MADRAS IN THE OLDEN TIME:
BEING A
HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENCY
FROM
THE FIRST FOUNDATION OF FORT ST. GEORGE
TO THE FRENCH OCCUPATION OF MADRAS.

COMPiled FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS,

BY
J. TALBOYS WHEELER,
Author of the "Geography of Herodotus," &c. &c. and Professor of Moral
Philosophy and Logic at the Madras Presidency College.

VOL. III.
1727—1748.

MADRAS:
PRINTED FOR J. HIGGINBOTHAM, MOUNT ROAD,
BY GRAVES AND CO., SCOTTISH PRESS.
1862.
G. M. Pitt

Rich. Benyon

M. M. M.
MADRAS IN THE OLDEN TIME:

BEING A

HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENCY

FROM

THE FIRST FOUNDATION OF FORT ST. GEORGE

TO THE FRENCH OCCUPATION OF MADRAS.

COMPiled FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS,

BY

J. TALBOYS WHEELER,

Author of the "Geography of Herodotus," &c. &c. and Professor of Moral
Philosophy and Logic at the Madras Presidency College.

VOL. III.
1727–1748.

MADRAS:

PRINTED FOR J. HIGGINBOTHAM, MOUNT ROAD,
BY GRAVES AND CO., SCOTTISH PRESS.
1862.
PREFACE.

In issuing the third and concluding volume of the annals of Madras in the Olden Time, the compiler has to do little more than express his gratification at having completed his original design of illustrating the history of the Presidency by means of the Government Records, from the period of the first foundation of Fort St. George in 1639, down to the occupation of Madras by the French in 1746-48. The facilities afforded him by the Madras Government, have thus enabled him to fill up a blank in the history of India, and to supply authentic illustrations of that century of which there had been previously no published record worthy of the name; and he sincerely trusts that the labour of love upon which he has been engaged will afford some pleasure to his readers, as well as add to their knowledge of the doings in the Presidency in the days long gone by.

The present volume, which is somewhat thicker than either of its predecessors, possesses some peculiarities to which attention
may be specially drawn. Besides a complete alphabetical index of names to all the three volumes, a curious collection of quaint old rules and regulations has been added in the shape of an appendix. Above all the writer has been able to present his readers with a copy of a valuable map of “Madras and its Environs in the year 1733,” representing the actual condition of the Presidency as it was about a hundred and thirty years ago. This map was originally drawn during the administration of Governor George Morton Pitt, and has been preserved in the department of the Chief Engineer. Moreover, in order to illustrate the changes which have taken place since that period, a corresponding map has been drawn on the same sheet of “Madras and its Environs in the present year of grace 1861.” At the same time two plans of the Fort St. George at corresponding dates are exhibited on the same sheet. For this map, which so exactly illustrates the outward appearance of Madras in the Olden Time, the compiler and his readers are equally indebted to the Madras Government.

In thus announcing the completion of the first series of “Madras in the Olden Time,” the compiler by no means wishes
it to be inferred that his labours on the Records of this Presidency have been brought to a close. A glorious half century yet remains, which commences with the conquest of the Carnatic, and ends with the fall of Seringapatam, and final triumph of the British arms from sea to sea. But this period requires a different treatment from that which has been adopted in dealing with the history of the preceding century. The political and military transactions of the period have already perhaps been sufficiently narrated by Orme, Wilks, Duff, and other writers, whose names and works are alike generally known. Accordingly it has been deemed expedient to commence an entirely new work, which shall be altogether independent of the present annals. But this proposed plan is not yet sufficiently matured, and indeed, the engagements of the compiler demand a brief breathing time. However, in thus presenting the public with the completion of his first work on the history of this Presidency, he may be permitted to express a hope that but a short time will elapse before he may be able to resume his historical illustrations of Madras in the Olden Time.

Madras,
18th December 1861.
CONTENTS OF VOL. III.

CHAPTER XXXV.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. JAMES MACRAE, (continued) 1727.

Page.

General Survey of the Town and suburbs of Madras—Report of the South and Eastern Division—Report on the West and Northern Division—Report on the Central Division—Mr. Colin Campbell in Madras, a victim of the South Sea Bubble—Reorganisation of the Mayor's Court by Charter—Grand procession of the members of the corporation with Dancing Girls and country Music. 1

CHAPTER XXXVI.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. JAMES MACRAE, (continued) 1728-29.

Major Roach in the Council—Inventory of Effects of a deceased Civil Servant—Two Laymen officiating as Chaplains—Death of King George I. and accession of George II.—Intercourse between Madras and Travancore—Mr. Macrae's cannie sale of anchors and guns—Difficulty with the French Government at Bourbon—Outrage of an English Captain on the merchandise of Natives—Exportation of Salt in the Company's new villages—Smuggling of tobacco and beetle prohibited. ... ... 30
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XXXVII.
GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. JAMES MACRAE,
(continued) 1729-30.

Prices of grains fixed by Government—Seduction of a Portuguese young lady by Major Roach—Barbarous outrage of the Arabs at Jeddah—Coinage of pagodas with an alloy of iron—Contract for broad cloth—Abolition of the Sheriff's Court—Prohibition against the exportation of silver—Removal of the fixed prices of grains—Proving of the wills of Roman Catholics—Enlargement of the lodgings of a Chaplain—Repairing of a Romish Church—British Ambassador at Constantinople—Collection of the rent of the Company's out villages.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.
LAST YEARS OF MR. JAMES MACRAE,
1730-46.

Mr. Pitt takes charge of the Government—Complaints against Mr. Macrae's chief dubash—Mr. Macrae's Embarkation to England—His subsequent career in Scotland.

CHAPTER XXXIX.
GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. GEORGE MORTON PITT,
1730.

Removal of the prohibition against the exportation of gold—Punishment awarded to Mr. Macrae's chief dubash—Freedom granted to the Madras.
CONTENTS.

Page.

Council—Origin of the "M." Pagodas—Increase of the allowance to the Minters—Curious state of the grain market—Mr. Pitt taken in by a dead diamond seller—Piracy of Angria—Proclamation against the Ostend Interlopers—Disorderly conduct and suspension of a Member of Council. ... 90

CHAPTER XL.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. GEORGE MORTON PITT, (continued) 1732-35.

State of the Dekkan and Carnatic—Labourdonnais’ assistance to the Interlopers—Imaum Sahib’s visit to Madras—Death of the Nabob Sadatulla Khan’s wife—Revenues of Madras—Death of Sadatulla Khan—Appointment of Dost Ali to the Nabobship—Death of the Rajahs of Mysore and Trichinopoly—Stoppage of private trade—Rebinding of Consultation Books—Cotton trade—Foundation of Chindadree Pettah—Mr. Pitt’s departure to England. ... ... ... 113

CHAPTER XLI.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. RICHARD BENYON, 1735-36.

The famine and its causes—Mr. Benyon takes charge of the Government—Sale of Company’s horses—Purchase of silver plate—Registering of houses—State of Affairs at Arcot—Hindoo Quakers—Forbearance shown to the Washers—Further advances granted for the establishment of Chindadreepet- tah—Petition of the inhabitants of Triplicane for the removal of the duty on tobacco and betel—
Dispute among the soldiers about a young lady—
Visit of the great men of Arcot to Madras—Takeeda
granted by Subder Ali Khan—Repairing of the
Bridges—Investment of broad cloth—Exemption
of the poor from quit rent—Moal Chund in trouble
—Confinement of a Poligar... ... 135

CHAPTER XLIII.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. RICHARD BENYON,
(continued) 1736-40.

Increase of the allowance made to the Washers—
Prohibition of private trade—Visit of the tutor of
Subder Ali to the Governor of Madras—Chunda
Sahib takes possession of Trichinopoly from the
Rance—Captain Hoadly charged with the murder
of his chief Mate—Peon murdered by robbers—
Mahrattas appear in the Carnatic—Erection of a
powder manufactory—Unsettled state of affairs at
Vizagapatam—Invasion of Nadir Shah and Revolu-
tion at Delhi—Inaun Sahib gives information to
the Governor of the movements of the Mahrattas—
Fortification of Fort St. George—Death of Dost Ali
—Preparations against the Mahrattas—Pulling down
of houses—Suspicious attempt at corruption. ... 171

CHAPTER XLIII.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. RICHARD BENYON,
(continued) 1740.

Preparations against the Mahrattas—Establish-
ment of Gunners—Conveyance of broad-cloth
from Salem—Prohibition of money transactions
between the Company’s servants and the country
CONTENTS.

Page.

renters at Vizagapatam—Payment of the Town rent—Correspondence between the English Governor of Fort St. George and French Governor of Pondicherry—Mahrattas plunder several villages and towns—Fortification of Fort St. George—Bajee Rao, Feishwah of the Mahrattas, succeeded at Sattara by Ballajee Bajee Rao—Imaum Sahib's children sent to Black Town—Outrages of the Mahrattas—Plunder of Porto Novo—Encroachment of the sea—Extraordinary affair between a sea Captain and a young lady passenger... ... 208

CHAPTER XLIV.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. RICHARD BENYON, (continued) 1741.

Mahrattas enter the bounds of Fort St. David—Plunder of Sadras—Seige of Trichinopoly by the Mahrattas—Surrender of Chunda Sahib—Morari Row appointed Viceroy of Trichinopoly—Present sent by Governor Benyon to the Mahrattas Generals—All strangers in Madras to be reported to the Government—Duties of the several Military officers of Fort St. George—Arrangement of cooly hire—Prohibition of the exportation of Moors as slaves—Increase of the allowance of the Scavenger—Subder Ali's visit to Black Town—Shroffs condemned to transportation ransomed by the Chetty caste—Accident in the Powder Manufactory. ... 231

CHAPTER XLV.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. RICHARD BENYON, (continued) 1742-43.

Cruelty of a Mahratta Captain towards his Mate—Arrival of an ambassadour from the Sheriff of Mecca—Process of obtaining money in the Madras

CHAPTER XLVI.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. RICHARD BENYON,
(continued) 1743-44.

Sale of pagodas—Nizam-ul-Mulk at Arcot—Diary of the Mission from Fort St. George to the Nizam at Trichinopoly—Confirmation of the son of Subder Ali on the musnud at Arcot—Abatement in the tobacco and beetle rent—Treaty between the English and Dutch respecting deserters—Prohibition of the purchase of houses in Madras by foreigners—Capture of Trichinopoly by the Nizam—Subtility of the Moors in the purchase of houses—Exemption of quit rent to two Moors—Subsistence awarded to two English widows—Settlement of the Government of the Carnatic by the Nizam—Departure of Mr. Benyon to Europe. ... ... 294

CHAPTER XLVII.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. NICHOLAS MORSE, 1744.

Mr. Morse takes the chair—Mahrattas attempt to recover Trichinopoly—New Superior and chief
Pastor appointed in the Roman Catholic Church—
Peace between the Nizam and the Mahrattas—
Interference of the Havildar of St. Thome with an
English subject—Governor Morse declines sending
the goods of the Nizam to Surat—The Nizam ap-
points the Nabobs of Cundanore, Golcondah, Cor-
rapah, and Arcot—Anawardeen Khan appointed
Nabob of Arcot—Arrival of two Protestant Mis-
ionaries at Madras—Changes in the Mint arrange-
ments—French at Pondicherry interfere in the
trade of the English—The Nabob's demand on
Governor Morse for silver—Arrival of Robert
Clive at Madras—Murder of Sahib Judda, son of
Subder Ali Khan... ... ... ... 327

CHAPTER XLVIII.
GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. NICHOLAS MORSE,
(continued) 1744-45.
War with France—Appointment of Tappy
peons between Madras and Bengal—Payment of
Town rent—Union of the several Subahs against
the Mahrattas—Arrival of an English squadron
under Commodore Barnet—Provisions provided for
the squadron—Nabob of Arcot writes to stop hosti-
lities—Ravages of the Mahrattas—Adventures of
Commodore Barnet—Governor Morse sends the
Fonjdar of St. Thomé to Arcot—French intrigues
against the English—Arming of the inhabitants of
Madras—Fleet dispatched to Fort St. David—French
ambassadors at Arcot—Arrival of another English
squadron at Madras—Marriage of the Nabob's
daughter—Visit of the Nabob to St. Thomé—
Fresh ships—Reception of the Commanders—
Withdrawal of the Nabob's troops from Trichino-
poly—Mr. Dupleix's designs upon Fort St. David. 351
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XLIX.


Page.

Correspondence between Mr. Morse and the Nabob of Arcot—Collision of Commodore Barnet's squadron with a French fleet at Tranquebar—Engagements of Mr. Peyton with Labourdonnais—Attack upon Fort St. George by Labourdonnais—Surrender of the Fort—Nabob's army at Fort St. David—Death of Mr. Hinde—Attack upon Fort St. David by the French—Ensign's Commission given to Robert Clive—Dishonesty of Ensign Van Franken—Rewards granted to the military—Roman Catholics prohibited from holding public offices—Fort St. David constituted Head Settlement on the coast of Coromandel—New Council at Fort St. David—Arrival of another English squadron at Fort St. David—Recall of Mr. Morse—Peace between England and France...

APPENDIX.

Official Investigation into the administration of Madras, 1675-76—Rules and Regulations established by Sir William Langhorn, 1671-72—Rules and Regulations for the administration of Public Business, established by Mr. Streynsham Master, 1677-78—Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Civil and Military, established by Mr. Streynsham Master, 1678.—The account of the Revenues of this Town, for the year past, ending 31st December 1678.—A list of persons in the service of the Honorable English East India Company in Fort St. George, according to their degrees by the Rules—List of freemen living at Fort St. George, January 1678.9.

INDEX TO THE THREE VOLUMES...