

## **TOPIC – 4.**

### **DOCUMENTS OF CULTURAL, SPIRITUAL AND EDUCATIONAL IMPORTANCE DURING 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES.**

#### **4.1 ELIHU YALE & CREATION OF MADRAS CORPORATION.**

Elihu Yale was the officer who succeeded Gyfford and worked his way from writer to Governor in the short space of fifteen years. His family belonged to Wexham in Denbighshire, but his father, David Yale, emigrated to America and settled at New Haven, Connecticut. Elihu, the second son, was born near Hoston on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1648. The family returned to England four years later and at the age of twenty four, Elihu Yale embarked for India. His brother Thomas also served the East India Company and was for some years on the Madras establishment.

Elihu, whose name is frequently mentioned during Gyfford's administration, became Governor on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1687, and held the office for five years. The chief events of his rule were

- i) the creation of a Mayor and Corporation of Madras;
- ii) the erection of a new Supreme Court;
- iii) the evacuation of the northern Coast factories in consequence of war with the Mogul;
- iv) the arrival of Job Charnock and his company from the Bay, and his subsequent return to found Calcutta;
- v) the extinction of the dynasty of Golconda;
- vi) the purchase of territory at Cuddalore, and the acquisition of Fort. St. David;
- vii) a naval action with the French in Madras roads;
- viii) and the resettlement of the Portuguese at St. Thome.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF MADRAS:**

The Mayor and Corporation of Madras were established by the Charter of 1687, issued by the East India Company under the authority of its own charters of 1661 and 1683 from Charles II, of 1686 from James II and with the sanction of the King in Council.

The Corporation came into existence from the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1688. It consisted of the Mayor, twelve Aldermen and sixty or more Burgesses. The Mayor was to hold office for one year, the Aldermen during their lives, or residence in Madras.

The following were its principal provisions:

#### **Charter granted by the Governor and Company of Merchants trading into the East Indies to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Madras, 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1687.**

"We, The said Governor and Company, having found by Experience and the Practice of other European Nations in India that the making and establishing of Corporation in Cities and Towns that are grown exceeding populous places, and to the well-governing of such populous places, and to the Increase of Trade, than the constant Use of the Law Martial in trivial

Concerns, We have therefore..... for the speedier Determination of small Controversies of little movement, frequently happening among the unarmed Inhabitants, thought it convenient to make, ordain, and constitute Our Town of Fort St. George, commonly called the Christian Town and City of Madrassapatnam upon the Coast of Choromandel in East Indies, and all the Territories thereto belonging, not exceeding the Distance of Ten Miles from Fort St. George, to be a Corporation under us by the Name and Title of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Town of Fort St. George and City of Madrassapatnam; and therefore We, the said Governor and Company, do by these presents ordain, constitute and appoint that the inhabitants of Fort St. George and Madrassapatnam aforesaid, or so many of them as shall be hereby nominated, shall be One Body Corporate and Politick in Deed and in Name, by the Name of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Town of Fort St. George and City of Madrassapatnam really and fully for ever.....

‘And for the better Execution of Our Intent and Meaning in this Behalf, We do nominate, constitute and make Nathaniel Higginson, Second of Our Council of Fort St. George, the First and Modern Mayor of the said Corporation. Also we do assign, nominate and constitute John Littleton, Thomas Wavell and William Fraser, three of Our Council of Fort St. George Daniel Chardin, French Merchant, Lucas Lewis de Oliveria and Alvaro Capella de valle, Portugal Merchants, Bartholomew Rodrigues, Jaques de Paiva and Domingos de Porte, Hebrew Merchants, China Vencatadre, Mooda Verona and Allingal Pella, Gentu Merchants, to be the Twelve First and Modern Aldermen.....’

Then follow the names of twenty-nine free merchants nominated Burgesses. A new Mayor was to be elected annually on the 29<sup>th</sup> September from the Aldermen. Any vacancy among the Aldermen was to be filled by election from the Burgesses, subject to the condition that three Aldermen were always to be covenanted servants. The Burgesses, who were not to exceed one hundred and twenty in number, were to be elected by the Mayor and Aldermen.

### **Jurisdiction:**

The Mayor and Aldermen were to be a ‘Court of Record within our Town of Fort St. George and City of Madrassapatnam and the Precincts thereof aforesaid, and the Mayor of the said Corporation for the Time being shall always One of the Justices of the Peace within the Precincts of the said Corporation and without the Walls of Our said Fort.’ The three senior Aldermen moreover were to be Justices of the Peace.

### **Levy of Tax:**

The Mayor and Aldermen might levy a tax ‘for the building of a Town Hall or Guild Hall....; of a public Goal for the detaining in Prison such Criminals or Debtors as shall be committed to the Custody of some Goaler to be appointed for that Purpose....., of a convenient School House or House for the teaching of the Gentues or Native Children to speak, read and write the English Tongue, and to understand Arethmetick and Merchants’ Accompts; and for such further Ornaments and Edifices as shall .....be thought convenient.’

### **Magisterial powers:**

The Mayor's Court was empowered to try all cases civil and criminal. Right of appeal lay in civil cases when the value of the award exceeded three pagodas, and in criminal cases if the offender was sentenced to lose life or limb.

The Mayor and Aldermen might nominate one discreet person skilful in the Laws, 'being an English-born covenanted servant, to be Recorder of the Corporation, but the first Recorder was to be 'Sir John Biggs, Knight, Judge of Our Supreme Court of Judicature.' They could also appoint 'One able and discreet Person to be their Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace, who is always to be an English born, but well skilled in the Languages of East India.'

The Mayor's Court was authorized to deal with offences by fine, imprisonment or corporal punishment.

### **Decoration:**

Two silver-gilt maces were to be carried before the Mayor by two English-born sergeants. Robes of scarlet serge were ordained for the Mayor and Aldermen, and white silk gowns for the Burgesses. The Mayor and Aldermen might 'enjoy the Honour and Privilege of wearing Rundelloes and Kettysols born over them, and ... may ride on Horseback in the same order as is used by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, having their Horses Assemby furnished with Saddles, Bridles and other Trimmings after one Form and Manner.

### **Maces and Sword:**

The Company in their dispatch of the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1687, and in the following month wrote that they had ordered the manufacture of insignia. The Company wrote to Fort St. George as follows:

' Our Governor and Deputy Governor have had the honour of discoursing very fully with His Majesty concerning our designed Incorporation of our City of Madras and Town of Fort St. George, which his Majesty exceedingly well approved of as being a further approach towards the full exercise of that Sovereign Power, or Jura Regalia, which his Majesty trusts as with in India....., but the said Charter, being long, is not yet read in the Cabinet Council.....But his Majesty will have it passed, and we shall undoubtedly send it you by Captain Heath; for which purpose we have bespoak two Maces to be carried before our Mayor, and a larger Mace and Sword to be carried before our Generall, with a Silver Car to be carried before our Judge Advocate, which will all be ready to be sent you with our Charter.....'

### **Inauguration :**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1688, the date appointed for the inauguration of the Charter, the Council met, and settled the form of procedure. The persons concerned, and the Chief inhabitants, were then summoned to the Fort Hall. Thus the Corporation of Madras commenced its functioning.

‘ According to this day’s appointment, The President, Mayor, Recorder, Alderman, Burgesses, and Chief of the Inhabitants met at the Fort Hall, before whom the Rt. Hon’ble Companys Charter for this Corporation was publicly read by the Secretary, after which the President administered Oaths to the Mayor and Recorder for their due performance of their Places; and then the Mayor and Recorder did the like to the Aldermen and Burgesses in their several manner and forms, Awhile after, went to a Handsome dinner, and about three in the Evening the Whole Corporation March’t in their Severall Robes with the Macaes before the Mayor, to the Town Hall.

(P.C., Vol.XIV., 29<sup>th</sup> September 1688)

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