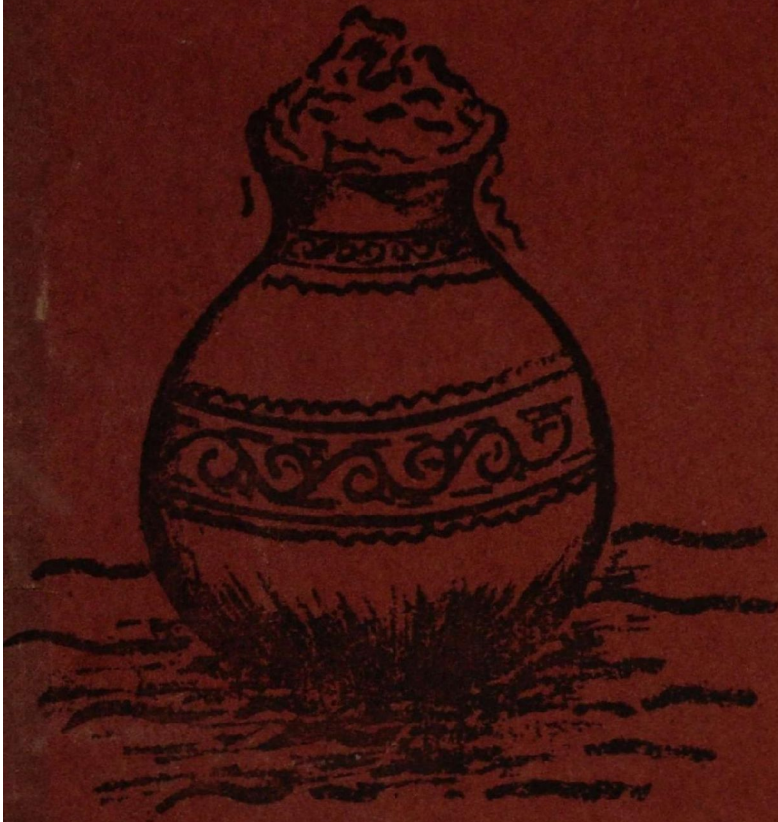


அவணா

அமுதம்

AVANA AMUDHAM



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March — 1988

Tamil Nadu Archives

Egmore, Madras - 600 008

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AVANA AMUDHAM

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January - March 1948.

*With the best compliments
of the*

COMMISSIONER OF ARCHIVES
AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH.
EGMORE, MADRAS-8.

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்
28-29, காந்தி இர்வின்-சாலை, எழும்பூர்
சென்னை-600 008.

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES
28-29, GANDHI-IRWIN ROAD
EGMORE, MADRAS-600 008,

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EGMORE, MADRAS-600 008.

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Research Officer (Publication Cell). V. LALITHA

Assistant Editor. K. S. VENKATRAMAN

EDITOR'S PAGE

The 6th issue of Avana Amudham is in your hands. For the first time, it comes out as a printed edition.

Extracts from the 'General Register of Petitions in 1819' give us valuable informations about the importance attached by Government, towards redressal of public grievances.

From the Debate on Poet Bharathi's songs in the Madras Legislative Council, we find in Thiru Satyamurthy,—a true nationalist and from Rajaji's Autograph Notes, we are able to know the individuality of Rajaji.

The "Rare Books Pages" are very informative, about the Fort St. George and the Social life at Fort St. George during the British period.

Narration of the two incidents of violent Hurricane, the Record-keeping and the Tamil Nadu Archives and the trends in Historical Research 1810—1961 are quite interesting.

Under Book Review, this issue gives a clear idea about South Indian Studies.

Tit-bits on population of Madras in 1710 and on Lubbays throw some truth.

In Tamil section of this issue, we get many rare informations about Pulithevan, Sri Lanka Tamils and their hospitality and Senji Fort, etc.

We welcome comments to improve the journal, and solicit interesting, thought-provoking articles, notes and tit-bits, etc., from the readers.

Assuring our best services to the readers.

M. GOPALAKRISHNAN.

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தமிழ்ப்பகுதி

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PAGES FROM THE G.R.P.

No.	Names.	Date.	When received.	Purport	To what Department of Government referred.	Final decision of Government
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
326	From Hafiz Syed Mooterzah the younger Brother of Syed Hafiz Allykhan the husband of Tippoo's own sister.	6th October 1819.	States his services and relationship to Tippoo Sultan and solicits a maintenance.	To the Pay master stipendary, Vellore dated 28th February. From the Pay master of stipendary at Vellore 8th March 1820. To the civil auditor dated 29th April 1820 — From Paymaster of stipendary at Vellore, 18th May to the Resident in Mysore 2nd June From Paymaster of stipendary at Vellore, 10th July 1820.	The Honourable the Governor in Council has been pleased to grant to the petitioner a Pension of Thirty five Rupees per mensem during life to commence for the 1st instance.	To the petitioner 1st June 1821.

(By order)

(Sd.) EDWARD,
Chief Secretary.

F.S.G..
8th May 1821.

No.	Names.	Date.	When received	Purport.	To what Department referred.	Final decision of Government.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
388	Petition of Nuctachy- annal widow of Canooswamy 2nd Raja of Candy.	25th November 1819.	Received by tapal 2nd December 1819,	Prays that 100 pagodas may be advanced to her to enable her to perform the appro- aching marriage ceremonies of her daughter. The amo- unt to be refunded by instalments to be deducted from her pension.	To the Magistrate of Tanjore 29th February from the date of 11th March to the date of 20th March 1820.	Petition Dept in Council of 20th March 1820 Resolved that the prayer of the petition er be com- plied with and that the Accountant General be furnished with a copy of the fore- going letter and with directions to transfer it to the Collector in Tanjore the necessary instructions for carrying the arrange- ment in ques- tion into effect.

(sd.) Ed. WOOD,
Chief Secretary.

Petitioner Number.	Name	Date/When received.	Purport	Final decision of Government.	Date of delivery to the petitioner.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
402.	Petition of Varadappa Naik for- merly in the service of Pedda- naik late Poligar of Madras.	7th Decem- ber 1819.	States his own and his ancestors ser- vices under the Poligar of Madras and prays that he may be employed in the Police Department.	The Governor in Coun- cil never given recom- mendations of this description. The peti- tioner should endeavour to recommend himself to the local authorities who will avail them- selves of his services or not as they shall think proper.	Delivered in 29th Decem- ber 1819.

22nd December, 1819.

(By Order)
(Signed) Ed. WOOD,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Fort St. George, 28th February, 1823,

the several Archdeacons respectively and be subject to the visitatorial authority in their respective schools and Missions.

Students.

XIII The students in both of the foundations must and whether Theological or Lay Students shall be Christian youth, who have been brought up in the principles of the United Church of England and Ireland, Students may be either of European or of mixed or wholly native race, in such proportion and under such regulations as may hereafter be determined by the Incorporated Society, with a preference where the qualifications are equal to the sons of Missionaries or schoolmasters who have been employed in the work of promoting Christianity in India, and the sons of Chaplains of the E.I. Company.

XIV The ordinary age of admission at the College shall be fourteen, and the residence of the students in College shall be closed at the completion of the 19 years. Exceptions to be allowed in both cases under special circumstances at the discretion

Fort St George, 28th February, 1833.

Direction of the Visitor.

XV

Students may be admitted at any monthly meeting of the College Council after examination and approval with the recommendations of their respective colleges, the prescribed documents having after mentioned, having been transmitted to the Secretary and laid before the College Council and found to be correct and sufficient - in case of dissatisfactions or doubt referred to be made to the Visitor.

XVI

Documents

required at the admission of Candidates.

1. A Certificate of the age of the Candidate and of his Baptism from the
2. A Medical Certificate, that the Candidate is of a healthy Constitution and free from disease and infirmity of body and has had the small pox, or been vaccinated.
3. A Statement signed by two respectable persons.

46 Fort St. George, 28th February, 1822.

to whom the Candidate is well known, but who are not
related to him. That A. B. being the Son of B. D.
now or formerly, if has been brought up in the
Principles of the United Church of England and
Ireland, and that they believe him to be of a
docile temper and of virtuous and pious dispositions,
and possessed of good abilities and talents and that
his language (if he be mixed or wholly native race) is
his native tongue.

4. A declaration on the part of the Father or nearest rela-
tive or person being the guardian or otherwise having the
charge of the Candidate to the following effect.

J. B. D. being the of A. B.
an European Country born, or native youth to be
nominated to a {Theological} Scholarship or
non foundation Studentship in.

1. Bishop's College near Calcutta do sincerely and
solemnly declare that the said A. B. aged years
and Months is of a docile, and virtuous
dispositions,

41 Fort St George, 28th February, 1823.

"dispositions, and that I have no other design or object in
"accepting for the said A. B. the said nomination
"than he may be maintained and educated in
"the College aforesaid with a view to his being prepared
"and qualified with the divine Blessing to assist in the
"advancement of Christ's Holy Religion as Missionary
"for in the Communication of Christianity or other
"knowledge as a Schoolmaster) at any station or
"place to which he may be in due time appointed
"conformably with the statutes, and usages of the
"said College and with such provision for his main-
"tenance as shall be customarily allowed to other persons
"of the said Descriptions and sitting in the same capaci-
"ty and likewise that I have explained to the said
"AB the nature of his future calling and have diligently
"questioned and examined him there upon, and find
"it the object of his choice and moreover I declare that I
"will not by myself or any other be instrumental by
"encouragement

48 Fort St. George, 28th February, 1822.

encouragement, by Council or by countenance to his forming any other engagement, hereforward, or following any other vocation than that which is herein named and specified, Signed C.D.

Declaration to be annexed and signed by the Candidates.

I AB having carefully read and considered the above declaration do hereby give my free and entire consent to the engagement here entered into on my behalf.

5. A particular Statement of the Candidate's progress in Learning made subsequently to an Examination by the party presenting, some Competent persons appointed to act on his behalf.

Nomination of Scholars.

XVII

Whenever it shall ^{be} ascertained in what way the Scholarships of the Incorporated Society may be appropriated to the several

Presidencies

Fort St. George, 28th February, 1823.

Presidencies the right of nominations of Students destined for those stations shall be vested in several Ambassadors respectively according to regulations hereafter to be set forth, but until that period shall arrive, the nominations of all foundation students shall be vested in the Bishops subject to the foregoing regulations.—

Chapel Hall.

XVIII

The hours of attendance in the College Chapel, in the Hall and at the several Lectures shall be regulated by the College Council with the concurrence of the Visitor.—

Vacations.—

XIX

There shall be two vacations in the year of one Calendar Month each to commence respectively on the Fifteenth of June and the fifteenth of December and also two of one week each at Easter and at Michaelmas.—

Public Div.

XX

An annual Examination

in

50 Fort St George, 28th February, 1822.

in the College Hall shall take place on the fourteenth day of December in every year, and an annual Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors in the College Chapel on the Twenty sixth day of January or if either of those days shall fall on a Sunday then in each case the observance shall be on the day following and supposing this to happen in the former instance the vacation shall commence on the sixteenth day of December. The Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors shall also be the day of the College meeting.

Catechists.

XXI. Every Theological Scholar, who shall have completed the term of his education in the College shall be nominated to such station as may be appointed for him, to be there employed as a catechist under the Principal missionary of that station to assist in the labours of the Mission to act as a school.

master

Fort St George, 28th February, 1822.

...where one other is appointed and to prosecute or
has studied with a view to his being admitted at the
proper age into holy orders.

Probationers.

XXII

The Catechists of the Incorporated
society shall, on having attained the age of Twenty
two years and six months, and having forwarded
the requisite Testimonials, be readmitted into
the College under the name of Probationers
and shall remain there until ordained Dea-
cons, and being so ordained they shall
continue in the College, until they are of age to
be ordained Priests, and being ordained Priests
they shall repair, being first licensed by the Bishop
to the Stations respectively assigned to them, in the
character, and with the Salaries of Missionaries, and
any Probationers not being approved and
ordained

Fort of George, 28th February 1822.

ordained by the Bishop or Priest shall return to his station as a Catechist ~~there~~ ^{as soon as} ~~until~~ ^{he} shall be duly qualified. Every Protestant being a candidate for the order of a Deacon, shall not be ~~forced~~ ^{permitted} ~~duly~~ ^{to} ~~qualified~~ ^{be} ~~at~~ ^{his} ~~first~~ ^{first} ~~examination~~ ^{examinations} he shall be ~~permitted~~ ^{permitted} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~remain~~ ^{remain} in the College three months after each examination, and if he then be not approved by the Bishop shall ~~return~~ ^{return} to his station as a Catechist.

XXIII

Any student educated at the College, having attained the age of 22 years and a half and being desirous of qualifying himself for the discharge of his Office as Minister may be recommended with the permission of the visitor for the purpose of receiving himself for holy orders in the manner provided for in the Case of of the Society of Protestants.

53 Fort St George, 28th February, 1830.

XXIV

All persons, whether Probationers or others, shall conform to the discipline of the College by attending regularly in the Chapel and in the Hall, and shall diligently employ their time in prayer and study as a preparation for Holy orders and the effectual discharge of their future duties. In their studies they shall be directed and assisted by the Principal Professor, and they shall not on any pretence, interfere or associate with the students, Probationers shall be allowed, commons in the Hall and such further allowances as may be necessary for their maintenance, and all others are to be supported at their proper cost and charges.

Domiciliaries.—

XXV

European Missionaries of the incorporated society, intended to be employed within the Diocese of Calcutta, shall if required by the Society on their first arrival in India, present to the College and their names in the study of the Native Languages.

54 Fort St George, 28th February, 1823.

until specially appointed by the Visitor to a Missionary Station. —

Dormitories shall regularly attend the Chapel, and dine in the Hall, at the Professor's Table paying for their Board such moderate charge as the College Council shall determine. Dormitories are strictly inhibited from all interference with the students and Probationers, and any violation of this inhibition will subject them to be admonished by the Principal Professor, and even to be removed from the College by the Visitor. —

The Library. —

XXVI

The library is placed under the immediate charge of the second Chaplain whose duty it is to take care that the Title and Edition of every Book, and if it be a Donation the name of the Donor to be entered in the Catalogue, Due care shall be taken for the preservation of the said library according to such regulations as may be directed.

55 Fort St. George, 28th February, 1823

directed by the College Council.

XXVII

Whatever books may be received by the donations or otherwise shall be examined by the College Council, who shall reject such as are unwarranted or in themselves useless, and separating such books as may not be deemed proper or requisite for the general pursuit of the students shall place them, under the special custody of the Librarian for the use of the Professor or such other persons as may obtain leave from the Council. The rest to be placed in the public Library, subject to such regulations as the College Council shall with the consent of the visitor think fit.

The College Prof.

XXVIII

The Superintendence of the College Prof. is in the College Council, whose duty it is to take care, that all work determined upon and ordered by the syndicate be correctly and expeditiously executed.

XXIX.

The ordinary Syndicate is composed of the visitor, the Archbishop of Calcutta, and the College Council, and three persons to be nominated by the

56 Fort St. George, 23rd February, 1820.

the Visitor for the year: its meetings shall be holden in the College Library at such times as the visitor or in his absence, as the Principal Professor may appoint, either of whom may call a Meeting of the Syndicate on the Third Friday of every Month, where it may see fit to assemble, there shall not however be fewer than four Meetings of the Syndicate in every year, viz in February, in May, in August and in November, Due notice shall be given of every meeting to each member.

any three members of the syndicate shall be competent to

XXX It is the business of the ordinary syndicate to determine what works conducive in any way to the objects for

the College is founded, shall be undertaken and printed at

the College Press, and no such book or tract shall be printed there, but with their sanction, to be expressed in the title page

provided that where the notes hereof, the existing rule be in

the visitor and that in no case any work be committed to

Press with the sanction of the College Council expressed in

title page as aforesaid, without the consent of the

57 Fort St George, 28th February, 1823:-

on his absence the responsibilities of Calcutta. The Visitor
is at all times to have the privilege of printing such
works of his own composition, as he may deem conducive
to the same end, provided it be at his own expense
and it shall be at the lowest rate of payment
which will not be injurious to the College Funds.

It shall be competent also to the College
Council, to permit other persons to print at the College
Press for reasonable profit, (but without ^{such} sanction expressed
in the title page) any works not at variance with
the objects of the Institution, nor otherwise exceptionable
in their tenor.

Synodicate Extraordinary.

XXXI

The Synodicate Extraordinary is
composed of the ordinary Synodicate with the addition
of such other persons as the Visitor shall from time
to time nominate, being deeply skilled in some one at
least of the Modern Languages, professed in the
College, and known to be solicitous to promote the
objects.

Fort St. George, 28th February, 1823

objects for which the College Prof is established. and he
persons to be called a *sacra* Synodics, and he to be in-
mated by the Language or Languages in which
their work may be solicited, as in Hindustani, in
Tamil or in Singhalese, as the case may be, and
the Visitor is authorized to invite and solicit the
assistance of Oriental scholars so qualified, where
ever resident within the range of the operations of the
College, and to nominate them members of the Syn-
dicate Extraordinary

XXXII

Every work composed in any
of the Native Languages which the ordinary
Synodics has determined upon, as likely to conduce
to any of the objects of the Institution, and of which
a fair copy has been laid before them, shall, in
the first instance be examined as to its execution
by as many of their own body, as are skilled in
the language, in which it is composed, assisted by as
many of the College Members as are conversant
with

59 Fort St George, 28th February, 1823.

with the same, and if the execution shall appear
to be generally meritorious it shall be submitted
separately to the respective Syndicates in the same Language,
whose revisions and corrections, being transmitted
with the Manuscripts to the ordinary syndicate
shall be by them considered and arranged with
a view to their final adoption, after which the work
shall be sent to press, unless in the case of any revision
of the Holy Scriptures or of the Liturgy of the United
Church of England, and Ireland, which as being
intended to be used in Christian Congregation, shall
not be printed with the special sanction of the Bishops of the
Diocese and permission to be expressed in the title page as
well as that of the ordinary syndicate.

(True Copies)

(Signed) C. Lushington

Acting Chief Clerk to the Government

Ordered in consequence that the
following letter be dispatched.

T. B.

Fort St. George, 28th February, 1823

To
The Madras District Committee
Gentlemen,

N^o 4
To the Madras Dis-
trict Committee.

Transmitting
for the information.

copy of the statutes of
Bishop's College at
Cuttack, which have

been communicated

to the Supreme Govt

by the Principal Prof.

of that Institution.

Principal Professor of that Institution.

Is directed by the Honorable

the Governor in Council to transmit for your infor-

mation the accompanying copy of the statutes of

Bishop's College at Cuttack, which have been

communicated to the Supreme Government by the

Principal Professor of that Institution.

Fort St. George,
28th February, 1823.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. Hoill,

Secretary to Govt

N^o 5.

Extracts.

Respecting the

free service rendered for the

service of the late Com-

missioner A. Campbell for

the Infantry.

of Consultations in the Military Department.

Vide Military Consultation

21st February, 1823.

N^o

Ordered

61 Fort St George, 28th February, 1823.

Ordered in consequence that
the following letter be dispatched.

N^o 13.

To
The Venerable

The Archdeacon

of

Madras

Sir,

I am directed by the

Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit
to you the accompanying extract from the
Minutes of Consultation in the Military
Department and to request that you
will furnish the information therein.

N^o 6

To the Venerable the
Archdeacon.

I am submitting
to him extract from
the Minutes of Con-
sultation in the Mi-
litary Department
requesting that he will
furnish the
information
therein called for.

W. B.

62

62. Fort St George, 28th February, 1823

called for. —

Fort St George,
28th February, 1823 —

Shaw, per.

/Signed/ D. Hill,

Secy to Government. —

Thos Munro

" A Campbell

" Geo Strickland

"

Recd
A. Samson

6 Oct copied by
E. P. Thompson

**DEBATE ON BHARATHI'S SONGS IN THE
MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

**ADJOURNMENT MOTION IN RE TO SEIZURE OF SUBRAHMANYA
BHARATHI'S SONGS BY THE POLICE.**

Compiled by—

G. BALAN,

*Superintendent, Grade B, Tamil Nadu Archives,
Madras-8.*

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“ Sir, I ask for leave to move the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the recent action of the City Police in entering upon and searching the premises of the Hindi Prachar Sabha on the High Road, Triplicane, for copies of Subrahmanya Bharathi's songs and seizing nearly two thousand copies of the same.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ I understand that there is an application in the High Court and whether this motion will not be barred by the principle of sub-judice is a matter for consideration.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“ May I make my submission, Sir ? Sir, this is an order made under the new section of the Criminal Procedure Code, No. 99-A, which authorizes any Local Government to declare every copy of issue of a book or newspaper containing such matter to be forfeited to His Majesty. Then, Sir, 99-B says, any person having any interest, in any newspaper, book or other document, in respect of which an order of forfeiture has been made under section 99-A, may within two months from the date of such order, apply to the High Court to set aside such order on the ground that the issue of the newspaper or the book or other document in respect of which the order was made did not contain any seditious or other matter of such a nature as is referred to in subsection (1) of section 99-A. Then, Sir, there is another section to which I would invite your attention, section 99-G. No order passed or action taken under section 99-A shall be called in question in any Court, otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of section 99-B. Therefore this order is appealable to the High Court only under the restriction contained in 99-G. That is to say no action taken in connexion therewith is appealable. These are the copies of the application which has now been filed in the High Court and that application prays the High Court to revise the order of forfeiture, i.e., the order passed by the Burma Government under section 99-A. So far as this order is concerned under which these copies are seized, and which I seek your leave and the leave of the House to bring forward before this House by means of this adjournment motion, it is passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate here and on a warrant issued by him in pursuance of the republication of the order of the Burma Government in the issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 11th September 1928. I further want to submit to you that once that order is passed there it is not compulsory on the part of the Madras Government to seize all these copies. The section you will notice, Sir, confers an optional jurisdiction as it were. It is a case where any police officer can seize the same and any magistrate may, by warrant authorize, etc., to search and seize copies. The small narrow point which I seek to bring before the House for discussion and expression of opinion is the policy of the Government of Madras in having given effect to this order of forfeiture of the Burma Government by means of this Magistrate issuing this order and by means of the police seizing these copies. This has nothing to do with the order of forfeiture which alone is appealable to the High Court. If action in pursuance of this order in section 99-G cannot be brought before the High Court, I submit this particular matter is not before the High Court and therefore not sub-judice. It may be open to argument that the Madras High Court has no justification at all because, this is an order of the Burma Government. It is not relevant for the present purpose to discuss that I am confining myself to the order of the Madras Government or rather its servants both magisterial and police in having taken action.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ So the Hon. Member will confine himself to the action of the police ? ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“ Yes ”.

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ Or of the policy of the Government ? ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“ Except in this implied way that the police are supposed to have acted under the orders of the Government. I have not the Police Commissioner in this Council. I can only deal with my Hon. Friend here.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ The Hon. Member can deal with the Home Member regarding the conduct of the police ”.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“ The question here is not the policy of the Government but the giving effect to a forfeiture order of the Burma Government.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ I do not think the Hon. Member can discuss both.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“ Except in an implied way I do not want to discuss the larger question, but I wish to take the decision of the House on this order which I say is not before the High Court.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ Then the question whether those songs contain seditious matter, etc., will form the subject matter.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“ Otherwise there is no point in this discussion.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ The moment the Hon. Member travels into the realm of the seditious nature of Bharathi's songs he would be trespassing on the subject matter of the petition before the High Court and I cannot allow a discussion on that aspect of the question because the High Court has to settle whether the subject matter of the songs is seditious or not.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“ The question whether those songs are seditious or not is relevant for that purpose. No doubt the order of the Burma Government can be justified only on the ground that those passages or songs contained seditious matter. It is also relevant for the purpose as to why the police in Madras seized these songs. I take it that it will not be put forward on behalf of the Madras Government that they seized them merely because the Burma Government passed this order. My answer is this Government are not bound by the orders of the Burma Government. It is not the order of the Government of India. If, on the other hand, Government, having the option, now choose to exercise that option, I submit it must be for certain reasons. My line of argument will depend upon the position Government take. If the Government say they did it without applying their mind merely because another Local Government did it, then I respectfully agree with you that the question of the seditious nature of the songs is not relevant. If, on the other hand, Government take the line that the Government also felt that these songs deserve to be treated in the manner in which they have treated them. I submit that the Government are not justified in ordering the seizure of the copies on the ground that they contained seditious matter. I may have to convince the House by my argument that they had no seditious matter for that purpose and that purpose only.”

(12-00 noon)

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“ I am afraid the Hon. Member has not understood my difficulty. That matter may be relevant for the discussion. But how can I allow a motion which raises that question, namely, whether the songs are seditious or not ? Because that is the matter before the High Court.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“On that matter, Sir, our rules and standing orders are only clear to this extent, namely, that a resolution could not deal with a matter which is sub-judice.”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“The High Court will have to decide whether the songs are seditious or not.”

Mr. SATYAMURTHI.—“For the purpose of deciding whether the order of forfeiture of the Burma Government is legal or not. But, Sir, there is another aspect which is not before the High Court, that is to say, the action of the Madras Government.”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“What is the action of the Madras Government?”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“The action of the Madras Government in seizing the songs, not in passing the order.”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“The thing is this : The question may be discussed from various stand points. But if the Hon. Member proposes to go into the question whether the songs are seditious or not, I am afraid I cannot allow it.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“May I make one submission, Sir?”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“That question has to be decided by the High Court.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“The rules contemplate only that a resolution should not deal with a matter which is before a Court of Law or which is sub-judice. The High Court is the order of forfeiture of the Burma Government. There is no rule—I speak subject to correction which says that in the course of the discussion you ought not to raise matters which are sub-judice, while on a discussion on a matter which is not sub-judice. There is nothing in our rules or standing orders which prevents a reference to matters which may be sub-judice in the course of that discussion.”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“Section 99-B is clear, I think. The words are ‘aply to the High Court to set aside such order on the ground that the book in respect of which the order was made, did not contain any seditious or other matter’. So, I take it that the only issue before the High Court is whether the books contain seditious matter. I do not think under rule 23 (1) (iii) that matter can be discussed. If the Hon. Member proposes to discuss the motion without referring to the question whether the songs do contain seditious matter or not, he may be in order.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“On that matter, Sir, I really want to make only one more submission, that with regard to the prohibition contained in our rules and standing orders about subject matters which may form the subject matter of resolutions, you will notice that ”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“Any matter which is under adjudication by a Court of Law.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI.—“Yes, Sir. The rule says ‘no resolution shall be moved in regard to any of the following subjects, namely any matter which is under adjudication by a Court of Law having jurisdiction in any part of His Majesty’s Dominions’. Therefore, I cannot move any motion before this House in respect of a matter which is now before the High Court, the matter being the order of the Burma Government forfeiting copies of Bharathi’s songs to His Majesty. No doubt the argument on section 99-B, to which you now referred, will have to confine itself to the question whether those songs contain or do not contain seditious matter.”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“My point is this : Section 99-B declares that the only question which may be raised before the High Court is whether the songs are seditious or not. Now, I understand that matter is before the High Court. Therefore, the Hon. Member cannot discuss that matter under rule 23 (1) (iii), because the spirit of the rule is that once the High Court has got jurisdiction to dispose of a matter, the Council shall not pronounce its opinion on the matter.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“I will base my argument on this ground; even assuming that the songs are seditious, they are not so seditious as to require action on the part of the Government of Madras in forfeiting them.”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“It seems to me, if I may say so respectfully, that the position which, we understand, you were referring to, is quite correct. Now, under section 99-B, the only question which the High Court will have to consider is whether these songs are seditious or not. In fact the High Court is precluded from considering any other question. So, that is the whole question under adjudication. And what is it that this motion seeks to discuss except the same question, namely, whether the songs are seditious or not?”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“He may draw the attention of the Council to the action of the Police without going into the merits of the seditious nature of the songs.”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“But, is it possible to discuss the action of the Police without referring to it? Police action was taken because the songs are seditious. I assume for the moment that the songs are seditious, for the purpose of the present discussion. The Police seized them only on that ground. If the songs are not seditious, if the order is not correct, it would be different matter. The Police performed their duty on the sole ground, namely, on the order of the Burma Government that the songs are seditious. That is the sole question for adjudication before the High Court. I cannot understand how we can discuss this adjournment motion without going into the question whether the songs are seditious or not. It seems to me, Sir, subject to your ruling that the point is quite clear, namely, that the point for adjudication by the High Court is the question that we shall have to discuss here, and it is not a matter which can be discussed in the face of Standing Order 12 and rule 23 (1).”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTY.—“We are at present concerned not with the seditious or non-seditious nature of those songs. As a matter of fact, what we are now concerned with is the action of the Local Government either in permitting themselves to be dictated by the other Local Government or in permitting their Police Officers to take any action in pursuance of an order issued by another Government, i.e., whether they are authorized to do so or whether they are compelled to do so. It is for this Government to justify their action by saying that they are bound down by law. Therefore, that matter will come out in defence. We are not going to discuss a matter which is sub-judice, i.e., whether the subject matter is seditious or not. We are solely concerned with the action of the Local Government in asking the Police to take action because another Local Government has ordered them to do so.”

RAO BAHADUR C. V. ANANTAKRISHNA AYYAR.—“Mr. president, Sir, the question strikes me in this manner. Just as you have a decree of a court which in execution could not be challenged, here we have similarly an order passed by the Rangoon Government. Under section 99, there is this provision made that when once an order of forfeiture has been made by a Local Government, the Police may seize such condemned copies wherever they are found in British India provided they get an order from the Magistrate. It is a duty imposed upon the police wherever copies might be found, whichever might be the Local Government that have originally passed the order. Section 99 makes it clear.

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“The Advocate-General will go on.”
Member is going into the merits of the question.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“The Advocate-General will go on.”

RAO BAHADUR C. V. ANANTAKRISHNA AYYAR.—“Section 99 is specific, that when once an order of forfeiture has been passed by a Local Government, the duty of the Police is to seize such copies wherever found in British India, having applied to a Magistrate and having obtained a warrant. Here a warrant has been obtained by the Police. Now, section 99 makes it absolutely clear, that from such an order there is the right to move the High Court, and the only point that would be considered by the High Court in such a matter is whether as a matter of fact the condemned publication contains seditious matter. And section 99 (g) makes it also clear that no other point could be raised when impugning order passed under that particular section. If the question sought to be discussed here is whether these songs contain seditious matter I submit rules 12 and 23 make it absolutely clear that no matter which is under adjudication by a Court of Law could be discussed, and the only matter under section 99 which could be brought before the court is whether the condemned publication does as a matter of fact, contain seditious matter. So that, reading section 99 and its sub-clauses together with Legislative Council Rules 12 and 23, it seems to me that any question which raises a discussion whether any particulars condemned publication does or does not as a matter of fact contain seditious matter would offend the rule of sub-judice.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“In view of what has fallen from your lips, Sir, I may say that my purpose in raising this motion is merely to question the action of the Police. In discussing the matter, I will not refer to the question as to whether those songs are seditious or not. I will assume they are seditious, and yet question the policy of the Government whether they are justified in not using their discretion in the matter and whether they are not wrong in acting in pursuance of an order of another Government.”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“In view of the undertaking by the Hon. Member, Mr. Satyamurti, that he would not refer to the matter whether the songs are seditious or not, I think the Council will be in order to discuss the conduct of the Police in using their discretion. So far as that aspect of the question is concerned, I think the motion is in order. Does the Government object?”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“Where is the urgency, Sir?”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“On a point of order. You have ruled, Sir, that the motion is in order. The Hon. Member is out of order in raising the question of urgency now.”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“You have given a ruling on this point, namely, whether in this discussion”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—“On a point of order. You have already ruled that the motion is in order.”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“On the question whether it is urgent or not” (Cries of ‘No, no’ ‘Too late’ and ‘Order order’).

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“Hon. Members will allow the Hon. Law Member to continue his speech.”

(12-15 p.m.)

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR N. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“The only point on which you gave us a ruling was whether the matter that is to be considered by the High Court is identical with the matter that this Council has to consider. The other point that I now raise is whether there is any urgency with reference to this motion. The action has been taken; the public have seized copies. . . .”

The Hon. the PRESIDENT.—“To-morrow they may seize some other books in some other places; I don’t think they have exhausted all the books.”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“I believe they have exhausted all these books (Voices: ‘No, No’). I speak with reference to the particular books that are mentioned to have been in particular premises. . . .”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“Then Hon. Member library may contain it or my library may contain it.”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“But the notification does not refer to other places; the notification refers to a particular place in Triplicane. The Bharathi Asram at Triplicane is the only place mentioned in the notification and the police are not authorized to seize those books from any other premises.”

The Hon. The PRESIDENT.—“The songs are composed and published by Subramanya Bharathi; the published books may be in some of the libraries.”

The Hon. DIWAN BAHADUR M. KRISHNAN NAYAR.—“Does the notification refer to it?”

The Hon. the President.—“It is stated ‘all copies wherever found’ Wherever they are found they are to be confiscated.”

Does any Member object? (After a pause). Since there is no objection, I wish to know whether the Government would like to proceed with it tomorrow. (After a pause). It will be taken up tomorrow after 2-30 p.m.

[Extract taken from proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council, Vol. XLIV of 1928.]

RAJAJI'S AUTOGRAPH NOTES

Northpattanam case.

(Having gone through the file very carefully and taken a good length of time to think it over, I am of opinion that, all things considered, I should set the sixteen convicted prisoners free, and withdraw the prosecution against Kannevare Rao. I would not ask them to give any undertaking. If they misbehave ^{again}, I would let them be prosecuted on the security sections of the Cr. Pr. code. The evidence gathered already and whatever else can be secured would be placed before the Magistrate, and if he is satisfied that they are dangerous he will bind them over. They have been convicted & sentenced now to six months S.I. and such a punishment does no good to any one. They will come out at the end of the period worse than before.

Kamekura Ruo is prosecuted not only for disobedience of an order, but in addition, for managing an unlawful association. On the latter charge, we can possibly get a longish sentence imposed on him. But I am almost certain the charge is unsustainable. At best it would be a poor affair in the merits before the Judicial Tribunal. The association became unlawful only after and by reason of the order, and there was little time or interval for

"management" or "conduct" of this
organization therefore. Merely standing
on the spot in defiance of the order
that was only just then communi-
-cated would not be deemed to be
a distinct act of management. We
cannot talk previous management
to a subsequent ban. So really,
there is not much more against him
in law, as the present prosecution
stands, than against the other persons
already convicted. It would have
been different, had there been an
attempt to gather evidence and
present a case of conspiracy or
sedition against him specially.
As it stands, we are prosecuting
him only for one Act, though under
two sections: viz., for defying the
order. On the whole I think Hoque.
There is no point in treating him
differently in the present matter.
Of course he would have to be
watched more than the others
for future action if found necessary.

I desire to create an effective
"amnesty" atmosphere in this as
in other provinces. I advise un-
conditional release of the prisoners
in the case and withdrawal of the
accusation against Kametani Rev. C.R. 21.7.37]

Extract from G.O.Ms.No.2925, Home (Confidential)dt.28.7.1937.

Pages from the Rare books:

FORT ST. GEORGE.

Girdled by low khaki coloured walls, and the remains of a moat, Fort St. George would seem to shun rather than court attention, were it not for the tall spire of St. Mary's Church, which kindly time has mellowed to the soft tint of old ivory and the lofty flag staff dominating the great central redan of the sea face.

The most frequented entrance is St. George's Gate, in the northern part of the west wall. It leads into Poonamallee High Road and George Town. Lower down, on the same side to south, Wallajah gate and Ravelin open into Mount road, a splendid thorough fare completed in 1795, that runs out to St. Thomas' Mount, a distance of eight miles. A branch of the Cooum river skirts the western defences. Inside the ramparts their course is traced by a straight broad walk known as Outer Curtain street. This meets San Thome street underlying the south wall. Midway is San Thome Gate, its approach guarded by a traverse of mud and bricks neatly faced with cut stone. Here the moat, has been filled in. Glimpses of the station hospital are visible through an intervening screen of trees.

The east wall commands the sea which, prior to the construction of the harbour, came very much nearer than at present. At one time, the waves actually washed away part of the fortification. So, serious was the menace that, in 1762, the Court of Directors expressed the fear that it would be impossible to devise any means whereby their stronghold might be saved from the encroachments of the Bay of Bengal.

A massive redan, surmounted by a flagstaff said to be the highest in India, occupies the centre of the east curtain. Flanking it are the North and South Sea gates. These are supplemented by two modern park-gates of wrought iron erected in honour of the Council Chamber. They stand apart from the fortifications and are strangely incongruous. Tradition avers that the then Governor considered the existing entrances too low and insignificant for the passage of exalted personages. When he expressed this opinion to the general the latter retorted, so says the anecdote—"Better men went out through those old gates than will ever come in by the new ones".

The original flagstaff stood in the south-east bastion of the first Fort St. George built by Day and Cogan. This bastion was the earliest erected and received the name of English point. The present flagstaff is believed to have replaced the mast of the French Frigate "La Forte", captured by the "Sybil" in 1792, and blown down about half a century ago, when the naval authorities at Trincomallee erected the existing one.

Outside the sea wall is a moat. Grass grows at the bottom and the sides are lined with stone. Parallel with it Beach road runs northward towards the Harbour. Beyond again stretches a wide expanse of yellow sand, hot and shadeless but for a few wind-swept casuarina trees. A white line of restless surf divides the flat beach from a sea of a clear bright blue, excepting when the threat of rain turns it an almost equally vivid green.

Here it was, on the sandy foreshore, that the Company's merchants assembled to traffic with the sailing ships riding at an anchor in the roadstead. English vessels were distinguished by the Company's flag, horizontal red lines on a white ground. The Sea Gate served as Exchange, where business men of various nationalities met daily at 11 a.m.

Doctor Fryer, Surgeon to the company, visited Madras in July 1673. He writes--"I went ashore in a musoola boat, wherein ten men paddle, the two aftermost of whom are the streersmen, using their paddles instead of a rudder..... Though we landed wet the sand was scalding hot, which made me recollect my steps and hasten to the Fort. As it looked on the water it appeared a place of good force. The out work is walled with stone a good height, thick enough to blunt a cannon ball kept by a dozen ordnance at each side the water gate, besides a half moon of five guns."

Following York road, as it proceeds northward under the east wall inside the Fort, the Station Mess is passed on the left. It is a big three-storied yellow building characterised by green wood work and a white pillared verandah. Originally the private residence of a Mr. Hughes, the site was purchased for the erection of an exchange at the instigation of Peter Cassey Massin, who in 1787, drew the attention of Government to the inadequate accommodation provided in Pitt's old colonade by the Sea Gate. A sum was consequently raised by public lotteries, and the work undertaken by a company possessing a capital of pagodas 25,000 in twenty-five shares. The ground floor was devoted to warehouses and offices. Above was the exchange, free to all merchants, dealers, commanders of ships or others having any concern in trade. It likewise contained a coffee room, a broker's office and a committee room. The walls of the exchange were hung with portraits of Cornwallis, Coote, General Meadows, Lord Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington and others. Public meetings, lottery drawings and entertainments were also held there. Auction rooms, where Tippu Sultan's crown jewels were auctioned in 1802, a subscription library and the Madras Bank were situated on the ground floor. In 1826, the Government rented the Exchange for public offices. Prior to that the roof had, as early as 1795, served as a base for the light house, seemingly an iron framed structure supporting a lantern, reflectors and twelve lamps fed with cocoanut oil. From 1861 downwards the old exchange building has been used as the Officers' Mess of the British regiment stationed in the Fort. It was purchased from the shareholders in 1882, since when it has remained Government property.

The North-East Demi-Bastion marks the corner, whence it commands the sea, and the six tall posts of the wireless station erected on slightly rising ground, to north of the ramparts, on the site of old Black Town. An inclined way leads to the top of the battlements. A sentry on guard bars the ascent to all unprovided with a pass. Further to west is the Orillon Demi-Bastion and finally, the Mint Bastion in the north-west angle.

Wide streets and roads traverse the enclosure. The mellow colouring of the old buildings is refreshingly blended with the occasional green of trees, chiefly asoka, tamarind, palm and croton. Here are no ruined structures, no oppressive burden of years, the silence and decay of a city that had its day many centuries ago, but rather the peaceful contentment of prosperous and honoured middle age.

Fort St. George is a classic.—The members which it evokes, however are warm and living. Its heroes belong to modern, not ancient history. The earth rests lightly upon them. They quicken at a touch. Pitt, Coote, Clive, Charnock Stringer-Lawrence, Munro are still names to conjure with, and their descendants are with us yet.

[Extrated from "The Book", Madras. "The Birth place of British India".]

VESTIGES OF OLD MADRAS.

SOCIAL LIFE AT FORT ST. GEORGE.

Official records naturally throw little light on social life at Fort St. George and few private letters from Madras residents have so far been traced. A transcript of a communication from Captain Roger Myddelton, which has been preserved, is therefore of considerable value. It was discovered not long since by the Royal Historical Manuscripts Commissioners among the Welsh Manuscripts at Mostyn Hall. Roger Myddelton, who was appointed to command the Garrison in succession to Captain Minors, embarked in the Persia Merchant in March 1658, with Jonathan Trevisa, Agent designate in Bengal, William Vassall and two other factors, besides four soldiers, one of whom, Richard Myddelton was his own cousin, while another was the son of Archdeacon Loyd. In August the vessel was cast away on the Maldives and the ship's company with difficulty reached Ceylon in a smaller craft. Here thirteen of their number, including Vassall were seized by the King of Kandy, who made them prisoners for life. The remainder suffered shipwreck again in the Gulf of Manar. Myddelton eventually reached Porto Novo, and came on thence

by land to *Fort St. George*, arriving in October 1638. By a ship of the following January he wrote an account of his experiences to his relatives. The portion treating of Madras is here extracted:—

Roger Myddelton's Letter.

(Mostyn MS. 147, 12th January 1658|9.)

'Loving Brother and Sister, I am be betwixt two opinions whether to write unto you or not; though I be silent, yet the newes of my miscry will soone come to your cares. Five monthes after our departure from England our ship was cast away and many weare drownd, amongst the rest Cosen Richard Myddlton; but myself miraculously saved With noe small trouble and danger wee came to the Coast of Cormadell, to a place called Porta Nova, from whence wee travelled five hundred miles upon bulls, thus comeing safe to St. George where I was much commiserated. The President gave me a peece of flowered satten to make me clothes, and many other things; and findeing me inclyning to recreation, he gave me a cast of brave falcons which have killed many Herons sence; alsoe greyhounds. I must not ommitt how the foxes come to the Castle gates to kill our poultry. They have here good fighting Cocks, and they fight them with penknives blades instead of gavelocks.'

'This is a place healthfull, using all kind of recreation save hounds; all sort of provisions being so cheap; only sack is too deare, yet wee have other good drinke to remember our friends withhall. I have the absolute comand of the soliers, within and without, and have drivers Captains under me, for wee have 600 men in daily pay, viz., 100 white and 500 black. This place was beseedged twice within this two years.'

'But my fine boy' is dead, which has been very neare the occasion of my death, for I lay sick hopelese above a moneth and am not yet recovered. And to add to my griefe, my honorable friend the President is very sick and can not live ten dayes, and in his stead is one Mr. Chambres, who claymes kindred with those (of) our country. He is worth 50,000l., as I am credibly informed yet a batcheler. He hath shewed me divers curtestics in my sickness, and bids me not question but that he will be as loving to me as his Predecessor. I do not take any felicity (in) my life, though I live in greate pompe, eating and drinking and wearing' noe worse then the best in this Town, yea rather City for it is built to a marvelous bignesse in few years. We have a City of the Portugalls within three miles; but they leave that famous place, for the Moors have, it¹, and they are come to us for protection against the Dutch. There is a brave Church built for them here, and they have a convent of franciscans² in it, very learned men. The Moors army are round about us, yet Wee feare them not. They have beaten our king out of his country. They have gallant horses and are good horsemen, well armed; they have gunns both greate and small. They bring up theirs youth heare to Letters, fencing and dancing³, and all sort of Liberall Sciences, a thing I thought very strange att my first comeing; exelent Astronomers, If I live long among them, I shall not onely give you, but all that read English, a larger accompt of them. If a man have in this place but two or three hundred pounds, he might quickly raise an Estate; but he that is poore, lett him be soe still.

¹ The Moslems ruled in Mylapore, but the adjacent town of San Thome was not evacuated by the Portuguese until May 1662.

² Franciscans, probably an error for Capuchins.

³ Dancing, perhaps the writer meant gymnastics.

'The President, my noble friend, is dead, and I have been soe basic this five dayes that I could (not) close my letter in all that tyme. He hath left me tenn pounds to buy mourning and a Gould Ring. Besides, this is an expensive place, and from the drunkenesse thereof good Lord deliver me; all gamsters and much adicated to venery. I lost yesterday my best falcon. Tell Cosen Samm Andrewes one Gurnay¹ remembers him, whom, with his wife, I alsoe salute; alsoe at Coddington Brumbo my good cosen Meredith, with ner family. I should write to my uncle Lloyd, but this may serve for an Epistle generall. Commending me to Cosen ffoulke, Ann, Betty and Mall your ever ioving, ever serving, ever praying Brother.'

'From my lodgeings in the Castle'

Within Fort St. George.

'Rogerm Myddelton'

The 'brave Church' alluded to by Myddelton is doubtelss the Capuchin chruch of St. Andrew, to which a 'convent' was attached. From a record² of 1692 it appears that Greenhill assigned ground to the Capuchins, on which they built an 'Open Pandall³ Chappel' The grant was probably made about 1658, at the time of the influx of Portuguese from San Thome, and there is reason for the belief that the chapel was situated in the native town, but adjacent to the European quarter.

[Extracted from the vestiges of old Madras.]

Pages from the Rare Books.

NARRATION OF THE TWO INCIDENCES OF VIOLENT HURRICANE
AT MADRAS ON THE 1ST MAY 1811 AND ON THE 8TH MAY 1820.

MILITARY REMINISCENCES EXTRACTED FROM A JOURNAL OF
NEARLY FORTY YEARS' ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE EAST INDIES

By

COLONEL JAMES WELSH OF THE MADRAS ESTABLISHMENT.

At Madras on the 1st May 1811.

Compiled by

M. S. PANDIAN.

Shortly after our return from my first excursion to Coorg, I was ordered down to Madras, to give evidence in a cause then pending before the Supreme Court; and arriving there on the 28th of April 1811, I was just in time to see and take leave of many old friends, about to sail on the expedition against Java. Amongst the rest, Colonel Agnew, whom I was destined never to meet again in this world. He had been one of my earliest and best friends, and was a man of abilities, with a very warm heart; carrying home the despatches of the conquest of Java, he died shortly afterwards in England. By the great kindness of Providence, the expedition sailed on the evening of the 30th of April; for on the 1st of May, the dawn was ushered in by an exceedingly heavy fall of rain, which continued without intermission until five O'clock the next morning. The wind, which was at first moderate, gradually rose, and at ten a.m., on the 2nd had increased to a perfect hurricane, which continued with unabated fury for seventeen hours; the last six, indeed, seldom equalled in any part of the world; during which, houses were upset, doors and windows blown off their hinges, trees torn up by the roots, and streams were running with great force in every direction. The sea forcing it's way into both rivers, swept all before it, two bridges could not be discovered for two days afterwards, and the Marmelong one, having it's centre arch carried away, was impassable for a considerable time. The house I was living in, with an old friend, Lieutenant-colonel Charles Trotter, was nearly dismantled, and we had taken shelter in the last room, when it abated.

¹ Probably John Gurney.

² P. C. Vol. XVIII May 1692.

³ Pandall and open shed.

After this faint outline of the damage sustained on shore, I know not what words can picture the horrors of the scene in the roads. Of all the ships, brigs, cutters, ketches, donies, and C only one solitary brig escaped, by putting out to sea, at the commencement of the storm. Many foundered at their anchors, for the surface rose as far out as nine fathoms, others were liberally torn to pieces, and the rest dashed against the shore, in all directions. The whole beach was covered with wrecks, from St. Thome to the Custom House, a distance of nearly three miles; and so thickly were the fragments strewn that it was with difficulty we could find our way through them, as soon as the storm was over; yet, wonderful to relate, the hand of the Almighty was most singularly extended over the crews of His Majesty's fine frigate *Daver* and store-ship *Chi-chester*, and several other English ships which were totally lost; only two Europeans losing their lives, of hundreds exposed to the most imminent peril, and I believe, only a few hundred natives perished, of thousands, whose floating imitations were buried in the waters. One small English brig totally dismasted, being of more than ordinary strength in her hull, was washed high and dry upon the shore, with her crew snug on board, cutting a most ludicrous figure in the sands; but the most extraordinary sight witnessed that evening was a small French carted brig, which returned to the roads, with her colours flying from her only remaining topmast, and thus, while at war with that nation, the French flag flying alone triumphant in those roads that had contained at least one hundred English the day before. These are the wonderful ways of Providence; and poor silly man, forgetting both his terrors and his promises the moment they are over, considers them as more matters of course.

After one of the most severe visitation that this settlement had ever experienced, I could not disguise my astonishment at the apparent total absence of all those feelings which amend the heart and at the admost instantaneous oblivion, thrown on such an occurrence as a hurricane, which had deprived hundreds of our fellow creatures of their lives, perhaps when least prepared for their dread account had swallowed up the property and destroyed the prospects of many hundreds more, and even given a dreadful shock to the maritime trade of the settlement. I did not hear of any public means proposed to alleviate the sufferings of the wretched victims, nor was there any allusion to the storm in the prayers at Divine Service, only three days after its occurrence. My old friend, Colonel Charles Trotter, one of the most religious benevolent and liberal-minded men I ever had the happiness to know, has long since gone to meet the reward of a life spent in the fear and service of his Maker; he died in command of the Tinnevely district, in 1819.

At Madras on the 8th May 1820.

Leaving Mangalore on the 23rd of March, I reached Cannanore on the 24th, and Calicut on the 27th, where I remained a few days, till the *Reliance* was ready to proceed to Madras, at which place we arrived on the 29th of April. Expecting the return of my family from Europe, I remained at the Presidency, in the house of my kind friend, Major De Haviland, who was then Chief Engineer. The cholera then still extending its ravages from one end of the Pininsula to the other, suddenly made its entry into Saint George's Church, and struck even the Minister in the pulpit, where the Reverend Mr. Keating, while in the act of reading the morning service, on Sunday, the 7th of May, was assailed by this dreadful malady, and, being carried home, became a corpse the same evening; depriving the settlement of the best preacher I ever heard in the East. I was not long personally acquainted with him, but all that I had an opportunity of seeing in his behaviour, both publicly and privately, made me lament his untimely fate. In society he was mild, modest, and gentlemanly; in the pulpit pious, zealous, and energetic; with the clearest and most melodious voice I ever heard. His reading of the Communion service in particular was the most affecting and eloquent that the mind of man could conceive; and, standing at the altar, he actually filled the Church with a voice almost super-human. The Almighty, for purposes which mortals cannot fathom, permitted the King of Terrors to snatch him from the very midst of his congregation; and it is to be hoped the impression naturally made on some of them, must have produced a feeling which nothing in the common way could have effected.

On Monday the 8th of May, the settlement was visited by a storm, of even longer duration than the one I had witnessed in 1811. It commenced with a strong northerly wind, followed in the forenoon by clouds of dust, which were succeeded by heavy rain in the afternoon, with an increasing wind. At six o'clock, p.m., it had become a hurricane, and we saw some ships very sensibly running out to sea; at midnight the wind came round to the east, and had got to the south-west at daylight on the 9th, the rain continuing to pour a deluge, though not in the least abating the fury of the wind. At two, p.m., the flag-staff in the fort was broken and fell, and the tempest was so much increased, that we could neither venture over the threshold, nor see any thing distinctly through the glass windows, which indeed, we had great-difficulty in securing from within. In the evening, the wind shifted again to the northward, but without any symptoms of abatement; we had been obliged to burn candles all day, and the tempest increased at nightfall, lasting with unabating fury until the next morning, the 10th, when the whole beach was found covered with wrecks, amongst which all the Massoulah boats were beaten to pieces, and driven even into the streets of the Black-town, the whole island was covered with water, and all the drawbridges to the Lunetts destroyed or removed. It is said that one thousand Natives perished in the houses which were demolished outside. In the fort only one old house fell, but all the sentry boxes were blown down, and many doors and windows demolished. Outside, many trees were torn up by the roots, and few houses escaped without some injury. In the midst of all this mischief, a new Scotch Church, building by me fried Major De Haviland, stood unshaken, and the light house in the fort had only one pane of glass broken. The damage at sea was almost incalculable. When the gale commenced, there were numerous ships and vessels in the roads; of the former all but the Atlas, got out early; she was seen last, at three p.m., on the 9th, labouring dreadfully and as the wind was then flying about from west to north, we supposed she had been at last, blown out. Of the Massoulah boats, fifty were entirely destroyed, many pieces of which were flung into the ditch of the fort, and some quite entire were to be seen far in the Black-town. A house on the beach, used as a dispensary, close to the Master-attendant's office, was literally washed away; and great fears were entertained for all the buildings on the sea face. The next day, waling round the battlements, to behold the effects of the late storm, I saw a green window shutter, from one of the houses in the fort, lodged against an embrasure in the out-work of the north-eastern angle. How it came there, I cannot tell; but, certes, it must have passed over a rampart nearly thirty feet high.

The damage done at sea was the ill-fated Atlas totally lost off Pulicat, early on the morning of the 10th, with three Europeans and two Natives drowned; the rest of the crew providentially saved. The General Palmer returned in five days, when the Chief-mate reported, that he had never experienced such a gale in his life, and but for the strength of the ship, being quite new from Calcutta, and the good conduct of her crew, she must have gone down, as he feared all the others had done, for he saw them all round in distress, and before he returned, had observed wrecks in all directions. He picked up six Lascars, who swam on board, for he had lost all his boats and spars, having two feet water on the gun-deck, and every thing washed off the poop. The Reliance, and some others, were dismasted; and several, whose names I could not learn, perished at sea. Even on the 10th, when a Catamoran ventured out for the relief of a dismasted vessel drifting by, she disappeared, and was never seen or heard of afterwards.

It is extraordinary, that this Presidency should twice have been visited by heavy storms, in the hottest and stillest month in the whole year; and at the very time when most vessels are to be seen in the Roads. I never learned what number of small craft perished, but none were to be seen for some days after. The fine beach, between the fort and Black-town, was nearly destroyed; and great fears were entertained for a long and valuable range of public buildings, the verandas of which were literally filled with pieces of wrecks. There is a proverb of most venerable antiquity which states, that "It is a bad wind which blows nobody good," and this gale so disastrous to the community, and which nearly deprived me of life, from it's effect on my injured lungs, afforded my kind host an opportunity of being eminently useful, in placing a

bar *pro tempore*, to the advances of the encroaching ocean. He was employed by Government to form a stone barrier or break-water, all along the shore, to the extent of upwards of a mile; which undertaking occupied every spare cart at the Presidency, for many months, conveying stones blown and cut out of a hill seven miles inland, called the little mount, which he literally removed into the sea; and thereby saved all the public buildings and the Black-town from impending destruction.

On the 10th of June, Sir Thomas Munro landed at Madras, and assumed the Government in due form, and never was an appointment more grateful to the feelings of the Madras army. I meddle not with politics, but the dispensations of an allwise and gracious, though mysterious Providence, will compel my pen to introduce this great and good man again to reader, with far different sensations. Continuing to reside at Madras, with a part of my family who returned from Europe in August; I had the misfortune suddenly to lose my best, and kindest friend, then Lieutenant-colonel Sutherland Mr. Dowall, Resident of Travancore. On the 7th of November, he was attacked with cholera in the morning, and in spite of medical aid, was a corpse the same evening. I had not even the melancholy gratification of seeing him previous to his dissolution, being myself confined and not permitted by my medical attendant to go near him. Always extremely delicate, he had come down to the Presidency, to pay his respects to Sir Thomas Munro, and had not been many days there, when one night awaking and seeing a man in his bed-room, he sprang up and pursued him out of the house, in a shower of rain; the robber dropped various articles in his retreat, and amongst the rest, some very ingenious pick-locks, and instruments for drawing bolts, &c. My friend lost nothing of consequence, but the sudden transition from a hot bed, to a cold wet atmosphere was too much for his weak frame, and the result was to me, one of the severest blows I had experienced for many years. In 1817, at a time when almost overwhelmed by an accumulation of misfortunes, and when true friendship is fairly tried and appreciated, he came forward, in the kindest, and most affectionate manner, and administered effectual relief; and even at the moment of his lamented death, was increasing the heavy debt of gratitude, never to be repaid, but by respect to his memory.

This year closed with another gale in the end of December, which could not prove equally destructive, from the port being shut, and the flag-staff struck, for the north-east monsoon; it served, however, to prove the efficacy of the new barrier.

On the 6th of February 1821, I was appointed by Sir Thomas Munro to command the provinces of Malabar and Canara, vacant by the death of Lieutenant-colonel Lindsey. The principal part of the journey being through places already mentioned, I shall pass over the whole till we left the foot of the Periah Pass, when proceeding by a new road to Cannanore, we arrived first at Canote, twelve miles from the bungalow at Nuddum-breeshawle; our old friend Mr. Baber, the Circuit Judge, having kindly come out to meet us the day before. This is a small place on the high road, with a little bridge over a small mountain stream; and it is in a wild and beautiful spot, abounding with all kinds of game.

Our next march was to Cotaparamba, eight miles onward, an old square fort, on a commanding eminence, having a house in each of the bestions, and a delightful view in every direction. The Pioneers doing duty in Malabar and Canara, were at that time stationed at this place, under Lieutenant Rowley; and from its height above the surrounding country, and more above the level of the sea, it must be both cool and healthy. Half-way between this place and Cannanore, there is a wide and deep river, over which a capital stone bridge was erected a few years back by Captain Ravenshaw, of the Engineers; and the high road, which formerly went round some miles by Tellichery, had now been made to pass directly through it.

Cannanore, the capital of Malabar and Canara, is sixteen miles nearly west of Cotaparamba, and here we arrived on the 16th of March, and I assumed the command. The troops stationed in these provinces were, His Majesty's 69th regiment, under Major Leslie; the second battalion of the seventh regiment, Lieutenant-colonel R. M. Dowall; first battalion of the seventh regiment, Major Balmain; first battalion of the eighteenth regiment, Lieutenant-colonel Pereira. Artillery, Captain Brett; and our old friend, Captain W. Garrard, engineer.

The second battalion of the seventh regiment being stationed at Mangalore, furnished five companies for the northern out-posts of Sedasheegur, Oonoor, Jummanabad & c., the southern parties being detached from the other two Native corps, alternately, as far as Paulghat. Having to review the corps stationed at Mangalore, as a part of the duty of this command, I shall here give a sketch of the land route, in one of those periodical journies.

From Cannanore to Balliapatam, where we crossed a wide and deep river by a good ferry, the distance is five miles, and this place I have mentioned in 1812. Ten miles further there is another river, with a ferry to Payenguide, a very good town on the north bank, with an up-stair bungalow for travellers. It has a small hill immediately behind it; and the river, winding up the country, affords excellent shooting of all descriptions. Another ferry, six miles onward, leads across to a bungalow erected by Mr. Baber, in a wild spot for sporting; but the road beyond Balliapatam is very bad, and totally unfit for wheel carriages. The next stage is Kautetcherry, a distance of twelve miles; this is a wretched building in jungle, some distance from the sea, and on a back-water with a ferry. We got pea-fowl & c., both stages. Eight miles further is the Fort of Hoosdroog, on the sea-coast; it has been a place of some consequence, in days of yore, and is in a delightful situation. A mile further we found a tolerable resting-place, at a clean village called Adeanoor, with a picturesque little fort, one mile inland, called Poodicottah; this is a pleasant place, with a good view of the sea, at a short distance to the left. Pushing on in the afternoon, we came to a place called Beycull, where there is an extensive fort in ruins, which has been strong. It is built on a rock cliff, overhanging the sea, and commands the shore and country all round. It is, I found several dismounted guns, some even of large calibre; and there is a small harbour to the southward. We were forced to swim our horses over a river in this short march. Seven miles from Beycull is the fort of Chandergeery, on a high cliff, which commands the passage of a very broad river, and all the surrounding country; and is one of the strongest and best chosen spots I have seen along the whole coast. The situation is really delightful, and the river, with enormous high banks, has many picturesque islands in it. Two miles further on is a capital choultry, at a place called Cassergode, in a very beautiful country, with an old fort, called Caniarote, a short distance from it, containing also some iron guns, without carriages, from nine to eighteen-pounders. Five miles further on is another river, over which we were also forced to swim our horses; and nine miles from Cassergode is a comfortable choultry, in a flourishing village called Coomalah, on the bank of a broad river. This place, as well as Cassergode, appears a port of considerable trade, and there is an old fort on the northern bank, commanding the ferry; the next stage is Munjer-sweer, nine miles. There are also two rivers in this portion of the road, both fordable at low water; the last close to the town, which is large and pleasantly situated. There is likewise a good choultry for travellers, and a gentleman's bungalow, a short distance inland. Crossing a small river at Colal, nine miles further, and the Mangalore one, about three from that, the whole distance is nearly ninety miles; but the number of ferries, and more particularly the smaller streams, unprovided with such means of crossing, must make this a difficult march for troops & c., from the month of June to September.

On the 6th of May, I was appointed to the command of Vellore, my first station in the Carnatic, and on the 18th embarked from Calicut in the *Aurora*, for Pondicherry, which place we reached on the 28th of the same month.

Pondicherry is, I am happy to say, once more rising again, Phoenix-like, under the influence of the Conde de Puis, a respectable nobleman, who is daily improving it; we met many genteel families, which were becoming scarce when I was last there, and many new houses have been built, streets cleared and widened, and the whole wears a more prosperous aspect, than it did in 1809.

On the 29th, there was a grand Fête de Dieu, and bells ringing and guns firing all day, to prevent the inhabitants from forgetting it; yet I found no difficulty in obtaining conveyances, carriages for baggage, & c., and left the place that evening, arriving at Tindiwanam the next morning; a distance of twenty-four miles and a half. There is a large village and fine stone tank here, with two good bungalows on the bank, sheltered by large trees; and the surrounding country full of game.

The next stage was Dessor, nearly twenty-four miles, where we found only a miserable dirty mud and brick choultry. Whether this contrast be the effect of chance or caprice, it is equally annoying to travellers, in the hottest part of the Carnatic.

On the 1st of June, we arrived at Arnee, twenty-one miles and a half further. This is an old fort, of some consequence thirty years ago, with very good barracks and other public buildings; it is in very low ground, and excessively hot all the year round. At this time it was garrisoned by a Native veteran battalion only, under the command of Major Simpson, with whom we put up for the day, in a very comfortable bungalow outside. Pushing on the next morning, we reached Vellore at sun-rise, twenty-three miles and I assumed the command.

RECORD KEEPING AND THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN CASE FILE.

By : M. GOPALAKRISHNAN,
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Mr. H. Dodwell said, "the basis of record-keeping as practised in India in the 17th century was the laborious copying into large volumes of every paper that was to be preserved. That system was nominally maintained right down to 1856".

The early consultations were really Minutes Books, but when the activities of the Government developed far beyond the grasp of a mere Committee, the method of record underwent no corresponding change, the volume persisted, possessing the sole virtue of ease of custody and check but adding enormously to the difficulty of collecting numerous references in a complicated correspondence.

When the Madras consultation books began in 1672, we find them in charge of a Factor who received a gratuity of 10 pounds a year for looking after them. Streysham Master, Governor between 1678 and 1681 introduced various improvements, he insisted on the preparation of indexes of contents and marginal abstracts. But the quantity of material recorded as yet, did not demand a radical change of system and until the middle of the 18th century the grouping of papers was purely mechanical, letters received being copied into one set of volumes, letters sent into another and the deliberations of the Council into a Third.

By the middle of the 18th century, however, the council had considerably grown in size and the work which it was called upon to do continually grew in amount and complexity. For about 30 years an attempt was therefore made to govern by Select Committees, which gave place in 1786 to a smaller Council assisted by Boards which managed the various subordinate departments and served as channels of communication for orders of the Government. This increased business was met by the introduction of the "Sundry Book" which was confined to the proceedings of a particular committee or to a single correspondence of a special bulk or importance. The Sundry book was but a palliative and soon, more drastic measures became necessary.

It was accordingly decided to split up the consultations of Government into different departments. All Government correspondence was no longer classed under a single head. The Military series began in 1751, Revenue in 1774, Secret in 1776, Judicial in 1798 and Political in 1800. In fact the process of fission continued steadily till the end of the company's period.

No great change of method took place in the first half of the 19th century.

The distinguishing characteristic of record-keeping subsequent to 1857 is the substitution of the case file for the folio volume.

Thus the Modern case file had its birth subsequent to 1857. Each case file as sent to record contains so much of the correspondence as it is desired to retain temporarily or permanently for subsequent official reference.

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES AND THE TRENDS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH: 1810-1961.

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Tamil Nadu Archives continues to play a conspicuous role in the sphere of historical research in regional national and international level. Though the archives was originally established for administrative purpose, its historical value was gradually recognised. Foreigners especially the British scholars critically studied and revealed the historical value and authenticity of the records which were formerly preserved in Fort St. George.

The English East India Company was established in 1600 by the Charter of Queen Elizabeth I. In 1639 the erection of the Fort St. George in the coramandal coast was commenced by the efforts of English merchants. Comparing their commercial interest they paid little attention for preserving the documents of their commercial and other correspondence with England. No record prior to 1670 was preserved at Madras which were available in the India Office¹. In India the proper utilization of Government Records for writing the authentic history started after the summoning of the Indian Historical Records Commission in 1919 in which it was decided to open the record offices in India for historical research. But prior to that historians and antiquitarians were not silent in detecting their contents. The English officials in the East India Company both in India and England paid keen interest in exhibiting their past heroic deeds in India and abroad by their writings. For giving life blood to their narrations they referred the records of the company and quoted them. In this field *John Bruce*, the keeper of state papers of the King and historiographer of the East India Company comes to the forefront. Strictly speaking he was the first person who used the early records of the Fort St. George prior to 1670 for writing his voluminous work '*Annals of the Honourable East India Company*'. He quoted the documents related to the commercial contact between England and India specially at Madras². John Bruce arranged the events in his '*Annals of the Honourable East India Company*' according to the chronological order³.

At the outset the records in Fort St. George were used by civil and military officials for administrative and historical purposes. Most of the early historians who wrote the history of the Madras Presidency and its surroundings were civil or military officials. The military officials wanted to document their careers and achievements in their military operations on the natives. The administrative officials being well versed in the administrative dealings which were depicted in the records wanted to spotlight their achievements, by their writings. Consequently, series of books were written on social, political and economic life of the people. In this aspect James Grant Duff, a captain of the Bombay Native Infantry Regiment wrote the famous book '*A History of Mahrattas*'. James Grant Duff was also a political resident at Sutara for some times⁴. The first edition of the book was published in 1812 in three volumes. He also covered the South Indian History of the English period and emphasised the political and military dealings of the English and other foreign settlements in India. For writing the book, he consulted the Madras Records available.

1. Maclean CD, Manual of the administration of the Madras Presidency, Government of Madras, 1885, Vol. I, P. 88.

2. Bruce John, Annals of the Honourable East India Company Vol. I, 1600—1660—61, London, 1810, P. 485.

3. Ibid. Vol. 2, P. 485.

4. Duff James Grant, A History of the Mahrattas. Longments Press, London, 1826, Title page.

Among the European writers Robert Orme, a civil servant in the English East India Company occupies an important place in the gallery of historians. He took active efforts to collect the manuscripts and other documents for writing monumental works. His collections witnessed the emergence of a catalogue of valuable books written by eminent scholars in the later times. Robert Orme wrote the famous book, '*History of the Military transactions of the British nations in Industan from the year MDCCXLV to which is prefixed a dissertation on the establishments made by Mahamedan conquerors in Industan*'. The work was a masterly contemporary account. In Book VIII Orme explained the poligars and their struggles¹

Colonel Mark Wilks, the noted English historian enlightened the value of Madras records by his monumental work '*History of Mysore*'. Colonel Mark had worked as the Governor of St. Helena and held that office until the imprisonment of Emperor Napoleon—in that Island. He was a reputed soldier who fought in the wars between English and the Native states as well as foreign powers. He was a lover of classical literature and for some times the vice president of the Asiatic society. He referred the confidential records of the Fort St. George held by Earl Powis. The Governors of Madras, Lord William Bentinck and Petril, granted him full freedom to access the records². He utilised Orme's collection to the maximum³. His immortal contributions to South Indian history opened a new chapter in historical research of the Madras Records. Others carried on the good work begun by him.

Talboys Wheeler, the noted historian and pioneer of Curators of the Madras Record Office in record management was deputed by the Madras Government to make a report about the conditions and contents of the records preserved in Fort St. George. In 1861 he submitted the report of the records covering the period upto 1835. Wheeler was an academician who worked as a Professor of Moral Philosophy and Logic in the Madras Presidency College, Madras. His keen verification of records resulted in the publication of a number of books not only in regional history but also in the history of the nation. He wrote the '*Madras in older times*' being a history of the Presidency' in three volumes. In this book he gives the history of the founding of Fort St. George, the political and military activities of the Governors. The Governors and their administration were depicted in chronological order. He cited original sources in the book which passed as an authentic history of the Presidency⁴. Wheeler sorted the records not according to subjects but in to the nature or kind of the records such as despatches, consultations, Diaries etc.⁵.

Wheeler produced another note-worthy book entitled as "*Early records of British India : A history of the English settlements in India as told in the Government records the works of old Travellers and other contemporary documents from the earliest period down to the rise of the British power in India*". In 1878 the books was published in London by Trubner and Company, London. He collected records from Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Surat, for the clear description of the theme⁶. Wheeler also wrote "*A History of India from the earliest ages*" the *Geography of Heradatus*, etc.⁷.

Talboys Wheeler sorted and examined the records in the official capacity by the deputation of the Government to do the work. At the same time he collected sources for writing books by his private capacity and published them. He wrote books privately and published them boldly because he was an influencial English man in the service of the 'British Government of India'. He also worked as an Assistant Secretary to the Government of India in the foreign departments.

¹. Orme Robert, A history of the Military transactions of the British nation in Industan from the year MDCCXLV to which is prefixed a disseration on the establishments made by mohamedan conquerors in Industan, ed. 4, Pharoah and co., Madras, 1861, Volume 2, Page 199.

². Mark Wilks, History of Mysore, London, 1869, Vol. 1, Preface xiii.

³. Ibid.

⁴. Wheeler Talboys, Madras, in the olden time being a history of the Presidency, Higginbotham, Madras, 1861, Vol. I, Page iii.

⁵. Talboys Early re Habd book of the Madras Records, Government of Madras, Madras 1907. Page 2.

⁶. Wheeler J. Talboys, Early records of British India. A history of English settlements in India as told in the Government Records, the works of old travellers and other contemporary documents from the earliest period down to the rise of British power in India, Trubner and company, London, 1878, P. iv.

⁷. Ibid. Title page.

In July 1890 Lord Connemara, the Governor of Madras entrusted Dewan Bahadur S. Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar, B.A., the Inspector-General of Registration in Madras to examine the economic condition of Madras Presidency during the last 40 or 50 years. Hence S. Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar started the work in consulting the reports and records of various departments and prepared the note entitled as 'Memorandum on the progress of the Madras Presidency during the last forty years of the British Administration'.

He was the first Indian who prepared the note on the economic conditions of the presidency with the help of reports and records. Unlike the 'British writers' scholarly work, the work of Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar was published by the Madras Government in 1893. He did the work in addition to his official routine work. The book is a prime source material for studying the economic conditions of the presidency. He presented a lot of tables in different subjects such as trade, industry, revenue, etc.¹ The confidential and other administrative documents were given to non-officials also. The Government of Madras, the custodian of the records in the Fort St. George permitted Fanny Emily Penny, the wife of Frank Penny, the Gearrison Chaplain of Fort St. George. She utilised her influence in religious matters through her husband and got permission from Arthur E. Havelock, the Governor of Madras for consulting the records. Her examination of records resulted in the publication of the valuable book '*Fort St. George, Madras: A history of our first Possession in India*'. For writing the book she also consulted the collections of Orme and the book of Talboys Wheeler.² In this book Mrs. Frank Penny gives a vivid description about the founding of the Fort St. George.³

Frank Penny the former chaplain in the King's majesty of Indian service, worked in Madras Presidency exceeded his wife, Fanny Emily Penny, the author of the famous book 'Fort St. George' by his note worthy contribution in Church history. His immortal work '*The Church in Madras: being the history of the ecclesiastical and missionary action of the East India Company in the Presidency of Madras in the 17th and 18th centuries*' in three volumes, opened a new chapter in the history of Christian missionaries in Madras Presidency. He depicted the performance of missionaries and their development in the presidency. In his book he never failed to include the political activities of the East India Company in religious matters. Rev. Frank Penny availed the records of the Fort St. George in Madras and his book was published in London. He referred the despatches and consultations of the ecclesiastical and other departments.⁴ The first volume of the Church in Madras published in 1914 and the subsequent two volumes were published in 1912, 1922 respectively.

Frederick John Price an efficient administrative official and former Chief Secretary of Madras Presidency was keenly interested in the Madras Records. After completing his higher education in Melbourne University he entered civil service in 1862 as an Assistant Collector and Magistrate in North Arcot district. He became the Chief Secretary and a member of the council of Fort St. George.⁵ In 1892 the existence of the Diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai was brought to the notice of the Madras Government by Lieutenant General H. Maclead. Prof. G. W. Forrest, the Director General of Imperial Records suggested the Madras Government to translate the Diary from Tamil to English. Hence the work was entrusted to Price who started the translation and editing the Diary in 1892 with the assistance of Rangachari, the Superintendent of Records, Fort St. George, Madras. Accordingly the translation work was finalised in 1896 and the first volume was published in 1904 by the Government of Madras.⁶ For clarifying some points and

¹. Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar S, Memorandum on the progress of the Madras Presidency during the last forty years of the British administration, Government of Madras, 1893, page Preface.

². Penny Mrs. Frank, Fort St. George, Madras, A short history of our first possession in India Swam Sonnenschein, Company Limited, London, 1900, p. title.

³. Ibid. preface.

⁴. Frank Penny, The Church in Madras: Being history of the ecclesiastical and missionary action of the East India Company in the Presidency of Madras in the 17th and 18th centuries Smith Elder and Company, London, 1904, p.448.

⁵. History of service of Gazetted and other officers in the civil department serving in the Madras Presidency Government of Madras, Madras, 1898, p. 718.

Price J. Frederick. The Private Diary of Ananda Rangapillai, Government of Madras 1904, Vol. I. P XV.

resolving some questions he consulted the Madras records. The contents in the Diary were arranged chronologically as inscribed by Ananda Ranga Pillai.¹ Though he retired from service in 1897 he continued the work connected with the translation and editing of the Diary and compiled the first three volumes which were published in 1904, 1907, and 1914. The subsequent volume (Volume IV to XII) were compiled by Henry Dodwell, the first curator of Madras Record Office.

Price also wrote 'Ootacamund a history and was published in 1908'.² His historical contribution gave a new stimulus to the scholarship with social, political and economic condition of South India through his English edition of the Diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai.

In the beginning of the 20th century scholars from the Madras University concentrated their research on the history of the Presidency during the British period were mostly English men. Charles Lawson an English research scholar who was also associated with the Madras Mail did his research on the social and political life of the Madras people in the Madras University and wrote one book 'Memories of Madras'.

He consulted the Madras Records in India Office and British Museum where the copies of the Madras Records were preserved. During his research in Madras University, he consulted the Madras records in the Fort St. George. His book immensely helped scholars and others to know the social and political life of the people in the Madras.³ His another equally famous book was the 'Private life of Warrenhastings' Writings regional history got its perfection when Henry Davison Love entered into the arena of historians. Formerly, he was a lieutenant colonel, Royal Engineer and batalien colonel. Later, he became the Fellow of the University of Madras. He started his research in tracing the records of the Fort St. George in Madras and India Office as well as other sources. The outcome of his research was the publication of a famous book 'Vestiges of Old Madras' in the Indian Records Series. The book consists of 4 volumes and the 4th volume is the Index. The book contains a mine of information and it covers the period between 1640-1800. It gives information related to social, political and economical conditions of India.⁴ He gave a lot of illustrations and maps in the book. He described the class struggle of the left hand and right hand in Madras.⁵

S. C. Hill, the officer in charge of the records of the Government of India indulged in research and wrote books such as 'The life of Land Martin', 'Three Frenchmen in Bengal, Bengal in 1756-1757, and Yusuf Khan' the rebel commandant. For writing the book 'Yusuf Khan' he referred the Madras records. Henry Dodwell the then curator of Madras Record Office gave him the assistance in permitting him to trace the records from the Record Office at Egmore.⁶ Yusuf Khan was a Hindu converted into Islam and he fought against the English. Hill, consulted the military consultations, letters from the council of Nagapatnam and other documents from the Madras Record Office.⁷

¹ Prio J. Frederick. The Private Diary of Ananda Rangapillai, Government of Madras 1904, Vol. I. P. XV.

² Who's who, An annual biographical dictionary with which is incorporated men and women of the time, A.E.C. Black Limited, London, 1923. p. 2238.

³ Charles Lawson, *Memories of Madras*, Swam Sonnerschein and Company Limited, London, 1905, P.preface.

⁴ Love Henry Dawison, *Vestiges of old Madras*, publish for the Government of India, by Murrar, London, 1913, Vol. I. P. 522.

⁵ Ibid, Vol. III. P. 385.

⁶ Hill S C, *Yusuf Khan the rebel commandant*, Longmans Green and Company, Madras 1914, P. XI.

⁷ Ibid, P. 126.

The appointment of Henry Dodwell as the first curator in Madras Record Office in 1911, marked a new phase in the annals of historical research in Madras Records. He himself was an efficient researcher who contributed effectively not only his official but also in his private capacity. *His Report on the Madras Records* became a tool for identifying and locating the needed records.¹ He translated and edited the *private diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai* from the 4th volume to the end, i.e., 12th volume. He wrote a number of books such as *Nabobs of Madras*, *Dupliex* and *Clive the beginning of empire*, edited the *Cambridge history of India* etc. He was a dominant member in the Indian Historical Records Commission, first held in Simla in 1919. In the proceedings of the commission the members advocated historical research by opening the records to the sponsored research scholars.² The research rules were framed by Scholfield, the keeper of India records*. Accordingly, one of the rules said that the authorised scholars would be permitted to refer papers up to 1800 in the Revenue Department and in other department up to 100 years ago.³

Eventhough the Government announced the research rules and its proposal to encourage research a few people came to the research office after Dodwell's period. The Indians evinced little interest in historical writings and realised the value of these records only after the first quarter of the 20th century.

For encouraging research, critical apparatus such as 'Calendars' of records were prepared by Dodwell. The Calendars became the tools to locate the needed information in the midst of mine of information in the form of documents and bounded manuscript volumes. In order to make the records easily legible and accessible the brittle and faded records were reprinted. During the time of Dodwell mending of records in a scientific manner was started.⁴ After the departure of Dodwell to England in 1922 no efficient curator assumed the charge of the office until 1925 when J. J. Cotton took the charge of the office. But, research in the Madras Record Office was also not developing due to the lack of Indian Scholars who had little knowledge about the value of Government documents preserved in the Record Offices. From 1925 onwards C. S. Srinivasa Chari, the History Professor in the Pachiyappas College concentrated his writings on modern period and produced a number of articles published in the proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission. Since he was a member in the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission, he availed the opportunity to collect materials from the Madras Record Office by his influence over the curators who were also the members of the Commission. His famous article published in the proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission were (i) *The promotion of Dravidian Linguistic studies in the Company's days*,⁵ (ii) *The Abbie Dubois in Baramahal records*,⁶ (iii) *First Burma War and the Madras army: a narrative*,⁷ (iv) *Poligar system in the Tamil country*,⁸ (v) *Right and left hand caste disputes in Madras in the early part of the 18th century*⁹ (vi) *Nawab Anwaru-ud-din Khan of the Grantic from the Tuzak-I-Walijohi of Burhanu-d-din*.¹⁰ Strictly speaking his research papers gave a new direction and purpose to the Indian scholars especially on south Indian studies in field of historical research with the help of Government Documents preserved in the Madras Record Office.

¹ Dodwell H, *Report on the Madras Records*, 1916, P.P. 23.

² *Indian Historical Records Commission*, Proceedings, June 1919, Calcutta, 1919 P. 2.

* For the first time in the annals of historical research systematic rules were framed by the Government for referring records in the record offices in India. Dodwell the curator of Madras Records Office modified the rules according to the nature of the records and administration of record office. In 1921 the rules were published by Madras Government.

³ G.O. 1024, Finance, 13 October 1921.

⁴ Op. cit. G.O. 346, Finance, 8 April, 1920.

⁵ *Indian Historical Records Commission*, Proceedings of meetings, Government of India, Calcutta, 1925, Vol. B. P. 146.

⁶ Ibid, 1926, Vol. 7, Calcutta, 1927, P.P. 68—72.

⁷ Ibid, 1927, Vol. 10, Calcutta, 1928, P.P. 73—83.

⁸ Ibid, 1928, Vol. 11, Calcutta, 1929, P.P. 100—106.

⁹ Ibid, 1929, Vol. 12, Calcutta, 1930, P.P. 68—76.

¹⁰ Ibid, 1930, Vol. 13, Calcutta, P.P. 121—124.

On 1927, P. Subba Rao, a retired Assistant in the Postal Department came to the Record Office through the recommendation of the Post-master General. Subba Rao, proposed to write the monograph on Post Offices in South India up to 1864. His indention to consult the records for collecting dates was accepted and he got the permission to do the same.¹ He was the first scholar who recovered the records after getting permission from the Government. When in 1928, Bhatnagar, Lecturer in Economics, University of Allahabad applied the Government to refer the records for writing one book entitled as '*Local Self Government in the British India*'. He was also permitted to collect materials according to the rules related to Record Office.² The number of research scholars slowly raised from 1913 when the Universities began to send their students to the Records Offices from 1929, the following number of research scholars did research in the Madras Record Office such as 3, 7, 9 and 11 for the following years : 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932.³

The part played by the Curators for historical research was highly commendable, Macqueen, the curator played a vital role in fastering research. Though he was an I.C.S. Officer, he devoted a stimulating interest in research and encouraged others also to do so. He explained in detail about the method of historical research and made his suggestions for collecting the materials. He also made a classification of records into original sources and derived materials such as books, reports, and journals. According to him, the aim of record office should be to co-ordinate their materials by gradually preparing guides to direct the students without delay to the originals being on his study. In this end he prepared *guides to the records of the districts* for 18 districts. Strictly speaking the guides are the catalogue of district records which are available in the Madras Record Office. He revised the previous rules for referring records from the Madras Record Office.

In time, University scholars and private organisations came to the Record Office for collecting sources for their research. No scholar was permitted to take the collected materials without examination and the head of the Record office had full powers to acquire the collected materials on the ground of misuse. Though the curators encouraged research, they had an eye on the collected materials and giving permission to collect materials for the scholars. Since, they were the servants of the Government, they were responsible to keep the secret of certain policies and measures of the Government. So, they made restriction to the scholars and others to refer records from the Record Office in certain matters. In 1930, the Hyderabad Nizam's Government requested the Madras Government to permit to collect materials for confirming a case between the Central Government and the Nizam. The request was rejected on the ground that the matter being related to State and Central relation.⁴ At the same time they rendered full support to the writers to produce good historical literature. In 1932 Jagadish Ayyar, the author of the famous book '*South Indian Shrines*' demanded the curator to grant permission to refer the original diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai for writing a summarised edition of Ananda Ranga Pillai's diary. He also demanded the supply of a set of Ananda Ranga Pillai's diary freely. The curator made all the necessary arrangement to collect the needed materials related to his research. But, the Government denied him to supply a set of books freely and made all the arrangements to lend him a set of books for reference.⁵

¹ G.O. 905, Finance, 31 December 1927.

² G.O. 192, Finance, 9 March 1928.

³ Op. Cit, G.O. 183, Finance, 26 March 1934.

⁴ G.O. 610, Finance, 26 September 1931.

⁵ Op. cit, G.O. 672, Finance, 20 October 1930.

⁶ G.O. 11, Finance, 11 January 1932.

During the period of 1930's a considerable quality and quantity of research were done in social, political, economical and educational fields. In 1931 seven research scholars made research work on the following topics :—

1. Sources of Mysore History from 1760-1830.
2. Banking in the days of John Company.
3. History of Thanjavur under the Marathas.
4. Economic condition of South India during the 19th Century.
5. Nawabs of the carnatic.
6. History of the Tirunelvelly districts early in the 19th Century.
7. Revenue Administration during the time of Sir Thomas Munro's.¹

The noted scholars indulged in doing research work.

B. Nataraja Pillai of the Madras University and Venkatasubba Sastri and others. In the matter of Venkatasubba Sastri, Dodwell recommended him to permit for collecting materials related to Munro's life and administration

During 1930's, the number of European scholars in Madras Record Office was reduced and was compensated by increasing Indian scholars. When they studied the intellectual contribution of Foreigners in the sphere of Indian History in the British period they got enlightenment and ushered their researches in the record offices of India and abroad. Thus the Madras Records revealed its hidden contents to the discovery eye of researchers. Ladies also entered in the arena of historical research. In 1938 Selvi A. Saradha a research fellow of the Madras University got the permission to collect materials from the Madras Record Office³ She was the first lady who entered in to the Madras Record Office, as a research scholar. Her research resulted the publication of the famous book "Economic condition in the Madras Presidency 1800-1850", published in 1941. In this book she explained the land tenures and Revenue System of the East India Company in Madras Presidency⁴

¹ Op. cit. G.O. 352, Finance, 1 June 1931.

² G.O. 45, Finance, 20 January 1931.

³ G.O. 725, Finance, 10 November 1933.

⁴ Saradha Raju A, *Economic conditions in the Madras Presidency 1800—1850* University of Madras, 1941, P.P. 29, 41.

Administrative Officials such as Collectors also involved in research by utilizing the Madras Record Office. In 1935, V. N. Srinivasa Rao, the Collector of Chittoor availed the Madras Record Office for his research on revenue and other fiscal matters¹. Macqueen's period 1930-1935 witnessed a great change in historical research in Madras Record Office. He provided all the facilities to the scholars and allotted a portion of VII block for them to refer the records.

In addition to the previous research work, the scholars made researches on the following topics during Macqueen's period:—

1. Land Revenue after 1850.
2. Early settlement of the factory at Madras, contribution and administration.
3. History of Indian Finance.
4. Early History of India.
5. Indian Budget.
6. An economic history of the Madras Presidency 1800-1850.
7. Province of local bodies and their connection with provincial finance.
8. Economic depression in the Madras Presidency—1822-1854².

Under the guidance and inspiration of Dr. P. J. Thomas Nataraja Pillai the research scholar wrote and published a portion of the thesis '*Economic depression in the Madras Presidency*'. In this book the economic conditions of 19th century and the factors which paved the way for the economic depression were clearly explained³.

The appointment of Dr. B. S. Baliga as the curator in the Madras Record Office enabled a certain growth in the annals of historical research in Madras Record Office. He himself was an eminent research scholar and produced valuable research books and articles. His studies in Madras Administration and compendiums are the prime source of information for knowing the political economic and social life of the South Indians. His Gazetteers and District Hand books are considered as administrative and historical tools for knowing the details of different subjects. He was a past master in the art of guiding the researchers by providing them in their first step in research. He treated the scholars impartially. In 1936 J. Sivashanmugam Pillai M. A., a councillor in the Madras Corporation got permission to refer the records. Though he was not a University sponsored scholar, his intention to prepare a thesis on *Local Self Government in Madras Presidency* was fulfilled. Baliga supplied the needed volumes i.e., public sundries number 130 to 133 which covered the period between 1882 and 1883. In addition to that he furnished other records related to his subjects⁴.

In 1939 A. L. Brohier, a Superintendent of Surveys in Ceylon, was permitted to collect sources for his researches related to the history of Ceylon. At the outset, he demanded the maps and plans. Though he did not mention the period and details of records to be referred, Baliga furnished all of his needed materials upto the period of 1885⁵.

¹ G.O. 640, Finance, 22 September 1935.

² Op. cit. G.O. 336, Finance, 25 May 1934.

³ Nataraja Pillai B, *Economic depression in the Madras Presidency*, P. J. Thomas, Madras, 1933, P. 14.

⁴ G.O. 57, Finance, 4 February 1936.

⁵ G. O. 1600, Education and Public Health, 18th July 1939.

Formerly 100 years of records were not disclosed for research and were reserved. But during the period of Baliga it was reduced to 50 years¹. Besides these research scholars some eminent writers and administrators were also permitted to refer the records. Dr. E. Asirvatham, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in Politics and Public Administration in the Madras University got the permission from the curator and referred the records related to Indian Civil services. Then George Kuriyan and Thirunarayanan, Lecturer and Assistant Lecturer respectively in the Geography department at the Madras University were permitted to consult the records connected with *Maps and sites in Madras*. Lecturers from other states were also permitted to refer the records². D. S. Achuta Rao from the Mysore University came to the office and referred the crown's records in relation to Hyder Ali³. Like this the political Secretary of Sandur State, V. Narasimha Rao was permitted to refer the indexes of records related to Sandur State. Six University Research fellows were permitted to collect the sources for their researches in the following topics:—

1. Political History of Malabar.
2. District Administration in the Madras Presidency with special reference to the pre-mutiny period.
3. Judicial Administration in the Madras Presidency.
4. Origin and Development of Indian Civil Service.
5. Municipal Administration in the Madras Presidency.
6. History of the Carnatic as seen from the memories of Francis Martin⁴

In 1939 the second world war started and the Government adopted some air raid precautions measures to defend the records. Hence, the curator was instructed to transfer the records and he did the same by shifting the records to Chittoor in 1942. It affected the research scholars slightly. Before shifting the records to Chittoor, researchers were exploring the following areas:—

1. Political History of Northern Circars up to 1800.
2. Police Administration in the Madras Presidency up to 1800.
3. History of the Tillicherry factory.
4. Revenue and Judicial Administration of Malabar from 1729 to 1841.
5. Relations between the supreme Government and the Madras Government up to 1834.
6. Madras Administration under the Crown.
7. Economic History of the Madras Presidency up to 1890.
8. The Mahrattas in the Karnataka.
9. Influence of the 19th Century Political Ideas on the Administration of India up to 1890.
10. Loan words in English.
11. Regional Geography of the Tamil Nadu.
12. Educational Organisation and Administration in the Madras Presidency⁵.

¹ Interview with Mr. Kunni kannan Nair, Assistant Commissioner, Tamil Nadu Archives, Madras, 12th April 1982.

² OP. cit. G.O. 1070, Public, (Education & Public Health), 12th May 1939.

³ G.O. 339 (Political), 21st February 1939.

⁴ OP. cit. G.O. 1070, Education & Public Health, 12th May 1939.

⁵ OP. cit. G.O. 772, Education & Public Health, 21st May 1942.

After shifting the records to Chittoor, Baliga made all the arrangements to facilitate the scholars to refer the records. He notified the scholars to refer the printed and duplicate volumes of the original records in Madras Records Office which were not transferred to Chittoor. At Chittoor he provided space and other facilities to admit the scholars for referring the records covering the crown's period. He also informed the scholars to come to Palamaner for referring the pre-muntiny records which had been also transferred along with other records in 1942¹. The transferred records were brought to Madras in 1952. During this period few scholars referred the records. The important topics in which the scholars made research were the following:—

1. Silk industry in the Province.
2. Zamorins of Calicut.
3. Public Health Administration in the Madras Presidency.
4. Local Finance after 1902.
5. Administration of District Boards and Civil Boards in the Madras Presidency and financial relation between the Imperial and Provincial Governments.
6. Tenancy problems in ryotwari areas.
7. History of Irrigation disputes between the Madras and Mysore Government.
8. Basis of the permanent settlement of various States in the Province.
9. The measures taken to solve the beggars problem.
10. Discussion on the question of adult franchise in Madras.
11. The prevalence of corruption in public service and the measures taken to eradicate it³.

Since 1953, the separation of records to other states such as Andhra, Mysore and Kerala started due to the formation of new states and their reorganisations. The records after 1920 were transferred to the concerned states. Eventhough the number of research scholars increased from 1950 to 1959 and more than 150 scholars referred the records in Madras Records Office⁴. Among the researches C. J. Nirmal's work on Madras Press, B. Kusumalatha Bai's research on 'Humanitarian ideas in Madras Administration' (1800-1859) B. Sheik Alis work on Mysore, T. K. Ravindran's work on Malabar, K. Rajayan's work on Carnatic, etc., are well-known. Dr. C. J. Nirmal is the first scholar who made research on press, which paved the way for many scholars such as J. Jayasankar, C. Vijayasingh of Madras Christian College and others to do research on press⁵.

Like C. J. Nirmal, B. Kusumalatha Bai, the daughter of Baliga inaugurated the research of social aspects. Her thesis '*Humanitarian ideas in Madras Administration, 1800-1857*' pictures the social customs and habits of the people in Madras Presidency⁶.

The beginning of the 20th century witnessed the emergence of a provincial political party in Madras Presidency. The communal antagonism, Anne Besant's Home rule movement and the British policy in suppressing the national movement paved the way for the establishment of justice party in Madras Presidency in 1917. Madras the birth place of British rule in India also became a place for Democratic experiments under the British rule. Hence, in 1920 the General Election was conducted and Justice party formed the Ministry in 1921 by its absolute majority. Thus, Madras became a democratic oasis in the midst of freedom struggle anarchy, native states monarchy and British autocracy in India.

¹ G.O. 897, Education and Public Health, 22nd June 1942.

² *Madras Administration Report*, 1946-47, Government of Madras 'Madras' 1948 p. 116.

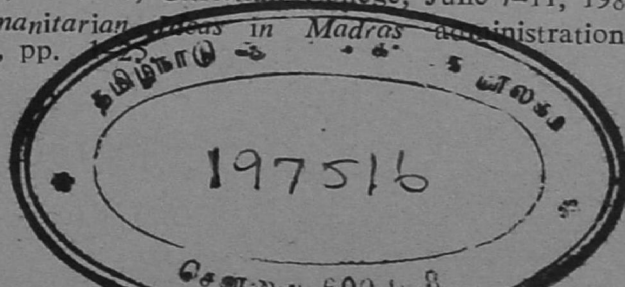
³ *Ibid* 1947-48, Madras, 1949, p. 142.

⁴ *Op. cit.* Annals of Tamil Nadu Archives exhibited during the archives week celebration on 1982.

⁵ *Bibliography* presented in the seminar on Tamil Nadu during the past hundred years held at the Department of History, Madras, Christian College, June 7-11, 1982, Madras.

⁶ Kusumalatha Bai, B., *Humanitarian ideas in Madras administration 1800-1857* thesis, University of Madras, 1959, pp. 1-25.

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V211:884mV964V
N88.2.6.



The social political and economic condition of South India during the first half of the 20th century attracted the attention of foreign scholars too. As a result of it in 1961 Eugene F. Irschick, a California University Scholar indulged his research on the South Indian History between the period 1916 to 1929. His research effected the publication of a famous book '*Politics and social conflict in South India*'. *The non-Brahmen Movement and Tamil separatism 1916-1929* in 1969. He analysed the Madras Records and gave a new life to the South India writing¹. He was a pioneer who started to do research on the Dravidian Movement in which extensive researchs were made in later items by Indian as well as foreign scholars.

Madras Records not only served the purpose of the Administrators but also research scholars. Implicit issues such as economic swindling, social injustice, political atrocities and the autocracy of the foreign yoke were brought to the notice of the public by research scholars. The question 'who needs the records?' has been answered again and again and in some ways revealed a past that has made the present more understandable!

¹ Irschick Eugne F, *Politics and social conflict in South India. The non Brahman movement and Tamil separatism 1916-1929*. University of California Press, California, 1969, p. 171.

BOOK REVIEW.

—By K. S. VENKATRAMAN.

South Indian Studies (1981)-Edited by Dr. Busnagi Rajannan and
Published by the Institute of Kongu Studies, Salem, Price Rs. 130, PP. 432.

Here is a valuable reference aid for the researchers in South Indian History. Thamizh Nadan has compiled and Busnagi Rajannan has edited this compilation of the gists and abstracts of 269 dissertations written in American Universities. Their subjects relate to various aspects of life and history of South India. The entries furnish full information of the dissertation. The copies of any dissertation may be bought from the University Microfilm International, U.S.A.

The topics relating to different States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh etc., have been grouped and given separately, facilitating location.

It is highly satisfying to note that so much in-depth study has been made in America on South Indian life and history. For any researcher, the work already done forms the basis. Without this knowledge, the researchers are likely to waste their time and resources in repetition. This book gives an insight of the work done so far in American Universities on South India.

An Author-index has been given for the compilation. For a miscellany of this kind, which deals with heterogeneous topics like Raga Alapana, Non-brahman Movement, Bhakti Ritual Music and so on, a Subject-index could be more useful.

It has been mentioned that future volumes will include such abstracts from Europe, Asia and Australia. Let us hope that such a consolidated work would appear soon.

T.N.A. LIBRARY

Particulars of books received from Jan—March 1988.

S.No.	Author	Title	Receipt Register number.
1	C. Baskaran & N. Usha	Tourism Masterplan for Elagiri Hills 1987—97	9/88
2	Gowri(P)	P.K. Mookiah Thevar—A study (Thesis)	13/88
3	Sadhasivam (R)	Inam settlement in Thanjavur District 1855—1870 (Thesis)	14/88
4	Tamilnadan, Ed and Bushagi Rajannan	South Indian Studies	16/88
5	V. Venkataraman	Freedom Movement in Rajapalayam (Thesis)	17/88
6	K. Gunasekaran	History of freedom movement in Karur Region (Thesis)	18/88
7	A.L. Sri Lakshmi	The Madras Dental College-A historical review (Thesis)	19/88
8	R. Vasanthi	V.V. Subramania Aiyar-A study (Thesis)	20/88
9	P. Pachaiappan	Separate electorates in Tamil Nadu	21/88
10	Subramaniyam Reddy (D)	The Sculptural wealth at Mallam	31/88
11	V. Dhanapalsingh	Freedom Movement in Salem district 1920—1947 (Thesis)	33/88
12	Moni (C)	Tamil press and political reforms 1916—1930 (Thesis)	34/88
13	—	Keesings Contemporary Archives 1931—1970 in 17 Vols.	35—51/88.
14	National Archives N.D.	Indian Archives A classified list of articles.	11/88.

Tit Bits :

POPULATION OF MADRAS IN 1710 AD.

V. LALITHA,
Research Officer, Tamil Nadu Archives.

The Colony is well peopled for there is computed to be 80,000 inhabitants in the Towns and Villages and there are generally about 400 or 500 Europeans residing there reckoning the Gentleman, Merchants, Seaman and Soldiers. Their rice is brought by Sea from Ganjam and Oriya, their wheat from Surat and Bengal and their firewood from the Island of Diu, a low point of land that lies near Matchulipatnam, so that an enemy that is Superior to them in Sea forces may easily distress them.

(Source-Hamiltons Estimate.)

[Sources.--Ananda Ranga Pillai Lubbays(லெப்பை) dairy Page 53.]

A mixed Tamil-Speaking race of Muhammadans, the descendants for the most part of Arab traders, who found their way into the Southern Portion of India during the eleventh and twelfth Centuries, but were later on driven out. Some are the off spring of Hindus, forcibly converted-partly by the early Muhammadan invaders, and partly by Tippu Sultan. Ranga Pillai applies the term sonagan to men of this race. This word indicates their origin, as it means a native of Sonagam (Arabia). The Lubbays are a singularly industrious people. Their Chief Occupations are trade, the Sea, and fishing, but there is hardly anything to which they will not turn their hands. They are numerous in all the towns of Tamil speaking seaboard of India. Their counterparts on the West Coast are moplabs, in whom however the Arab character is more marked.

TREASURE LOST IN SEA IN 1782 NEAR CAPE ON THE AFRICAN COAST.

V. LALITHA,

Research Officer, Tamil Nadu Archives.

The riches of India have been coveted by foreigners from ancient times. Milton sang of "the wealth of Ormus and of Ind" over three hundred years ago. Merchants and travellers, monarchs and potentates visited India to plunder or to purchase her rich wares. She had been the cynosure of all eyes for ages and had given liberally to every foreigner enriching the world. Naturally the European merchants, the portuguese, the Dutch, the French and the British vied with each other to secure the monopoly of Indian trade. The history of their fitter quarrels and battles in India and the phenomenal success of the British in the end and their change-over from the role of merchant to that of the mighty ruler makes an interesting reading.

The portuguese who were the first Europeans to establish a lucrative commerce on the coastal towns of Africa and Asia were at the Zenith of their glory in the East during the 16th century. For a whole century there was no other European nation to challenge their monopoly. For sometime, the British merchants were engaged in discovering a new sea route round America or along the Northern coast of Europe and Asia. They hoped to reach North China and avoid portuguese opposition, but their efforts failed and they were finally driven to the necessity of contesting the portuguese monopoly of the cape route. The Dutch commanded a powerful navy and constituted a fierce opposition to the portuguese who began to lose ground in the 17th century. Hot in their heels came the French and the British, to whom the Dutch had to yield. In the rival wars, which lasted almost for two decades (1746—1761) the French lost their hold in India except for a few outposts—Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yaman and Chandernagore and the British became supreme in India.

The European traders used three expedients to pay for the goods obtained in India. They were (1) to pay with precious metals like gold and silver (2) to raise funds by borrowing in the Indian market and (3) to employ the capital obtained in the Asiatic trade. Though Britain followed the merchantile policy and would not allow the drain of precious metals from her shores, still an exception was made, atleast in the beginning, in the case of the East India Company, which was allowed to trade with a limited quantity of British gold. But this was done, with a view to obtain more gold as a result of the lucrative commerce in the East. An adequate supply of precious metal became imperative for the Indian trade.

An important factor which dislocated and threw out of balance the economy of India and converted her in to a country of "hewers of wood and drawers of water" was the pitiless drain of wealth and capital from the country which began after the battle of plassey in 1757 and continued, though less virulently, until the British quitted India in 1947. The English Historians of India, Edward Thomson and G.T. Garret tell us that a gold lust unequalled since the hysteria that took hold of the spaniards of cortes and pizarro's age filled the British mind. To a large extent, it was India's wealth and capital that assisted Britain to pursue her imperial designs and contributed to her greatness as the leading nation of the world and mistress of seas.

The above is testified by the Invoice of Goods laden at Fort St. George amounting to pagodas 162,378—22—69 and the list of Diamonds and precious stones amounting to pagodas, 24,444—31—69 shipped from Madras by the company's ship "Grosvenor" in 1782. About 700 Gold Bars are also reported to have been shipped by that vessel. But the ship "Grosvenor" was cast away by a great storm and wrecked off the cape of Good Hope (Diaz, the first portuguese navigator to circum-navigate the cape named it Cabo Tormentoso or the stormy cape) on the African Coast on 4th August 1782. One hundred and sixty-nine persons were aboard the ship which included colonel James of the Madras Artillery and several ladies and children. One hundred and fifty-three of them reached the shore and attempted a land journey of several hundred miles to the cape. They were attacked by Kaffers and many of them died of wounds and exposure. The remainder were rescued by the Dutch. A narrative of their sufferings was compiled by Mr. Alexander Dabrympie.

The Hindu of 11th July 1985 carried a news item—Treasure in Sea—that Divers on Tuesday (9th July 1985) found a treasure trove of gold aboard a ship which wrecked and sunk in a storm in 1859 (130 years ago) near the tiny port of Moelve on the North Wales Island of Anglesey, while returning from Australia. The find is believed to contain gold sovereigns, bars, nuggets, jewellery and silverware together valued at Rs. 6.40 crores. This find and the recovery of the cockpit voice Recorder and the Flight Data Recorder of 'Kanishka' which crashed in 1985 makes one believe that an attempt to find the treasure worth about 162,400 pagodas of goods lost in sea in 1782 also might be feasible.

SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES (1781—1826)

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Sir Stamford Raffles was born off Port Morant in Jamaica on 5th July 1781. His father was a captain in the West India Trade. His early education was most imperfect and he was removed from school at the age of 15. He joined the India House as a Junior Clerk and considering his great talents and industry, the Court of Directors selected him for appointment to the post of Assistant Secretary to the new Government formed at Pulo-Penong (the Prince of Wales Island) by the East India Company in 1805. He learnt Malay language and became important to the Government. Due to his health conditions he sought a change and proceeded to Malacca and studied the settlement and its localities. He sent a report to Government advising it to countermand the orders which had been issued for the demolition of the fortifications. The advice was acted upon and Sir Raffles succeeded to the office of the Chief Secretary on the death of Mr. Pearson. Attracted by Sir Raffle's Report, Lord Minto, the then Governor-General of India was anxious to place him in the Government of Malaccas. But Raffle suggested that great advantage would accrue to the British Government if the Dutch settlement of Java (Boraparte having at that time annexed Holland to France) was conquered and annexed to their possessions in the East. Lord Minto approving the scheme sent an expedition in 1811. On the conquest of the Island Lord Minto appointed Sir Raffles as the Lieutenant Governor of Java and its dependencies which he held for five years being recalled in 1816, before the island was restored to the Dutch. When he became Governor of Java, he was just 30 years old.

Sir Raffles evinced great energy in his administration, and displayed an anxious desire to promote the welfare of the natives. He abolished the system of slavery, made great alterations in the economy of the Government and completely revised the judicial system of the colony. His youth made him an object of jealousy to some of his colleagues, a number of charges were brought against him, more especially by General Gillespie, which led to his recall. After a scrupulous examination of all the documents, both accusatory and exculpatory, the court of Directors expressed their "firm persuasion that Mr. Raffles has stated, without equivocation or reserve the reason which induced him to engage in those transactions, and that they do not at all derogate from those principles of integrity by which we believe his public conduct to have been uniformly governed. This decision took place in 1817 his residence between July 1816 and September 1817 in England, a most valuable work, dedicated to the prince Regent, who conferred on him the honour of Knighthood.

Sir Raffles lost his wife before leaving Java and married again in England in 1817. On this second marriage of Sir Raffles, the following appeared in the MORNING POST—

"If marriage a Lottery is called,
As all calculation it baffles ;
Think of one who risks unappalled,
All her future fortune in Raffles !

H.K.

Brompton,
February 24th 1817.

In 1818, Sir Raffles was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Fort. Marlborough, at Bencoolen, on the Island of Sumatra, where he arrived in March. While holding this post, Marquis of Hastings appointed Sir Raffles to undertake an arduous mission viz. to Acheen, and from there to the straits, with a view of fixing upon some station by the occupation of which, the British might not be excluded from that portion of the Eastern trade which the Dutch were making efforts to monopolize and which would also afford supplies and succour to the English ships on their route to and from the China Seas. The result of this mission was the acquisition of Singapore in January 1819, which has proved a most important commercial station. But it gave rise to lengthened discussions with the Netherlands authorities, which ended in the treaty of March 1824, the East India Company ceding Bencoolen and acquiring Singapore and Malacca, with the Dutch Settlements on the Indian continent. Sir Raffles founded a college at Singapore for the encouragement of Anglo-Chinese and Malay literature.

Sir Raffles though distinguished for his administrative abilities, owes his reputation in a great measure to his researches in to the natural productions of Sumatra, and his Zoological discoveries. While journeying with Dr. Arnold, he discovered the gigantic parasitical plant which was named "*Rafflesia Arnoldii*". In 1820, he sent to England a large collection of preserved animals, which was deposited in the London Zoological Society Museum. In 1824, due to ill health, he resigned his appointment and embarked with Lady Raffles in the ship "*Fame*" on the 2nd February. The vessel however took fire the same night. With great difficulty the passengers and crew saved themselves in the boats and Sir Raffles was obliged to remain at Bencoolen till April. By this unfortune that he lost his Extensive Collective animals and plan and many volumes of manuscripts and drawings relating to the civil and natural history of nearly every island in the Malayan Archipelago, and his own pecuniary loss by the burning of the ship amounted to £ 20,000. He landed in England on 22nd August 1824. There, he founded the Zoological Society, of which he was the first President and the *Journal of a Mission to Siam* was published under his direction. He died on 4th July 1826 of an apoplectic fit.

தமிழ்ப்பகுதி

அரிய பழைய மாதப் பத்திரிகையிலிருந்து ஒரு கட்டுரை.

பொன்னும் பொன்கனிகளும்.

தொகுப்பு—பி. பி. ராமசாமி, நூலகர்,
தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

சகலமான உலோகங்களுள்ளும் பொன்னே முதலில் கண்டு பிடிக்கப் பட்ட உலோகமெனக் காண்கிறது. இவ்வுலகத்தில் சிறிதளவாயினும் பொன்னே அகப்படாத தேசம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. பொன் அதிக பளபளப் பாயிருப்பதனாலே அது மிக விரும்பத்தக்கதாயிருக்கின்றது. இரும்பு எங்கும் விசேஷமாய்க் கிடைக்கின்ற உலோகமாயினும், பொன் கண்டுபிடித்த பின் நெடுநாள் வரையிலும் இரும்பின் சொரூபம் ஒருவர்க்கும் தெரியாமலே யிருந்தது. இரும்பு இயற்கையில் வேறு சில பொருள்களோடு கலந்திருப்ப தால், அப்பொழுது அதைப் பார்த்தால், சாதாரணமான கல் போலவே காணப்படும். மிகவும் உக்கிரமான தீயும் உழைப்பும் இருந்தாலல்லாது இரும்பை அதனோடு கலந்திருக்கும் களிம்புமண்ணைவிட்டுப் பிரித் தெடுப்பது கூடாது. பொன்னோ அப்படிப்பட்டதன்று; அநேகமாய் அது சுபாவத்திலேயே சுத்தமாயிருக்கும். இரும்பைப்போல் அல்லாமல் பொன் அதிக துரிதத்தில் உருகும்.

பொன் மஞ்சள் நிறமானது; ஏறக்குறைய அது ஈயத்தைப்போல் அத்தனை நயமுள்ளது. பொன் எல்லாவற்றிலும் அதிக பளுவான உலோக மாயினும், அதைப்போல மிகவும் மெல்லியதாய் அடித்து நீட்டத்தக்க லோகம் வேறொன்றுமில்லை. இரண்டு லட்சம் தகடு சேர்ந்தாலும் ஒரு அங்குலம் கனத்துக்கு அதிகப்படாமல் அத்தனை மெல்லிய தகடுகளாகப் பொன்னை அடிக்கலாம். ஒரு குன்றுமணி எடையுள்ள பொன்னை 500 அடி நீளம் கம்பியிழுக்கலாம். வெயில், காற்றுகளிலாயினும் தண்ணீரிலா யினும் இரும்பையாவது செம்பையாவது போட்டுவைத்தால் அவை நாள் ளவிலே துருப்பிடிக்கும்; பொன் ஒருபோதும் தன் இயற்கை மாறாது. இரண்டொருவகைக் கொடிய திராவகங்களைச் சேர்த்தாலன்றிப் பொன்னை அழிக்கக்கூடாது.

பூர்வகாலந்தொடங்கிப் பொன் ஆபரணங்களாகவும், பண்டமாற்றலுக் குரிய மத்தியஸ்தமான விலைப்பொருளாகவும் உபயோகிக்கப்படுகின்றது. முதலில் பொன்னை நிறுத்தே விற்றுக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அதை வாங்குபவர்கள் வாங்குகிற பொன் சுத்தமா அல்லவா என்பதைப் பரீக்ஷித்தறியவேண்டியதாயிருந்தது. பின்பு சிலகாலம் கழித்துப் பொன் ஒரேநிலையான விலைமதிப்புள்ள நாணயங்களாகச் செய்யப்பட்டது. இத்தனையென்று அந்த நாணயங்களை எண்ணிக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமெனத் தொன்றையொழிய மற்றப்படி அவற்றில் குணதோஷம் ஒன்றும் பார்க்க வேண்டுவதில்லை. இப்பொழுது வழங்குகிற பிரித்தானியருடைய பொன் நாணயங்களில் பதினொருபங்கு பொன்னும் ஒருபங்கு செம்பும் கலந்திருக் கின்றன. சுத்தமான பொன் சீக்கிரம் தேய்ந்துபோகுமாதலால், நாணயம் கெட்டியாயிருக்கவேண்டுமென்று அதற்காகவே அதில் செம்பு கலக்கப்படு கின்றது. பொன்நாணயங்களில் செம்பைக் கலப்பதனால் துரைத்தனத் தார்க்கு லாபம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. ஏனெனில், அந்த நாணயத்தில் சேர்த் திருக்கிற பொன்னின் அளவைமாத்திரம்கொண்டு அதற்கு விலை ஏற்படுத் தியிருக்கிறதேயன்றிச் செம்பையும் சேர்த்தன்று. செம்பையாவது வெள்ளியையாவது பொன்னோடு வெவ்வேறு அளவாய்க் கலந்தால், அதற்குத்தக்கபடி பொன்னின் நிறம் வேறுபடும்.

பொன் தண்ணீரைப்போலப் பத்தொன்பது பங்கு பளுவானது. செம்போ ஒன்பது பங்குக்கு அதிகமில்லை. அதனால், செம்பு கலந்த பொன் கட்டி ஒன்று இருக்குமானால், அதனெடையையும் பரிமாணத்தையும் பார்த்து, அதில் பொன் இவ்வளவென்றும், செம்பு இவ்வளவு கலந்திருக்கிற தென்றும் நாம் கண்டறிந்துகொள்ளலாம். இதைப்பற்றிப் பூர்வகாலத்தில்

சுமார் 2000 வருஷங்களுக்குமுன்னே பிரசித்தமாய் நடந்ததாகச் சொல்லு கிற கதை ஒன்றுண்டு. என்னவெனில், ஹீரோ என்ற ஒரு அரசன் சுத்த மான சுவர்ணத்தால் கிரீடமொன்று செய்வித்தான். ஆயினும் தட்டான் அதில் வெள்ளிகலந்திருக்கிறானென்று அவ்வரசனுக்கு எப்படியோ சந்தேக முண்டாயிற்று; அதைக் கண்டுபிடித்துச் சொல்ல அவனுக்கு வழிமட்டும் யாதொன்றும் தெரியவில்லை. அதனால் அவ்வரசன் அந்த விஷயத்தை ஆர்க்கிமெதீஸ் என்னும் ஒரு கணிதசாஸ்திர பண்டிதற்கு அறிவித்தான். அந்த விதவான் அதைப்பற்றி ஆலோசித்துக்கொண்டேயிருக்கையில், ஒரு நாள் ஸ்நாநம்பண்ணும்பொழுது இந்த துட்பத்தைக் கண்டுபிடிக்கிறவழி ஒன்று அவர் புத்தியில் தோன்றியது. அதைக் கண்டுபிடித்த சந்தோஷத் தால் அந்தக்ஷணமே அவர் “நான் அதைக் கண்டுபிடித்தேன்! நான் அதைக் கண்டுபிடித்தேன்!” என்று கூவிக்கொண்டு அப்படியே நிர்வாணமாக எழுந்து ஓடினார் என்கிறார்கள். அவர் வீட்டுக்குப் போனவுடனே, சிறிதும் கலப்பில்லாத பொன்னென்று தனக்கு நன்றாய்த் தெரிந்த ஒரு பொன்கட்டியை எடுத்துத் தண்ணீர்க்குள் நிறுத்துப்பார்த்தார்; வெளியே நிற்கும்போது அது என்ன எடையிருந்ததோ, அந்த எடையிலே பத்தொன் பதில் ஒருபங்கு தண்ணீருக்குள்ளே நிறுக்கையில் குறைவுபட்டிருந்தது. அதைக் கண்டு அவர், நாம் மேலே சொல்லியபடி, சுத்தமான பொன் தண்ணீரைப்போலப் பத்தொன்பதுபங்கு பளுவானதெனக் கண்டு கொண்டு, அரசனிடம் சென்று அந்தக் கிரீடத்தையும் அப்படியே தண்ணீரில் நிறுத்துப் பார்த்தார். அதன் எடை பத்தொன்பதில் ஒரு பங்குக்கு அதிகம் குறைவு பட்டது. அதனால் அந்தக் கிரீடத்தில் தட்டான் பொடிகலந்திருப்பது வாஸ்தவமே என நிச்சயித்து அந்தத் திருட்டுக்காக அவனைத் தண்டிக்க வேண்டியதுதான் என்றார்.

பொன்னை மிகவும் மெல்லிய ரேக்குகளாய் அடித்துப் படங்களின் சட்டம் முதலியவைகளுக்குப் பொன்னிறம்கொடுக்க உபயோகிப்பார்கள்; திராவகங்களைக்கொண்டு பொன்னை நீராக உருக்கி வேறுலோகங்களுக்கும் பொன்பூச்சப் பூசுவார்கள்.

கொஞ்சமோ அதிகமோ பொன் இந்தப் பூலோகத்தின் எந்தப் புறத் திலும் அகப்படும். இத்தேசத்தில் சில ஆறுகளின் மணல்களில் சிற்சில வாய்ப் பொன் அகப்படுகின்றது. மேற்கு மலைத்தொடர் எனப்பட்ட ஸகியபர்வதத்தின் சாரல்களில் சிலவிடங்களிலே நெடுநாளாகப் பொன் வெட்டியெடுத்து வந்தார்கள். ஆயினும் அதற்கேற்ற யந்திரங்கள் இல்லா ததுபற்றிக் கணிகள் அதிக ஆழமாக வெட்டப்படவில்லை. அதனால் மனிதர் கை உழைப்பால் வெட்டியெடுத்த பொன் உழைப்பின் கூலிக்கே கட்டி வராமற் போயிற்று. அப்படி பொன் வெட்டியெடுப்பதைப் பார்க்கப் பயிர்த் தொழில் செய்வதனால் ஒருவன் அதிகம் சம்பாதிக்கக்கூடும். அதனால் அந்த வியாபாரம் நிறுத்தப்பட்டது. இப்போது சில நாளைக்கு முன்னே நீராவியந்திரம் முதலிய சில கருவிகளைக்கொண்டு இவ்விந்தியாவில் பொன் வெட்டியெடுத்து லாபம் சம்பாதிக்கலாமென்று கண்டறிந்து, அதற்காக லந்தன்நகரத்தில் சுமார் பதினாறு சங்கத்தார் சேர்ந்து இரண்டு கோடி ரூபாய் மூலதனம் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு, மறுபடியும் இத்தேசத்தில் பொன் வெட்டி எடுக்கவேண்டிய யந்திரங்களையும், மிகச் சமர்த்தர்களான சுரங்கமறுப்பவர்களையும் அனுப்பியிருக்கிறார்கள். உதகமண்டலம், மைசூர் இவற்றிற்கு அருகாமையில் முன்னே சிறிதும் விலை பெறாமலிருந்த நிலங்கள் மிகவும் உயர்ந்த விலைக்கு அவர்களுக்கு விற்கப்பட்டன.

இவ்வாசியா கண்டத்தின் வடக்கிலுள்ள சைபீரியா தேசத்தில் அதிக மாகப் பொன் அகப்படுகின்றது. ஆசியாக் கண்டத்தில் மற்றெங்கும் அவ்வளவில்லை. அங்கே வருஷத்தில் மூன்று கோடி ரூபாய் விலைமதிப் புள்ள பொன் அகப்படுகின்றது. அதனோடு ஒத்துப்பார்க்கையில் ஐரோப் பாவில் பொன் அகப்படுவது மிகவும் சொற்பமென்றே சொல்லவேண்டும். ஐரோப்பாவுக்குள் ஆஸ்திரியா தேசத்துப் பொன்கணிகள் மிகச் சிறந்தவை

யென்று பெயர். அங்கே வருஷத்தில் இருபது லக்ஷம் ரூபாய் பொன்தான் அகப்படுகின்றது. ஆப்பிரிக்கா கண்டத்திலும் இப்போது பொன் சொற்ப மாய்த்தானிருக்கிறது. ஆயினும் அங்கே வரவர விருத்தியாகுமென்று எதிர்பார்த்திருக்கிறார்கள்.

1847-ஆஸ்திரேலியா தேசத்திலே சிறந்த பொன்கனி கண்டுபிடிக்கப் பட்டது; சாக்கிரமெந்தோ என்னும் ஆற்றின் அடியில் பொன் சகலங்கள் இருக்கக் காணப்பட்டன. இந்தச் செய்தி சீக்கிரமே சன் பிரான்ஸிஸ்கோ என்னும் பட்டணத்திற்குத் தெரியவர, உடனே அப்பட்டணத்தாரெல்லாம் பொன்கண்டெடுக்கப் பேராவல்கொண்டு தாங்கள் செய்துவந்த வேலைகளை யெல்லாம் விட்டுவிட்டு ஓடினார்கள். அங்கே வெகுதூரத்துக்கு வெகு தூரம் பொன் விசேஷமாய்ப் பரந்திருப்பதாகச் சீக்கிரமே தெரியவரவே, அமெரிக்காவிலுள்ள பல தேசங்களிலிருந்தும் அநேகர் அவ்விடத்துக்குப் போனார்கள். கடைசியில் அச்செய்திகேட்டு ஐரோப்பியரும் அநேகர் அவ்விடம் தேடிச் சென்றார்கள். அவ்விடத்தில் வருஷத்துக்கு 13,00,00,000 ரூபாய்க்குக் குறையாமல் பல வருஷங்கள் வரையில் பொன் அகப்பட்டுக் கொண்டுவந்தது. ஆயினும் பின்பு சில வருஷங்களில் அது வரவரக் குறைந்து அந்தத் தொகையில் பாதிக்கு வந்துவிட்டது.

1851-ஆஸ்திரேலியா தேசத்தில் சிறந்த பொன்கனிகள் இருக்கக் கண்டு உலகத்தாரெல்லாம் அதனிடத்தில் அதிக ஆவல் கொண்டார்கள். அங்கே பல தேசங்களிலும் பலவிதமாய்ப் பெரன் அகப்பட்டதாயினும், அங்குள்ள விக்டோரியா தேசத்திலேதான் விசேஷமாய்க் கண்டெடுக்கப் பட்டது.

பொன் சாதாரணமாய்ச் சிறிதுசிறிதாகவே அகப்படும். ஆயினும் சில விடங்களில் 100 சேர் எடையும் ஒரு முழம் நீளமும் உள்ள கட்டிகளாகவும் அகப்படுகின்றது. அந்தக் கட்டிகள் ஒவ்வொன்றின் விலையே லக்ஷம் ரூபாயாகும்.

பொன் எடுக்கிற வழி இரண்டு உண்டு. தரைமேல் உள்ள மண்களை யெடுத்து அரித்துத் தேடியெடுப்பதுமுண்டு; கனிகளுக்குள் வெட்டி யெடுப்பதுமுண்டு.

ஆதியில் தரைமேலிருந்த மண்களையே சேர்த்து அரித்துப் பொன் கண்டுபிடித்து வந்தார்கள். அதெப்படியெனில், ஒரு பெரிய சாவில் மண்ணைவாரிப்போட்டு அதன்மேல் நிரம்பத் தண்ணீர் வார்த்து அந்த மண்ணை அதில் நன்றாய்க் கரைத்து மேலோடு நீரைக் கீழே ஊற்றினிட் டால், அதிக பளுவான பொன்துண்டுகள் அதன் அடியில் தங்கிப்போம். இப்படியே ஒருவன் ஒரு சால் மண்ணில் 12,000 ரூபாய் விலையுள்ள பொன் கண்டெடுத்தான். அது கண்டு அநேகர் தாமும் அவ்வண்ணமே கண்டெடுக்கலாமென்று முயன்றார்கள். பூமியில் பலவிடங்களிலும் பொன் மண்களைக் கும்பல்கும்பலாய்ச் சேர்த்துக் குவிக்கப் புகுந்தார்கள்.

பூர்வகாலத்தில் அகப்பட்ட பொன் பூமிகளில் இப்பொழுது மேல் மண்ணில் அத்தனையாய்ப் பலன்கிடைக்கவில்லை. கனிகளில் வெகு ஆழத்திற்குக் கீழேதான் சிறந்த பொன் அகப்படுகின்றது. அங்கிருந்து வெட்டியெடுத்த பொன்கலந்த கல்லுகளை மேலே கொண்டுவிந்து நன்றாய்ப் பொடியாக்கித் தண்ணீரைவார்த்து அரித்தால், கற்களெல்லாம் அலைசுண்டு போகப் பொன் அடியிலே தங்கிப்போம். 1878-ஆஸ்திரேலியா நாட்டில் 36,636 பேர் பொன்கனி வெட்டுகிற வேலையில் அமர்ந்தார்கள். அந்த வருஷத்தில் 1,290 சதுரமைல் பொன்பூமி வெட்டியெடுக்கப்பட்டது. சில கனிகள் 2,000 அடி ஆழத்தின் கீழேயும் இருந்தன. அப்பொழுது அதற்காக மிக்க வலிவுள்ள 1,036 நீராவியந்திரங்கள் உபயோகிக்கப்பட்டன; அகப்பட்ட பொன்னும் சுமார் நான்கு கோடி ரூபாய் விலை தானும்.

மற்ற உலோகங்களைப்பார்க்கப் பொன்னுக்கு விலை மிகவும் அதிகமாய் இருப்பதெல்லாம் அதன் அருமையாலும் அழகினாலுமே. பொன் செம்பைப்போல் அத்தனை ஏராளமாயிருக்குமாயின், செம்பைப்பார்க்க அதற்கு அதிக விலையிராது. பொன்னின் பெருமைக்கு அதன் அழகும் ஒரு காரணந்தான். மிகவும் அருமையாயினும் அழகும் உபயோகமும் இல்லாமையால் உலகில் ஒருவரும் வேண்டுவாரில்லாத பொருள் எத்தனையோ இருக்கின்றனவல்லவா?

(கி.பி. 1881 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜனவரி-பிப்ரவரி திங்கள் 'ஜநவிநோதிநி' என்ற மாத இதழிலிருந்து இக்கட்டுரை வழங்கப்படுகிறது.)

ஆராய்ச்சியாளர் பக்கம்.

விடுதலைப் போரில் முதல் முழக்கம்.

ந. இராசையர்

‘இந்திய விடுதலைப் போரின் முதல் முழக்கம்’ என்ற தலைப்பில் தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகத்தில் ஆராய்ச்சியாளராகப் பதிவு செய்து ஆராய்ச்சி செய்துள்ள திரு. ந. இராசையர், எம்.ஏ., அவர்கள் அளித்துள்ள ஆராய்ச்சி நூலிலிருந்து சில பகுதிகள்.

புலித்தேவனின் முதல் முழக்கம்:

பதினெட்டாம் நூற்றாண்டின் பிற்பகுதியில் தென் பாண்டியச் சீமையில் 1755-ல் கிழக்கிந்தியக் கம்பெனியார் நம்மை அடிமையாக்கப் புறப்பட்டனர் என்பதையும், அதற்கு கலனல் ஹெரான் என்ற கும்பினித் தளபதி தலைமை ஏற்றுவந்ததையும் நாம் அறிவோம். இதனை எதிர்க்கப் புலித்தேவன் தலைமையில் போர் முழக்கம் முழங்கினார்.

“நாமிருக்கும் நாடு நமதென்பதறிந்தோம்—இது
நமக்கே உரிமையாம் என்பதறிந்தோம்
பூமியில் எவர்க்கும் இனி அடிமை செய்யோம்.”

என்று பாசதி பாடலுக்கு ஏற்ப முரசு கொட்டினார்.

“ஒற்றுமையில் ஓங்கிநின்ற சக்தியாலே—மக்கள்
உள்ளமெல்லாம் பொங்குதடா வெள்ளம்போல
வெற்றியென்னும் மேடையிலே அன்புக்காளை
வீர நடை போடுதடா இந்த வேளை”

என்ற பட்டுக்கோட்டையாரின் பாடலுக்கு ஏற்ப புரட்சித் தலைவன் புலித்தேவன் ஆங்கிலேயரை எதிர்த்து வீர முழக்கமிட்டான்.

புலித்தேவனின் வீரமுழக்கத்தைக் கேட்ட மறவர் பாளையங்கள் கொதித்தெழுந்தன. புலித்தேவனுடைய நெற்கட்டான் செவ்வல், வாசு தேவ நல்லூர், புதுக்கோட்டை ஆகிய மூன்று கோட்டைகளைத் தவிர ஊத்துமலை, தலைவன்கோட்டை, சுரண்டை, வடகரை, கொல்லங்கொண்டான் ஆகிய இடங்களிலும் கோட்டைகள் எழுப்பப்பட்டன. இந்த ஐந்து கோட்டைகளுக்கும் பிற்காலப் பாண்டியர்களான பஞ்சபாண்டியர்களின் பெயர்கள் சூட்டப்பட்டன.

புலித்தேவனின் பண்புகள்:

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“புலித்தேவர், தலைசிறந்த அரசியல் சாணக்கியராயும், நிகரற்ற பேர்வன்மை படைத்த மறவர் சிங்கமாயும் திகழ்ந்தார்” என்று டாக்டர் ந. சஞ்ஜீவி கூறுகிறார்.

புறநானூறு போன்ற சங்க இலக்கியங்களில் வியந்து பேசப்படுகின்ற வீரமறவர் பரம்பரையில் பிறந்த விறல்மேவு தமிழ் மகன் அவர் தம் பெயருக்கேற்ப அஞ்சாத நெஞ்சம் படைத்த ஆண்மையாளர் சாம, தான, பேத, தண்டம் என்று சொல்லப்படுகின்ற நால்வகை உபாயங்களையும் சமயமறிந்து கையாளுவதில் சாணக்கியனையும் வெல்லக் கூடியவர்.

‘அவர் ஆறடிக்கு மேற்பட்ட உயரமும், வைரச்சிலை போன்ற உடற் கட்டும் வாய்ந்தவர். அவரது வலிமைமிக்க கைகள் முழங்கால் வரையில் நீண்டிருக்கும், மற்றவர்களால் சுமக்க முடியாத பல ஆயுதங்களைச் சுமந்து கொண்டு நாளொன்றுக்கு 30 மைல் தூரம் அவர் எளிதாக நடந்து செல்வார். குதிரை ஏறிப் போர் புரிவதில் அபூர்வமாக திறமை படைத்தவராம். வீரமும் வலிமையும் மட்டுமின்றி அவர் நேர்மையும் பண்பும் நிறைந்தவர்’ என்று திரு. தமிழ்வாணன் கூறுகிறார். இவர் கூறுகின்ற புலித்தேவனை நினைத்துப் பார்க்கையில் கம்பராமாயணத்தில் வருகின்ற குகன் தோற்றத் திற்கு ஒப்பிடலாம் போல் தோற்றுகின்றது.

புலித்தேவரிடம் கப்பம் கேட்டல்:

காலனல் ஹெரான் வெற்றிகரமாக பொல்லாப் பாண்டியனிடம் கப்பம் வாங்கியதைப் போல புலித்தேவனையும் அடக்கி கப்பம் பெற்றுவிடலாம் என்று மமதை கொண்டான். இருந்தாலும் புலித்தேவருக்குப் பயந்து, காலனல் ஹெரான் தன்னுடைய இருமொழியாளரான துபாஷ் முதலியை அனுப்பி வைத்தான். துபாஷ்முதலி புலித்தேவனிடம் பெயரளவிற்கு சிறு தொகை ரூபாய் 2,000 மட்டும் கட்டினால் போதும், ஹெரான் துறை திருப்தி யோடு திரும்பிவிடுவார் என்று கூறினான். அதைக்கேட்ட மாத்திரத்தில் புலியெனப் பாய்ந்தார் புலித்தேவர். “நாங்கள் இந்த மண்ணில் பிறந்த வர்கள். இந்த மண்ணுக்கு உரியவர்கள், அவ்வாறிருக்குமபோது வெள்ளை யலுக்கோ அல்லது ஆற்காடு நவாபுக்கோ நாங்கள் ஏன் கப்பம் செலுத்த வேண்டும்” என்று முழங்கினான் புலித்தேவன்.

இந்த நாட்டில் ஆங்கிலேயரை எதிர்த்து கப்பம் கட்ட மறுத்தது மாவீரன் புலித்தேவனைத் தவிர வேறு யாருமில்லை. இதுவே ஓர் இந்தியன் செய்த வீரம் செறிந்த முதல் முழக்கம். இதைக் கேட்டமாத் திரத்தில் காலனல் ஹெரான் அவமானப்பட்டு ஓடிவிட்டான்.

புலித்தேவனின் கூட்டணி:

மீண்டும் எந்த நேரத்திலும் சும்பினியரால் அபாயம் வரும் என்று உணர்ந்தார் புலித்தேவர். தற்போது ஹெரான் ஓடியதுகூட தக்க ஆயுத மில்லாமல் இருந்திருக்கலாம். ஆகையால் மீண்டும் ஆங்கிலேயர் படை பலத்தைப் பெருக்கிக்கொண்டு வருவதற்குள் ஒரு வலுவான கூட்டணியை உருவாக்க நினைத்தார். மதுரைப் பாளையங்களுடன் மேற்குப் பாளையங் களெல்லாம் ஒன்று திரண்டு புலித்தேவன் அணியில் முழங்கினர். ஆனால் எட்டையாபுரம், பாஞ்சாலங்குறிச்சி ஆகிய பாளையங்களும் அவர்களைச் சார்ந்த நாயக்கர், பாளையங்களும் இணைய மறுத்துவிட்டன. அப்போது புலித்தேவர் அடைந்த வேதனைக்கு அளவே இல்லை.

திருவில்லிபுத்தூர் கோட்டை தாக்கப்பட்டது:

திருவில்லிபுத்தூர் கோட்டையை நவாப்பின் தம்பியான ரஹீம் பாது காத்து வந்தான். பெரும் சுதேசிப் படையொன்றும் கொம்மந்தான்கான் சாகிப் ஷம் ஒப்படைக்கப்பட்டது. இதை அறிந்த புலித்தேவன் 1756-ல் திருவில்லிபுத்தூர் கோட்டையைத் தாக்கி கைப்பற்றினான். அப்போது புலித்தேவனிடம் ஆயிரம் குதிரைப்படை வீசர்களும், 25,000 காலாட்டை வீசர்களும் இருந்தனர்.

இவ்விதமாக அன்னியர்களின் படை முகாம்களை எல்லாம் அழித்து வந்தான் மாவீரன் புலித்தேவன். திருவில்லிபுத்தூரில் கோட்டை இருந்த இடத்தை இன்றும் “கோட்டைத் தலைவாசல்” என்றே அழைக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இவ்வட்டாரத்திலுள்ள பல ஊர்களில் கொம்மந்தான்கான் சாகிப்பின் பெயரால், கொம்மந்தான்புரம் என்பது “கொம்மந்தாபுரம்” என்றும், மகமதுகான் சாகிப்புரம் “மம்சாபுரம்” என்றும், கான்சாகிப்புரம் “கான்சாபுரம்” என்றும் இன்றும் வழங்கி வருவது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும்.

விடுதலை முழக்கத்தின் காலகட்டங்கள் :

இந்தியா அன்னியரிடமிருந்து விடுதலையடைய பல கட்டங்களாகப் போர் நடத்தினர். அதில் இந்திய விடுதலையின் முதல் கட்டமாக 1755-ல் புரட்சித் தலைவன் புலித்தேவன் “வெள்ளையனே வெளியேறு” என்று வீர முழக்கமிட்டான். “அன்னியன் எவனாயினும் தம் தாயகத்து மண்ணிலே வேறுன்றி விடக்கூடாது” என்ற அரசியல் எழுச்சியை உண்டாக்கினான் புலித்தேவன். மாவீரன் புலித்தேவன் முழங்கிய “வெள்ளையனே வெளியேறு” என்ற முழக்கத்தையே பின்னாளில் 1942 இல் காந்தியடிகளும் முழங்கினார்.

இரண்டாவது கட்டமாக சிவகங்கையின் அரசியும் வீரமறத்தியுமான வேலு நாச்சியார் 1772-ல் ஆங்கிலேயர்களை எதிர்த்து விடுதலை முழக்கம் முழங்கினார். இந்திய விடுதலை இயக்கத்தில் அன்னியனை எதிர்த்து முதன் முதல் முழக்கமிட்ட வீராங்கனை வேலு நாச்சியாரே முதல் பெண் மணி ஆவார். வீராங்கனை வேலு நாச்சியாரின் வீரத்தைப் பின்பற்றியே பின்னாளில் வடநாட்டில் சான்சிராணி விடுதலை முழக்கம் முழங்கினார்.

மூன்றாவது கட்டமாக மானங்காத்த மருது சகோதரர்கள் 1780-ல் சிவகங்கைச் சீமையில் அன்னியனை எதிர்த்து விடுதலை முழக்கத்தை முழங்கினார்.

நான்காவது கட்டமாக பாஞ்சாலங்குறிச்சியில் வீரபாண்டியக் கட்டபொம்மன் 1795-ல் விடுதலை முழக்கம் முழங்கினார்.

இவ்விதமாக விடுதலை முழக்கத்தின் காலகட்டங்கள் நாளொரு மேனியும் பொழுதொரு வண்ணமாக வளர்ந்து கொண்டே வந்தன.

“என்று தணியும் இந்த சுதந்திர தாகம்

என்று தணியும் எங்கள் அடிமையின் மோகம்”

என்ற குரலுக்கு முன்னோடியாகத் திகழ்ந்தவர்கள் தென்னாட்டு மக்கள். இவ்விடுதலைப் புரட்சியில் பல்லாயிரக் கணக்காக விடுதலை வீரர்களைக் கொன்று குவித்து நாசமாக்கியது மட்டுமல்லாமல், தென்பாண்டியத் திருநாட்டையே இடுகாடாகவும் ஆக்கினர் வெறி பிடித்த வெள்ளையர். இந்தப் போர்களில் ஈடுபட்ட பல லட்சம் மறவர் வீரர்கள் கொல்லப்பட்டார்கள். இந்த வீரர்களின் விவரத்தை விடுதலை இயக்க வரலாற்றில் பொன் எழுத்துக்களால் பொறிக்கப்பட வேண்டிய தொன்றாகும். என்னே! இவர்களின் நாட்டுப்பற்று.

இலங்கை.

(ஒரு தொகுப்பு)

ம. செ. பாண்டியன்,
தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

இலங்கைக்கு பல பெயர்கள் இருப்பது போல் உலகில் வேறு எந்த தீவுக்கும் இருக்குமென்று கூறமுடியாது.

இயக்க வேந்தனாகிய குபேரன் இலங்கையில் ஆட்சி புரிந்தானென்று புராணம் கூறுவதால் இந்தத் தீவு இயக்கத்தீவு என்று பெயர் பெற்றது. இனி நாகர்கள் முன்னொரு காலத்தில் இலங்கையில் வாழ்ந்ததால் இதற்கு நாகத்தீவு என்று பெயர் வந்தது.

முன் காலத்தில் இலங்கை தமிழ்நாட்டின் பகுதியாய் இருந்ததென்றே சரித்திர ஆராய்ச்சியாளர் துணிகிறார்கள். இந்த நாட்டின் பழம் பெருங் குடிகள் திராவிட வகுப்பினர் என்பது அவர்கள் கருத்து. கந்தபுராண காலத்தில் சூரபத்மன் ஆட்சி புரிந்த போது கார்த்திகேயப் பெருமாள் இந்த நாட்டுக்கு வந்த வரலாற்றைக் கதிர்காமம் என்னும் திருத்தலம் இன்றும் நினைவூட்டிக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறது. களுகங்கை கடலோடு கலக்கும் இடத்தின் ஒரு கரை தேவபுரமென்றும் மற்றொரு கரை தேவசத்துருகரை (தேசஸ்தரதுறை) என்றும் வழங்குவது இந்தப் பேரை நினைவூட்டுகிற தென்னும் குறிப்பிடப்படுகிறது.

ஒரு பெருங்கண்டத்தின் பெரும் பகுதியாயிருந்த இலங்கை பலமுறை கடலில் முழுகியது என்று சரித்திர நூல்கள் தெளிவாகக் கூறுகின்றன. அப்படியானால் இலங்கையின் நிலப்பரப்பு இப்போதுள்ளதைவிட முன் காலத்தில் இன்னும் பல மடங்கு விரிந்திருக்க வேண்டும். ஆழி சூழ் இலங்கை ஆயிரக்கணக்கான மைல்களுக்குப் பரந்திருந்ததென்கிறார்கள். இராவணனுடைய ஆட்சியின் பின்பு ஒரு முறை கடல் கொண்டதாம். இராம இராவணயுத்தம் கி.மு. 2387-ல் நிகழ்ந்ததென்று சிங்களச் சரித்திரம் குறிப்பிடுகிறது. ஸர். வில்லியம் ஜோன்ஸ் இந்த நிகழ்ச்சி கி.மு. 1810-ல் நிகழ்ந்தது என்று குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார். பத்துவாசன் காலத்திலும் (கி.மு. 500) களனி திஸ்ஸன் காலத்திலும் (கி.மு. 200) இந்தத் தீவுக்குக் கீழ், மேல், தென் பாகங்கள் கடலில் ஆழ்ந்தன என்று சிங்களச் சரித்திரம் கூறுகிறது. இன்னும் 'கடையம் பொத்தலங்கா விஸ்தாரய' என்னும் நூல் களால் களனி என்னும் ராஜதானி, கடலிலிருந்து 28 மைல் தூரத்தில் இருந்ததென்று தெரிகிறது. ஒரு லட்சம் பட்டினங்களையும் 970 நெய்தற் பாக்கங்களையும் 470 முத்துக் குளிப்பவர் கிராமங்களையும் சேர்த்து இலங்கை நாட்டின் 12-ல் 11 பாகத்தைக் கடல் மூடியதென்று ராஜாவலி என்ற சிங்கள நூல் குறிப்பிடுகிறது.

இலங்கையின்கீழ், மேல், தென் பகுதிகளே கடல் வாய்ப்பட்டன என்பது மிகப் பொருத்தம்.

இலங்கையின் தென் கீழ்க்கடலில் கலங்கரை விளக்கம் கட்டியிருக்கும் கல் பாரையை இன்னும் இராவணக்கோட்டை என்றே கூறுகிறார்கள். இராவணன் திருக்கோணசர் கோயிலைக்கட்டினான் என்பது கர்ண பரம்பரை. இராமர் ராவணனுடன் போர் தொடுப்பதற்கு முன்பு முனிசுவரத்தில் வணங்கினானென்று சர். அருணாசலம் குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார். சேது பந்தனத்துக்கு ராமர் அணை என்ற பெயர் இருப்பதையும் இங்கே கவனிக்கவேண்டும். சீதா தேவியின் பெயர் நுவயெலியாவுக்கும் ஹக்கலைக்கும் இடையிலுள்ள சீத்தலவ (சீதைவெளி) சீதால (சீதை அருவி) சீதா குண்ட (சீதை குண்டம்) என்ற இடப் பெயர்களாலும், பொய்ச்சீதை உருவத்தை இந்திரஜித்து எரித்த இடமென்று கருதப்பெறும் சீதாவக்கையென்ற இடப் பெயராலும் இலங்கையில் இன்றும் நின்று நில்லுகிறது. இன்றும் ராமாயணக் கதைகள் பலவிதமாக மலை நாட்டில் வழங்குகின்றன. இவற்றில் சிலவற்றை மேஜர் போர்ப்ஸ் என்ற சரித்திர அறிஞர் தொகுத்துக் கூறியிருக்கிறார்.

இலங்கையெனும் பெயர் எந்தக் காரணம் பற்றி உண்டாயிற்று என்று துணிந்து கூற முடியவில்லை. இந்தச் சொல் லட்சம் அல்லது இலக்கம் என்ற சொல்லின் மருவென்று கொண்டு இதற்கருகில் இருந்த லட்சம் தீவுகள் கடல் வாய்ப்பட்டன என்ற கர்ண பரம்பரை வழக்கு ஒன்றை இது நினைவுபடுத்துகிறதென்றார் மேஜர் போர்ப்ஸ். இலக்கம் என்ற சொல் ஒளியென்றும் பொருள்படுவது “எல்லேயிலக்கம்” (தொ. உரி.) என்ற நூற்பாவால் தெரிகிறது. ஒளியென்று ஒரு பொருள்படும் எல், இலக்கம் என்னும் இரண்டு சொற்களிலிருந்தும் முறையே ஈழம் என்பதும், இலங்கை, லங்கா என்பவையும் பிறந்திருக்கலாம்.

இலங்கை கடல் கால்வாயால் இரண்டு பெருங்குறாகப் பிரிந்திருக்கிறது. முந்தியது வட பக்கம் உள்ளது. பிந்தியது தென் பக்கம் உள்ளது. இரத்தினத்தீபம் என்ற ஒரு பெயர் இலங்கைக்கு உண்டு. சமந்த கூடத்துக்கு அருகில் இரத்தினபுரி என்ற சிறந்த நகரம் இருப்பதையும் இங்கே நினைவு கூறலாம். இலங்கை இரத்தினக்கல்லுக்குப் பெயர் போன இடம்.

ஈழம் என்ற பெயர் இலங்கை முழுவதற்கும் பொதுவாகவும் வடபால் கூறாகிய யாழ்ப்பாணத்துக்குச் சிறப்பாகவும் வழங்குகிறது. பழஞ்சிங்களம் ‘எலு’ என்று வழங்கி வந்ததென்று சிங்களவரும் ஒப்புக்கொள்கிறார்கள். ‘எலு’ என்பது தமிழ்ச்சொல் என்று சொற்பிறப்பு ஆராய்ச்சி நிபுணர் சுவாமி ஞானப்பிரகாசர் குறிப்பிடுகிறார். இனி சிறி ஈழம், சிறுஹம், சிங்களம் என ஆயிற்றென்று கொள்வாரும் உண்டு.

தமிழர் வாழ்ந்த நாடு தமிழகம் என்றானது போல ஈழர் வாழ்ந்த நாடு ஈழம் என்று ஆகியிருக்க வேண்டும். சேரர், சோழர், பாண்டியர் என்ற தமிழரின் ஒவ்வோர் இனம் போல் ஈழரும் மற்றோர் இனமாக இருக்கலாம். இந்த ஈழர்களே இலங்கையில் நாகர்களுக்கும், சிங்களவர்களுக்கும் முன்பு இருந்த பழங்குடி மக்கள் ஈழர் என்ற சொல்லையே ஆரியர்கள் யக்ஷர் என வழங்கினார்கள். ஆரியர்களுக்கு மூகர எழுத்தொலி இல்லாததால் அதை ஷகரமாக்கி யக்ஷர் என்று திரித்து வழங்கி இருக்கக்கூடும். ஈழர் தலைவன் தான் மிகப்புகழ் பெற்ற இராவணன். குவேனியும் இந்த ஈழர் தலைவியே. ஈழர்கள், கல்வி, கைத்தொழில், வேளாண்மை முதலியவற்றில் சிறந்து வாழ்ந்தவர்களென்று பழைய நூல்களால் தெளிவாகிறது. ஈழக்குலச் சான்றோர் வரலாற்றால் ஈழரின் புலமையும் விளங்குகின்றன.

இனி ஈழம் என்பது பொன், கள், கிழக்கு என்று பலபொருள் தந்து நிற்பதால் இந்தப் பொருள்களைக் கருத்தில் வைத்துப் புராணிகர் பல கதைகளை உண்டாக்கி விட்டார்கள். பொன்மலை எனப்படும் மேருவின் ஒரு சிகரமே ஈழ நாடாயிற்றென்பது பெளராணிகர் கூற்று. ஈழுவர் என்ற குடியினர் இந்தியாவில் காணப்படுவதால் அவர்கள் இந்தத் தீவிலிருந்து சென்று இந்தியாவில் குடியேறியவர்களாக இருக்கலாம். ஈழ நாட்டிலும், மலையாளத்திலும் குடியேறியவர் ஈழுவர் எனவும், திருநெல்வேலியில் குடியேறிய ஈழத்துப் பிள்ளைமார் இல்லத்துப் பிள்ளைமார் எனவும் வழங்குவதை இங்கே நினைவு கூற வேண்டும்.

இலங்கையின் வட பகுதியை வெற்றி கொண்ட ராஜராஜன் தன் நாட்டின் ஒரு பகுதியாக இதைக் கருதி இதற்கு மும்முடிச் சோழ மண்டலம் என்று பெயரிட்டு அழைத்தான் என்பது தென்னிந்தியச் சாசனங்களால் புலனாகிறது.

சிங்களம் அல்லது சிங்களத்துவீபம் என்பதற்குச் சிங்களர் வாழும் இடம் என்று பொருள். சிங்களம் என்னும் தீவில் வாழ்ந்தவர்கள் சிங்களர் என்று பெயர் பெற்றார்கள் என்று வைபவ மாலைக்காரர் கூறுகிறார். சிங்களர் என்னும் மரபினர் வாழ் இடம் சிங்களமாயிற்று என்பவரும் உண்டு. இடப்பெயர் ஆராய்ச்சி நிபுணர் திரு. எஸ். டபிள்யூ. குமாரசாமி சிங்கம் என்ற சொல் சமஸ்கிருத மகாபாரதத்தில் வந்திருக்கிறதென்று குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார். மேலும் இவர் சிங்களர் என்ற சொல் கேரளர், போசளர், குந்தளர் என்பவை போல் ஆரியச் சொற்சிதைவாகிய இனப் பெயராயிருக்க வேண்டும் என்கிறார்.

சிங்களர் விஷ்ணுவையும் கதிர்காமக் கடவுளையும் பத்திரித்தெய்யோ என்ற கண்ணகியையும் இன்னும் வழிபட்டு வருகிறார்கள். கண்டியில் ஆண்டுதோறும் நடக்கும் பெருநிழாவில் இந்தத் தெய்வங்களே முதன்மை பெற்றிருந்தது சரித்திர வாயிலாகத் தெரியும் உண்மை.

இனி, தமிழொழிந்த பதினேழ் நிலங்களுள் முதலில் கூறப்பட்டிருப்பது சிங்களம். இதை நன்னூல் உரையாசிரியராகிய மயிலை நாதர் எடுத்துக் காட்டியிருக்கிறார்.

பழங்காலத்து, யவன (உரோமகிரேக்க) ஆசிரியர்கள் இந்தத்தீவு 'தாமிரபன்' என்ற பெயருடையது என்று அறிந்திருந்தார்கள். இது மிகவும் பழையதொரு பெயர். இராவணன் தீவு என்று இதற்கு பொருள்படும் என்கிறார்கள் ஒரு சாரார். இது தம்பபள்ளி என்று சிங்கள நூல்கள் இந்தத் தீவுக்கு இட்ட பெயரின் மருவென்கிறார்கள். இன்னொரு சாரார் தம்பன்ன என்பதற்குச் செந்நிறமுடையது என்று பொருள் கொள்கின்றனர். விஜயனும் அவன் பரிவாரமும் முதல் முதல் இந்தத் தீவில் இறங்கிய போது களைப்பினாலும், அலுப்பினாலும் நடக்க சக்தியற்றுத் தங்கள் கைகளை ஊன்றிக் கொண்டிருந்தார்களென்றும் தங்கள் கைகள் செந்நிறம் படிந்தது கண்டு 'தம்பயன்' என்று பெயரிட்டார்களென்று மகாவம்சம் கூறுகிறது. இந்த மாதிரி பல வெற்றுகைகள் சிங்கள மகாவம்சத்தில் இருக்கின்றன. தென்னிந்தியாவில் தாமிரபரணி ஆற்றுக்கு அருகில் இருந்த தமிழர் இங்கே வந்து குடியேறியபோது இந்தத் தீவுக்கு இந்தப் பெயரிட்டார்கள் என்பதே பொருத்தம். தென்னிந்தியாவில் தமிழரைக் கண்ட பிற தேசத்தவர்கள் இங்கேயும் மகாவலி கங்கையையும் தமிழரையும் கண்ட போது இந்தத் தீவுக்கு அந்தப் பெயரையிட்டு அழைத்தார்கள் என்றும் கொள்ளலாம். இதுவே ஸர். பொ. அருணாசலத்தின் கொள்கை. இப்போது பொதியமலையிலே பிறந்து கிழக்கே ஓடிக் கொற்கையிலே கடலோடு கலக்கிற தாம்பரபரணி ஆறு முன்னொரு காலத்தில்—அதாவது இப்போதுள்ள கடல் கன்னியாகுமரி முனைக்கு வடபால் இல்லாத போது—கொற்கைக்கும் கிழக்கே ஓடிவந்து இலங்கை வரையிலும் சென்று இலங்கைக்குள்ளும் புகுந்ததால் அந்த ஆற்றின் பெயரையே இலங்கைக்கு பெயராக வழங்கினார்களென்று நினைக்கலாம். ஆனால் இதற்குச் சான்றுகள் இனித் தான் கிடைக்க வேண்டும்.

பிற்காலத்து கிரேக்கரும் உரோமரும் இந்தத் தீவைப் பாலாசிமுண்டு என்று குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதைத் தமிழ்ச்சொல் என்று கொள்கிறார் முதலியார் இராசநாயகம். பழைய சீழ் மண்டலம் என்பது சீல மண்டலம் என்றும் ஈழ மண்டலம் என்பது திரிந்து இந்தப் பெயர்கள் வந்தனவாம். இதேபோல் பாலாசி முண்டு என்பது பரசிறி மண்டலம் என்பதன் மருஉ என்கிறார் ஆசிரியர் நின்சென்ட். இது ஒரு பட்டினத்தின் பெயரென்றும், இலங்கையின் வடமேற்குப் பகுதியில் இருந்ததென்றும் கூறுகிறார் ஆசிரியர் பிறிடாம். மேஜர் போர்பஸ் என்ற சரித்திர நிபுணர் சிங்கள மொழியிலிருந்து பிறந்ததென்று கொண்டு பாலசிய மண்டலம் (கீழ் நாடு) என்று பொருள்படும் என்கிறார். இது பாலிசிமந்த என்ற வட மொழிப் பதத்தினின்றும் பிறந்த பெயரென்றும் தருமநூல் தலைமை என்று பொருள்படுமென்றும் இன்னொருவர் கூறுகிறார்.

பாலாவிமன்று என்றால் பாலாவி ஓடும் வெளியிடம் பாலாவிமன்று என்பதைப் பாலாசி முண்டென்று கிரேக்கர்கள் வழங்கியிருக்க வேண்டுமென்கிறார், சிவம் கருணாலயப் பாண்டியப் புலவர், பாலாவி மன்று என்று ஓரிடத்தின் பெயராக இருந்ததையே இலங்கை முழுவதற்கும் பெயராகக் கிரேக்கர்கள் வைத்துக் கொண்டு இருக்கலாம். இந்தியா என்பதும் கிரேக்கர்கள் இப்படியே இட்ட பெயர்தான். மண்டி என்பது மன்று என்று திரிந்து முண்டென்று சிதைந்து இருக்கலாம். நீலகிரியைச் சேர்ந்த மன்று என்ற பல ஊர்களின் பெயர்கள் உதகமண்டு என்பது போல் மண்டென்று வழங்குவதை ஞாபகத்தில் வைக்க வேண்டும்.

‘தாம்பபனி’ என்ற பழம் பெயர் பூண்ட தீவை இப்போது சாலிக என்று குறிக்கிறோம் என்று ‘தொலமி’ என்பவர் எழுதியிருக்கிறார். சலாவ அல்லது சாலியர் என்ற ஒருவகைச் சாதி இலங்கையில் உண்டு. இவர்கள் இலங்கைக்கே சிறப்பாக உரியவர்கள்.

முன்னொரு காலத்தில் கூலியாட்களாகவும் பின்பு கறுவாப்பட்டை உரிக்கும் தொழிலாளர்களாகவும் இவர்கள் வாழ்ந்து வந்தார்கள்.

இவர்களுடைய வரலாறு பல படத்திலிருந்து வழங்குவதால் உண்மை வரலாறு தெரியவில்லை. சாலிய என்பது சீலம் அல்லது சீழம் என்ற சொல்லின் மருஉ என்பாரும் உண்டு. மலையாளத்தார் இதைச் ‘சைலத்த’ என்று பெயரிட்டழைத்தார்கள்.

சலாபம் என்பதற்கு முத்துக்குளித்தல் என்று பொருள். இந்தப் பெயரால் இந்தத் தொழிற்சிறப்பு மிகுந்த பட்டினமும் இலங்கையில் உண்டு. முத்துக் களாலும், வாசனைத் திரவியங்களாலும் லாபத்தை உண்டாக்கித் தன்ன கத்தே பிற தேசத்து வணிகர்களை இழுக்கும் ஆற்றல் வாய்ந்த தீவு என்ற கருத்தில் சலா தீபம் என்றும் இலங்கைக்கு ஒரு பெயர் உண்டு.

அராபிய ஆசிரியர்கள் இட்டழைத்த பெயர் ‘செரண்டிப்’ என்பது. ‘டிவிஸ்’ என்ற சொல் தீவு என்றும் பொருள் உள்ளது. இதுவே பின்பு மருவி ஸிலோன் என்றாயிற்றாம்.

முதல் புத்தரான சாகுசந்தர் காலத்தில் இந்தத் தீவு ஒச்சதீவம் எனவும், கோணகம்ம புத்தர் காலத்தில் வரதுவீபம் எனவும், காசிய புத்தர் காலத்தில் மததுவீபம் எனவும் வழங்கி வந்ததென்று மகாவம்சம் குறிப்பிடுகிறது. புத்தரின் விரிவான வரலாற்று நூல்கள் அவர் இலங்கைக்கு வந்த வரலாற்றைக் கூறவில்லையென்று கருதுகிறார் சில ஆராய்ச்சியாளர். ஒபிர், தர்ஸிஸ் என்று எபிரேயர் குறிப்பிட்ட இடத்தின் ஒரு பகுதி இலங்கை என்றும் சாலமோன் அரசன் தன் கப்பற்படை மூலம் பொன், வெள்ளி, யானை, மயில் தோகை முதலியவற்றை இங்கேயிருந்து பெற்றானென்று சொல்கிறார்கள் சிலர். சயாம் தேசத்தவர் இதைத் ‘தேவலங்கா’ என்று வழங்குகிறார்கள்.

ஆதாரம்.—

- (1) History of Ceylon by L. E. Blaze.
- (2) History of Ceylon by Compiled from Knighton, Pridham, Turnour Teenet and other writers.
- (3) Account of Mr. Pybuss's Mission.
- (4) Ancient Jaffna by Mudaliar C. Rasanayagam.
- (5) The Early History of Ceylon by G. C. Mendis.
- (6) A Short History of Ceylon by H. W. Codrington.
- (7) இலங்கைச் சரித்திரம்—1795-1947—மட்டுநகர் FXL நடராசா.

தமிழும் விருந்தோம்பலும்.

—குடந்தை சா. வேங்கடராமன்.

ஆசிரியருக்கு எல்லாம் குறித்த நேரத்தில் நடக்க வேண்டும். 'காலம் தவறாமை' என்ற மிக உயர்ந்த குணத்தை நாம் மேற்கத்தியர்களிடமிருந்து கற்றுக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்' என்று பலமுறை கூறியிருக்கிறார். நாங்களும் அவருடைய அறிவுரையைத் தீவிரமாகக் கடைப்பிடிப்பது வழக்கம். இன்று எப்படியோ அலுவலக உதவியாளர் கணேசன் ஒரு முனி நேரம் தாமதமாக வந்து ஆசிரியரிடம் வசமாக மாட்டிக் கொண்டிவிட்டார். அதன் பயனையும் அனுபவித்துக் கொண்டிருந்தார்.

“எதிர்ப்பாராத விருந்தாளிகள் வந்து விட்டார்கள். எனவே தவிர்க்க இயலாமல் தாமதமாகி விட்டது. இனி, இம்மாதிரி நேராமல் பார்த்துக் கொள்திறேன்” என்று கடைசியில் மன்றாடி தப்பித்து வந்தார். ஆனால் ஒன்று, கணேசன் ஏதையும் சாந்தமாகவும், மகிழ்ச்சியோடும் ஏற்றுக் கொண்டுவிடுவார். முகத்தில் மாறாத புன்னகை எப்போதும் ஒளிவிடும். எனவே, ஆசிரியர் செய்த அர்ச்சனையால் எள்ளளவும் பாதிக்கப்படாமல் அவர் வெளி வந்தது எங்களுக்கெல்லாம் அதிசயமாகப்படவில்லை. ஆனால் என் கவலையெல்லாம், அடுத்து ஆசிரியரிடம் ஒரு வேலையாக நான் போக வேண்டியிருந்ததுதான். ஒருவாறாக மனதைத் திடப்படுத்திக் கொண்டு ஆசிரியர் அறைக்குள் நுழைந்தேன்.

நான் கொடுத்த கட்டுரையை என்னவென்று கூட பாராமல், மேசையில் ஒருபக்கமாக வைத்துவிட்டு, “எவ்வளவு முறை சொன்னாலும் ஏனோ தெரிந்துகொள்ள மறுக்கிறார்களே! காலந்தவறாமல் ஒரு இடத்துக்குப் போகவேண்டும் என்பதைவிட, விருந்தாளி வந்தது பெரிதாகப் போய் விட்டதாம், இந்த கணேசனுக்கு” என்று சூடாகவே ஆரம்பித்தார்.

“வழக்கமாக கணேசன் காலம் தவறமாட்டார். இன்று யாராவது முக்கியமாக வந்திருப்பார்கள்” என்று கணேசனிடம் நான் கொண்ட அலுவலகத்தை மெதுவாக கொஞ்சம் வெளிப்படுத்தினேன்.

“ஓகோ, அப்படியானால் கணேசன் செய்ததுதான் சரி என்கிறீர் போலும்”.

“அப்படி இல்லை. காலந்தவறாமை மிகவும் உயர்ந்த கொள்கை என்பதே எனது முடிவும். எனினும், விருந்தோம்பலும் அவ்வாறே உயர்ந்தது. சூழ்நிலை சந்தர்ப்பம் இவற்றை அனுசரித்து, விருந்தோம்பலை சில நேரங்களில், காலந்தவறாமையைவிட முதன்மையாக எண்ணவேண்டியுள்ளது” என்றேன்.

“நன்றாக இருக்கிறது”, வாழ்வை செவ்வனே அமைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டுமானால், காலந்தவறாமை அவசியம் என்கிறேன் நான். “நீர் என்னவோ சொல்கிறீரே?” என்று குற்றஞ்சாட்டும் பாணியில் பதில் மொழிந்தார் ஆசிரியர். என்றாலும் சூரலில் சீற்றம் மிகக் குறைந்திருந்தது. நீரிற் கிழித்த வடுப்போல சான்றோர் சினம் மாறுமல்லவா, இது நினைவுக்கு வந்ததும், சற்று விரிவாகவே ஆரம்பித்தேன்.

“அப்படி வாழ்வைச் செம்மைப்படுத்துவது ஏன்? சில குறிப்பிட்ட நோக்கங்களை அடையத்தானே” அந்த நோக்கங்கள் எவை என்று விளக்க முற்பட்ட திருவள்ளுவர்,

தென்புலத்தார் தெய்வம் விருந்தொக்கல் தான் என்றாங்(கு)
ஐம்புலத்தார் ஓம்பல் தலை

என்கிறார். இதையே இன்னும் தெளிவாக,

விருந்தோம்பி இல்வாழ்வதெல்லாம் விருந்தோம்பி
வேளாண்மை செய்தற் பொருட்டு.

என்றும் கூறுகிறார். எனவே விருந்தோம்பல் வாழ்க்கையின் தலையாய இலட்சியங்களில் ஒன்றாகத் தமிழரால் மதிக்கப்படுகிறது” என்றேன்.

“அது சரி. சொல்லாமல் திடீரென்று வந்து நிற்கிறவர்களையெல்லாம் விருந்தினர் என்று ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமா?” என வினவினார் ஆசிரியர்.

“ஐயா, விருந்து என்றாலே புதுமை எனப் பொருளுண்டு. இதுவே ஆகு பெயராக புதியதாய் வந்தாரைக் குறிக்கும். பரிமேலழகர் தமது உரையில் ‘அறிவுண்மையிற் குறித்து வந்தாரும், அஃது இன்மையிற் குறியாது வந்தாரும்’ என இருவகையினராக விருந்தினரை விவரிப்பதால், எல்லா நேரங்களிலும் இயன்றவரை விருந்தோம்பலைக் கடமையாகக் கொண்டொழுகும்படித் தமிழ்மறை கட்டளையிடுகிறது” என்றேன்.

ஆசிரியர் மௌனமாகக் கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்தார். இன்னும் கேட்க விரும்புகிறார் என்பதை முகம் காட்டியது.

“விருந்தோம்பலை ஒரு வேள்வியாக நினைத்துப் போற்றுவது தமிழ் மரபு. மேலும், விருந்தோம்பலை முகம் மலரச் செய்து வருபவன் வீட்டில் வறுமை தலைகாட்டாது என்றும் அங்கு ‘அகன்அமர்ந்து செய்யாள் உறையும்’ என்றும் தமிழ்மறை முழங்குகிறது.

இல்லறத்தில், வாழ்க்கைத் துணையாக அமைந்து, அறம் வளர்க்கும் தமிழ்ப் பெண்டிர் விருந்தோம்பலில் தனிமகிழ்ச்சி பெறுவது இயற்கையே, காதல் வயப்பட்டுக் கனவில் ஆழ்ந்த பெண்ணுக்குக்கூட விருந்தளிக்கும் ஆர்வம் மறைவதில்லை.

காதலர் தூதொடு வந்த கனவினுக்
கியாது செய்வன்கொல் விருந்து.

என்று தோழியிடம் புலம்புகிறாள்”, என்றேன்.

ஆசிரியர் முகத்தில் சினக்குறிகள் அறவே மறைந்து, புன்முறுவலும் படர்ந்தது.

“விருந்தோம்பலைப் புறக்கணித்த ஒரு பெண்ணைப்பற்றி ஓளவையார் பாடியது இது”, என்று பாடினேன்.

சண்டாளி, சூர்ப்பநகை, தாடகை போல்வடிவு
கொண்டாளைப் பெண்டென்று கொண்டாயே—தொண்டா
செருப்படிதான் செல்லாவுன் செல்வமென்ன செல்வம்,
நெருப்பிலே வீழ்ந்திடுதல் நேர்.

ஆசிரியர் உரக்கச் சிரித்தார்.

“ஆம், ஐயா, கண்ணகி கோவலனைப் பிரிந்து வாழவேண்டி-வந்தபோது, எதையெல்லாம் இழந்தேன் என்று குறிப்பிடுகிறாள்.

அறவோர்க் களித்தலும் அந்தண ரோம்பலும்
துறவோர்க் கெதிர்தலும் தொல்வோர் சிறப்பின்
விருந்தெதிர்க் கோடலும் இழந்த வென்னை

இதேபோல அசோகவனத்தில் சீதை இராமபிரானை நினைத்து வருந்துவதைக் கம்பர் விவரிக்கிறார்.

விருந்து கண்ட போது
என்னுறு மோவேன்று விம்மும்.

இது காட்சிப்படலத்தில் வருகிறது.

‘மருந்தேயாயினும் விருந்தோடுண்’ என்றும், ‘விருந்திலார்க்கில்லை பொருந்திய ஒழுக்கம்’ என்றும் ஓளவையார் கூறியுள்ளதையும் நாம் சிந்திக்க வேண்டும்” என்றேன்.

ஆசிரியர் சற்று ஓய்வாகச் சாய்ந்து கொண்டார் மனதில் ஒரு பொருள் குறித்து உறுதி செய்து கொண்டதற்கு அடையாளமாக. வழக்கமான குறும்புச் சிரிப்பும் குடிகொண்டது. “அதெல்லாம் சரி, நமது ஆஸ்தான கவி விருந்தோம்பலைப்பற்றி ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லையா?” என்றார்.

(1) மலைமேவும் குமரன் துதிபாடி
வாழும் தமிழ்மாந்தர் தமக்குத்
தலையான கொள்கை இதுவாகும்.
தானுண் பதில்பாதி யெனினும்,
மலையரமல் மனைக்கு வருவோரை,
வாரும், பசியாறும் எனவே
நிலையான கனிவு மொழிபேசி
நேர்வர் விருந்தோம்பல் நெறியே.

(2) விழியால் கருணை பொழிந்தாங்கு
வெற்றியருள் மயிலோனைத் தொழுந்தமிழர்,
எழிலார் மடந்தை துணையாக
இல்வாழ்வு தனையேற்று நடத்துவதும்,
வழியே நடந்து களைப்பாக
வந்தார்தம் பசிபோக வகைசெய்ய,
அழியாப் புகழ்சேர் தமிழ்வேதம்
ஆதாரம் இதற்காகும் அறிவீரே.

என்று பாடினேன்.

ஆசிரியரிடம் விடைபெற்று வெளிவந்த எனக்காக பலவேலைகள் காத்துக் கிடந்தன. நேரம் போனதே தெரியவில்லை. மணி நான்கு இருக்கும்.

“யாரோ விருந்தினர்கள் வந்துள்ளதாக காலையில் கணேசன் கூறினார். ஒரு மணி நேரம் முன்னதாகப் போகவேண்டுமானால், அவரைப் போகச் சொல்”.

அன்பாசிரியரின் குரல் கணீரெனக் கேட்டது.

மதுரை மாவட்ட ஆவணக் காப்பகம்—ஒரு தொகுப்பு.

மு. சீதாராமன்,

கண்காணிப்பாளர் (நிலை-பி),

மதுரை மாவட்ட ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

அரசாணை நிலை எண். 1109, கல்வி, நாள் 11—1—1981-இல் வெளியிடப்பட்ட ஆணைகளின்படி மதுரை மாவட்ட ஆவணக்காப்பகம் 25—3—1982 அன்று முதல் இயங்கி வருகிறது. இந்த அலுவலகத்திற்கு உதவி ஆணையர் ஆகிய 18 பதவிகள் தோற்றுவிக்கப்பட்டன. இக்காப்பகம், மதுரை-காமராசர் பல்கலைக்கழக வளாகத்தில் தற்போது இயங்கி வருகிறது. இதற்காக மாதம் ரூ. 2,000 வாடகை செலுத்தப்படுகிறது. இக்கட்டடம் வடக்கு தெற்காக நீள வாட்டத்திலும், கிழக்கு மேற்காக அகல வாட்டத்தில் அமைந்திருந்தாலும் சூரிய உதயம் மற்றும் அஸ்தமனம் ஆகும்போது ஆவணங்கள் மீது சூரிய ஒளி நேரிடையாக படவாய்ப்பில்லை. போதிய மரங்கள் வளாகத்தில் உள்ளதால் ஒளி பரவுவதை தடுக்க வாய்ப்புள்ளது. இக்காப்பகத்திற்கு சொந்த அலுவலகம் அமைக்க மதுரை தெற்கு கரடிப்பட்டி கிராமத்தில் இடஒதுக்கீடு செய்ய நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இக்காப்பகத்தில் ஆவணங்கள் சேகரிக்கும் பணி துரிதமாக நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. இதுவரை 186 அலுவலகங்கள் ஆவண சேகரிப்புப் பணிகளுக்காக தொடர்பு கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளன. இதுவரை நிலையான முடிவு ஆவணங்கள் 63,731 எண்ணிக்கையும், புத்தகங்கள் 3,653 எண்ணிக்கையும் பெறப்பட்டுள்ளன. இந்த ஆவணங்களுக்கு இதுவரை 37,828 அட்டவணைத் துண்டுகள் தயாரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

மிகப் பழைய ஆவணமாகக் கருதப்படும் ஒரு ஆவணம் 1893 ஆம் ஆண்டை சேர்ந்தது. ஆவணங்கள் செப்பனிடும் பணிகளும் புத்தகம் கட்டும் பணிகளும் தொடரப்பட்டுள்ளது.

சிறப்பாக இக்காப்பகத்தில் மோடி ஆவணங்கள் (கையெழுத்துப் படிகள்) 82 கட்டுகள் முன்னாள் இராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் அலுவலகம் மூலமாகப் பெறப்பட்டு பாதுகாக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இவைகள் இம்மாவட்டம் பற்றிய ஆராய்ச்சிக்கு பயன்படலாம்.

இராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்டத்திலிருந்து பெறப்பட்ட ஆவணங்கள் மூலம் அந்நாளைய ஜமீன்தார்கள் மற்றும் பலதரப்பட்ட குடிமக்களின் சமூக பழக்க வழக்கங்கள், பொருளாதார நிலை முதலியவற்றை அறிய வாய்ப்புள்ளது.

இதுவரை 4 ஆண்டுகளில் (84 முதல் 87 வரை) 23 ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்கள் இக்காப்பகத்திலிருந்து தாங்கள் மேற்கொண்ட பொருள் குறித்த ஆராய்ச்சிக்கு இக்காப்பக ஆவணங்களைப் பயன்படுத்தியுள்ளனர்.

துணுகுகுகள் :

ஊரும் பேரும்—ஓர் உண்மை.

தொகுப்பு : தி. வெங்கடாசலம்,

உதவி ஆணையர் (பொறுப்பு).

மாவட்ட ஆவணக் காப்பகம், சேலம்.

சேலம் மாவட்டம் பழம் பெருமைகளைக் கொண்ட மாவட்டமாகும். சீலர்கள் (புத்த சீலர்கள்) வாழ்ந்த மாவட்டமாம் சேலம். இங்கே வாழ்ந்த மக்கள் மற்ற எல்லாவற்றையும் போல் மிருகங்களையும் மிக நெருக்கமாக நேசித்தனர் என்பது தெரிந்த சேதியேயாயினும் மிருகங்களின் பெயரில் தம் ஊர்களையே அமைத்துக்கொண்டனர் என்பது எத்துணை பெருந்தன்மை உடைய செயல். இந்த மாவட்ட மக்கள் தம் ஊர்களுக்கு சூட்டிய, மிருகங்களுக்கே பெருமை சேர்த்துள்ள சிலவித ஊர்களின் பெயர்கள்.

1. ஆட்டையாம்பட்டி
2. மாட்டையாம்பட்டி
3. எருமப்பட்டி.
4. எருமப்பாளையம்
5. கரடிப்பட்டி
6. கீரிப்பட்டி

இது மட்டுமா? தாவர இனங்களுக்கும் தம் ஊரில் நிரந்தர பெருமை அளித்துள்ளார்களே. தாவரங்களின் பெயர்களையும் சில ஊர்களுக்கு சூட்டி உள்ளதை கீழே காண்போம் :—

1. பனமரத்துப்பட்டி
2. அரசமரத்துப்பட்டி
3. ஆலமரத்துப்பட்டி
4. வேப்பிலைப்பட்டி
5. கருவேப்பம்பட்டி
6. காட்டுவேப்பிலைப்பட்டி
7. மூங்கில்பட்டி
8. விலாம்பட்டி
9. பனைமடல்
10. பாகல்பட்டி
11. வாழப்பாடி
12. நெருஞ்சிப்பட்டி
13. வெள்ளரிவள்ளி

நேதாஜி—ஒரு பார்வை.

ம. செ. பாண்டியன்,

கண்காணிப்பாளர், தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்

வங்கச் சிங்கம் என்று புகழப்பட்ட நேதாஜி சுபாஸ் சந்திர போஸ் இந்திய சுதந்திரத்தின் ஓர் விடிவெள்ளி. இந்தியத் துணைக் கண்டத்தில் மட்டுமல்ல அவரது சங்கநாதம் உலகெங்கும் ஒலித்தது. அவர் தம் வாழ்வில் செய்துள்ள சாதனைகள் எத்துணையோ!

* ஒருமுறை வங்காளத்தில் பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டு ஆயிரக்கணக்கானோர் மடிந்தனர். அவ்வமயம் நேதாஜி ஒரு லட்சம் டன் அரிசியை சியாம் மற்றும் பர்மாவிலிருந்து வாங்கி கல்கத்தாவிற்கு அனுப்ப முயற்சி மேற்கொண்டார். இது குறித்து பிரிட்டிஷ் அரசுக்கு கடிதம் எழுதி அரிசியை பெற்றுக் கொள்ளுமாறும் அவ்வாறு அரிசி எடுத்துச்செல்லும் படகுகளை திருப்பி அனுப்புமாறும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டார். இதனை பிரிட்டிஷ் அரசு ஏற்கவில்லை. கேளாக் காதினராய் இருந்து விட்டனர். இதனால் அரிசி அனுப்புவது மட்டுமல்ல, கொடிய பஞ்சத்திலிருந்து வங்க மக்களைக் காக்கவும் முடியாமல் போய்விட்டது.

* ஹபீப் என்ற ஒரு பணக்கார வியாபாரி தனது சொத்து முழுவதையும் சுமார் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு ஈடானவற்றை நேதாஜிக்கு போடப்பட்ட ஒரு மாலைக்கு ஈடாக வழங்கினார். இத்தொகை இந்திய தேசிய இராணுவத்துக்கே சேர்ந்தது.

* நேதாஜி அவர்கள் தமக்கு அளிக்கப்படும் உணவைப் போலவே தமது சிப்பாய்களுக்கும் அளிக்கப்படவேண்டும் என்று கட்டளையிட்டிருந்தார். எவ்வகையிலும் தாம் மற்ற சிப்பாயைவிட மேலானவர் என்பதை காட்டிக் கொள்ளவில்லை.

* ஜப்பான் இராணுவத்தினர் தாங்களே மூத்த இராணுவத்தினர் என்று கருதி தங்களை ஐ.என்.ஏ. இராணுவத்தில் அதே நிலையில் உள்ள அதிகாரிகள் கண்டால் முதலில் வணக்கம் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்று இராணுவ நிபந்தனை இட்டிருந்தார்கள். இதைக் கேட்ட நேதாஜி வெகுண்டார். நேரில் ஜப்பான் அரசிடம் பேசி இரு அதிகாரிகளும் தாங்கள் சந்திக்கும்போது ஒரே நேரத்தில் வணக்கம் சொல்லிக்கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று தீர்மானித்து இந்திய தேசிய இராணுவத்தினரின் கவுரவத்தை நிலைநாட்டினார்.

* ஆஸாத் ஹிந்த் என்ற தற்காலிக அரசை நிறுவினார் நேதாஜி.

செஞ்சிக்கோட்டை—சில உண்மைகள்.

ம. செ. பாண்டியன்,
கண்காணிப்பாளர், தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

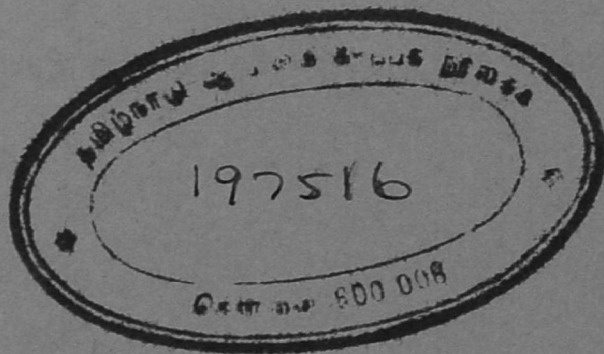
செஞ்சிக்கோட்டை மூன்று குன்றுகளின் மேல் பாதுகாப்பு அரணாக கட்டப்பட்டது. இது முக்கோண அமைப்பில் உள்ளது. அறுபதடி கனமும், எண்பதடி ஆழ அகலத்தில் கட்டப்பட்டது.

கமலகிரி என்றும் ஆனந்தகிரி என்றும் அழைக்கப்பட்டதுதான் அங் குள்ள ராஜகிரி. இதில்தான் செஞ்சிக்கோட்டையின் முக்கிய அரண்கள் அமைக்கப்பட்டது. இதன் வடபகுதி கிருஷ்ணகிரி என்றும் ராபர்ட் ஓம் போன்றவர்கள் இதனை ஆங்கில மலை என்றும் அழைத்தார்கள். தெற்குப் பகுதியை சந்திரயன் தூர்க் அல்லது ஜார்ஜ் மலை என்றும் அழைத்தார்கள். இக்கோட்டைக்கு செல்லும் ஒரு வழியை ஆர்க்காடு வாயில் என்றும் மற்றதை பாண்டிச்சேரி வாயில் என்றும் அழைத்து வந்துள்ளனர்.

கோட்டைக்குச் செல்ல இரு பக்கமும் பலம் வாய்ந்த சுவர்களால் அமைந்த பாதை உருவாக்கப்பட்டது. ஏழு குறுக்கு வாயில்களைக் கடந்து கோட்டைக்குள் செல்ல வேண்டும். கமலக்கண்ணி அம்மன் கோவிலும் ஒரு நீர்த்தேக்கமும் இரு பக்கப் பாதையோரமும் சோலைகள் இருந்தன. ஏழு கண்ணித் தெய்வங்களில் கமலக்கண்ணி அம்மனும் ஒருத்தி. செஞ்சி அம்மன் கோவிலும் உண்டு. எருதுகளைக் கமலக்கண்ணி அம்மனுக்கு பலி யிடுதலும் உண்டு. அக்கோட்டை எழுப்பப்படும் முன்னே இக்கோவில் உள்ளது. செஞ்சி அம்மன் கோவில் எதிரே உள்ள கல்லில் 3½ அடிக்கு 4½ அடியில் 5 அம்புகள், எருது, ஆட்டுத் தலை, 4 மனித தலைகள் செதுக்கப் பட்டுள்ளன. இதுவே மனிதர்களையும், ஆடு மாடுகளையும் பலி செய்யும் விவரத்துக்குச் சான்றாகும்.

1880-ல் காலனல் பிராண்டில் செஞ்சிக்கு விஜயம் செய்து சில விவரங் களைத் தந்துள்ளார். ராஜகிரியில் அமைந்துள்ள ரங்கநாதர் ஆலயம்— அங்கு உள்ள மண்டபம் விஜயநகர கட்டட அமைப்பில் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தேசிங்குராஜா கொலுவீற்றிருந்ததும் இக்கோட்டையில்தான். மராட்டி யர்கள்—சிவாஜியின் வழித்தோன்றல்களுக்கும் இதுவே தலைநகராக இருந்தது. பிற்காலத்தில் தாவுத்கான், தங்கள் ராஜ்ய பரிபாலனம் செய் தார்கள். பின்னரே, ஆற்காட்டுக்கு தங்கள் தலைநகரை மாற்றிக்கொண் டார்கள்.



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