

GUIDE TO THE RECORDS
OF THE
TINNEVELLY DISTRICT

1796 TO 1835

MADRAS
ED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS

1934



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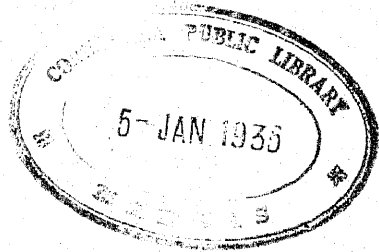
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TINNEVELLY DISTRICT

GUIDE TO THE RECORDS

From 1796 to 1835.



CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

1. This volume forms a handbook to the records of the Tinnevelly district from 1796 to 1835. It contains a catalogue, a list of papers reprinted at the district press, a table of contents and a key index to the last. The subjects entered in column 2 of the catalogue against a particular volume are the chief subjects which occur in that volume and are not necessarily exhaustive. The subjects are arranged chronologically in the list of reprints. But the list necessarily departs from this order to some extent, in placing those volumes which contain several distinct subjects of different dates. The table of contents deals with a selection of the more important papers throughout the period.

2. Numbers 3604 to 3622 of the record series consist of indexes to letters received and sent. The main record series is practically complete, the only gaps being the following,

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|--|----|----|----|-----------|
| (a) Letters from the Board | .. | .. | .. | 1794-5. |
| (b) Letters to the Board | .. | .. | .. | 1797-800. |
| (c) Index to letters received and sent | .. | .. | .. | 1813. |

CHAPTER II.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

1. *Physical features.*—Tinnevelly, the southernmost district of the Madras Presidency, lies between latitude 8° and 9° 30' north and longitude 77° and 78° 30' east. Since 1800 the district has suffered several changes in its administrative area. In its present shape its boundaries are the gulf of Manar on the east and south, the Travancore hills on the west and the Ramnad district on the north. It consists of a wide plain, the greater part of which forms the catchment area of the Tambraparni river.

2. *Traditional history.*—Tradition asserts that Korkai, a village on the eastern coast of the Tinnevelly district, was the ancestral home of the three brothers who founded the ancient dynasties of Chera, Chola and Pandya. The Pandyas remained to rule the south while the Cholas and Cheras moved north and west. When an irruption of the sea submerged for ever the early city of Madura the Pandyans moved their capital inland to the site of the modern city of that name. The facts seem to point to an early invasion and colonization of the peninsula of India from the south.

3. *The Pandyans.*—The Tinnevelly district always formed a part of the Pandyan kingdom which, expanding in due course to the northward, came

