

ARCHÆOLOGY

AND

THE CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

Index
No.Progs.
No.

HOME DEPARTMENT PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 1884.

Conservation of Ancient Monuments in the Native States in Central India and in Rajputana.

Nos.
7 to 10.Nos.
12 to 15.

No. 7.

No. 811, dated Bombay Castle, the 7th March 1884.

No. 12.

From—J. MONTEATH, Esq., Acting Under Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department.

To—The Secretary to the Government of India.

At the request of Dr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor and Reporter, Western and Southern India, I am directed by His Excellency in Council to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from that Officer, No. 62, dated 23rd ultimo, on the subject of certain repairs to be executed to the ruins at Mandu in Malwa.

No. 8.

No. 62, dated Ahmedabad, the 23rd February 1884.

No. 13.

From—JAMES BURGESS, Esq., LL.D., Archæological Surveyor and Reporter, Western and Southern India.

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department.

I have the honour to request you will forward this letter to the Government of India.

2. My attention has been called to a newspaper paragraph stating that repairs are about to be executed at Mandu, the old capital of the Mubammadan Kingdom of Malwa, for which His Highness the Maharajah of Dhar has contributed the sum of Rs. 2,000 and the Imperial Government Rs. 1,200.

3. The ruins of Mandu lie within that section of the Native States of Rajputana and Malwa allocated to me by the Government of India for archæological survey, and I am concerned lest the repairs and restorations apparently to be carried out on the mosques and tombs there, which form such characteristic examples of architectural design, should be conducted in the way which has too frequently hitherto characterised such repairs. I need only allude to the repairs undertaken some time ago at the Sanchi tope, where, I am told, portions of the ancient railing assigned to the time of Asoka were utilised for the repair of the staircase. It is no reflection on the younger officers of the Public Works Department, or even on many of the seniors, to say that they have no training to fit them for understanding the historical styles of Indian architecture, and that very few of them could be reasonably expected to repair early buildings in perfect sympathy with the original style. I trust, therefore, that when extensive repairs are to be carried out on such a group of remains as those at Mandu, they will be conducted under such circumstances as will prevent their being in any way spoilt.

No. 9.

No. 1995 I., dated Simla, the 2nd June 1884.

No. 14.

From—The Honourable C. GRANT, C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

To—The Agent to the Governor General for Central India.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, marginally noted, on the subject of the conservation of ancient monuments in the Native States in Central India.

No. 11 G.—27 Y., dated the 26th December 1883.
No. 14 G.—33, dated the 19th February 1884.

2. In reply, I am to say that the duty of conserving such monuments now devolves on the Local Governments, who are expected to refer to the Director General of the Archæological Survey of India for advice. In regard to monuments in such parts of Malwa as lie within the territory of the Maharajah Holkar, the officer to be consulted is Dr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor and Reporter for Western and Southern India, in accordance with the arrangement sanctioned in Home Department letter No. 493, dated the 9th March 1877, to the Government of Bombay (copy enclosed). All other parts of Central India are under the charge of the Director General.