

No. 2154-D.-58-06, dated the 9th July 1906.

From—The Hon'ble Major H. DALY, C.S.I., C.I.E., Agent to the Governor General in Central India,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

With reference to your letter no. 1525-I.B., dated the 23rd April 1906, *A. & L. done's ob. Nos 9-10.* regarding the arrangements for the protection of the Sanchi Topes, I have the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General, a copy of correspondence which passed in November last between Her Highness the Begum and the Political Agent. This correspondence has only just been communicated to me.

2. It will be observed that Her Highness expresses her opinion that it is undesirable for the Government of India to bear the expenses of repairs and upkeep, and that she wishes to defray the charges herself. She also asks whether it would be possible to obtain the services of an "artist" qualified to carry out restoration on the original lines. I shall be glad to receive instructions as to the reply which should be made upon this point to the Begum, whose attitude in the matter will doubtless be appreciated by the Government of India.

3. The Political Agent will take an opportunity of speaking to Her Highness with reference to the suggestions which are contained in your above-quoted letter.

No. 180-C., dated the 13th November 1905.

From—Captain C. E. LUARD, Political Agent in Bhopal,

To—Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal.

His Excellency at Bhopal spoke to me about the Sanchi Tope.

He stated that of course, as Your Highness objected, all thought of appointing a Buddhist care-taker would be abandoned.

He continued that perhaps Your Highness would have no objection to making over the Tope to the care of the Government of India entirely. It being a Buddhist monument, which it is desirable to preserve for archæological reasons only, and therefore, not an object of any interest to Your Highness, you would possibly prefer to leave the care of its preservation entirely to Government.

In such case the Government of India would undertake to see that no Buddhist was appointed and that no revival of Buddhist or other form of worship would be allowed to revive on the spot, and all expenses, would, in future be borne by Government.

As His Excellency is most anxious to settle this before he leaves India I should be glad of an early reply.

No. 123, dated the 17th November 1905.

From—Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal,

To—The Political Agent in Bhopal.

With reference to your demi-official letter no. 180-C., dated the 13th November 1905, regarding the Sanchi Tope in the Bhopal State please inform His Excellency Lord Curzon, that I shall be glad to see that the Buddhist monument in this state is carefully preserved as a monument of archæological interest.

On general economic principles it is not desirable that the Government of India should bear the expenses of keeping up such a monument which should be preserved by the Bhopal State, at his own expense.

I shall be glad if the Government of India be pleased to lend the services of the artist who can restore it to its pristine splendour. I believe that some artists have been engaged by the Government of India to repair the monuments

of archæological interest in British India. I shall be glad if the services of the artists who can well repair Buddhist monuments be lent when they can be spared.

No. 2979-I.B., dated the 19th July 1906.

From—H. WILKINSON, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department,

To—The Honourable the Agent to the Governor General in Central India.

Before taking any action on your letter no. 2154—D.-58-06, dated the 9th July 1906, regarding the Sanchi Topes, the Government of India will, I am to say await the result of the discussion between the Political Agent, Bhopal, and Her Highness the Begum which is referred to in paragraph 3 of your letter.

No. 1250-S.—C., dated the 9th October 1906.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. BAKER, R.E., Officiating Secretary to the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General in the Public Works Department, Central India,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

With reference to your letter no. 2979-I.B., dated the 19th July 1906, regarding arrangements for the protection of Sanchi Topes, I am directed by the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General for Central India, to report that the purport of paragraphs 3 and 4 of your letter no. 1525-I.B., dated the 3rd April 1906, was communicated by the Political Agent to Her Highness the Begum who entirely traverses the statement that the religious scruples of the Mahomedan population of Bhopal at the present day are such as to interfere in any way with their efficiency as care-takers of the Topes. Her Highness assures the Political Agent that they will perform this work just as well as any other work for which they are paid and strongly deprecates the substitution of Hindu or Christian care-takers as calculated to cast on her Administration a slur which is not deserved.

2. I am to add that Her Highness the Begum has expressed her willingness to erect a small building at Sanchi for the collection of fragments of sculpture and that Her Highness has also informed the Political Agent that a special man has been appointed to look after the Topes and the house to be erected in their vicinity.

3. I am to add that I have now, personally, visited these Topes. I find that the care-taker has no house on the hill, and that the detached fragments of sculpture are impossible to guard as at present arranged. When I was present there was a second party on the hill and the care-taker, who was with me, could not accompany both parties.

The detached fragments of sculpture are so numerous that a small building would not contain them but, on the other hand, there seems to be no necessity to cover them over with a roof.

4. Under these circumstances, I am to say that the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General proposes, if the Government of India approves, to make the following recommendation to Her Highness the Begum:—

- (a) That Her Highness should provide at least two care-takers and order them to keep all parties on the hill under observation.
- (b) That Her Highness should provide quarters for the care-takers on the hill close to the Topes.
- (c) To attach to these quarters, a yard surrounded with walls about 7 feet high and provided with a metalled floor and with gates that would only be opened by a care-taker. All detached fragments to be stored in this yard.
- (d) To direct the care-takers not to allow any parties into this yard unless accompanied by one of themselves.

A. E. Jones
Nov 9-10

5. With regard to Her Highness' contention quoted in paragraph 1 above, I am to point out that I noticed Parsi names written across some of the sculptures and hence it appears likely that the damages complained of, are done by trippers of all creeds out of mischief and not by Mahomedans only out of religious zeal. It appeared to me also that the damage done in recent years was done to the tempting detached fragments of sculpture on the ground rather than to the sculptures on the standing buildings.

No. 338-I. B., dated the 25th January 1907.

From—Captain E. BARNES, Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department,

To—The Honourable the Agent to the Governor General in Central India.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with Colonel Baker's letter no. 1250-S.—C., dated the 9th October 1906, regarding arrangements for the protection of the Sanchi Topes in Bhopal.

2. The Government of India approve your proposal to recommend to Her Highness the Begum that she should provide at least two care-takers for the Topes, and order them to keep all parties on the hill under observation, and that she should build quarters for the care-takers on the hill close to the Topes.

They are of opinion, however, that as there are a number of delicate sculptures which require to be preserved under a roof Her Highness might also suitably be advised to erect on the site a small roofed museum for the protection of the more delicate and valuable sculptures, surrounded by a walled enclosure, in which the coarser specimens could be placed. Necessary precaution should of course be taken by the care-takers to prevent any pieces of sculpture being removed.

3. With reference to the request preferred by Her Highness the Begum for the services of an "artist" to restore the Topes, I am to suggest that use should be made of the services of Mr. Cook, State Engineer at Bhopal, who is fully qualified to do what is needed. The lines on which the Government of India advise that the work should proceed are indicated in Mr. Cousens' letter no. 77, dated the 27th February 1905, a copy of which was forwarded to you with this Department letter no. 2569-I. B., dated the 3rd July 1905. *Ad. 7 & 8 July '05. New 6-8.*

Telegram no. 468-I. B., dated the 4th February 1907.

From—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department,

To—The Honourable the Agent to the Governor General in Central India.

Reference my letter 338-I. B., January 25th. Sanchi Topes. Director-General Archaeology has received intimation that Begum has instructed State Engineer to erect corrugated iron shed for Museum at Sanchi. If you see no objection kindly move Her Highness to reconsider these instructions and to erect more worthy structure.