

(1) Number of Pages..... 4
(2) Date of repair..... 29.4.68
(3) Initials of the Referencer..... Z.B.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

287

Press
Mis.

Dated

13.2.1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th February 1875.*

Ancient Monuments.

No. 28. Read the following letter from Major-General A. CUNNINGHAM, Director-General, Archaeological Survey, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Bharhut, 10th December 1874, No. 208:—

With reference to the 3rd paragraph of your letter, No. 1565, of 2nd June last, inquiring whether I have any suggestions to offer on the subject of the proposed preservation of ancient monuments, I have the honor to make the following observations.

2. According to my experience, some of the finest buildings in India have suffered at least as much from the carelessness or rapacity of individual spoilers as from the hands of time. To stop this source of ruin for the future, I would strongly recommend that all ancient buildings, which are not actually in use as places of worship, should be placed under the sole charge of the Chief Civil Authority of the District in which they are situated, and that he should be held responsible for their preservation.

3. With regard to the best means of preserving ancient monuments, a few general suggestions will be sufficient. In old stone buildings the chief causes of ruin have been the fracture of beams and the splitting of pillars under enormous pressure. As instances of these causes I may notice the great Jain temple in the Fort of Gwalior of which *all* the main beams are cracked across, while many of the pillars have given way altogether and disappeared. I repaired this temple in 1844 by putting upright stones in place of the missing pillars and building walls under the broken beams. As these measures have proved sufficient up to the present time, I think that similar precautions might be used, with good effect, in the case of other Hindoo temples. Indeed, wherever pillars have actually gone, and left a portion of the roof unsupported, I would recommend that either upright stones or square masonry pillars should be set up in their place.

4. With respect to brick buildings, the usual cause of decay is the gradual mouldering away of the bricks near the bottom of the walls from the action of saltpetre, and the pertinacious neglect of the natives, whether Hindoo or Mahomedans, in renewing the decayed bricks. From this cause alone all the finest brick buildings have suffered more or less. The only real remedy that I can suggest for such decay is to replace the lower portions of the outer faces of the walls with sound bricks set in mud plaster.

No. 3049.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, in continuation of endorsement, No. 1566, dated the 2nd June last.

(By order,)

HOME DEPARTMENT, (PUBLIC),
29th December 1874.

(Signed) TREVOR PLOWDEN,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th February 1875.*

No. 29.

ORDER THEREON, 4th February 1875, No. 154.

Communicated to all Collectors, for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)



Acting Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors.

„ the Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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Bureau of Antiquities
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PUBLIC.

To
ALL COLLECTORS,
Ac., Ac., Ac.

Dated February, 4th.
Recd. - 2-11-75
Encl.

G.O., 4th February 1875, AG 154.

11/12

FEBRUARY,
Nos. 28-29.

Ancient Monuments.—Endorsement of Govern-
ment of India, forwarding letter from the Director-
General, Archaeological Survey, communicating
suggestions for the preservation of Ancient Monu-
ments, communicated to all Collectors for informa-
tion and guidance.

28287
Comm. to the
Bd of Antiquities in New York
13 Feb 1875 G.M.