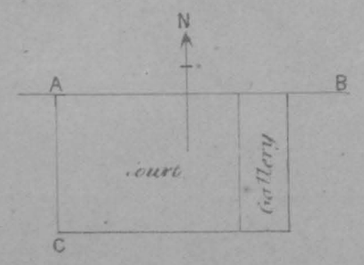
No. 68. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1873, No. 2,173 :—

Read the following letter from H. W. BLISS, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th September 1873, No. 307 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit the report on the claim of the European community of Madura to the Racket Court at this place, called for in Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 5,250, dated 18th August 1873.

2. The marginal sketch shows the position of the building. The red lines indicate two walls of the old palace, which have been availed of in its construction, and in one of which (that marked AB) windows are being pierced to afford light to the rooms now being prepared inside for the occupation of the Assistant Collector and other officers of the Revenue Department. I need hardly say that, if the wall is pierced by windows, the Court can no longer be used for playing rackets in. The wall AC would no doubt have been knocked down long ago if it had not been for the Racket Court, which, I am told, was originally built on its western side, but shortly afterwards moved to its present position.



3. The right to the present building put forward by the members of the Racket Club is based partly on occupation for so long a time that scarcely any one can remember when it was not occupied by them for use as a Racket Court; and partly on the fact that, to whomsoever the walls AB and AC may have originally belonged, the remaining walls of the Court, with its floor and gallery, must have been built by some European for this special use.

4. As to the person who built the Court, there can, I think, be no doubt that it was Mr. Rous Peter, some time Principal Collector of Madura. The evidence of this, which I have been able to collect, is as follows :—

(1.) My Duffadar says so. He is an old man. He has been a Peon, he says, (the records of that period are not forthcoming), since six or seven years before Mr. Rous Peter died (in 1828), and Mr. Peter built the Court before then. Before he was a Peon, the Duffadar was Mr Peter's dressing boy for five or six years, and used to take his clothes to the Court.

(2.) My Peon, Pachameah, has been in the service since 1824 or 1825 ; before which he was for three years Mr. Peter's dressing boy, and used to take his clothes to the Court.

(3.) One Nilamaga Kottan, a mason, who knows his age to be 65 from a horoscope he has, says he remembers the swimming bath in my compound being built by Mr. Rous Peter, and that he was then some ten years of age, and that the Racket Court was built some six years later, and that he was employed on both

works. Now, in the flooring of the bath, there is a flat stone bearing the inscription

> Rous Peter, January 25th, 1814.

The Racket Court would, therefore, appear to have been built at least as early as 1820.

5. I can learn nothing more as to the date of the erection of the building. The neighbourhood having been occupied by the fort walls until their removal after the fire of 1842, there are no old residents in the opposite street, who can tell me anything about it.

6. It is for Government to consider whether the constant use of the building by the European community of Madura, for not less than fifty three years, does not give them a moral, if not a legal, right to claim that, if it is destroyed (for use as a Racket Court) for the purposes of Government, they shall be furnished by Government with a new one in lieu of it.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government, with reference to paragraph 2 of G. O., dated 1st August 1873, No. 1,927, Public Works Department.

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1873, No. 1,263.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

Go 8 August 73 No 5 Encl.

Rev: 1873 : Dept
№ 3569

1873.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD OCTOBER 1873, No. 2,173.

Desp 5 Nov 1873
Encl.

Received 6th Nov
№ 1263 - 15 Encl

OCTOBER.

No. 2,173.

Racket Court—at Madura.—Report of Collector on claim of European community of Madura to —, submitted to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.