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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Reu DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
8th April 1873.*

No. 6. Read the following letter from the Master Attendant, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 1st April 1873, No. 2011 :—

Administrative Department.

In continuation of my report, dated 20th March 1873, No. 1718, I have the honour to inform you that I sailed from Cochin in the *Margaret Northcote* on the 9th March en route to Negapatam, and visited and landed at the ports and headlands specified in the margin.

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Allepee.          | Cape Comorin. |
| Anjengo.          | Hare Island.  |
| Colachul Toray or | Tuticorin.    |
| Colachy.          | Keelakarry.   |
| Point Cadiapatam  | Paumben.      |
| or Muttum.        | Negapatam.    |

2. I visited the wooden Pier at Allepee, which is of a very peculiar construction, designed by Mr. Crawford; and the work, ably carried out under his personal superintendence, is admirably adapted to overcome the difficulties occasioned by false ground and shifting sands.

3. In regard to the ports of Anjengo and Colachul Toray (or Colachy), if they can be termed ports, I have at present nothing of consequence to report. At Point Cadiapatam (or Muttum) I landed with Captain Phipps and inspected the site of a light-house chosen by Colonel Roberts, R.E., and another by Mr. Rundall, the District Engineer.

4. I consider the first to be the best site for the purpose, and have communicated with Mr. Rundall officially on the subject.

5. After landing with some difficulty at Cape Comorin, I visited the site for a light-house selected by Colonel Roberts.

6. I am still of opinion that my former choice of site is the best, and I have written to Mr. Rundall on the subject.

7. Colonel Roberts informs me that he had not known, when he was there, that I had previously selected a site for the light-house.

8. We reached Hare Island on the 11th March, where I inspected the new light-house in progress of construction, and then proceeded to Tuticorin, where I remained for two days.

9. The Collector, on hearing of my arrival, kindly came down from Palamcottah to meet me, and with him I inspected the pier, sea wall, &c., &c., and revisited the light-house under construction on Hare Island, and had the benefit of his views and opinions regarding the requirements of the port.

10. The Native Assistant or Contractor employed on the new light-house is apparently carrying out the work in an unexceptionable manner, and I am told it will be completed within seven months from the date I was there.

11. I am glad to be able to report that the sea wall at Tuticorin is a great success. The work has been ably carried out principally by Captain Phipps, the Master Attendant, and will be extended when stone ballast can be procured from the cotton ships.

12. On the morning of the 14th idem sailed for Keelakarry, visiting and inspecting on our way the Davi Par and Kariapen Pearl Oyster Banks.

13. On the former bank the oyster spat appeared to be of untold numbers, and Captain Phipps was much pleased with the promise of future fishings. On the latter bank no pearl oyster spat were found.

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14. Of Keelakarry I have nothing to report save that it is evidently in a state of decay, trade stagnant, houses untenanted, &c.

15. At Paumben I landed and inspected the damage done to the beach during the last gale, and found that there had been a considerable and dangerous encroachment of the sea. The sooner this is stopped by the revetment now under construction by Captain Daviot the better.

16. Arrived at Point Calimere on the 16th, and there landed to inspect the column which is termed in the charts a "Beacon;" and to my great surprise found it to be a well-built skeleton light-house, and by an inscription on a tablet let in to the wall I find it was built by Captain Lawford, Civil Engineer (old Madras Engineers) in 1849, when Mr. Bishop was Collector of the district. The dimensions by rough measurements taken by

Height 63 feet.

Circumference outside 32 feet 6 inches.

Inside column diameter 4 feet.

Six apertures on north and south sides of column measuring 2 feet 6 inches by 2 feet.

Captain Phipps are as noted in the margin; all that is required is an iron or wooden spiral stair for the interior of the building, and there is a light-house all ready for the 4th Order Dioptric Light apparatus now lying in store at Tuticorin.

17. Anchored at Negapatam on the same night, and landed next morning. I regret to state that I cannot report favourably on the port of Negapatam, and my opinion is that no more money should be spent on it until it is visited and reported on by the Inspecting Engineer for Ports and Communications.

18. In conclusion, I have to remark that, during my late trip in the *Margaret Northcote*, I found that additional lights and beacons (not of an expensive nature) on some parts of the coasts I visited are much required, and I shall in a future letter address Government on the subject.

No. 7.

ORDER THEREON, 8th April 1873, No. 99.

Communicated to the Department of Public Works. Steps should be taken to make the light column at Point Calimere available for the lantern.

(True Extract.)

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Chief Secretary.

H-83.

To the Public Works Department.  
" Revenue Department.  
" Master Attendant, Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

*[Handwritten: 21st Apr. / 73]*

6 Lake Road, Okeechobee

*Revenue Department*

Boat. of 118733 *Marines*.

MARINE.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
Sd., &c., &c.

Dated April, 8th.

Recd.

19:

Encl.

G. O., Sd. April 1873, No. 99.

APRIL.

Nos. 6-7.

*Dr 80.21 1/2 pence*

Communicating the Master Attendant's further report on certain ports visited by him during his late trip in the *Margaret Northcott*, and directing that steps be taken to make the light column at Point Calumet available for a lantern.

*W. H. M. M.*