

PONNANI TALUK.

By P. Karunakara Menon.

Position and Boundaries.—This is the southernmost taluk of the district proper. It formerly comprised the three taluks of Betatnad, Kutnad, and Chavakkad, which were amalgamated into one in 1861. The boundaries are *north*, Ernad taluk ; *east*, Walluvanad taluk and the native State of Cochin; *south*, the native State of Cochin ; *west*, the Arabian sea.

Area.—The district not having been surveyed, the exact area is not known. The approximate area, according to the census of 1881, is 258,154 acres or nearly 404 square miles. The extreme length of the taluk from north to south along the coast is 64 miles, while its width ranges from 3 to 20 miles in different parts.

Soils and Topography.—The scenery in comparison with that of the two neighbouring taluks of Ernad and Walluvanad, is flat and uninteresting, especially along the coast, while inland, low hills clothed sometimes with scrub jungle, but generally with grass and flat rice-fields interspersed with groves of coconut, areca-nut, jack and various other trees surrounding the dwelling houses of the inhabitants, constitute the principal varieties of the landscape. The soil along the coast is poor and sandy, the only redeeming feature being that this open seaboard is fringed with groves of coconut trees. There is no granite in these parts, but in the interior parts the formation seems to be gneissic, traversed by granite veins, which generally prevails in the two adjoining taluks referred to.

Inland Water Communication.—The most striking feature of the taluk is perhaps the series of lagoons or backwaters lying in a zigzag direction along the coast and affording, with the connecting artificial canals, an easy inland water communication. It extends southwards from the Tirur Railway station to Ponnani, Chavakkad and Cochin and thence into the Cochin and Travancore States. The total length of this system of inland water navigation from the Tirur Railway station to Cochin is 93 miles (of which 77 lie in the taluk) as detailed below : Tirur to Ponnani section 16 miles ; Ponnani to Chavakkad section 17 miles ; Chavakkad to Cochin section 60 miles. The boats in general use both for cargo and for passengers are the common country (dug-out) boats and they are manned generally by two men and will hold from 5 to 20 persons. The maximum charge per mile for a boat is 2 annas,

The health of the people, as a rule, is good. The water supply is also good, especially towards the interior parts, but it is unsatisfactory in the towns of Ponnani and Tanur.

The conservancy of the chief towns is looked after by a staff consisting of 1 Sanitary Inspector, 1 maistry, 13 sweepers and 1 totti, paid from Local Funds. The Inspector, with his

Sanitation. head-quarters at Ponnani, supervises the work of the whole staff which is distributed as follows :—Ponnani, 4 sweepers and 1 totti; Betat-pudiyangadi, 3 sweepers; Tanur, 1 maistry and 3 sweepers; the remaining 3 sweepers being attached respectively to the three fish curing yards situated at Ponnani, Veliyangod and Tanur.

Population.—In the matter of population this taluk ranks first in the district. The total population (inclusive of the floating population) was, according to the census of 1881, 392,654, of whom 194,150 were males and 198,504 females. Classified according to race, Hindus predominated; next came the Muhammadans and lastly the Christians, the number returned under each class being 231,402, 146,868 and 14,363 respectively, or 59, 37, and 4 per cent. of the total population. The number of persons shown as belonging to other classes was 21.

The percentage of increase in the population as compared with that returned by the previous census of 1871 was 4.77 in respect of males and 4.78 in that of females; the total increase in both the sexes being nearly 4.78. The average density of population to the square mile was nearly 972, and in this matter this taluk ranked second in the district, the first being Coochin. The proportion of males to females was in the ratio of 496.5 to 503.5 in every 1,000.

Houses.—There were 78,148 houses in all. Of these 70,625 were occupied and the remainder 7,523 unoccupied, the average number of persons per house amounted to about 5.6.

General Condition of the People.—The people generally are poor. There are a few rich and many indifferently off. The subjoined statement shows the number of persons following the various occupations as returned by the last census (1881):—

Classified according to occupation.

Professional	..	..	..	5,750
Domestic	..	..	..	1,306
Commercial	..	..	..	8,696
Agricultural	..	..	..	88,509
Industrial	..	..	..	65,652
Indefinite	..	..	..	222,741
Total				392,654

Incidence of the Imperial Licence Tax.—The incidence of the Imperial Licence Tax for the past official year 1885-86 was as follows :—

	Trade Dealing, Industry.	No. of persons charged.	Amount of assessment.
	Money lending	103	1,520
	Cloth bazaar	6	90
	In paddy	5	90
	In coconuts	5	50
	In coconut oil	5	50
	In rice	2	20
	In fish	2	20
	In salt	2	20
	In tobacco	2	20
	In timber	2	20
	Boat rent	1	10
	Miscellaneous	3	30
	Total ..	138	1,940

Sub-divisions of the Taluk for Administrative Purposes.—For executive purposes this taluk is split up into 73 amsams. As elsewhere, the revenue work of each amsam is carried on by the Adhikari assisted by the Menon and a couple of peons. The Adhikaries likewise exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction, their civil powers extending to suits for money not exceeding Rs. 20 in amount, and the criminal to petty cases of assault and theft arising in their respective amsams. The Tahsildar, whose head-quarters are at Ponnani, has the general revenue charge of the taluk. He is assisted in his work by two Deputy Tahsildars stationed at Betatpudiyangadi and Kuttingal, to whom are assigned 21 and 28 amsams respectively.

Over these amsams they also exercise criminal jurisdiction, while the Tahsildar has the special magisterial charge of the remaining portion of the taluk. The taluk forms a separate revenue charge, designated the "Southern Division" under a General Duty Deputy Collector exercising also magisterial powers who has his head-quarters at Ponnani.

Agriculture.—The staple produce of the taluk is coconuts, though paddy is also largely cultivated. The subjoined statement gives the acreage under each head in fasli 1295 :—

	Government.	Inam.
Wet lands—	ACRES.	ACRES.
Nanja	71,137	3,625
Punja	13,782	21
Garden	57,872	1,881
Total ..	142,791	5,527

Thus the total area under cultivation is 148,318 or 232 square miles, or a little more than 57 per cent of the total area of the taluk (taking it to be about 404 square miles)—the extent under garden being 40 per cent of the total area under cultivation.

Demand roll of
assessment.

The following table shows the demand roll of
assessment for the same fasli :—

Amount of Patta.	No. of holdings.	Assessment.	
Under Rs 10 ..	31,076	Rs. 82,263	A. P. 8 2
Rs. 10 under Rs. 50 ..	5,240	1,07,195	10 7
Rs. 50 under Rs. 100 ..	684	47,105	5 0
Rs. 100 under Rs. 250 ..	316	45,461	14 2
Rs. 250 under Rs. 500 ..	52	16,553	14 1
Rs. 500 and more ..	15	12,236	2 11
Total ..	37,383	3,10,816	6 11

Revenue.—The subjoined statement shows the revenue of the taluk
derived from different sources for a series of the 8 Fasli years, 1288-95 :—

Year.	Land Revenue.	Local Fund.	Village Service Fund.	Abkari.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1288 ..	3,06,549 15 8	40,382 5 6	19,729 12 9	7,540 8 0
1289 ..	3,08,526 5 0	40,100 14 3	19,470 15 7	7,177 4 0
1290 ..	3,08,042 5 0	40,016 3 11	19,367 12 11	8,045 9 4
1291 ..	3,09,264 6 4	40,165 15 2	19,445 4 2	5,513 14 8
1292 ..	3,09,195 11 9	40,219 6 8	19,459 10 9	7,492 0 0
1293 ..	3,09,240 5 7	40,229 1 3	19,353 2 10	8,900 0 0
1294 ..	3,10,543 3 7	40,384 12 8	19,466 5 1	8,100 0 0
1295 ..	3,10,816 6 11	40,372 1 4	19,472 4 11	10,350 0 0

Year.	Stamp.	Special Fund.	Licence Tax.	Land Revenue Miscellane- ous.
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1288 ..	59,344 0 0	278 5 6	3,577 0 0	7,926 10 7
1289 ..	91,537 0 0	248 9 6	1,250 0 0	2,627 5 11
1290 ..	88,863 5 0	232 4 0	1,940 0 0	2,677 8 8
1291 ..	36,396 7 0	357 14 6	1,730 0 0	4,184 0 11
1292 ..	81,146 9 0	300 12 8	1,645 0 0	3,386 0 2
1293 ..	80,431 3 0	324 13 6	1,910 0 0	5,204 0 4
1294 ..	95,909 6 0	399 3 0	1,935 0 0	4,802 10 7
1295 ..	1,02,142 0 0	339 4 6	1,942 0 0	4,532 10 7

Note.—The amount shown under the heads Abkari, Stamp, Licence Tax refers
to official years.

IMPORTANT TOWNS OR VILLAGES WITH SHORT NOTICES OF TEMPLES,
MOSQUES, CHURCHES, ETC., SITUATED IN OR ABOUT SUCH PLACES.

Tannur—(a corrupted form of Thanniyur or Thanni + ur, meaning the
village of Thanni trees, *Terminalia bellerica*, which are still very common

here)—is a small town largely inhabited by Mappillas in Rayirimangalam amsam, situated about a mile west of the Tannur Railway station. The streets and the lanes are narrow and generally in a dirty state. It is a seaport, and contains a Travellers' bungalow, a Sea Customs office, a Police station, a Sub-Registrar's office, a Post office and a chattram or mussaferkhana, the last three being situated close to one another, a quarter of a mile west of the Railway station, while all the rest lie in different parts of the town. There are four mosques here, of which one is a jamath mosque (*jama masjid*). It is a tiled building, 186 feet in length and 93 in breadth, having the gate or *gopuram* covered with copper sheeting. In the same (Rayirimangalam) amsam, about two miles to the south of the town, there is a famous Hindu temple known by the name of *Keleswaram* or *Keraladhiswaram* temple dedicated to *Vishnu*. As its name (Kerala + adhiswaram, the governing deity of Keralam or Malabar) implies, it is one of the most ancient Hindu temples in the district. It is about 50 feet in length and 35 in breadth, the *Srikovil* or shrine and the *Vatilmadam* or hall being tiled, and the nalambalam or the four wings of the temple thatched. The total number of inhabitants in the amsam is 11,344, no less than 7,037 or 62 per cent of whom are Muhammadans, while Hindus and Christians number 4,305 and 2 respectively. In the matter of population this amsam stands next to Ponnani. In the adjoining Pariyapuram amsam, about 2 miles to the north of Tannur, there is another temple deserving notice. This is called the *Trikkayikkatt* temple. The deities worshipped here are, *Siva*, *Bhagavati* and *Ayyappan*. It is a tiled building and is about 33 feet in length and 28 in breadth. The figures of *Siva*, *Brahma*, *Vishnu* and *Narasimhamurthi* are painted on the wall of the *Srikovil* and two sculptures, representing the figures of *Dovasthans* (or door-keepers), are placed in front of the *Srikovil*.

Bettatpudiyangadi.—[Bettat + Pudiya + Angadi, means the New Town in Vettam, which name was given to the place in former days, for, here was the seat of the Raja of Betatnad. This family became extinct and the estate escheated in 1793.] The head-quarters of the Bettatpudiyangadi Deputy Tahsildar is a village in Talakkad amsam, situated about 3 miles from the Tirur Railway station along the road from there to Ponnani. Muhammadans are the most numerous in the village, the Hindu and Muhammadan population being respectively, 3,156 and 3,179, total 6,335. Besides the Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters, the place contains a Sub-Registrar's office, a Police station and a chattram or mussaferkhana (now used as a Travellers' bungalow). There is a Post office near the Railway station and a District Munsif's Court and a Local Fund second class middle school about two miles from there on the road to Ponnani. There are two jamath mosques (or *jama masjid*) and a minor mosque in the village, the most important of these being the *Pudiyangadi* jamath mosque, situated in the vicinity of the Deputy Tahsildar's office. This is a grand building about 116 feet in length and 70 in breadth, the roof being tiled and the *gopuram* (the main entrance) being covered with copper sheeting. A granite slab on one of the steps of the northern gate bears an inscription. The writing has not yet been read. At the *Vellamasser* *desam* in the amsam there is a Hindu temple called the *Garudan Kav* chiefly dedicated to *Garudan* (Vishnu's Bird) and such dedications being rare, the temple is regarded with considerable reverence and is also largely resorted to by Hindu population for protection from any *surpapid* (visitations of serpentine displeasure in the form it is believed of various diseases), the deity being believed according to Hindu puranas to be the

natural enemy of serpents. In the adjoining Trikkandiyur amsam there is another ancient and famous temple called Trikkandiyur temple. It is dedicated to *Siva*, and is believed to have been founded by Parasu Rama. This temple is about 95 feet square. The Srikovil is a tiled building, the *nalambalam* being only thatched. There is a big tank attached to the temple lying close to it.

Paronna.—[a corrupted form of Paravannur, so called as being the place of residence in former days of Paravanur Panikkar, a *desavali*— is a small Mappilla village lying by the side of the sea in Pachattri amsam about 3 miles to the west of Bettatpudiyangadi. There is a jamath mosque (*jama masjid*) here. This is a tiled building, 140 feet in length and 58 in breadth. The total number of inhabitants in the amsam is 4,243, of whom 1,764 are Hindus, the remainder 2,479 being Muham-madans.

Kodakkul.—[Koda + kal or kallu, meaning umbrella-stone. The place seems probably to have been so called because of the existence of several umbrella-stones in the neighbourhood.] It is a Basel Mission station situated in Triprangod amsam about 2 miles to the south-east of Bettatpudiyangadi. There is a church, a combined industrial and girls' school and a weaving establishment here. The total population of the amsam numbers 5,393 divided into 2,724 Hindus, 2,398 Muham-madans and 271 Christians. In the neighbourhood of this place are situated some of the most ancient Hindu temples in the district, viz., (1) the *Triprangod Siva temple*; (2) the *Hanuman Kavu*; (3) the *Tirunavayi Vishnu temple* and (4) the *Chamravattil Ayyappan Kavu*. Of these the first two are situated in Triprangod amsam, while the last two lie in the neighbouring Atavanad and Pallipuram amsams, respectively. All the temples are considered to be of great antiquity. (1) The Triprangod (called in Sanscrit Sri + vara + crod) temple is dedicated to Siva and lies about 2 miles to the south of Bettatpudiyangadi. The *Srikovil* is a tiled building about 105 feet in length and 75 in breadth. The raised stone foundation of a pillar of the building consecrated to Krishna here bears a long inscription. The writing cannot be deciphered locally. The ceremony of *Sanghabhishekam* (pouring water on the head of the idol by means of a conch shell, is supposed to be the most acceptable offering to the presiding deity (Siva), and this is performed largely by the people under the honest belief that thereby their life will be prolonged. (2) The *Hanuman Kavu*, as its name indicates, is dedicated to Hanuman (the monkey chief, deified). The rareness, comparatively, of dedications of temples to this deity, seems to enhance the value of this temple in the estimation of the people. The *Srikovil* and the *mandapam* are small tiled buildings, the surrounding wall of the former all over containing paintings of the *devas* and of *vyalam*, and it has also two statues of *Dvasthanmar* (door-keepers), placed one on each side of the entrance. (3) The *Thirunavayi* (or Shri + naa + yogi + puram) Siva temple seems to have been so called on account of its having been, it is believed, founded by the 9 famous saints. The temple is situated on the northern bank of the Ponnani river on the road from Bettatpudiyangadi to Trittala. The place was in former days noted as being the locality where the *Mahamakha Vela* or ceremony was celebrated every 12th year. During the 28 days the festival lasted, the throne of the Zamorin was declared vacant, when a selected number out of the followers of this potentate, and also of the Walluvanad Rajah, being the rival claimant for the throne (all being

well trained for the purpose), fought' against each other for it in the interests of their respective masters. The ceremony is said to have been last performed in 1743. The Srikovil is a massive tiled building and has two big statues of *Ducasthanmar* as in the case of the Hanuman Kavu, one on each side of the entrance into it. This place is further famous as containing an institution founded and amply endowed by the Zamorin, where Hindu theology is extensively taught to the Nambutiri Brahman students. This instruction is imparted in a spacious building, called the *Oththanmar madham*, situated on the opposite side of the river, under the supervision of Tirunavayi Vadhyan, the Zamorin's hereditary family priest. Another point deserving notice in connection with this place is the existence of a small temple dedicated to *Brahma*, which is of very rare occurrence. (4) The Chamravattam Ayyappan kavu, dedicated to *Ayyappan*, is situated on a small island near the Chamravattam ferry on the road from Tirur to Ponnani. The Srikovil is a small tiled building, but badly in want of repairs. This deity is supposed to possess a specially controlling power over rain, and people hence frequently make small offerings on behalf of this temple for rain when it is wanted and also to stop it when it is not required.

Kuttayi.—[Kutt + ali, meaning a junction and a bar, respectively.] It is said that there was here formerly a bar, where the backwaters lying along the coast from Tirur and Ponnani united and communicated with the sea. Hence the designation of the place as Kuttayi. It is a large Muhammadan village, situated by the side of the sea in Mangalam amsam about 4 miles to the south-west of Bettatpudiyangadi. Of the inhabitants, Muhammadans are the most numerous numbering 3,186 out of a population of 5,069, the remainder, viz., 1,883 being Hindus. There is a famous jamath mosque (or jama masjid) in the village which is a tiled building, being 105 feet in length and 48 in breadth. There is also a *Jaram* or mausoleum attached to it called the *Nechchikkat Jaram*, so named on account of its being surrounded by *nechchi* bushes. It is not known whose remains lie buried here, but it is held in considerable reverence, and is largely resorted to by Muhammadans, especially on the occasion of the annual *Nercha* festival, when the approximate attendance of pilgrims is estimated to be no less than 2,000.

Ponnani.—[The place is said to have been designated Ponnani, which is a corrupted form of "Ponnani" "Ponnanayam," meaning gold coin, as being the place where the gold coin, called the *Arabikas*, was first circulated in these parts of the district by the Arab and Persian merchants who possessed the trade between India and the west before the discovery of the sea route to India round the Cape of Good Hope by the Portuguese.] This town, the divisional and taluk headquarters, is large and populous, situated on the Ponnani river at its entrance into the sea. It contains also, the Kutnad District Munsil's Court, the Ponnani Sub-Registrar's office, a combined Post and Telegraph office, a Local Fund third-class middle school and a hospital and dispensary.

The amsam of Ponnani of which the town forms a part, contains 12,421 inhabitants, of whom no less than 86 per cent are Mappillas. The spiritual head, called the *Makkadum* of the Muhammadan population throughout the district, resides here. There are 27 mosques in the town, of which one is a *jamath mosque* (or jama masjid), deserving special notice as being also a place where Muhammadan theology is largely taught. The average

¹ See pp. 162-69, Vol. I.

great antiquity and also to have been founded by the hero and demi-god *Parasu Rama*. It is dedicated to *Dakshinamurti* or *Siva*, and is said originally to have been attached specially to the Nambutiri Brahmins of *Sukapuram*, which was one of the 64 *gramams* or settlements founded by *Parasu Rama*. Even to this day offerings are invariably made by the Nambutiris belonging to this gramam on occasions of marriage or other ceremonies among them, and none who have performed *yagams* or sacrifices are recognized as such until they are registered at this pagoda. This registration takes place once in 12 years. The *Srikovil* or *Garbhagraham* (shrine) of the temple, is a massive laterite structure, 50 feet in length, 45 in breadth and 40 in height, the roof being covered with copper sheeting.

About 6 miles to the north-east of Edappal village and about the same distance in the same direction from the *Sukapuram* temple, there is another famous ancient Hindu temple. It is situated in Chekod amsam. This also is believed to have been founded by the same hero and demi-god, *Parasu Rama*, being specially attached to the Nambutiri Brahmin colony of *Panniyur*¹ (another of the 64 settlements referred to). This temple is a small tiled building, the presiding deity being *Varahamurthi* (according to the Hindu puranas the 3rd incarnation of Vishnu). This is the chief temple of the Nambutiris, designated the *Panniyur Gramakkar* of the present day. They are said not to possess the prerogative of studying the Vedas, having, it is said, been deprived of the same owing to some of their ancestors in ancient days having placed a red hot vessel on the head of the idol of the presiding deity of the temple. In front of the temple there are some granite sculptures and also a slab of the same material bearing an inscription in *Vattezhuthu* characters, some of which having now become indistinct, the writing has not been deciphered.

Trittala.—It is a small village in Kodanad amsam, situated by the side of the Ponnani river on the road from Ponnani to Palghat about 17 miles to the east of Ponnani. The total population of Kodanad amsam is 5,840, of whom 4,877 are Hindus and the remainder Muhammadans. There is a traveller's bungalow and a chattram or musaferkhana here. It is also the station of a Sub-Registrar. A weekly market is held here. About four miles south of this place are the ruins of a mud fort, 200 yards in length and 176 in breadth. This fort appears to have been at one time the principal place in this tract of country for it has given a name—Kutnad—to the nad lying south of the Ponnani river, which prior to the reorganisation of taluks in 1861 formed the Kutnad taluk. About three miles to the north-east of these ruins and by the side of the road from Padinharangadi to Shoranore, is a small building called *Kattilmadam* or *Kaitalimadam*, built entirely of granite slabs, and in the form of the Hindu shrine. It is ten feet square and of the same height, having a round dome formed of a single slab. Tradition ascribes its construction to supernatural agency. One popularly received account is that it was intended as the second storey to a pagoda about 4 miles off in Netirimangalam amsam of Walluvanad taluk on the other side of the river, and a comparison of the shape and size of the existing shrine at the pagoda with those of this curious structure certainly favours this theory.

There is another place in the neighbourhood of Trittala deserving notice. It is called *Velliyamkallu* and is situated about a mile down the river from there and on the opposite side of it. It is considered by Hindus as a sacred place as being the spot where the Nambutiri Brahmin named the Melathur *Akkithripad* is believed to have performed a number of

¹ Conf. pp. 120-21, Vol. I.

yagams or sacrifices and is hence largely resorted to by them for the performance of the anniversaries of their ancestors on Vavu (new moon) days occurring in the Malayalam months of Tulam and Karkitagam.

Chalisseri is a small village and a bazaar situated on the borders of Kappur and Kottachira amsams about 6 miles to the south of Trittala. It is chiefly inhabited by Syrian Christians. This community has a small church here. The place is noted for trade in arecanuts.

Veliyangod is a village chiefly inhabited by Mappillas, situated in the amsam of the same name, about 4 miles to the south of Ponnani. There is a Police station here and, also a Sub-Registrar's office at Andathod in the adjoining Ayrur amsam. The total population of Veliyangod amsam is 6,826 of whom the majority are Muhammadans, numbering 3,771, the remainder being Hindus.

Kottapadi.—[Kotta or fort and padi or gate. The place seems to have been so designated on account of its being situated close to the seat, named the *Punnathur Kotta* of one of the feudatory chieftains of the Zamorin in ancient days, known by the name of the Punathur Raja.] It is a small village about 3 miles to the north-east of Kuttingal. It is chiefly inhabited by Syrian Christians who have a church here. The place is noted for trade in coconut oil and the rearing of country pigs by the Christians. These animals are generally transported to the Nilgiri hills and other distant places for sale. The present representatives of the above-mentioned chieftain's family still reside here.

Kuttingal, the Chavakkad Deputy Tahsildar's headquarters, is a village in Palayur amsam lying by the side of the canal from Ponnani to Cochin, about 17 miles to the south of the former place. The total population of the amsam is 6,296 of whom 3,482 are Hindus, 2,456 Muhammadans and the rest 308 Christians (Syrian). The village also contains a District Munsif's Court, a Sub-Registrar's office, and a Post office. Half a mile north of the place there is a Local Fund 2nd-class middle school, and half a mile east of Kuttingal, there is a Syro-Roman Catholic church, called the *Palayur church*, which is noted as being one of the seven original churches of Malabar. The congregation believe that St. Thomas the Apostle preached at the place, and it is noteworthy in connection with the suggestion made at p. 202 of Volume I, that in immediate proximity to the existing modern church there is a mound with small debris strewn about it, which is still known as the site of the "Jews' church," and which was evidently occupied by a building of some kind in former times. The only relics of any age about the place now are some carved stones, including part of a Siva lingam stone and a wornout Vatteluttu inscription, the spoils of a Siva shrine also in the neighbourhood. The modern church is a tiled building, 86 feet in length and 34 in breadth. It is under the See of the Patriarch of Babylon.

In the Palayur and the adjoining Chavakkad amsams there are also two mosques called after the respective amsams. The former is about quarter of a mile to the east of Kuttingal, while the latter is about a mile to the west of it. They are tiled buildings, 40 and 50 feet in length and 21 and 15 in breadth, respectively. There is also a *jaram* or mausoleum in Palayur amsam of some importance containing the remains of one Hydros Kutti¹ who was, it is said, the Commissioner appointed by Hyder Ali, on his conquest of the district, to collect the revenue in these parts of

¹ See Vol. I, p. 662.

the taluk, but who having subsequently espoused the cause of the people against his masters' tyrannies, seems to have incurred that tyrant's displeasure and fallen in battle with the forces sent against him, on the spot where the building now stands. It is held in reverence, and is also resorted to by the Muhammadan population in these parts of the taluk.

Guruvayur.—[So designated after the famous temple of Krishna located there, which is believed to have been founded, as its name indicates, by *Guru* and *Vayu*, being, according to the Hindu Puranas, the preceptor of the *Devas* and the god of wind, respectively.] It is an important Hindu village, situated in the amsam of the same name, about 2 miles to the north-east of Kuttingal. The amsam has a total population of 6,686 inhabitants, of whom Hindus are the most numerous, amounting to 4,946, the remainder being divided into 527 Muhammadans and 1,208 Christians. The residents about the Guruvayur temple are chiefly the higher classes of Hindus, viz., Brahmans and Nayars. It is one of the most important Hindu temples in the district, and is held in great reverence, and also largely resorted to by the Hindu population (especially by the sick) throughout the district, as well as of the neighbouring native States of Cochin and Travancore. It is surrounded by a high laterite wall and has two lofty *gopurams* or entrances, one in the east and the other in the west. On the granite door-frame of the western one there is an inscription which indicates that it was built in 922 M.E. by one Panikkavittil Ittiraricha Menon Kariyakkar. A granite slab in the front part of the eastern

കുറുവയൂർ ക്ഷേത്രം: ക്ഷേത്രം: ഹി
തൈരാജിതൻ പുണ്യലാകാൻ
൯ നിഷ്ഠാശാസ്ത്രം നിജസ്തുതിതാൻ
ഭിദ്യസ്സാധനമാത്രം ഉംഗംഗനെത്ര
രച്യം ശുഭപവനപുരശാശ്രമം ഗൊപ
രശ്മിപ്രദം ഹൃദയാക്ഷം അംഗംഗരൂപ
മതിരകരശാശ്രമം വാരാണസിയിൽ

entrance, too, contains an inscription in Sanskrit verse as noted in the margin. Both the *srikovil* (shrine) and the *mandapam* have roofs covered with copper sheetings, while the *nalambalam* has tiled roofs. The temple flagstaff deserves special notice. It is 110 feet in height, having a bell metal covering through-

out, save about 9 feet from the top, which has a gold covering. The surrounding wall of the shrine is elaborately painted all over, in illustration of the various adventures of Vishnu as recorded in the *Bhagavathapurana*.

Chittatkar.—is a small village chiefly inhabited by Syrian Christians, situated in Brahmakulam amsam about 4 miles to the south-east of Kuttingal. There is a small church belonging to this community here. The total population of the amsam is 4,179, of whom 2,256 are Hindus. Of the remainder, 1,582 are Christians and the rest Muhammadans. The chief articles of trade here, are coconut and coconut oil.

Enamakkal.—is another village mainly inhabited by Syrian Christians in Venkitanga amsam, about 8 miles to the south-east of Kuttingal and 4 in the same direction from Chittatkar. Here, there is an important ancient Syrio Roman Catholic church. It is a tiled building, about 93 feet in length and 35 in breadth. The total population of the amsam is 6,416, of whom 1,770 are Syrian Christians, the rest being divided into 3,686 Hindus and 960 Muhammadans. The chief articles of trade here, too, are coconut and coconut oil.

Valappad.—is a village chiefly inhabited by Syrian Christians, situated in Pallipuram amsam about 17 miles to the south-west of Kuttingal. It contains a Police station and a Sub-Registrar's office. About a mile to the

north of the place at Triprayar, in Nattika amsam, there is a famous ancient Hindu temple. It lies by the side of the inland water communication to Cochin and belongs to the Cochin State. The presiding deity here is Sri Rama. The temple is 342 feet square, and the roof of the shrine is covered with copper sheeting, the *nalambalam* being tiled. On a granite slab of the wall of the srikovil there is an inscription, but it is very

പഴഞ്ചെരിവനടനായം - ആപ്പറയഹന
ദേശത്തും - പെരിഞ്ഞാട്ടമേശത്തും - ആരി
യവൊന്നിമേശത്തും മിശാളരും കാരാളരും
നെട്ടംകൊണ്ടവരും കകിളരിമ്പാടനിരി,
difficult to decipher the writing. A granite slab by the side of the eastern entrance, also, bears an inscription in Malayalam. The total number of inhabitants in Pallipuram amsam is 4,563, of whom 3,513 are Hindus; of the remainder, 655 are Muhammadans and 395 Christians.

Edathiruthi—is another Syrian Christian settlement situated in the amsam of the same name about 4 miles south of Valappad. The amsam has a population of 8,886 inhabitants, classified into 6,548 Hindus, 1,293 Muhammadans and 748 Syrian Christians. There is a small church belonging to Syrian Christians here.

Madilagam.—[The place is so called after the name of the temple, called the *Trikkanna* or *Trikkata* Madilagam temple, which existed there in ancient days and is believed to have been founded by Parasu Rama for the use of Trikkannapuram gramam, being one of the 64 Nambutiri Brahman settlements founded by him. It is said that it was subsequently destroyed by the Dutch who had formerly a settlement at Chetwai. Traces of the foundations of an old temple are still visible.] It is another Syrian Christian settlement in Pappinivattam amsam. There is an ancient church belonging to this community here. The total number of inhabitants in the amsam is 5,739, of whom 3,610 are Hindus; of the rest, 1,737 Muhammadans and 392 Christians. The place contains also a mosque, and is situated about 9 miles south of Edathiruthi.

Police.—For purposes of Police administration, the taluk is divided between 3 Inspectors, who have their head-quarters at the Tahsildar's and Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters respectively. There are 17 Police stations in all, distributed in the three divisions as follows :—

Ponnani Division.

(1) *Veliyangod*: In Eramangalam amsam, 5 miles from Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(2) *Ponnani*: In Ponnani amsam, Tahsildar's head-quarters,

(3) *Edappal*: In the amsam of the same name 6 miles from Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(4) *Chiyyanur*: In Othalur amsam, 10 miles from Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(5) *Padinharangadi*: In Kumaranallur amsam, 11 miles from Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(6) *Kutnad*: In Kodnad amsam, 16 miles from Tahsildar's head-quarters.

Chavakkad Division.

(1) Madilagam : In Pappinavattam amsam, 28 miles from Chavakkad Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(2) Valappad : In Pallipuram amsam, 17 miles from Chavakkad Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(3) Chavakkad : In Palayur amsam, Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(4) Vylathur : In Vylathur amsam, 4 miles from Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(5) Audathod : In Ayrur amsam, 8 miles from Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

Bettatpudiyangadi Division.

(1) Kuttayi : In Mangalam amsam, 4 miles from Bettatpudiyangadi Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(2) Putiyangadi : In Talakkad amsam, Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(3) Tanur : In Rayirimangalam amsam, 6 miles from Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(4) Kalpagancheri : In the amsam of the name, 6 miles from Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(5) Vatakkumpuram : In Kattiparutti amsam, 16 miles from Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

(6) Kuttipuram : In Atavanad amsam, 8 miles from Deputy Tahsildar's head-quarters.

Festivals and fairs.—The chief annual festivals celebrated in the taluk are shown below. On these occasions fairs are also held ; the most important being the one held on the occasion of the Guruvayur Ekadesi festival, and for a week or so after it is over. The chief articles changing hands are lasting copper and bell metal vessels of various kinds :—

No.	Name of festival.	Number of days lasts.	In what month.		Approximate number of persons attending.
			Malayalam month.	English month.	
1	Guruvayur Ekadesi festival ..	3 days ..	Vrischigam ..	Nov.-Dec. ..	5,000
2	Guruvayur Arat utsavam ..	8 " ..	Kumbham ..	Feb.-March ..	3,000
3	Triprayar Arat utsavam ..	8 " ..	Meenun ..	March-April ..	2,000
4	Trittala Sivaratri festival ..	1 day ..	Kumbham ..	Feb.-March ..	2,500
5	Trittala Arat utsavam ..	7 days ..	Dhanu ..	Dec.-January ..	2,000
6	Triprangod Sivaratri utsavam ..	1 day ..	Kumbham ..	Feb.-March ..	4,000
7	Tirunavaya Arat utsavam ..	7 days ..	Medam ..	Apl.-May ..	4,000
8	Tirunavaya Karkataka Vavu festival.	1 day ..	Karkatakam ..	July-August ..	5,000
9	Tirunavaya Thula Vavu festival.	1 " ..	Thulam ..	Oct.-Nov. ..	5,000
10	Garudan Kavu Mandala Vela ..	5 Sundays ..	1st Vrischigam to 10th Dhanu.	Nov.-Dec. ..	1,000 each day.
11	Trihandiyur Thula Vavu festival.	1 day ..	Thulam ..	Oct.-Nov. ..	2,000
12	Kelawaram Arat utsavam ..	7 days ..	Vrischigam ..	Nov.-Dec. ..	1,000

List of Charitable Institutions in Ponnani taluk.

Amsam.	Name of Institution.	Number of persons fed annually at the institution.		Amount of Land Revenue granted as Inam from Government for the institution.	Amount of private donation.	
		Brahmins.	Travellers (Byragias).		In land.	In money.
				RS. A. P.	RS.	RS.
Vettam Pallipram ..	1 Chamravattam Sattram ..	492	41	124 11 1	714	..
Trikkandiyur ..	2 Vettakarumakan Kavu Sattram.	34,000	3,400	1,399 14 2	3,100	..
Do. ..	3 Triprangod Samuham ..	10,125	..	235 2 1	2,000	..
Rayirimangalam ..	4 Keraladhiswarapuram Sattram.	61,200	12,240	2,704 13 4	3,819	..
Talakad ..	5 Velikkulangara Ayyappan Kavu Sattram.	5,250	750	..	575	..
Pariyapuram ..	6 Ganapathiyankavu Sattram.	1,200	..	..	55	..
Nullasseril ..	7 Peringatti Uttu Sattram.	4,380	1,095	..	80	..
Guruvayur ..	8 Guruvayur Sattram ..	29,200	1,095	..	..	..
Do. ..	9 Tamarayer Sattram ..	4,380	..	..	300	..
Vylattu ..	10 Alakkal Brahmamukhasan Sattram.	3,650	720	321 0 1	3,270	..
Nattika ..	11 Triprayar Sattram ..	27,375	3,650	..	..	3,878
Vadanappalli ..	12 Panayamkulangara Sattram of Ullanett home.	7,300	3,650	..	5,502	..
Do. ..	13 Panayamkulangara Sattram of Manhallavil house.	2,020	366	..	1,000	..
Kayppamangalam ..	14 Melikkakkal Sattram ..	..	1,825	..	..	228
Atavanad ..	15 Tirunavhya Sattram ..	7,200	720	..	..	660
Unmattur ..	16 Kurumhikavu Sattram ..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. ..	17 Parakulangara Sattram.	900	60	..	300	..
Do. ..	18 Kodallil Sattram ..	900	..	..	150	1,280
Kodanad ..	19 Trittala Sattram ..	9,000	1,080	..	..	..
Parutur ..	20 Chembalangatt Samuham Kotikunni Sattram.	900	..	48 10 0	800	125
Irumbilam ..	21 Perashannur Sattram ..	900	..	..	..	..
Ayirur ..	22 Kattupinath Vettekorumakan Sattram.	2,555	2,160	..	470	225
Iswaramangalam ..	23 Tirumalaesiri Kottayil Chavatt Sattram.	..	1,800	..	..	1,000
Trikkandiyur ..	24 Kumaramangalam Subramaniya temple Sattram.	9,150	2,440	..	..	140
Koktanad ..	25 Asuramahakalan temple Sattram.	720	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	225,757	37,291	4,884 2 9	21,585	7,516

List of Hindu Religious Institutions in Ponnani taluk in connection with which Government have remitted Land Revenue as Inam.

No.	Name of Institution.	Amount of Inam granted.	Date of grant.	Remarks.
		RS. A. P.		
1	Trikavu Temple in Pallapram amsam.	334 1 0		Temples Nos. 3 and 4 originally belonged to the Bettat Rajah, but were afterwards made over to the Zamorin, when the Rajah's estate lapsed to Government.
2	Guruvayur temple in Guruvayur amsam.	1,428 9 0		
3	Triprangod temple in Triprangod amsam.	1,127 0 6		
4	Trikkandiyur temple in Trikkandiyur amsam.	2,292 13 0		

Weekly markets.—The subjoined statement shows the weekly markets held in the taluk. There are nine such markets. The majority of the traders being Muhammadans, and Friday being a holy day with them, no markets are held on that day. In all the markets, salted fish seems to be the chief article of trade, while vegetable and other articles are also largely sold :—

Day held.	Where held.	Number of persons attending.
Sunday ..	Trittala. Close to the travellers' bungalow ..	2,000
Monday ..	Madilagam. Half a mile south of the bungalow.	2,000
	Andathod. In the neighbourhood of the Veliyan- god Police station.	1,000
Tuesday	Valancheri. In the vicinity of the Vatakkum- bram Police station.	1,500
	Kuttingal. Close to the Chevakkad Deputy Tah- sildar's office.	2,500
Wednesday ..	Kalpagancheri. In the vicinity of the Police station there.	1,500
Thursday ..	Chalisheri. In the vicinity of the village of the same name.	1,500
	Valappad. Close to the Police station ..	1,800
Saturday	Kuttiapuram. Close to the Police station ..	1,500

Travellers' Bungalows and Chattrams.—There are five travellers' bungalows and four chattrams or musapherkhanas in the taluk as shown in the following statement :—

Name of bungalow and chattram.	Situation.
<i>Travellers' Bungalows.</i>	
Tanur ..	A mile and a half to the west of the Tanur Railway Station.
Ponnani ..	In the town of the same name.
Trittala ..	By the side of the Ponnani river at the village of the same name about 4 miles to the west of the Pattambi Railway Station on the road from Palghat to Ponnani.
Chetwai ..	Four miles south of Kottungal by the side of the Chetwai river (or backwater) on the road from Ponnani to Cochin.
Madilagam ..	By the side of the inland water communication referred. About 23 miles south of Chetwai.
<i>Chattrams.</i>	
Tanur	Two furlongs west of the Tanur Railway Station.
Bettatputiyangadi ..	Close to the Deputy Tahsildar's office of the place about 2½ miles south-west of the Tanur Railway Station.
Ponnani ..	A mile and a half east of Ponnani by the side of the road from there to Palghat.
Trittala	Close to the travellers' bungalow.

G. Trigonometrical Survey Stations.—There is only one such station in the taluk. This is called the Kutnad or Kurungut hill station situated

about a mile to the south of Trittala in N. Lat. 10° 47' 32.64" and Long. 76° 08' 36.50". It is in good condition.

European Tombs and Burial Grounds.—There is only one isolated tomb and no European burial grounds exist in this taluk. The former is situated near Trittala and is in fair condition. It bears the following inscription: "Here rest the remains of Henreitta, the beloved wife of Captain James Falconer, H.M.'s 74th Highlanders. She died at Trittala on 24th February 1855, aged 35 years. This stone has been placed here by her bereaved husband as a small token of affection."

A tombstone recording the death of the first Dutch commandant of the Dutch fort at Chetwai who died at that place in 1729 also exists, and has already been referred to in Vol. I, p. 349. The site of this grave is unknown.

Statement showing old tombs or Pandu Kulis existing in Porani Taluk.

Pandur Kulis groups of stones.		Single stones.	
Amsam.	No.	Amsam.	No.
1 Nagalasseri	1	1 Kappur	1
2 Ozhur	1	2 Kumaranalore	1
3 Klari	2	3 Tavanur	4
4 Vadakumbram	18	4 Alancode	1
5 Mullasseri	3	5 Nagalasseri	10
6 Annakara	1	6 Triprangode	1
		7 Kanmanam	5
		8 Melmuri	10
		9 Olur	1
		10 Klari	6
		11 Pommundam	1
		12 Kattiparuthi	2
		13 Parutur	1
Total ..	62	Total ..	44