Chapter – VII

Governor of the Madras Presidency
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GOVERNOR OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

The English East India Company had entrusted the administration of the Madras Presidency to the Governor, who was the deciding authority on commercial and administrative matters. Sir Thomas Munro was chosen as the Governor for his expertise qualities in the administration. This chapter evaluates his caliber.

The genesis of the no men clature,’Madras is a puzzle. The historians have no unanimity of opinion about its origin. Everyone narrates his own interpretation. Many fanciful theories have been propounded by scholars like Sir William Foster, H. Davison, Love, C.S. Srinivasachari, R. KrishnaRao Bhonsle and others.

It is conspicuous that the document, handed over by Damarla Venkatappa to Francis Day conveying to the English East India Company a piece of land lying between two rivers Kuvam and Egmore and the sea on the east ‘making it,’ a narrow peninsula contains both the names Madraspatnam and Channapatnam.¹

A study of the records relating to the English settlement in Coromandel Coast reveals that at the time of Francis Day’s arrival in the area noted in the cowl there were two “Patnams” viz Chennapatnam and Madras patnam. “Patnam” or “Pattinam” is a common Tamil suffix to names of villages or towns situated on the sea shore.²

This tradition has been in vogue from the sangam age. For instance Kaveripooppattinam was the ancient port-cum capital city of the ancient Cholas. Similarly Sadras, a Dutch settlement near Chennai is shortened name of Sathurangapatnam. It is clear that from Francis Day’s statement that he did not set his foot on empty stretch of sand and on his arrival he was received with much honour by the local Nayak himself and a group of merchants, painters and weavers.

The theory that the Dhamarla brothers requested the English to name the town that they had to develop on the newly acquired territory after their father Chennappa is

² Ibid.
not at all tenable because there was no official English documentary evidence in its favour. None of the founding fathers of Fort St George ever made a statement substantiating the speculation.

The same story is retold by Bundla Ramaswamy Naidu who states in his memoir on the Internal Revenue system of the Madras Presidency published in 1820, that while granting the fir man to Francis Day, Dhamarla Venkatappa Nayak insisted upon erecting the town in his father’s name, Chennappa Nayak. This account needs total rejection because Chennapatnam was in existence ever before Francis Day negotiated a cowl with him.3

There is no unanimity of opinion among historians even with regard to the location of the twin patnams. The present Corporation divisions such as Muthialpet and Peddanaickenpet constituted the nucleus of Chennapatnam. The Port town of Madraspatnam emerged in the area approximately between the present Secretariat complex and the High Court buildings and it is believed to have extended westwards and northwards.4

Chennai was not built in a day. It was not even true that it was a settlement which came into existence after the advent of the English to the Coromandel Coast. It has a hoary past. The historic significance that some of the divisions of this metropolis such as Tiruvallikkeni, Mylapore, Tiruvotriyur and Pallavaram have, speaks of its antiquity. Madras still remains for him a tantalizer.

The triple habitations i.e. the Fort St George, Chennapatnam and Madraspatnam were situated in the immediate vicinity of each other. They grew together and in course of time united into a single city to be known as Chennai today.5 The growth of the city of Chennai from a fishing hamlet to a metropolis is one of the delightful chapters of Modern South Indian history. Fostered by Francis Day and Cogan this tiny commercial establishment on the Coromandel Coast has grown into an “urban agglomeration”, slowly but steadily. Its gradual growth from a tiny settlement into a town, and subsequently a city and then into a metropolis speaks of its grandeur. Like Rome it was not built in a day.

3 N.S.Ramaswami, the ‘Founding of Madras’ Orient Longmans, Madras, 1977.46.
4 Ibid
In 1652 Fort St George became the headquarters of the eastern possessions of the English East India Company. Its rapid development attracted people from mofussil towns. Consequently the population of Chennai increased to fifty thousand and it was made a Municipality in 1688 under a Mayor and twelve Aldermen. Its growth has never been retarded. It has “grown during the three and half centuries with less violent contrasts of beauty and ugliness of wealth and poverty, of fine residential suburbs and slums and chawls than other Indian cities.” It has rightly been called “a queen among cities”.6

The political fortunes of the English East India Company contributed in no small measure to the rapid growth of the city. The final triumph of the British in the Carnatic Wars and the decline of the Nawab of Arcot made Chennai the centre of political power and authority in South India. Naturally, thereafter the history of the city, the capital of Madras Presidency synchronized with that of British Raj in the southern part of the sub-continent. The Governors of Madras Presidency starting with Foxcroft and ending with Sir Archibald Edward Nye who were men of outstanding ability rendered immeasurable service to the administrative and cultural growth of the city. In fact they found Chennai “in bricks and left it marble”.7

The metropolitan city of Chennai which is remarkable for its gorgeous splendor has a long historic memory. It has acquired a place of consequence in the history of modern India as an important port city. The glory that she enjoyed, the grandeur that she radiated as the chief centre of diplomacy during the days of British Raj, though dimmed at present, have not altogether vanished. Even today she greets tens and thousands of people from all over the globe and serves as the rendezvous in the East for the people of the West. That is why it has been extolled as “the gate way of South India”. It stands as a symbol of tradition and modernity.8

The establishment of British rule in Madras and other parts of India created radical changes in the traditional administrative machinery of the country. The change of administration made great implications in the political and socio-economic conditions of

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6 Ramaswami Naidu, B. Memoir on the internal Revenue system of the Madras Presidency, Madras, 1820, 49.
8 Raja Raman, P. Chennai through the Ages, Chennai, 1997, 3.
Tamilnadu from the eighteenth century onwards. Politically, the advent of the Europeans in the South paved the way for the outbreak of a number of wars among the European settlers and the native ruling families.

Commercial rivalry among the Europeans forced them into wars in which the native rulers had to participate. Besides, the mutual rivalry among the ruling families found a fertile ground for the Europeans who involved themselves into the wars not only for proving their supremacy on the Indian soil but also establishing their footing in commercial and political enterprises. Among the Europeans, the British took an upper hand by means of wars and diplomacy in which the native ruling families lost their Kingdoms to the English East India Company.

The modern city of Chennai—a spacious metropolis which sprang up around the twin patnams namely the Chennapatnam and Madraspatnam is an agglomeration of old pakkams such as Selpakkam (chepauk) Nungampakkam, Kodampakkam, Purasawakkam Urs such as Thiruvanmiyur, Tiruvotriyur, Ezhuumpur (Egmore), and Pettahs such as Tondiarpet, Chindadripet, Royapettah, Alwarpet, Tenampet and Saidapet etc.

The English also acquired territories as gifts by means of helping the ruling families during the course of wars and by making direct military operations against their rulers which ended in peace treaties. Finally the British totally dethroned the rulers by all possible means of wars and diplomacy. The end of the 18th century saw the end of an era in the politics of Tamilnadu. It is indicate by the political events of the formation of the Madras Presidency in 1801. In 1801 the English East India Company began to rule practically the whole of Tamilnadu and some adjoining Telugu and Malabar districts all of which together constituted the Madras Presidency that the territory administered by the Governor in council.

No name, in any part of India, is so familiar or held in such Veneration as that of Munro in the Madras Presidency. In the town of Madras the celebrated equestrian statue of chantry serves as a landmark, ever keeping the name of ‘Munro’ in the mouth of all.

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Of all the Governors of Madras Presidency Sir Thomas Munro alone shines almost like the North Star. A brilliant product of Glasgow University, a gentleman of rare qualities, a skillful soldier, an astute administrator, Munro “ranks among the greatest of the Company’s servants”. He served the English East India Company with steadfast loyalty and truthfulness more than four decades. He began his career as a soldier at Chennai in 1780.\textsuperscript{11} By dint of hard work he elevated himself to the position of the Governor of Madras.

Only a few weeks at home when he received a formal communication from the government appointing him to the governorship of Madras. Although extremely reluctant again to leave his native country. Sir Thomas Munro did not think it advisable to decline the acceptance of the high and honorable appointment proffered him.

Having committed their boy to the lady Munro’s father, Sir Thomas Munro and his lady Munro proceeded to Deal where they once more embarked for India in December, 1819 and arrived safely at Bombay in the beginning of May in the following year. Here they remained for about a fortnight, when they again took shipping and on the 8\textsuperscript{th} June reached Madras. He was promoted to the rank of Major General and on receiving the appointment of the Governorship of Madras from 1820-1827 and was honoured with a knight Commander of the Bath.\textsuperscript{12}

Mr. Canning in mentioning his name to the Court of Directors spoke of the usual practice of appointing men of eminence in England to the Indian Governorship, but he added that three men had so distinguished themselves in India that it was determined to after them these high posts, the three were Malcolm, Elphinstone and Sir Thomas Munro.\textsuperscript{13}

At the banquet given in Munro’s honour, before lie left England and at which among other distinguished men, his old friend, the Duke of Wellington, was present. Mr. Canning again paid a remarkable tribute to him, ‘We bewilder ourselves, ‘he said, “in this part of time world with opinions respecting the sources from which power is derived

\textsuperscript{12} V.M.Reddi. Munro in Ceded Districts. Presidential address south Indian history congress, Madras, 1987, 2. 
some suppose it to arise with the people themselves, while others entertain a different, view all however, are agreed that it should be exercised for the people, if even an appointment took place to which this might, be ascribed as the distinguishing motive, it is that which we have come together to celebrate, ‘Munro, writing to be a Governor to be spoken of in such a manner by such a man’.\textsuperscript{14}

Sir Thomas Munro immediately of his arrival entered on the discharge of the important duties of his new appointment with all the zeal and diligence which marked every part of his preceding career. These duties were extremely laborious. From sunrise till eight in the evening with the exception of an hour or two at dinner, Comprising a little out-door recreation after that repast, he was unremittingly employed in attending to, and despatching the public business of his department.

With this routine the morning meal was not at all allowed to interfere. The breakfast table was daily spread for thirty persons, that all who came on business at that hour should partake of it, and that the various matters which occasioned their visit might be discussed during its progress without encroaching on the day.\textsuperscript{15}

By this rigid economy of time, Sir Thomas Munro was enabled to get through an amount of business which would appear wholly incredible to one who placed less value on it then he did. He wrote almost every paper of any importance connected with his government with his own hand. He read all communications and documents, and examined all plans and statements, with his own eyes, and heard every complaint and representation which was made verbally, with his own ears.\textsuperscript{16}

The leading principle of Munro’s administration was ‘Time relief of the people from novel and oppressive modes of judicial process. The improvement of internal administration by the employment of Europeans and Indians in those duties for which they are respectively best suited.

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{15} Arbuthnot A.J. \textit{Sir Thomas Munro, Selections from his Minutes and other official writings}, London, 1881,548.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.
The strengthening of the attachment of Indians to our government by maintaining their ancient institutions and usages’. He continually urged the widen employment of Indians in the higher administrative charges, as the one necessary condition of an improvement in their moral character. He thus prepared the way for the reforms which were afterwards inaugurated by Lord William Bentinck in this direction.17

The greatest reform however related to the land settlement known as Ryotwari settlement which was associated with the name of Sir Thomas Munro who was appointed as a governor of Madras in May 1820.18 Munro had gradually reduced the rate of taxation from one half to one third of the gross produce, even then an extensive tax. The levy was not based on actual revenues from the produce of the land, but instead on an estimate of the potential of the soil, in some cases more than fifty percent of the gross revenue was demanded. Subsequently the ryotwari system was extended to Mumbai area also.

In Madras, Munro laid the foundations of a form of district administration that has survived with some changes to this day. The collector was made head of the district and besides his fundamental responsibility of revenue, was also in charge of managing the police and was vested with magisterial powers. Under him came a large retinue of Tahsildars who apart from revenue collection also had quasi-powers in their sub-districts. In time, Munro’s methods became an absolute success and were extended all over south India.19

His through knowledge of Indian district administration, and his command of the native languages, was great advantages. He made frequent tours throughout the country, travelling by short stages, and making himself thoroughly accessible to the people. At the end of each tour he embodied the results of his observations in a minute, which formed the basis of the orders subsequently issued.

With his colleagues in council he was always on the best of terms, treating them with invariable frankness and while there never was an Indian government in which there was less friction between the governor and the council, it may be affirmed that there

19 Ibid.
never was a government which was more essentially the government to the governor than the Madras government was while Munro presided over it.

Between June 1820 and January 1825 Munro dedicated himself to the consolidation of the programme of revenue and Judicial reforms he had to suspend in 1817.\textsuperscript{20} He did this by exercising his executive powers as governor to place men who actively supported his idea or were at least, open to them, into positions of responsibility and to get rid of men who opposed him.

It was his firm conviction that the exclusion of Indians from “all situations of trust” was nothing but impolitic. He therefore insisted on the necessity of Indianising the services. True to the traditions of Englishmen, Munro voiced his views to the home authorities in a scatting manner. He addressed,

“We can never be qualified to govern men against whom we are prejudiced. It seems to be not only ungenerous but impolitic, to debase the character of a people fallen under our dominion. He was a statesman with immense foresight. On many occasions he spoke to the court of directors of East India Company with premonition.”\textsuperscript{21}

In one of his epistles he explained the nature of the colonial government: Your rule is alien, and it can never be popular. You have much to bring to your subjects, but you cannot turn India into England or Scotland. Work through, not in spite of native systems and native ways, with a prejudice in their favour rather than against them.\textsuperscript{22}

In 1822 Munro bestowed much attention on the improvement of education in the state.\textsuperscript{23} He was of the view, “whatever expense government may incur in the education of the people will be amply repaid by the improvement of the country.”

Despite his imperialistic disposition, Munro’s love towards the Indians was immeasurable. Being a genuine well-wisher of the natives he championed their cause at

\textsuperscript{20} Proceeding of the Board of Revenue dated 5\textsuperscript{th} October 1820.Vol.867.21.

\textsuperscript{21} V.M.Reddi. Munro in Ceded Districts. Presidential address south Indian history congress, Madras, 1987, 3.

\textsuperscript{22} Raja Raman, P. Chennai through the Ages, Chennai, 1997,345.

\textsuperscript{23} Bradshaw John. Rulers of India Sir Thomas Munro and the British settlement of Madras Presidency, Chennai, 2005,192.
all levels. No area of public life whether it was military or civil remained beyond his scope. Generally he declined a job if he was not competent to do it. In short “there was no tinge of the careerist in his composition.”

As a steadfast loyalist to the British authorities he was against freedom of press. However he supported the promotion of education among Indians. He was of honest opinion that it was one of the primary functions of East India Company to carry out the desires of Parliament by providing for “the moral and intellectual amelioration of the people.” Hence his venture for an inquiry into the state of indigenous education in Madras Presidency which was fast deteriorating.

As a follow-up action, an educational survey was carried on by the Board of Revenue, which revealed that there were about twelve thousand five hundred schools of native origin for the entire population of twelve millions in the presidency. There was a deep disparity in educational attainments among the people of various segments of the society. Those who were in the lower strata were totally unlettered. The middle segment, namely, the land owning and trading classes obtained a very little of education which was of some use for them to get commercial training.

The only section of people who received the benefits of liberal education was the Brahmins whose attainment, in special subjects such as grammar, logic, metaphysics, rhetoric and mathematics was considerably superior. However they had not abandoned their traditional Vedic learning. In fact they had taken care of the Vedic patasalas which numbered about seven hundred and fifty in the whole of south India. Most of them were in the Tanjore District. The rest of the schools were only primary institutions supporter by both parents and pupils.

In the olden days Gurukulas disappeared. But the students paid a few annas as tuition fees to the teachers. Even then the position of a teacher in South Indian society was far from satisfactory. Though he was held in high esteem and respect by the public the monthly income of a teacher did not exceed six or seven rupees. It was enough in those days if a student learnt the three rupees. There was no significant improvement in the

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24 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 6th October 1824 Vol. 56, 34, TNAC.
25 Revenue Consultations 1822, Vol. 274, 12, TNAC.
field of higher education which merely aimed at the cultivation of memory.\textsuperscript{26} The same survey further had shown that the city had three hundred and five ordinary schools which were mostly in disarray. Besides there were seventeen charity schools, each one for every thousand population.\textsuperscript{27}

To arrest this deteriorating state of affairs in the sphere of education Munro suggested the establishment of a training school for teachers at the Presidency town and of two principal schools in each district, one for the Hindus and the other for the Muslims, where a scheme of study including English grammar, arithmetic besides Vernacular languages such as Tamil, Telugu, Arabic and Sanskrit was to be implemented.

In pursuance of this scheme a teacher training school at Chennai was established a few years after the sad demise of the benevolent Governor due to cholera at Pattikonda (Kurnool district) in 1827.\textsuperscript{28} It is gratifying to note that this school later became the nucleus of the presidency college, Chennai which in course of time blossomed into an institute of intellectual aristocracy.

Today it stands on the Marine as a monument of antiquity. It would have been memorable if this institution has been named after Sir Thomas Munro just as the presidency college of Bombay acquired the name Mountstuart Elephinston. The higher education of the people should proceed, were very sound. Knowledge of their own literature should be extended among them side by side with the language and literature of England. It was indeed, on these lines that the government at a latter period, as seen in time dispatch of Sir Charles Wood in 1854, contemplated that the higher education in India should proceed.

His minutes on the tenure of land, on the assessment of revenue, on the condition of the people, on the training of civil servants, on the advancement of the natives in the public service, on the military system, on the press are state papers which are still often referred to as containing lucid expositions of the true principles of administration.

\textsuperscript{26} Madras Council Political Despatches to England dated 15\textsuperscript{th} October 1798 Vol.4,200- 201, TNAC.


\textsuperscript{28} RajaRaman, P. \textit{Chennai Through the ages}, Chennai, 1997,87.
He entertained and expressed very strong opinions in favour of the policy of more largely utilizing native agency, and of fitting the natives of India by education for situations of trust and emoluments in the public service. But on this, as on all other subjects, his views were eminently practical. He was entirely opposed to any measures which might endanger British supremacy in India.

He was all together opposed to the establishment of a free press in that country, and was responsible for the famous dictum that ‘the tenure was which we hold our power never has been and never can be the liberties of the people.

As a matured democrat Munro emphasized in his Minute on 31 December 1824 that it was imperative on the part of British to train the people of India in self-government.29 Astonishingly he foresaw the ultimate transfer of power to India by the British even before the seed of nationalism germinated in the soil of India.

We should look upon India not as a temporary possession, but as one which was to be maintained permanently, until the natives could in some future age had abandoned most of their superstitions and prejudices, and became sufficiently entitled to frame a regular government for themselves. Whenever such a time shall arise, it will probably be best for both countries that the British control over India should be gradually withdrawn.

Thomas Munro was a rare phenomenon among the ordinary mortals. His unflinching interests in the welfare of the Indians made him toil day in and day out. It is a matter of surprise that Munro enjoyed neither pastime nor physical comfort in spite of his aristocratic birth. He often went on extensive tours to know the people of Madras Presidency, their character and their needs intimately. Journey from one place to another was extra-ordinarily tedious when there were no railways.30

A cursory glance of the letter that he wrote to his mother on 17 May 1795 will convince any reader that he functioned like a robot. A part of his epistle is as follows:

Where I am now, I have no choice of study, or society, amusement. I go from village to village, with my tent, settling rents of the inhabitants, and this is so tedious and

teasing a business, that it leaves room for nothing else for I have no hour in the day that I can call my own.\textsuperscript{31}

Because of the intimate contact that he established with common folk, he realized the necessity of learning the vernacular language to involve them in the administration of the country and therefore he insisted upon the British officials to acquire knowledge of the language of the place where they had to function.

No man should get the charge of a district who does not understand the language of the native, for unless he has perseverance enough for this he will never have enough for a collector.

He was of the view that the aid and co-operation of the Indian people was vital for the British to conduct the administration of the country on efficient lines. In fact “he was a Romantic who loved to preserve the indigenous tradition of administration.” In fine Munro was one of the great administrators who added luster to the pages of Anglo Indian history in the opening decades of the 19\textsuperscript{th} century.\textsuperscript{32}

Although Thomas Munro had not thought it advisable to decline the governorship of Madras, he yet came out with every intention of returning again to his native land as soon as circumstances would permit, and in 1823, he addressed a memorial to the court of directors, earnestly requesting to be relieved from his charge.\textsuperscript{33} From a difficulty, however, in finding a successor to Sir Thomas Munro, and from the extra-ordinary efficiency of his services, the court was extremely unwilling to entertain, his request, and allowed many months to elapse without making any reply to it.

In the meantime the Burmese war took place, and he found that he could not, with honour or propriety, press his suit on the directors. He therefore comes to the resolution of remaining at his post to abide the issue of the struggle. In this war he distinguished himself, as he had so often done before, by singular bravery, talent, and intelligence, and performed such important services as procured his elevation, June 1825, to the dignity of a baronet of Great Britain.

\textsuperscript{31} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{32} RajaRaman, P. \textit{Chennai Through the ages}, Chennai, 1997,88.
\textsuperscript{33} Ibid.
At the conclusion of the Burmese war, Thomas Munro again applied for liberty to resign his appointment, and after much delay the Right Honourable S.Lushington was nominated his successor on the 4th of April 1827.34

Sir Thomas Munro prepared to leave India for the last time, full of fond anticipations of the happiness which awaited the closing years of his life in his native land but it was otherwise ordained. His lady, with a favourite son, had returned to England a year before, in consequence of an illness of the latter, which, it was thought, required this change of climate and thus while the inducements to remain in India were greatly lessened, those to return to his native land were increased while awaiting the arrival of his successor.

Sir Thomas Munro unfortunately came to the resolution of paying a farewell visit to his old friends in the ceded districts, where the cholera was at that time raging with great violence. Alarmed for his safety, his friends endeavored to dissuade him from his intended excursion, but to no purpose. Towards the end of May, he set out from Madras, attended by a small escort.

Lady Munro, however, was obliged to leave for Europe before he could accompany her, as the illness of their second son, Campbell Munro. Lady Munro left Madras in March, 1826, but they never met again, it being the fate of Sir Thomas Munro. In the autumn of 1826 Sir Thomas Munro made a tour through the Districts of Chengalpet, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Madura, Tinnevelly and Coimbatore and thence up to the Nilgiris.35

After leaving the Nilgiris, on his way to Madras via Bangalore, Munro visited the fall of the Kaveri. The fall on the southern branch of the river was about a mile below that on the northern which he visited together. It was something in the form of a horse-shoe, and consists of seven streams falling from the same level, and divided only from each other by fragments of the rock.

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35 Ibid.
There is descent to the bed of the river by steps; nearly surrounded by cataracts covering with small rain, and look at the great breadth of the whole fall. The woody hills rising behind it, the scene appears very wild and magnificent.

To Munro’s great disappointment a delay occurred in the appointment of his successor, and as he could not be relieved before October, he decided on paying a farewell visit to the Ceded Districts, and set out from Madras towards the end of May, 1827.36

A legend survives in various forms with reference to his journey through the Cuddapah District. One version is that, while riding through a narrow gorge, where the papaghni breaks through the hills, Munro suddenly looked up at the steep cliffs above, and then said, ‘What a beautiful garland of flowers they have stretched across the valley!’ His companions all looked, but said they could see nothing. ‘Why, there it is, ‘said he,’ all made gold’. Again they looked, and saw nothing: but one of his old native servants said, ‘Alas! A great and good man will soon die!’37

After halting some time at Anantapur, the Governor and his party reached Gooty on July 4th. Here several sepoys were carried off by cholera; on the following morning the camp was moved. On the 6th July the party reached Pattikonda, in the Kurnool District, twenty two miles from Gooty. A few hours after their arrival, Sir Thomas Munro himself was attacked with cholera; the symptoms were at first not alarming, and in the middle of the day hopes were entertained of his recovery. In the evening he grew worse, and at about half-past nine on the night of July 6, 1827, he calmly passed away. 38

Few events ever occurred in India which excited so general a sensation was created so universal feeling of regret, as the death of Sir Thomas Munro. Natives as well as Europeans mourned his loss with unfeigned sorrow. His justice, humanity, benevolence and eminent talents, had secured him the esteem and respect at all who knew him, and he was known nearly throughout the whole extent of the eastern world.

36 Andhra Pradesh District Gazetteers. Kurnool Revised, 1974, 89, TNAC.
37 Ibid.
38 Bradshaw John. Rulers of India Sir Thomas Munro and the British settlement of Madras Presidency, Chennai, 2005, 210-211.
No man perhaps, in short, ever descended to the grave more beloved or more lamented, and none was ever more entitled to these tributes of affection from his fellow men, or ever took such pains to deserve them as Sir Thomas Munro.

His death was mourned as a public calamity by all classes of the community. By the English members of the civil and military services, as well as by non-official English men in India, he was regarded as a man who by his great and commanding talents, by the force of his character, by his extra-ordinary capacity for work, and by the justness and liberalty of his views, had done more than any man in India to raise the reputation of the East India Company’s service.39

By the natives he was the venerated as the protector of their rights, familiar with their customs, and tolerant of their prejudices, even ready to redress their grievances, but firm in maintaining order and obedience to the law.

Administering the largest Madras Presidency was a tough job. But Thomas Munro responded to all the challenges by his capacity both as commander and administrator. His contributions to the people of South India were historical, which are stated in the next chapter.

39 Ibid