what he has
done in consequence
of the order of Govt.
dated 18th May 1859
No. 684.

No. 684 - Of the Memoir and Sketches therein referred to are being published, the present report might be affixed.

4 Copies to the Conservator of Forests. Qu'Appelle
1 " Secretary to the Literary Society "

Copy in Letter to Govt
of 23d January 1861 No. 11.

4 — 5
27-5-57

Revenue 1860 Departt.
Pro: of Govt for June.

No 956.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
D/ 9th June 1860.

From Secretary of Govt 19th September
No 2017. in Pro 24th Sept No. 1697.

17/9/54 R

Copy of Lt. Beddome's
Report relating to his ex-
cursion into the little
known Country near the
sources of the River
Ambravatie, furnished
to the Literary Society
for publication in their
Journal.

No 105 & 106.

Pro 5 June