0/9 2,000—5-2-98.

Revenue : (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2888

DATED 8th July

[Despatch Abstract.]

Proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Deptt: passing orders re: the disposal of the brick building used as a church at Tripassore and the furniture there of, Communicated to the Board of Rev. with a certain request.

Revenue 1898 Department

Consult Ab 1898

Government {1898} of Madras.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Ab 1898

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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LIBRARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Recd. 30 June
Reyd. 1 July
} 1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 63, 7th June 1898.

G.P. Misc no. 2886 dt 8th July 98

JUNE.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with the request that the plan and the information referred to in the concluding sentence of the G.O. may be submitted at an early date ~~furnished to Govt~~

RS
4-7-98

Church at Tripasore. To the Bd of Rev (L.R.) 2dp 11.7.98

Passing orders regarding the disposal of the building used as a — and of the furniture thereof.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers:—

From Colonel C. C. RAWSON, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Camp, Tripasore, 27th October 1897, No. 120-M.—C.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the building, until lately used as a church at Tripasore, which is included in the list of buildings in charge of the Public Works Department in the Chingleput division.

2. The building is a two-storied one, the lower storey being built into the ramparts of the old fort, the upper storey, which was used as a church, being above the level of the ramparts. It is said that when the fort was occupied, the lower storey was used as a canteen, so, I presume, the building is not consecrated.

3. Until about six months ago Tripasore was visited once a month by the Chaplain of Poonamallee, but the whole possible congregation being reduced to four —three old widows living in quarters in fort and one old man, the son of a pensioner —the Chaplain has ceased his visits and Divine service is not now held.

4. I presume that Government is not likely to expend any money in the repairs of an unused building: there is a Roman Catholic Chapel and a London Mission Chapel at Tripasore, so the building is not likely to be required as a place of worship and, if left unrepaired, the roof will eventually fall in and the materials of the building will be rendered useless.

5. The building has been used as a church for certainly upwards of 40 years, and therefore (even if it be unconsecrated) it appears hardly fitting to use it for secular purposes. I therefore suggest that if the building is not required by the Ecclesiastical Department, it should be demolished and the materials sold while they have some value.

6. There is a considerable quantity of furniture in the church, which I should suppose would be of use in other churches, and there is a very good bell, indeed, which it would be a great pity to sell: this might possibly be transferred to Bezwada for the new church to be built there. It is a much larger bell than would be sanctioned under the rules for such a church.

7. I request that, if you approve of my suggestions, that you will address the Archdeacon, and that the orders of Government may be taken on the subject.

No. 4568-C.

Referred to the Ecclesiastical Department for consideration, with advertence to the suggestions in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Superintending Engineer's letter.

5*th November* 1897. (Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

No. 2338.

Referred to the Venerable the Archdeacon for report.

(By order.)

(Signed) M. E. COUCHMAN,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

10*th November* 1897.

From the Venerable W. W. ELWES, M.A., Archdeacon of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 31st January 1898, No. 4231.

I have the honour to acknowledge Current No. 302, Ecclesiastical Department, with your endorsement, No. 2338, dated 10th November 1897, regarding the church at Tripasore, enclosing a report on that church from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of that report, I have the honour to state that, while in charge of the diocese, I suspended the visits of the Chaplain of Poonamallee to that station until matters concerning Tripasore could be settled.

3. There seem to be only *three* members of the Church of England left now at Tripasore. The London Missionary Agent regularly visits them, and they are willing to receive his visits.

4. I have the honour, therefore, after consultation with the Bishop, who has expressed his approval of the plans proposed, to recommend that—

(*a*) Tripasore cease to be an out-station of Poonamallee.

(*b*) That the church, which is not consecrated, be offered to the London Missionary Society which has a congregation of Native Christians numbering about 200 at Tripasore and near by.

(*c*) That the furniture of the church, with the exception of the sacramental vessels, be offered for sale to the Missionaries of the London Missionary Society, who, I understand, will probably be willing to purchase it at a valuation.

(*d*) That the bell, in accordance with the suggestion made by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, be transferred to Bezwada for the new church to be built there.

5. I return enclosed Current No. 302 with report attached.

From the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated 1st February 1898, No. 4232.

From J. H. ROBERTSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Saidapet, 4th May 1898, Dis. No. 1089.

With reference to the endorsement of Government. No. 720, Ecclesiastical, dated 18th March last (herewith returned), I have the honour to report that the Reverend M. Phillips, Chairman of the South India Committee of the London Missionary Society, accepts the offer of the building at Tripasore, and states that he is prepared to purchase the furniture referred to in paragraph 4 (*c*) of the Venerable the Archdeacon's letter at a fair valuation, but that as it is of very little value, it may be given gratis. He desires also that the bell may be allowed to remain as it is and says that he will pay for it, if necessary.

Vide copy of his letter enclosed.

Enclosure.

From the Reverend M. PHILLIPS, Chairman of the South India Committee of the London Missionary Society, to the Tahsildar, Tiruvallúr, Chingleput District, dated Madras, 20th April 1898.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 8th instant, and a copy of a letter sent by the Archdeacon of Madras, dated the 31st of January ultimo, to the Honourable the Chief Secretary to Government.

2. I have much pleasure in accepting the offer of the building mentioned in paragraph 4 (*b*) for the London Missionary Society, and I beg to tender my best thanks for the same.

3. I shall be prepared to purchase the furniture mentioned in paragraph 4 (*c*) for a fair valuation. I think it consists of about 15 old wooden seat benches and a couple of common tables. As it is of very little value, perhaps Government will kindly give it over gratis with the building.

4. The bell is old, and as it has been used at Tripasore for several purposes for many years, perhaps Government will kindly allow it to remain there. I shall be prepared to pay for it, if necessary.

Order—No. 63, Ecclesiastical, dated 7th June 1898.

From the papers read above it is apparent that the unconsecrated building used as a church at Tripasore is no longer required for church services and that it is in danger of collapsing for want of repairs. His Excellency the Governor in Council therefore resolves that the building be handed over to the London Missionary Society, through the Chairman of the Society's South India Committee, to whom the furniture of the building, with the exception of the church bell, will be sold at a valuation to be fixed by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle. The church bell will be retained by the Public Works Department for the church to be constructed at Bezwada. The Revenue Department will be requested to obtain and forward a plan of the site on which the building stands, giving the area, survey number and other particulars.

(True Extract.)

for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Public Works Department,
" Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras.
" Revenue Department.
" Chairman of the South India Committee of the London Missionary Society, through the Collector of Chingleput.

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GAIN G.O., No. DATED
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ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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