

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 581	Press Mis.
57-58	
Dated	9-6-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th June 1864.*

No. 97. Read the following letter from Captain J. MITCHELL, Superintendent Government Central Museum, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 2nd June 1864, No. 68 :—

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter No. 54 of the 11th May 1864, I have the honor to inform you that on Monday last, I received from Captain Henley, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, two bottles, one labelled Soorum, the other Killikoy, and both from the Tinnevelly Pearl Banks.

2. Of the Soorum I have nothing to add to what was said in my first letter, the bottle marked Killikoy contained five specimens of an undescribed *Avicula*—the genus to which the Pearl Oyster belongs.

3. Two of these shells were attached, each by its byssus, to a portion of a small sub-marine plant, the remainder were unattached. The only peculiarity about these shells was that they were much incrustated, one of them particularly so, by zoophytic deposits, some of which were of a leathery, others of calcareous substance (young coral).

4. To one shell was attached, by the byssus, three Pearl Oysters, the largest of which is about one and a half inches in height, there was also a very young Oyster only about a quarter of an inch in diameter, this also was attached by its byssus to one of the shells.

5. Both of these shells* appear to be new, and I should like to send a number to London for examination. Of the Soorum I have plenty; but from twelve to twenty specimens of the Killikoy would be required, and they should if possible be obtained free from any incrusting substance, the removal of which destroys the epidermis and with it the sculpture and colouring of the shell. They need not be put into spirits. If the shells are put into tolerably warm water, or if they be put into salt water and fresh water be carefully and gradually added the animals will die, and can be readily removed by cutting the muscle that attaches them to each valves, the shells should then be washed in fresh water and dried, but not in the sun, the valve should be closed and fastened with a piece of thread and finally the shells packed in cotton in a box.

* *Madiola* and *Avicula*.

No. 98.

ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1864, No. 981.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Collector of Tinnevelly, who will forward specimens of the Killikoy prepared as Captain Mitchell suggests.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue:
„ the Collector of Tinnevelly.
„ the Superintendent Government Central Museum.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

the shells packed in cotton in a box.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Smith. H. Captain,

Superintendent Govt. Co. Museum.

