No. 3. Read the following letter from A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, (Forests,) to the Local Governments and Administrations in the Bengal Presidency, dated Simla, 23rd June 1873, No. 11-743—751 :—

In continuation of Public Works Department Circular No. 4-F of 24th February 1871, relative to free grants of wood and timber from Government forests, I am directed to inform you that the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to rule that when the grant is an isolated one, or one of a series, the aggregate amount involved in which does not exceed Rs. 500, it may be sanctioned by ———— without reference to the Government of India. A reference will only be necessary when the grant made exceeds Rs. 500.

2. I am, however, to state that the nature and extent of free grants of wood and timber made during the year should be prominently noticed in the annual reports of the Forest Department.

Enclosure No. 1.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Revenue—Forests,) to the Governments of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab; the Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces, Oudh, British Burmah, and Mysore and Coorg; the Resident at Hyderabad; and the Agents to the Governor-General for Central India and Rajpootana, dated Fort William, 24th February 1871, Circular No. 4.

The Governor-General in Council has observed that in most provinces free grants of wood and timber are made from the Government forests for charitable purposes and for the construction of religious buildings and buildings of public utility. His Excellency in Council is not opposed to occasional free grants of this description, but I am directed to state that as free grants of wood and timber are equivalent to a grant from the Imperial revenues, they should be carefully watched. Ordinarily such grants should only be made for special causes; such as old established custom, or the desire to conciliate the people living in the vicinity of the forests, on whose good-will the operations of the Forest Department much depends, or other considerations of policy, or where there is no regular timber trade, and where it is difficult to provide needful wood and timber by purchase.

No. 752.

Copy of the above, as well as of Public Works Department Circular No. 4-F, dated 24th February 1871, forwarded to the Government of Madras for information and guidance.

(Signed) A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 4. Order thereon, 2nd July 1873, No. 673.

Forests, No. 1.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. B. Bantleman.

Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 673.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for information & guidance.

2 July 73.