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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

| G.O. No. / B.P. No. | 649 | Press. / Mis. |
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| Dated | 15. 2. 1879 | 197 . |

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

4th February 1879, No. 160.

**Books and Publications.**

Read the following paper:—

No. 19. *Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.*

Statistics and Commerce.
No. 44.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
*7th November* 1878.

Through the Stores Department.

MY LORD DUKE,—I forward thirty copies of a work by Mr. Robert N. Cust, entitled "A Sketch of the Modern Languages of the East Indies;" and I also enclose herewith a copy of a letter from that gentleman, dated the 5th August last, in reference thereto, and of a note thereon by the Librarian of this Office.

2. I request that the work may be distributed amongst such Institutions and individuals as your Excellency may consider the best qualified to supply criticisms which may hereafter be utilised by Mr. Cust in a second edition.

I have, &c.,
CRANBROOK.

To His Excellency the Most Noble
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

COPY.

SIR,—I have the honor to request that you will lay before the Right Honorable Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India the enclosed volume on the modern languages of the East Indies, which I have prepared at a considerable expenditure of labor and money.

2. I believe that I may say that no general survey has ever been prepared in so much detail and accompanied by language-maps. Indeed, it would not have been possible to make one until the present period, which has been extremely prolific in books and contributions to periodicals of linguistic research. I have to thank Sir Erskine Perry for the first suggestion of a language-map. I believe that a knowledge of the language of the people is a very important factor of good government, and I fear that there is a tendency to introduce a Court-language *unintelligible to the lower classes*, and that in some parts of British India the baneful system of interpreters is had recourse to. In the Educational Department I fear that some important languages are ignored. There are a million of Gonds in the Central Provinces. Are there any Gond schools? The Missionaries find it necessary to teach in the actual vulgar tongue of the people.

3. My object in devoting three years' labor and undertaking the pecuniary risk of this volume is to popularise the knowledge of all the languages of India, and to place before the officers of Government a sketch of the languages spoken in each province. My book is no doubt full of errors, though perhaps my extensive acquaintance with officers of Government and Missionaries in every part of India, and my free access to the libraries of the India Office and Royal Asiatic Society, may have enabled me to avoid many. At any rate, I am ready to correct them if I can get the book circulated and attention drawn to it; and my object in addressing you is to request that the Secretary of State will please to take one hundred copies and distribute them among the different Provinces of India, with a letter calling attention to the very important subject of the vernacular language of each province. I would gladly place the volumes at the disposal of the Government free of cost, but the maps have been so costly. My work is not for profit, but for the benefit of India, and I hope in five years to publish a second edition. I take the liberty of calling the attention of Her Majesty's Secretary of State to the splendid services, in the cause of linguistic science, of Bishop Caldwell, Mr. Burnell of the Madras Civil Service, Mr. Beamer of the Bengal Civil Service, Professor Monier Williams of Oxford, and Dr. Ernest Trumpp of Munich. I might mention others: these scholars have, in addition to the toilsome

duties of their office or profession, found leisure to make lasting contributions to linguistic science, and seem to deserve some honorary acknowledgment.

64, ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE, S.W.,
*5th August* 1878.

(Signed) R. CUST.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

*Note by the Librarian.*

Mr. Cust's survey of the languages of India is the first book ever written on the subject in any detail. The part treating of Hither India has been got up with greater care, and is more trustworthy than the remainder. The chapter on the Dutch and Spanish East Indies is especially open to considerable improvement. The book, in its present form, is merely tentative. It is not intended for schools or colleges. But if copies were placed with officers in India having opportunities for testing the statements made, and for making the requisite corrections and additions, we might eventually obtain a safe trustworthy memoir on a subject still involved in much uncertainty. The purchase of a hundred copies for that purpose would probably help to bring about that result.

15*th August* 1878.

(Signed) R. ROST.

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No. 20. ORDER THEREON, 4th February 1879, No. 160.

This Despatch with its enclosures and copies of the work will be sent to the following gentlemen with request that they will forward any criticisms they may desire to make on the work to this Government for transmission to the Secretary of State:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Right Rev. Bishop R. C. Caldwell | 1 |
| Dr. A. C. Burnell | 1 |
| Dr. G. Oppert | 1 |
| Mr. R. Sewell | 1 |
| Rev. Dr. G. U. Pope | 1 |
| Rev. Dr. H. Bower | 1 |
| Rev. C. E. Kennett | 1 |
| Rev. T. Foulkes | 1 |
| Secretary, Vernacular Literature Society | 1 |
| Director of Public Instruction for distribution to selected officers | 2 |
| Madras University Library | 10 |
| Museum Library | 1 |
| Outacamund Library | 1 |
| Government Office Library | 1 |
| Revenue Department | 4 |
| Board of Revenue | 1 |
| High Court | 1 |

(True Extract.)

*Acting Chief Secretary.*

To the Right Rev. Bishop R. C. Caldwell.
" Dr. A. C. Burnell.
" Dr. G. Oppert.
" R. Sewell, Esq.
" Rev. Dr. G. U. Pope,
" Rev. Dr. H. Bower.
" Rev. C. E. Kennett.
" Rev. T. Foulkes.
" the Secretary, Vernacular Literature Society.
" the Director of Public Instruction.
" the Registrar, Madras University.
" the Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
" the Committee, Outacamund Library.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Honorable the Judges of the High Court.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department
No. 1353.
Govt. of [1870] Madras.

**PUBLIC.**

To

THE RIGHT REV. BISHOP
R. C. CALDWELL,
&c., &c., &c.

*Dated* February, 4th.

*Issued*

*Recd.* 13 February 2nd.

*G.O., 4th February* 1870, *No.* 160.

**FEBRUARY.**
**Nos. 19-20.**

*Books and Publications.*—Despatch from the Secretary of State advising the transmission of copies of Mr. Robert Cust's book entitled "A Sketch of the Modern Languages of the East Indies," together with its enclosures, and copies of the work referred to, forwarded to certain gentlemen with request to furnish such criticisms as they may desire to make in view to their transmission to the Secretary of State.

No. 649
Lodged
15 Feb/70

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