

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1654 A.	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
38 A - 38 B	
Dated	4. 8. 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th August 1862.*

No. 38 A. Read the following letter from H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated 11th November 1861 :—

SIR,

I send herewith a Memorandum on the state of the Herbarium, which appears to contain the information required in G. O. 1,505 dated 29th July. Indeed, I have nothing further to add. I am just starting per the Steamer.

MEMORANDUM ON THE STATE OF THE HERBARIUM.

1. It seems desirable that I should place on record my views regarding the Herbarium and Botanical drawings at Madras, which have been alluded to in the successive reports of the Forest Department. (See page 22 and 95 of "Forests and Gardens of South India.")

2. From the beginning of the Conservancy Department (1856), I have kept these two objects constantly in view, both being essential to the correct naming and ticketing of specimens from the International and Provincial Exhibitions, and to the giving of information to the manufacturers and travellers.

3. Not a few distinguished Botanists have lived and labored in this Presidency; such as Anderson, Berry, Roxburgh, Griffith, Wight, &c., their specimens are often referred to in works of science, and are much prized in the Herbaria of Europe, but no corresponding specimens having been preserved in this country, the interest and value of their labors has been to a great extent lost, and it is often difficult to identify with precision the plants described by these Botanists. It appears to have been the practice for upwards of a century to send all collections to the India House, whence they were lately removed *en masse* to the National Garden at Kew. (Vide Report of Royal Garden, 1859, page 11.)

4. I have myself devoted the leisure hours of eighteen years' service to the exploration and elaboration of the vegetable riches of this Presidency and had made some progress in digesting the mass of materials accumulated in my different journeys with the intention of publishing a Flora of Southern India on the plan recommended by Sir William Hooker for Colonial Floras and carried out in the admirable *Flora of the Cape of Good Hope* by Harvey and Sonder, the *Floras of Hongkong* by Bentham and of the *British West India Islands* by Griesbach.

To be sent.

5. The want of such a Hand-book of the vegetation of South India is much felt, and it has been my desire to put together in an accessible form the knowledge gathered by my predecessors and myself, but during my late short visit to England, I found how great were the advantages of studying at Kew with its extensive library and the identical specimens of those who had previously laboured in Southern India, affording an amount of information which cannot be so fully obtained in any other part of the world. I have therefore for the present (considering also the onerous duties of the Conservancy Department) abandoned the idea of publishing a systematic work, as it could be so much better executed by Dr. Hooker, the talented Assistant Director of our National Botanical Establishment, which in my opinion ought to stand in the same relation to Colonial Gardens as Greenwich does to Colonial Observatories.

6. I freely enter into correspondence with residents in different districts, who often contribute useful information, and to all of whom ready access is given to the Herbarium. In my absence, Lieutenant Beddome and Surgeon F. Appavoo are qualified to answer the inquiries of any visitor, and the Officers of the Department have availed themselves of the means of ascertaining the names of forest trees and products.

Advantages of the Herbarium.

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7. Amongst the Naturalists who have visited the Herbarium in passing through Madras or who have received or exchanged specimens are the following:—

<i>Visited.</i>	<i>Received specimens or drawings.</i>
Honorable W. Elliot, frequently consulted the Herbarium.	Sir W. Hooker, } Kew.
Dr. Thos. Thomson of Calcutta.	Dr. J. Hooker, }
Dr. Anderson, now in Java.	G. H. Thwaites, Esq., Peradinea.
Mr. J. Nietner of Colombo.	Professor Balfour, } Edinburgh.
The Naturalists of the Austrian Frigate "Novara."	Dr. Greville,
Mr. A. Grote, Calcutta.	Mr. D. Hanbury, London.

8. A stock of Botanical paper, the same as used at Kew, is on the passage out, with a view to complete the Herbarium.

9. A very large proportion of the specimens though named are not yet classified or the duplicates removed; this is a work of time, and is being executed as speedily as the Herbarium keeper can overtake it.

10. A complete series of carefully named specimens are being glued down, and to these a great addition has been received (with the promise of further contributions) within the last two months from Dr. Hooker of Kew, being an excellent set of his valuable Himalayan collection, and from Mr. Thwaites, being duplicates from the Herbarium of the Royal Garden, Peradinea.

11. The Forest Assistants enjoy remarkable opportunities of collecting specimens so that many additions are constantly being made, and the collection is now extensive, occupying a large room and containing many duplicates which are freely exchanged with Naturalists of other countries. Specimens are often submitted for examination, and enquiries are made by letter from merchants and planters.

12. When travelling I have been usually accompanied by Govindoo, the Draughtsman who executed the principal portion of the "*Icones plantarum Indae Orientalis*" of Dr. Wight, and who was specially recommended to me as an Artist by that Naturalist in 1853. Since the formation of the Forest Department (1857) he became a public servant and has prepared many Botanical drawings, these are arranged in portfolios and facilitate the study of families of plants. Some of these drawings have appeared in the Madras Journal of Science, the Transactions of the Agricultural Society of India, &c.

13. In conclusion, after careful consultation with Lieutenant Mitchell, in charge of the Central Museum, I venture to suggest that the Herbarium should remain at present in the Office of the Forest Department, where it will be of much use for consultation. Dried plants in a tropical climate are peculiarly perishable and hence require constant supervision, and must be kept in drawers in well-fitted glass cases. On that account the Herbarium at the British Museum has never been opened to the general public, but can always be inspected by Botanical enquirers. It is now I believe about to be transported to Kew.

14. The bulk of the collection, exclusive of Dr. Hooker's (Himalaya) and Mr. Thwaites's (Ceylon) collections, was contributed by Mr. Walter Elliot, Lieutenant Beddome and myself, and there are a very large number of duplicates available for Botanical distribution.

15. In an adjoining room, but entirely separate, is a library belonging to me, which for many years I have collected of necessity to enable me to prosecute the study of Eastern Botany. This has always been freely available to all visitors.

MADRAS,

11th November 1861.

No. 35 B.

(Signed) H. CLEGHORN, M.D.,
Conservator of Forests.

ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1862, No. 1,651 A.
Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary

Office
11 Nov. 1861

Dear Sir

I send herewith
a memorandum on the state
of the Herbarium, which appears
to contain the information
in G.O. 1505-222
of July - Indeed, I have
nothing further to add.
I am just starting for
Thamiraparani
Yours truly
H. Cleghorn

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th August 1862.*

7. Amongst the Naturalists who have visited the Herbarium in passing through Madras or who have received or exchanged specimens are the following:—

<i>Visited.</i>	<i>Received specimens or drawings.</i>
Honorable W. Elliot, frequently consulted the Herbarium.	Sir W. Hooker, []

Dr. Thos. Thomson of Calcutta.

Dr. Anderson, now in Java.

Mr. J. Nietner of Colombo.

The Naturalists of the Austrian "Novara."

Mr. A. Grote, Calcutta.

8. A stock of Botanical paper, to complete the Herbarium.

9. A very large proportion of the duplicates removed; this is a work of time which the keeper can overtake it.

10. A complete series of careful drawings, a great addition has been received (with two months from Dr. Hooker of Kew, London, and from Mr. Thwaites, being Peradineia.

11. The Forest Assistants enjoy many additions are constantly being made to the room and containing many duplicates from countries. Specimens are often submitted from merchants and planters.

12. When travelling I have been who executed the principal portion of the drawings and who was specially recommended to the formation of the Forest Department (1861). Botanical drawings, these are arranged in some of these drawings have appeared in the Agricultural Society of India, &c.

13. In conclusion, after careful examination of the Central Museum, I venture to suggest that the Office of the Forest Department, where the specimens are kept in a tropical climate are peculiarly perishable and should be kept in drawers in well-fitted glass cases. The Museum has never been opened to the public enquirers. It is now I believe about to be opened.

14. The bulk of the collection, especially the (Ceylon) collections, was contributed by Mr. Thwaites and there are a very large number of duplicates.

15. In an adjoining room, but not yet completed, many years I have collected of necessity to enable me to prosecute the study of Eastern Forests. This has always been freely available to all visitors.

MADRAS,

11th November 1861.

(Signed) H. CLEGHORN, M.D.
Conservator of Forests

No. 35 B.

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Received specimens or drawings Dr. W. Hooker.

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12. When travelling I have been assisted by who executed the principal portion of the collection and who was specially recommended to me for the formation of the Forest Department (1858). Botanical drawings, these are arranged in a separate room. Some of these drawings have appeared in the Agricultural Society of India, &c.

13. In conclusion, after careful consideration of the Central Museum, I venture to suggest that the Office of the Forest Department, where the collections are kept in a tropical climate are peculiarly perishable and should be kept in drawers in well-fitted glass cases. The Museum has never been opened to the general enquirers. It is now I believe about to be opened.

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(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secy.

Recd. 29th July/62. No. 101-102.
13th Sept. 190-191
2nd Oct. 21-22

Rev 18th Sept
Pro: of Govt. Secy.
2639

From the Conservator of Forests
Dated 11th
Received 12th
1862

Forwarding a Memo
= regarding the
State of the Herbarium
= return -

No 38A. 138B.

No 1651A.

Recd. 29th July/62
4th Aug. 1862