

No. 11.

THE CLASS OF 44 OF THE OLD SEMINARY. When we look at the graduates of the old Batticotta Seminary we see that in its palmy days it was moulding the character of those who were to take positions of rank and influence in after times. The class admitted in '44, stands well in the honors received. It has now become conspicuous as the class of Mudaliyars. The Manager of Valigamo west and F. Armstrong the District Engineer of Jaffna, have obtained the distinction of Gate-Mudaliyars and Mr. P. Elankayer the rank of Mudaliyar. Besides these, one is a Judge in India, another the energetic manager of the "Star," and a third Manager of Valigamo North and a fourth the shroff in the Jaffna Kachchery. But at the same time, it is matter for regret to find that so many of them have not followed the religious portion of their instruction.

இந்நகரம், யோசேப்ப கருணாகரம்பிள்ளை,

EVANGELISTS.

At the Monthly Union meeting of the Missionaries held at Uduvil last Monday evening, Mr. Smith read a paper on the proposed visit of the Evangelists to India and Ceylon next year. Rev. B. Fay Mills the noted Evangelist plans to visit us a little more than a year hence, accompanied by Mr. Greenwood "a very accomplished and effective Christian singer who is a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost." They have worked together very successfully for several years in America. The converts in some places in connection with their labors have numbered many hundreds.

Our Jaffna friends would give Mr. Mills a warm welcome for his mother's sake who before she married Dr. Mills, was a missionary in Jaffna for 5 years as the wife of Rev. Samuel Whittlesey who died here in '47. It is specially requested that the way be prepared for them by faith and prayer on the part of the community. In many respects Jaffna seems ripe for such efforts to be grandly successful.

KANGESANTURAI.

It is certainly very astonishing to see what poor accommodations this place has as a port. From the published copy of the shipping returns for 1888, which we have just received, we see that Kangy, as it is familiarly called, stands third in the Island in the amount of tonnage of calling vessels: 45,309 is the total of the tonnage, several times as much as Jaffna itself. And in the customs revenue it only falls a little behind Jaffna, having Rs. 78,000 to Jaffna's Rs. 86,000, and this is besides the port dues, and is increasing every year. The B. I. S. N. Agents in Negapatam told us recently that they were arranging for a steamer to ply regularly between that port and this. At any rate, steamers of good size are calling more and more frequently. Yet when we look for the accommodations suited to a harbor of such importance what do we find? There is an open roadstead where vessels can drop their anchor anywhere from a half mile to a mile from the shore and nothing more. The Dutch considered it worth providing with a harbor with two bastions at its entrance. The harbor is now filled with sand almost as far out as the bastions which are crumbling before the waves. Boats have no choice but to land on a steep sand bank. A stone pier like that on the Jaffna side is greatly needed and would cost but a small part of the income of the port. A still greater need is some sort of a light. The red lantern which is hung up to guide incoming vessels may be discovered at a distance of a couple of miles, after they have steered alternately for some time towards the torches of fishermen at Mathagal and Tondimanaar. We propose to push the advocacy of "that little railway" from Kangy to Jaffna, not so much as profitable in itself as for a beginning of the railway to Colombo. Most certainly the northern part of that railway can be best built by material landed at the north, and if it is landed at the north, by far the cheapest place is Kangy. But for that purpose the two things we have mentioned may be called *sine qua non*.

CHRISTIANITY.

We are indebted to a Contemporary for calling attention to an inadvertence in one of our recent issues. The statement that "Christianity is an assertion," was not very felicitous we admit, and yet it is justified when understood as meant, and as explained by the later statement that it is "a living working faith etc." A person may be said to "assert" when he manifests forth in his words and works anything positive in his inner life. Similarly we speak of a person's asserting himself. And "an assertion that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour," would thus be such a faith in Christ, or laying hold upon

him with the whole spiritual nature, as would manifest itself in words and works, and thus prove Him to be the Saviour by the practical example of deliverance from sin. This we take to be the essence of Christianity. One would suppose also that the statement that "Christianity is not a code of morals," would be understood by ordinary persons as meaning that it is not that and nothing else, but that it includes that and much more. We have no objection to the definition of Christianity as a "Religion," provided the word is understood rightly. The same word conveys different meanings to different persons, and much of the dispute in the world is due to this fact.

NATIVE EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

The 42nd annual meeting of this society was held at Batticotta on Thursday May 30th. The meeting was presided over by Rev. D. Stickney, the president of the Society. The other officers present were the Secretary, Rev. T. P. Hunt, treasurer Mr. Joel Fitch, auditor Pastor Eliatamby. All the 15 churches of the American mission were represented and a good audience of about 600 was present. After devotional exercises, the chairman addressed the meeting, making allusion to the pioneer missionaries and the early Christians who took part in the formation of the society whose 42nd anniversary was that day celebrated on the very same platform where the first conference about the society was held. The names of Daniel Poor, Levi Spaulding, Niles, and several others, who though dead yet speak, and whose memory is cherished with reverence and gratitude, were feelingly referred to. The appointed speakers were Mr. J. P. Cooke, Revs. W. W. Howland, S. W. Howland, H. L. Hoisington, and Catechist Charles. At the request of the Chairman, Messrs. R. O. D. Asbury, T. M. Tampoe, T. C. Changarapillai, S. F. G. Carpenter, and S. P. Lawton addressed the meeting. Communion service in the afternoon was conducted by Rev. Dr. Hastings and Rev. Samuel Veragatty. The Officers for the ensuing year are Rev. B. H. Rice, president; Mr. R. O. D. Asbury, vice president; Rev. T. P. Hunt, Secretary; Mr. Samuel Hensman, treasurer; Mr. S. F. G. Carpenter and Mr. Charles Murugan, auditors. The meeting closed with the benediction pronounced by Dr. Hastings.

COTTON CULTIVATION.

We have received a pamphlet from Messrs. Darley, Butler and Co. Agents of the *Ceylon Spinning and Weaving Company*. We quote a few sentences: "Cotton seed will be provided free of charge at every Kachcheri to any native cultivator who applies for it. All cotton grown by the villager will be paid for at a fair price at the nearest large village to his land. In those parts of the Island depending on the northeast monsoon for agricultural operations, the proper season for sowing will be when those rains set in. The crop will be ready from January 1st onwards. The Peruvian variety of cotton grows for several years. Thirty pods are a very low and safe estimate of the average produce of each tree. Assuming 3600 plants on one acre—108,000 pods—135th clean cotton."

This at 25 c. per lb. gives Rs. 33.75 as the produce per acre, which is scarcely equal to paddy. Let us hear more as to prices and profits from those who know. We give below a letter on the general subject which will be found interesting.

COTTON AND ITS CULTIVATION.

The cotton is a plant which belongs to the natural order Malvaceae. Four distinct species of cotton are supposed to exist viz. 1. *Gossypium Herbaceum*, the ordinary Indian cotton plant. 2. *G. Arboreum*, the Indian tree-cotton. 3. *G. Barbadosense* to which the American cottons and the Borbon cotton of India belong. 4. *G. Peruvianum* or *Acuminatum*, the Brazil cotton. The species are partly shrubs and partly herbaceous and are either perennial or annual. They are natives of the tropical parts of Asia, Africa and America. But their cultivation has extended far into the temperate zones. They all have leaves with three to five lobes, which in a very young state are often sprinkled with black dots, and rather large flowers which

are mostly yellow, but sometimes in whole or part purple. The flowers very soon fall off. They grow singly from the axils of the leaves and are surrounded at the base by three large heart-shaped toothed bracts partially united. The fruit is a three to five celled capsule, opening when ripe by three to five valves, and containing numerous seeds enveloped in hairs, the cotton of commerce, which are generally white but sometimes yellowish. The produce of *Gossypium Barbadosense* is considered to be the most valuable. The beautiful long-stapled silky wool known as "sea island" is a variety of this. The saline ingredients of the soil and atmosphere being indispensable for its growth it succeeds best near the sea coast. *Cultivation*. The following is the method in S. India. Operations are commenced in August to September when manure, chiefly sheep and cow manure, is spread over the ground. The ground is immediately ploughed twice, and when the rains come in September to October and while the ground is quite wet, furrows four feet apart are made with the native plough, and the seeds from six to ten pounds to an acre, are planted in the furrows four feet apart. The seed is previously prepared by being mixed with cow manure and water, the proportion in weight being three of seed to one of the liquid. When the crop is a month old the land must be hoed and the earth drawn up to the roots of the plants. In about two months blooming will commence when a second hoeing must be performed. About the fourth month the first picking may take place, soon after which the land must receive the third and final hoeing. It is advisable to sow the spaces between the lines of cotton with some such crop as gram or Cholam. This will tend to keep down the weeds and also cover the cost of production of the cotton.

Point Pedro } W. BRECKENRIDGE.
24th May '89. } Agriculturist.

—THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION of the Inauguration of Washington as first President of the United States, took place in New York City on the 29th and 30th of April and 1st May. President Harrison visited the city on the occasion, and we read, his reception was on a scale of unprecedented magnitude, and the scene was one of great spectacular beauty. Three millions of people assembled to witness the processions and the sightseers cheered the President. The processions marched seven miles up Broadway and Fifth avenue. All the buildings along the route were covered with flags and decorations and there were numerous arches. After the procession the President inspected the sixty thousand troops present, and was entertained at a splendid banquet. The city was brilliantly illuminated at night. There was a naval procession in which more than 300 vessels took part.

The Industrial procession May 1st, in which all the different trades and occupations were represented was 10 miles in length and 75,000 persons took part in it.

This celebration really marked the 100th birthday of the American Republic. For altho the declaration of Independence was made on the 4th of July 1776, the Government did not get fairly into operation until April 1789. The intervening years were taken up by the struggle for independence, and in forming a constitution, and getting it ratified by the people, electing the officers, etc.

இலங்கை.

Oh loved one of Nature,—dark இலங்கை
A Saviour to Thee has come,
To loosen Thy chains,
And set free Thy heart.
And who'er in this work
Has but a small part,
Has an honor that kings have not won,
Who have conquered Thee, beautiful இலங்கை.

Oh இலங்கை, beautiful இலங்கை,
To redeem Thee, the Saviour has died.
Well-clad in Thy pearls
And foliage so fair,
To that "God" still "Unknown,"
Thou art breathing a prayer,
Still waiting in Him to confide,
Who loves Thee, fair beautiful இலங்கை.

We see Thy Salvation by faith:
Saved இலங்கை Thou shalt be called,
We will work and will pray
Till the Kingdom shall come.
Thou'lt be Heaven on earth
When that victory is won
Oh Saviour we gladly could fall
To win and save dear loved இலங்கை.
Captain,
Jaffna. Salvation Army,