M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 15

(2) Date of repair 13-6-66

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 5730 ~~Press~~
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 17-12-1884 ~~196~~ .

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CONFIDENTIAL.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE GOVERNOR.

I left Ootacamund, accompanied by Mr. Rees, Captain Hanbury Williams, and others, on the morning of September 17th.

2. The thermometer at Kullar did not stand so very many degrees below what it did in June, but one's sensations were quite different and the heat was by no means oppressive.

3. We passed by rail from Mettupálaiyam to Podánúr, where we met Colonel Davies. I was glad to learn from him that he had slain the two dangerous elephants, on the Javadis, which we were, as my honorable colleagues will remember, obliged to put "*under the ban of the Empire*" at a recent Council.

4. He told me that about two thousand people came to thank him. The young one, which we hoped we might be able to preserve, was killed by an accident.

5. From Pódanúr we started for the southward over a plain which was traversed by an admirable road, but which, thanks to the drought, was about as cheerful as the "Blasted Heath."

6. Before we arrived at the first stage, however, the aspect of the country slightly improved—various small streams, which were not quite empty, traversing it,—and the hideous hedges of Euphorbia and prickly-pear being replaced by avenue trees, amongst which *Acacia leucophlœa*, *Ficus Bengalensis*, *Ficus retusa*, and *Tamarindus Indica* chiefly caught my eye.

7. After a journey of twenty-five miles from Pódanúr we reached our tents near Polláchi, a large village.

8. In the early evening I took a walk in the fields with Mr. Stokes, the Acting Collector, amongst very fair crops of castor-oil (*Ricinus communis*) and chillies (*Capsicum annuum*). The young cholum (*Holcus sorghum*) looked less satisfactory, though there has been more rain here than in most parts of the district.

9. Far off to the south stood up the Anaimalai range, appearing in the east almost to blend into the Palanis—one of the peaks in the neighbourhood of Kodaikánal, the Perumal, being distinctly visible.

10. Some one mentioned, in the course of the evening, that the stalk of the chilly is much used in this neighbourhood for the manufacture of gunpowder.

11. I remember being told at Madras that most of the gunpowder in our factory there is made from the stalks of the Dholl (*Cajanus Indicus*).

12. About day-break on the morning of the 18th we again started and drove across seventeen miles of flat country to the foot of the Anaimalai Hills.

13. There we mounted our horses and rode five miles further to the forest huts at Mountstuart.

14. No felling has been done in these forests since 1876, but, before that, they had been very much cut about, and Mr. Gamble, who was with me, thought that they would be the better if a great many of the inferior trees could be sold off.

15. There is much self-sown teak coming on, but it is for the most part badly grown. The *plantations* of this tree are, on the other hand, in a good state.

16. We saw on the way up great quantities of *Terminalia paniculata* and a good deal of *tomentosa*, both valuable, and enough *Helicteres Isora* to supply fibre to half the peninsula.

17. An excursion, on the 19th, took us to very high ground, whence we saw a valley which must have contained quite a hundred square miles of very beautiful and [unless in places where it may conceivably have been subject in past times to *kumari* (occasional) cultivation, of which, from the place where we stood, there was no trace whatever] apparently virgin forest, slowly maturing to supply the needs of the financiers of the future.

18. Persons who take a pessimistic view of the pecuniary side of our Indian affairs should turn their attention to the forest statistics. In the half generation that has passed since I first made the Indian financial statement in the House of Commons, the receipts of the Forest Department have risen from about £330,000 to about a million sterling *per annum*.

19. A long walk and ride, on the 20th, took us through the finest piece of forest I have yet seen in India to a block on which it is proposed soon to commence working.

20. It covers about 70 acres, on which stand some 7,000 trees, great and small, ranging from mere saplings up to a gigantic teak 28 feet round, which must have been already a well-grown tree when Vasco de Gama sighted Calicut.

21. The teak (*Tectona grandis*) in this part of the woodland was vigorous, but it is a hospitable species, and *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Terminalia paniculata*, as well as *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Lagerstræmia microcarpa*, &c., were interspersed amongst it.

22. The block of which I am speaking forms part of a forest we have leased from a wealthy family in the neighbourhood, but the lease, which has been running for more than half a generation, was unintelligently prepared and ought to be revised, in the interests of the owner of the soil, of ourselves, and, above all, of the trees, which, thanks to the clumsiness of its provisions, are now injuring each other grievously.

23. Mr. Gamble pointed out to me that roads must be cut, in all directions, before this great forest can be properly worked.

24. This and fire-protection are the first things to be looked to, and great difficulties are thrown in the way of the latter by the stipulations of the lease I have mentioned.

25. We may trust to the experience and care of Major Campbell-Walker, now that he has obtained efficient assistance in managing a till recently quite overworked department, soon to improve the existing state of affairs.

26. Mr. Porter, the young forest officer, had collected at our desire some of the wild tribes of the neighbourhood, and we saw the Kaders, the Puliyars, the Mudavars, and the Mulcers.

27. I did not think them particularly interesting, far less so than the Koregas of South Canara, or the Khonds of Ganjam.

28. A certain amount of diplomacy has always to be exercised in getting together these people, for some of the wild tribes are very much apt to be—well, in the conventional language of our state of civilization,—thieves, and have a wholesome dread of personages whose appearance implies a too near approach of the police.

29. Occasionally there are other difficulties. Rumour had it that, when I was to have gone to Mountstuart two years ago, all the inhabitants of a neighbouring village disappeared, for they said, "He is going to make war with the Raja of Cochin about the disputed boundary and we shall be impressed to a certainty."

30. Nothing is more amusing in India than to find how closely the highest civilization and the most complete barbarism stand side by side.

31. If our Raj were now to disappear, the world would be astounded at the rapidity with which not a few things would relapse into their ancient state, and the most marvellous freaks of savagery—human sacrifice and all the rest of it—become in many places once more the order of the day.

32. Political revolutions roll over what has been well called "the cellular structure of Indian society," over all that is good, which is much, and over all that is bad, which is much also, leaving it substantially unchanged.

33. We descended, under weeping skies, seeing for the most part the same trees which we had had around us at Mountstuart; but at the bottom of the ghât I gathered *Limonia acidissima*, which Mr. Gamble is in hopes may prove a useful substitute for boxwood, which is now rising in Europe to a very high price.

34. Mr. Lawson obtained during our stay in the Anaimalais a variety of specimens which will be highly acceptable in the Herbarium, and one of which may very probably turn out to be new to Science.

35. I found out, a month or two ago, that although Colonel Beddome had worked, a good deal, at the reptiles and land-shells of the Anaimalais, their birds had never been examined. I proposed accordingly to Mr. Davison to accompany us, which he did, without, up to the time when we parted, having discovered, with one* possible exception, any bird not hitherto described; but when we left him at Polláchi he was about to penetrate into another portion of the range and to continue his exploration for some time.

36. From Polláchi we returned to Pódanúr, and were glad to observe that the rain, from which we had suffered a good deal, had extended for about ten miles to the northward.

37. We left Mr. Stokes at Polláchi and were joined by Mr. Galton at Pódanúr, who reported excellent crops and all quiet in his important district.

38. At Shoranur we left the railway, and having been ferried over the river (for the bridge, which was broken by a flood, is not yet finished), passed once more over the lovely piece of road which extends to Trichore, and which I traversed with so much pleasure in 1882.

39. The season there had been everything that could be desired; the population, which crowded to welcome us, seemed in the highest prosperity, and everything spoke of contentment and peace.

40. Even such a plant as *Stachytarpheta Jamaicensis*, which has usually a rather forlorn and weedy appearance, is along this road an element of beauty.

41. Mr. Hannyngton met us at the Residency of Trichore as did the Dewan of Cochin, and we shortly afterwards proceeded to visit a Church of Chaldean Syrians under the Patriarch, or one of the Patriarchs, of Babylon.

42. We saw the Church, and I received an address, which, with my answer, will be found in the Appendix.

43. About half past eight in the evening, we embarked upon the backwaters, and, pushing on through the night, arrived in the early morning at Veerapoly.

44. Here we were welcomed by a vast concourse, assembled partly on the water in snake-boats and other strange craft, partly on the land.

45. Veerapoly is the centre of the Carmelite Mission of Malabar, and its Archbishop has under him, besides some 80,000 Christians of the Latin rite, 200,000 Romo-Syrians—Syrians or Christians of St. Thomas, that is, who have accepted the Roman obedience.

46. Two addresses were presented here, to which I replied together (see Appendix), and this ceremony, with a visit to the Church, having been accomplished, we pursued our way to Balghatty.

47. Here the Eliya Raja visited me on behalf of his brother, who is, as my honorable colleagues are aware, far from strong, and in the afternoon I proceeded with Mr. Sealy and others to inspect the Anglican Church, for which, as will be remembered, we did a good deal two years ago.

48. The money we gave seems to me to have been expended much to the advantage of the building, and I told Mr. Sealy that his wish for a little more help would be considered in a friendly spirit, although I would not, of course, pledge myself to our being able to comply with it.

49. At Cochin my attention was called to *Nauclea*, now *Anthocephalus cadamba*, a tree which affords a deep shade and bears sweet-scented flowers. It is, Mr. Gamble

* This turned out to be a young individual of a rare, but already described, species, and Mr. Davison's examination of the Anaimalais has, thus far, led him to believe that the birds are the same as those of the Palanis.—*October 9th.*

tells me, much used in the north for avenues, a purpose for which it seems exceedingly well fitted, and we could not do better than give it a trial.

50. I had so lately informed myself about the extent to which the requests made to me at Cochin in 1882 had been complied with that I did not care to receive any addresses there, but neither the Resident nor Mr. Galton report very well of the affairs of the Municipality.

51. The small public garden which, I was told, when preparing my minute of September 16th, had been abandoned has, by the way, not been abandoned after all—the vote which doomed it having been reconsidered. It seemed in fair order.

52. In the course of the 23rd we received officially such bad news about an outbreak of cholera along the line between Kóttayam and Peermade that Dr. Mackenzie and Mr. Hannyngton most strongly advised a change of route.

53. We proposed accordingly to go to Ahlwye, but the Travancore authorities informing us that cholera was very bad there also, we arranged to divide our time between the neighbourhood of Cochin and the neighbourhood of Trichore.

54. It was perhaps fortunate we did so for more reasons than one, for hardly had our decision been taken than a fresh burst of the monsoon broke all along the South-Western Coast and would by itself have put Peermade out of the question.

55. On the night between the 25th and 26th 3·97 inches were registered at Ernacollum, and in twenty-four hours of our stay at Trichore 7·2.

56. On the 24th I returned the visit of the Eliya Rajah at the Palace in Ernacollum.

57. About 3 in the morning of the 27th we left Balghatty, and in a few hours reached Cranganore, crossing thence to Krishnakottei, which formed a part of the Travancore lines famous in local history, where we landed.

58. The same day, before evening, we reached Trichore.

59. On the 29th the very intelligent and friendly Dewan Peshcar was good enough to take us to visit various Nair families. In one they sang, in another they danced, and everywhere they met us, men and women, with an entire absence of the awkwardness and *mauvaise honte* which are unhappily so common in India.

60. He collected, too, a great number of the various castes and subdivisions of castes. We saw the Namburi Brahmins, the East Coast Brahmins, the Marars, and many others.

61. A more attractive or agreeable population I have never chanced to encounter. All I heard and saw led me to believe that we were quite right when we said the other day, in a Government order, that the Raja and his minister were to be congratulated on the prosperous condition of the country.

62. Before leaving Trichore I received an address from the inhabitants with reference to the extension of telegraphic communication to their town, which, with my reply, will be found in the Appendix.

63. After it had been presented I visited, with Mr. Sealy, the Government school and then went on to the house of the head of the Church Mission Society, where the children of the schools under his charge sang, as did also some of the pupils of two ladies belonging to the Zenana Mission. Here also an address was presented, to which I replied (see Appendix).

64. I received likewise a letter from Mar Coorilos, a Bishop of the party of Mar Athanasius and the same who visited me on my way south. He enclosed a long statement relating to the relations between his own friends and those of Mar Dionysius, which contained much matter into which I could not go, but to which I briefly replied (see Appendix).

65. Further, the people of Kóttayam forwarded an address, which, with what I said in answer, is placed with the others.

66. All the directions for our comfort given by His Highness the Raja of Cochin were excellently carried into effect by Mr. Sealy and Mr. Locke, as were those made by Mr. Hannyngton.

67. From Trichore we retraced our steps to the railway and, after passing a few hours at Coimbatore, made our way up the ghât on October 3rd.

68. Hardly any of the rain-clouds which had been over-kind to Cochin had found their way beyond the Walliar jungle. The lower slopes of the Nílgiris and the country at their foot were drier than when I passed a fortnight ago.

69. I did not see Captain Howlett, who is Acting Assistant to the Resident. When his post and that of Resident have next to be filled, it will be a question worth considering whether they should not be given as a reward to men among our junior and senior officers who have shown a turn for scholarship, or for becoming minutely acquainted with the native life around them. They are amongst our easiest posts, and that of Resident is one of great dignity.

70. Mr. Hannyngton was, as we all know, a judge of experience and good repute, but he could have been employed with advantage in many places, while it might perhaps have been possible to find men who, though elsewhere less useful, would do the routine work of the Resident as well and at the same time become minutely acquainted with the country—living dictionaries in fact of all that relates to its people and circumstances, which lightly-worked Residents ought, as a matter of course, to be.

71. If we had now in our service such a man as the late Dr. Burnell, he would, I think, have been curiously in his proper place at Trivandrum, always supposing that that lamented scholar had, in addition to his other merits, the ordinary qualities required for the transaction of the work of the Residency, a matter as to which I have no information.

72. A portion of India so peculiar and so interesting as Cochin and Travancore deserves the minutest study, and this Government has no other prize with which to reward great and exceptional ability of a kind which does not find its legitimate reward by climbing from step to step of the regular Judicial or Revenue ladder.

73. I was particularly pleased with the smart and soldierly appearance of the guards supplied at Trichore by the 6th Native Infantry.

74. The delay at Balghatty and Trichore was turned to account by Mr. Gamble and Mr. Lawson for the benefit of the Herbarium.

75. As in the Anaimalais, so there, the very wet weather was not favorable to the preservation of specimens, but a large proportion reached Ootacamund in safety, and, as Mr. Lawson reports the climate of this place even better for dried plants than that of England, it is within the limits of possibility that some of their prizes may remain as a memorial of our fifteen days' journey as long as the plants collected by Morison, the botanist of the days of Charles I, which are still preserved at Oxford and were, before he came to India, under Mr. Lawson's care.

(Signed) M. E. GRANT DUFF.

October 3rd, 1884.

APPENDIX.

Address from Syrian Christians at Trichoor, 22nd September 1884.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In greeting your Excellency with this address in behalf of the Syro-Chaldean community of Trichoor and the surrounding places, we are actuated by feelings of the most profound respect and thankfulness for your Excellency's condescension in honoring our church with a visit on this occasion, even though our Metropolitan, the Most Rev. Mar Elias John Mellus, is now unfortunately absent from us in Mosul. A brief summary of a few of the salient features in the history of the Syro-Chaldean Church in Malabar may not be out of place here. Dating from a very remote period, it began gradually to increase in strength and power till at last it was in the enjoyment of long and uninterrupted prosperity extending over 800 years, under the See of Ankamally in Travancore, which owed allegiance to the Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon. But the Portuguese sway in India proved baneful to the interests of the church, which thenceforward began to decline and eventually dwindled down into insignificance; while the See of Ankamally itself ceased to exist. The effects of the crushing blow the church then received were so deep-rooted that, in spite of the tolerant principle of the beneficent Government your Excellency has the honor and privilege of representing, it felt itself emboldened but recently to make an attempt at regaining something of its lost splendour; thus the arrival here a few years ago of the Most Rev. Mar Elias John Mellus, under special commission from His Gracious Beatitude Mar Joseph Oudas, the late Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon, marks an important epoch in the history of this church. The honor your Excellency has this day done us by your visit to this church, which was erected under the auspices of a late sovereign of Cochin, who took a deep and lively interest in the welfare of the Christian community, which owes its very existence here to the benevolence of this august personage of happy memory, and which is now used as the cathedral of the Syro-Chaldean Metropolitan of Malabar, will not only be gratefully remembered, but also looked upon by us as a means of invigorating us with fresh life for renewing our efforts at ameliorating the condition of the ancient and time-honored Syro-Chaldean Church of Malabar. Wishing your Excellency a pleasant tour, and praying that you may be blessed with the choicest gifts from above, we beg to subscribe ourselves, in behalf of the Syro-Chaldean community of Malabar, your Excellency's most humble and obedient servants, Kor Episcope of the Syro-Chaldean community, Vicar, Trichoor Syro-Chaldean Church.

Syro-Chaldean Church, Trichoor.

His Excellency's reply.

VERY REVEREND CHOREPISKOPOS,—I beg to thank you for your kindly welcome and have listened with interest to the words that have been read. I hope before I leave Trichoor or subsequently to hear more of the circumstances of that section of the ancient and interesting community of the Syrian Christians of Malabar to which you belong, circumstances with which neither I, nor any one whom I have been able to consult, is sufficiently familiar. Meantime I wish you, as well as your brethren, all peace and prosperity.

Address from Roman Catholics at Verapoly, 23rd September 1884.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Catholics of the Latin rite under the jurisdiction of His Grace the Archbishop of Verapoly, approach you to present our respectful salutations, and to offer you our hearty welcome on your happy arrival at the seat of our revered Archbishop, and the centre from which the bright light of our holy religion has for ages radiated. With the liveliest gratitude we also thank you for the zeal and solicitude for the welfare of this ancient mission, manifested in this visit of your Excellency, an event which, we need not assure you, shall ever remain fresh in our memories. We should be wanting in our duty if, on an occasion like this, we omitted to give expression to our unbounded thankfulness, for the liberty, peace and security we, the Catholics of this mission, enjoy, whether subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India or of their Highnesses the Maharajahs of Travancore and Cochin; and sight of so many of our churches throughout the length of the land, the number of Christian villages, and this assembly, gathered together from all quarters of this mission, will doubtless have convinced your Excellency, that, under the protection of that power which you have the honor to represent,

our church, like the vine watered by the perennial stream, has flourished beyond all human expectation in these two States; in a word, our liberty in matters pertaining to our religion, is as free and unrestricted as any Catholic could reasonably desire. Far be it, however, from us to say that it may not be in your Excellency's power to add to the blessings we already enjoy in a manner undreamt of by us; that this may be one of the fruits of your Excellency's visit to this mission is a hope which we pray you will permit us to cherish. Wishing your Excellency a long illustrious career, and with sentiments of the profoundest respect, we beg to remain, your Excellency's most obedient servants.

Address of the Roman Catholic Apostolical Seminary of Verapoly and the whole Catholic Students of Malabar, 23rd September 1884.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Allow us to express, in the name of the Roman Catholic Apostolical Seminary of Verapoly and the whole Catholic students of Malabar, our heartfelt gratitude for the honor which your Excellency confers upon us all by visiting Verapoly, the principal church of this Mission. We may easily understand that your Excellency's main object in honoring religion and its ministers is to declare publicly how much you appreciate its importance for the keeping of peace and morality in this kingdom. It is, in fact, that very intention which, in former occasions, induced your Excellency to give to the Catholic Bishops distinguished marks of your esteem and regard.

Permit us, therefore, to tell your Excellency how thankful we are for your kindness, and also to avail us of this opportunity to proclaim our loyal devotedness to the Government of which your Excellency is so worthy a representative. We readily acknowledge that the great British nation is, in this country, the instrument selected by the Divine Providence to protect the liberty, security and welfare of all, and to defend the sacred principles of religion, order and honesty, which are the necessary groundworks of the human empires.

Please to accept the expression of our most respectful feelings and of the sincere wishes that we form for the temporal and spiritual happiness of your Excellency. We hope that the Divine Redeemer, whose religion you like to honor and protect, will maintain you many years more in the administration of this presidency, reward you for all the cares and troubles which you undergo for the general welfare, and grant your Excellency His choicest blessings both in this life and in the next.

His Excellency's reply to the two foregoing addresses.

ARCHBISHOP, BISHOP, REVEREND FATHERS, AND GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you very much for your most friendly reception, and for the two addresses which have been read. It is most agreeable to me to learn that the Catholics of this mission are thankful for the liberty, peace and security which they enjoy, whether as subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty or of their Highnesses the Sovereigns of Travancore and Cochin. Long may so happy a state of things continue. I was particularly pleased by the expressions which you used in one of your addresses about peace. The Catholic Church can have no loftier mission than to "seek peace and ensue it." It is a mission which is curiously consonant with the attitude assumed by the illustrious personage who now presides over her destinies, an attitude to which, as a servant of the British Crown, I feel great pleasure in paying my tribute of respect.

Address from Roman Syrians, Verapoly, dated 23rd September 1884.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the ecclesiastical representatives of the Romo-Syrians under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop, Vicar Apostolic of Verapoly, avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded by your Excellency's friendly visit to our spiritual head and to this place, which has attained some reputation as the chief seat of our religion in Travancore, to assemble here for the purpose of tendering our sincere though humble expressions of deep gratitude we owe your Excellency for the oft-repeated kindly feelings your Excellency pleased to entertain towards the Christians of St. Thomas in Malabar, of which community we have the honor of forming an integral portion. We beg permission also to express our gratitude for the honor your Excellency has thought fit to bestow upon our ancient holy religion by this visit to its venerated representatives here, who hold so beneficent a sway over us. We can hardly hope to requite your Excellency for doing us this high honor with more than a humble welcome, but be assured, noble sir, that with this welcome the voices of three hundred thousand souls, consisting of more than two hundred thousand Romo-Syrians and less than one hundred thousand Latin Christians, are lifted up to heaven to reward your Excellency and your Excellency's noble family with the greatest honors of the earth for the generous feelings which have prompted this friendly act We humbly hope that when your Excellency shall return to your western home you will carry

with you, and bear also in your Excellency's generous heart, the kindliness you have evinced for the Eastern Christians, and that whenever the power of your voice may be called forth to promote their interests we will never feel the want of its influence in high quarters, and with this expression of our hope, added to our fervent prayers to the Almighty God of all Christians to bless, protect and magnify your Excellency and family.

His Excellency's reply.

REVEREND SIR,—Let me thank you for your most friendly address. It gave me great pleasure to visit the Archbishop, who presides in a manner which gives you so much satisfaction, alike over yourselves—the Romo-Syrians, in this neighbourhood, and over the Christians of the Latin rite. You may be quite sure that, whether in India or in Europe, I shall feel a very strong interest in all the Christians of St. Thomas, to whichever section they belong, and do what I can to promote their welfare. When I was here two years ago, all or nearly all your various sub-divisions united to welcome me. I shall be particularly happy if I hear that, although you will doubtless continue to differ widely on matters of opinion, you are enabled from time to time to act together for good purposes.

Address of the inhabitants of Trichoor, 1st October 1884.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the town of Trichoor, beg permission to approach your Excellency with our best respects and thanks for honoring this town with your Excellency's presence for these few days.

We are rejoiced and are proud that on this occasion your Excellency has been graciously pleased to take the trouble of acquainting yourself with the condition and wants of the population of this town.

Your Excellency we are assured has observed amongst other things that the trade and correspondence of this place with the British territory are increasing day by day, and we venture to submit that these will be much promoted by establishing a Telegraph office in connection with the British Post office already in existence here. The Post office with Money-orders and Savings bank is highly appreciated and is become more than self-supporting, and we trust that the Telegraph office will not entail any loss, especially as the telegraph posts and wires are already running through the town.

We pray your Excellency will be pleased to take our request for a British Telegraph office in this town into your Excellency's gracious consideration and pass such orders as the importance of the subject deserves.

His Excellency's reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I dislike, as much as any one can, being prevented by circumstances from carrying into effect plans once made, but I count myself nevertheless most fortunate in having been detained for several days in so delightful a place, where, thanks to the kindness of your Dewan Peishcar, I have had a better opportunity of seeing something of the home life of the people than I have ever before had in India.

What I have seen makes me even more anxious, than I was before, to help on a prosperity which you so well deserve.

I will lose no time in communicating with the Government of India about the telegraph office and I trust that the department concerned will see its way to doing what you wish.

Accept my warmest thanks for the reception which I have met with from all classes, and for your kind words.

Address of the Clergy of the Church Mission Society, Trichoor, 1st October 1884.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Protestant Native Church established in Trichoor, through the labors of the Church Missionary Society, desire to unite with other sections of the community in wishing you a very hearty welcome to Trichoor.

The Church Mission has been established here for about forty years, and including the adjacent station of Kunnankulam and smaller out-stations the number of native baptized Christians was at the close of last year 949 and catechumens 28, making a total of 977 adherents. The mission forms the northern part of the Diocese of Travancore and Cochin, of which the Right Reverend Dr. Speechly is the first Protestant Bishop. The policy of the Church Missionary Society is to form an independent self-supporting native church. The total contributions of the

native Christians of Trichoor and Kunnankulam amounted last year to Rs. 396-3-8. We are endeavouring to promote education and form habits of temperance and thrift amongst our people. The total number of children in the Mission schools is 348. A Total Abstinence Association has been formed, numbering nearly 100 members, and we are hoping to be able to set on foot an anna savings bank.

We desire to express the deep gratitude we feel and sense of loyalty towards His Highness The Maharajah for the religious liberty accorded to us, not only in the free exercise of our own worship, but for the full permission to proclaim the gospel of the grace of God, which we believe is best calculated to promote the true happiness and peace of mankind. Many fear to act up to their religious convictions on account of the social stigma involved in breaking away from their caste and the Brahmanical institutions so deeply rooted in the hearts of the people of this ancient kingdom of Kerala. Signs, however, are not wanting that a crisis is approaching in the religious history of India. The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society co-operating with us has recently been established in Trichoor. Through the kindness of the Dewan an excellent site was granted and a Zenana Mission House has been erected, a school for high caste Hindu girls, and also a dispensary have been commenced. The presence and sympathy of English Christian ladies gladly welcomed into the homes and zenanas of the women of the upper classes cannot but have a refining and elevating influence upon their minds and character.

Praying that your Excellency may have the Divine blessing in all your efforts and aims to promote the welfare of the people of India.

His Excellency's reply.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much for your address.

I am delighted to hear that you are endeavouring to promote education and thrift among your people, as well as to advance temperance amongst such of them—I trust not a numerous class—as are inclined to a vice which belongs rather to the bleak north than to this lovely southern land.

Most gratifying is it also to hear, from your own lips, what I well knew before, that, under the enlightened rule of His Highness the Raja of Cochin, you enjoy perfect religious freedom.

As for the particular views which you inculcate in virtue of that religious freedom, that of course is a matter for you alone. I, as representing the British Government, must be strictly and severely neutral, while as a private individual it is my tendency rather to watch with pleasure whatever commends itself to my mind in the action on life and morals of widely divergent religions and sects, than to occupy myself with their success or failure in inculcating their particular forms of opinion.

I hope the ladies, of whom you speak, and who have come so far to labor amongst their Indian sisters, may add some happiness to *their* lives and be themselves rewarded by a consciousness of many friendships formed and much good work done.

Address of the inhabitants of Kottayam.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We the undersigned representatives of the town of Kóttayam most respectfully beg to approach your Excellency with our cordial welcome on this happy occasion of your Excellency's visit to our town.

Small as this town is when compared with the many important and populous cities under your Excellency's rule, its associations are of no mean order. The capital of the Thekumkoor Rajas who ruled over these parts in old times; the headquarters of the Church Missionary Society in Travancore and Cochin; the central station of the Syrian Christians of Malabar, whose antiquity dates from the very Apostolic age; the chief station of the Northern Division, which is the largest district in the kingdom, and the seat of several educational institutions—Kóttayam is rightly acknowledged to be "second to no other town in the State." And now, as if to enhance its prestige and add to its historic interest, the town has been privileged this day to receive a visit from one of Her Majesty's great representatives in the Indian empire—an event unprecedented in its history.

Though we do not stand in the same relation to your Excellency with those directly under British rule, we beg to assure your Excellency that our attachment to the paramount power is as warm and strong as that of the most loyal of Her Majesty's subjects in India. Manifold are the blessings we enjoy under British protection. We live in our peaceful homes without the fear of a Tipú Sultán any more threatening to invade our lovely country. As for the calamities arising from intestine feuds, Travancore has long ceased to have any occasion for their remembrance. The many humane institutions existing in this kingdom, its mild laws, its merciful system of discipline and correction, are all the happy products of our connection with the great and enlightened English nation. In making this candid avowal of our loyalty towards the Supreme

Government, we are conscious that we indulge in no sentiment which is not perfectly consistent with the allegiance and affection due to our own gracious sovereign. We congratulate ourselves that we have a Maharaja whose praises resound throughout the empire as the most enlightened of Indian princes Under His Highness' beneficent rule, and the excellent administration of His Highness' Dewan, the Hon. V. Ramiengar, C.S.I., who occupies a conspicuous place among Indian celebrities for ability and statemanship, we live contented, and our country prospers.

We may be permitted here to express our deep obligations to Mr. T. Rama Row, Dewan Peishcar of Kóttayam. His uprightness as a Magistrate, his skill in suggesting and carrying out reforms, his determined opposition to every form of corruption, his untiring zeal to advance the material prosperity of the district under his charge, coupled with his suavity of manners, have won for him the respect and affection of all classes of the community. It is solely by the exertions of this public-spirited officer that our town has been furnished with a reading room and library, an agricultural association maintaining an experimental farm, and a system of monthly lectures on popular and useful subjects.

It is also deserving of notice that our country in general, and this town in particular, have been largely benefited by the labors of the Church Missionary Society—a Society which has done good service in the enlightenment and progress of Travancore, and whose educational institutions and printing press in this town have contributed much to the diffusion of useful knowledge amongst our people.

In conclusion, we beg your Excellency will be pleased to accept our thanks for the high honor done to our town by this visit, and to us in permitting this address to be presented in person.

His Excellency's reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I was very much disappointed when advice, which I could not with propriety disregard, obliged me to abandon my project of reaching Peermade.

I should have been still more disappointed if I had thought that I was never again to have a chance of visiting Kóttayam, which has long been so important a centre of intellectual activity in South-Western India, and about which I have the greatest curiosity.

I receive with much pleasure your expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, as well as all you say with reference to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, to whom you do only justice when you describe him as one of the most enlightened of Indian princes.

It is truly gratifying to see how rapidly his State and that of Cochin are assimilating much that is best in our European works and ways, while they keep a thousand things in their own manners and customs which are quite contrary to ours but which it would be mere folly and madness for them to change.

I know no part of India, or indeed of the world, in which I better like to travel than in these States, not only because, as a friend of mine well said; "travelling there is like travelling in Fairy land; you turn round a corner out of a wilderness of wood and water to find yourself in an enchanted palace full of all the refinements of civilization," but much more, because one sees all around the evidence of material prosperity enjoyed through generations and bringing with it, what it usually brings to well-constituted natures, gentleness and grace.

Accept once more the expression of my gratitude and hope, as I shall continue to do, that we may yet meet.

Address of the Bishop of Anjoor on behalf of the Athanasian sect of the Syrian Christians.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I am very happy of having had the pleasure of an interview with your Excellency on the 22nd instant.

As it was on your Excellency's way through Trichoor I was unable to inform all what I had intended.

I am sorry to inform your Excellency that the Dewan of Cochin has prevented the usual ministrations of the priests of the independent Syrian community in the Arthat, Kunankullam, and other churches under Mar Thomas Athanasius, Metropolitan, and they had come to Trichoor to present petition regarding this grievance before your Excellency, but your Excellency's time there being very limited they were unable to present it personally, so they posted it.

As I am really sorry of this prohibition, by which they suffer in spiritual matters, I take the liberty of informing it to your Excellency, hoping that your Excellency will have sympathy with them in this their grievance.

I am, &c.,

ANJOOR, NEAR CHOWGHAUT,
25th September 1884.

(Signed) JOSEPH MAR COORILOS,
Bishop of Anjoor.

His Excellency's reply.

RIGHT REVEREND SIR,—I am sorry you did not state what you wished to state when you came to see me last week. I had abundant leisure and every possible inclination to hear all you had to say. You gave, however, no hint at the time of a wish to make any statement.

As a private individual the Syrian Christians interest me very much for a variety of reasons, on some of which I have dwelt elsewhere, and amongst others because they carry back one's thoughts far into history, and names which are in most places mere names are amongst you living realities.

Coming here seems to me like nothing else I have ever done except visiting Ravenna, where, as has been truly said, "the ghost of the dead Roman empire sits upon her sepulchre."

As a Governor, too, I take an interest in your divisions, for I hold that an informed and friendly neutrality is a great deal better than an uninformed and careless one; but as for interfering in the slightest degree, in favor of one section as against another, that is quite out of the question.

I am sure that in the British Resident and in the Dewan of Cochin you have to deal with thoroughly good and tolerant men, who will give you wise advice. By it you will do well to be guided.

NOTE FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY.

Many thanks G.G. be printed
Paras 22, 23 & 24 of the
Minute being ~~read~~ entered.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Minute by the Right Honorable the Governor, dated 3rd October 1884.

ORDER—dated 11th November 1884, No. 2408 Public.

Ordered that the foregoing minute be communicated to the departments of the Secretariat, for such action as may be called for.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue department,
" Public Works department,
" Military department,
" Financial do.
" Political do.
} with minute

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 11th November 1884, No. 2408.

NOVEMBER.

Governor's Tour.

Communicating to the departments of the Secretariat for such action as may be called for, minute by the Right Honorable the Governor, dated 3rd October 1884.