

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |                    |
|----------|-------|--------------------|
| G.O. No. | 955   | Press              |
|          |       | <del>Mis.</del>    |
|          | 52.53 |                    |
| Dated    | 3. 6. | <del>18</del> 1863 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
3rd June 1863.*

No. 52. Read the following letter from W. G. McIVOR, Esq., Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 30th May 1863, No. 9:—

SIR,

1. Having been urged for some years to prepare a work on Indian cultivation, and although I still feel, as I hitherto have done, my inability to faithfully perform this important task, yet with the assistance of many of the best cultivators in the country which has already been tendered, and viewing the advances India is now making in this art, while at present there exists no publication, or any prospect of one being prepared to meet the present advances in the science of cultivation, and to aid in the development of the vast productive resources of this country, I therefore propose with the approval and sanction of Government to publish a work to be entitled "Indian cultivation, its principles and practice," being a treatise on the principles of vegetation, with detailed instructions of their practical application.

2. In this work it shall be our endeavor to explain all the important operations of horticulture and agriculture; the cultivation of Tea, Coffee and Chinchonas, with explanation of the principles of irrigation; the renovation of old or exhausted plantations; the application and construction of buildings; setting up of machinery; the management of labor, &c., in order that the book may be rendered alike useful to the practical planter, gardener and farmer. But its main object will be to lead the amateur and scientific cultivator to the successful practice of cultivation; as it cannot be concealed that, however strange, it is yet certain that those who have a good theoretical knowledge of the principles of cultivation frequently prove the least successful cultivators. This, I believe, arises from the fact, that in practice the all-important results of success or failure generally depends on so trifling a difference in the application of principles, as to be easily overlooked. Thus principles correct in themselves are practically misapplied; and where this is the case, failure in one form or another must overtake the cultivator. Therefore one of the main objects of the work will be to point out clearly the application of every principle advanced, and the reason why the principle when applied in one way is beneficial in another, why injurious.

3. Should the Government approve of this publication, I would respectfully solicit permission to make such selections from the Government Records, as also from the Records of this Office, as may be considered necessary. Mr. J. Higginbotham, the Publisher in Madras, has offered to undertake the publication of the work at his own risk and cost. Should the engraved blocks not have been destroyed of the woodcuts appended to the "Notes on Chinchona cultivation" recently published, I trust the Government may be pleased to make them over to that gentleman.

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1863, No. 955.

The Government consider that such a publication as Mr. McIvor contemplates will be very useful. Mr. McIvor's request for permission to make selections from the Government Records is complied with. The drawings attached to his Chinchona Manual were lithographed.

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

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3 June 1855  
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With Order