

Revenue ¹⁸⁶³ (~~193~~) Department.

Pres SERIES.

G.O. No. 657

DATED 12-1-1863

[Despatch Abstract.]

BACK PAPERS.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 12th January 1863.

No. 123. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India (Revenue), to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 29th November 1862, No. 51 :—

SIR,

1. I have had under my consideration in Council your letter of the 15th August last (No. 52), with which you forward a Memorial from Tiruguyāna Sammantha Pandāram, Manager of the Minatchy Sundaesvaran Pagoda in the Madura District.

2. The Memorialist claims, on behalf of the Haftah Devastanum or "seven temples," the restoration of 58 villages which appear to have anciently formed the endowment of these temples. It is clear, however, that these villages were resumed by the Mussulman Government in 1760, and that a yearly money allowance of Rupees 25,484, subsequently reduced to Rupees 12,727, was assigned to the temples in lieu of the lands. On our assumption of the country in 1802, the larger allowances were assigned to them, but at the same time the Government expressed an opinion that the whole of the lands should be appropriated to the Pagodas, and directed that a proclamation should be issued, announcing their restoration. This order however, was never acted on, and the money allowance has been issued, and, since 1841, when the Collector ceased to interfere in the management, has been accepted by the Trustees.

3. Under these circumstances, and especially considering that the lands have been disconnected from the Pagodas for a period of upwards of a century, I concur with your Government in thinking that no equitable grounds exist for complying with the prayer of the Memorial.

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 12th January 1863, No. 65.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to the Proceedings of Government 28th February 1861, No. 468, with a request that they will cause the decision of the Secretary of State to be made known to the Memorialist.

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

Ct 0.12 th January 1863. No. 65.
Revenue Dept.
123-124.