Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th October 1872.

No. 149. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th October 1872, Miscellaneous No. 6,755 :—

Read the following letter from Rev. J. F. KEARNS, Tinnevelly, dated Puthiamputhur, 25th September 1872.

I HAVE the honour to send you herewith the Caste Returns, and regret that I had not a little more time to prepare them, but such as they are I hope you may find them of some use. I would venture to mention a matter that has occupied my attention for some time, namely, the desirableness of *not requiring* Native *Christians* to mention their castes in Returns and in the Cutcherries. The practice has an appearance as though Government wished to keep up caste, and it is very offensive to the great body of Christians drawn from low castes which Christians by superior education have raised themselves to places of distinction and great respectability; but as the caste to which they originally belonged is still regarded by their Hindoo fellow-countrymen as low and contemptible, they naturally enough feel annoyed by being compelled to link themselves with the *caste* especially as they have abandoned caste altogether. I have in my own district two first class F.As. of the Puller caste and one Pariah F.A., besides several with minor degrees, and more young men of the same caste holding F.A. degrees are up and down the country, most of them in Government employ; and some consideration is due to them. *Christians* ought to be regarded as a caste just in the same way that Mahomedans are. Converts to Islam are never asked for their caste.

COMMUNICATED to the Census Officer.

2. The Board have to thank Mr. Kearns for the care with which the Return has been prepared. They note his remarks on the subject of requiring Native Christians to name their caste.

No. 150. ORDER THEREON, 18th October 1872, No. 1,442.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government approve of Native Christians being always recorded as such irrespective of their former caste.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue 872 Sept
No 3301

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 9th October 1872
Desp. 9 " "
Received 12th " "
With order
No 1442 - 18 Oct/72

Communicating a letter from Wm Kearns forwarding a return of castes in Tinnevelly &c, and suggesting that - ratine Christians should not be required to mention their caste in the Census Returns and in the Catecheries

No 149-150
Dt. 14th Oct/72 R.G.Ont

No 1442

Rec'd approving
Extracts Etc
Entered as Ack. inspec
of this former order.

18 Oct/72

14 B the Board of Rev dec 24 Oct/72