Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 30th April 1872.

No. 314. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd April 1872, Miscellaneous No. 2,924 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th March 1872, No. 118.

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a letter* from the Sub-Collector, regarding certain copper images of Hindu deities found buried in a private compound, and which the finder, a Christian, having been anxious to part with have been purchased by Mr. Stokes, on account of the features of interest which they present.

* Dated 15th March 1872, No. 116.

2. The provisions of Regulation XI. of 1832, Section 3, with regard to giving notice to the Zillah Judge and depositing, not having been conformed to by the finder in this case, and no private claimant having come forward either, the images would at first sight seem to be claimable as forfeited to Government, under Section 8. It is, however, very doubtful whether these copper images can be viewed as valuable property, within the meaning of this enactment ; but even if they can, having been found evidently within the precincts of a private residence, they are evidently placed beyond the scope of this enactment by the decision of the late Sadr Court, dated 30th July 1860, in Special Appeal No. 68 of that year.

3. It certainly appears to me worthwhile to purchase these images as specimens of antiquity on Government account ; should the Government not be desirous of so doing, Mr. Stokes, as will be seen from his letter, is prepared to retain them on his own account. The images are doubtless very cheap, since Mr. Stokes has paid for them not more than the price of the metal of which they are made.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. J. STOKES, Esq., Sub-Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, dated Negapatam, 15th March 1872, No. 116.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that five copper figures of Hindu deities were found a short time ago by a Christian in his compound at Vélangáni. As they present features of interest, both from their size, workmanship and appearance, it is possible that Government might wish to purchase them either to send Home to the Exhibition, or to place in the Museum in Madras.

2. The figures are as follows :—

1.—Pidari, a village goddess, seated, with four arms, in one an axe, in one a deer. Height 1 foot 9 inches. Breadth at base of pedestal 1 foot 2½ inches. Weight 62 lbs.

2.—Pilleiyár, called also Ganapati, Ganésa, and Vighneshvara, son of Shiva and Parvati, and therefore called Pillayár, son. Height 1 foot 8½ inches. Weight 43 lbs.

3.—Nadésha figure of Shiva dancing, (Nada dancing, isha, king) enclosed in a horse shoe arch, crested with flames. Shiva, matted-hair, is worked into an ornamental pattern, with four arms. In one hand a small drum such as is used by fortune tellers, with a ball made of cord and wax attached by a string to the middle, which strikes each end of the drum alternately when oscillated. Round one arm a colera. In one hand a flame. Dances on a prostrate Rakshasa. Height 3 feet 7½ inches, width 3 feet 3 inches, weight 250 lbs.

4.—Sandikéshvara (or Chandikéshvara) a son of Shiva. Is deaf, for which reason worshippers clap their hands in his temple to attract his attention. Is placed to the left hand of the

figure of Shiva, facing south. Has hair arranged in ornament at each side of neck. Figure standing in devotional attitude. Height 2 feet 2 inches, weight 50 lbs.

5.—Amman, a goddess, standing. Height 2 feet, weight 36 lbs.

3. These figures are believed to have belonged to a Shiva temple which used to exist at Velangáni, but which is now wholly removed. It is not known why or when they were buried. They were embedded in sand, three feet below the surface.

4. The finder being a Catholic, there were objections on the part of his Priest to the sale of these idols to the Heathen. It was therefore proposed to break them up, and sell them for old copper. Being informed that this was the case, and wishing to prevent the destruction of interesting antiquities, I purchased the figures at the rate of 4 Annas a seer, which is the market rate for the better quality of old copper. The price I paid was Rs. 176-5-0. If Government wishes to purchase them they are heartily at its service, if not, I shall be glad to retain them.

THESE papers will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. If Government do not wish to purchase the five images costing Rs. 176-5-0 there can be no objection to letting the Sub-Collector retain them.

No. 315. ORDER THEREON, 30th April 1872, No. 696.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are glad to avail themselves of Mr. Stokes' offer to secure the images for the Central Museum and request the Collector to complete the purchase and send the figures to Madras. The charge will be debited to the provision for the Museum in the Budget.

(True Extract)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Revenue 1872 Dept.

No. 1430.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 22nd April 1872

Despatched 22 "

Received 23 "

No. 696-30 April

SUBJECT.

Submitting for orders of Govt. letter from Coll. of Tanjore forwarding copy of one from Sub. Coll. regarding certain copper images of Hindu deities found buried in a private compound & recommending their purchase by Govt.

Enclosed

1st Board's Proceedings 1st May
2 Cert. Enclosed
2 Copies Rec'd Govt. Collr. Chingleput

No. 311 315

REGORDED. 30 April 72

C 24: April 72 R. 25: April