

# THE MORNING STAR.

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No. 22.

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION; BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

## The Morning Star for '90.

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|              |  |       |
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| Tellipally.  | Rev. W. Joseph and Messrs A. Barnabas, T. Ball & the Shroff at Kanganasari and the Kollan kaladdy School.  | 5.50  |
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Sept. 2nd '89 }

### Local and General.

—MR. MANGEL, Sub-Inspector of Schools, Jaffna, is reported to be about to proceed to Batticaloa to exchange duties with Mr. Tampapillai.

—MANNIPAY. Cholera having shown itself again at certain localities in North Mannipay, Dr. Strong Mohr, was ordered to stay there temporarily on cholera duty.

—CENTRAL ROAD. From Dambulla to Kekirawa a distance of fifteen miles is to be soon metalled.

—FIRE. A house at Kararot adjoining the residence of Mr. Manuel, Sub-Inspector of schools, was accidentally burnt down on the night of the 14th inst. The fire, it is said, broke out from the flame of a lamp igniting a cloth hanging immediately over it. Such accidents happening off and on are a warning to the owners of low cadjan houses to give to the candle its proper place.

—DROWNING. On the 13th inst. at Thenmaratchy a boy of Tattankulam while bathing in a shallow pool, died by suffocation in the water, being unable to help himself from the water on account of a sudden fit.

—SALT REST for next year sold at auction on the 16th inst. was purchased by Mr. S. Susapillai for Rs. 56,000.

—MR. E. S. W. SEATHERAJAH has been appointed as additional Police Magistrate at Purlam for one week from the 25th inst.

—MR. C. S. HAY Crown Counsel for the Northern circuit has been appointed to act as Solicitor General from the 1st proximo for Mr. Layard, who goes home on leave.

—MR. WISHARD has telegraphed that he will arrive in Jaffna Dec. 5th and leave Dec. 25th.

—A special meeting of the Alumni of Jaffna College will be held in Otley Hall, Sat. Dec. 7th at 3 P.M.

—REGISTRATION OF DEEDS. For some time back the Registrar of lands has ceased to issue with the deeds registered the usual "certificate of entry," and a very brief memorandum on the top of each deed registered has been considered to be sufficient for all the purposes of registration. This economy of labor, with the possibility of saving one clerk, does not seem very creditable to the Department, besides its being unsafe to register deeds without obtaining the "certificate of entry."

—THE NEW ISLAND STEAMER. The B. I. S. N. Company are bringing out from England a new steamer of about 300 tons, which is to run between Colombo, Jaffna, and Trinicorin and other ports, if there is sufficient inducement. Her name is the "Aska," and she is expected to arrive in Colombo very soon. She will take up the coolie immigration trade, but also other trade as opportunity offers. The Agents told us six months since that Negapatnam was to be one point of call. If frequent trips are made to that port it will prove a great convenience to the Jaffness, and not so much of a rival to the S. S. Lady Gordon. The owners of the latter complain that the merchants of Jaffna have not kept their promises as to the patronage they would bestow and that the steamer is hardly paying expenses. These promises are something like those for railway traffic. Time is of no great importance and whatever their promises they continue to send by the means that require the least outlay.

—MR. and Mrs. Wishard landed in Colombo last Friday the 15th inst. In our last issue we spoke of them as having already arrived, notice of their arrival having appeared in a Colombo paper. This proved to be a mistake. The next day a letter was received from Hong-Kong saying that they were to arrive in Colombo on the 10th by the S. S. Natal. But this vessel was caught in a typhoon in the China sea and suffered considerable damage so as to be delayed in Singapore four days for repairs.

—REV. G. C. GRUBB arrived in Colombo on the 13th inst. and services were commenced the same evening. There were many missionaries on the same steamer, most of them on their way to China. Three single ladies join the C. M. S. workers in Ceylon. Mr. Grubb was accompanied by his nephew Rev. O. H. Richardson, and Messrs. Millard and Campbell.

They are holding two or three meetings daily in Colombo for two weeks.

—THE M. M. Steamer "Natal," in which the Wishards were passengers, had a narrow escape in a typhoon, which is what a cyclone is called in the China seas. Soon after leaving Hong-Kong the typhoon was seen following them. They increased their speed and for thirty hours kept ahead of the storm, although the monsoon was blowing strong. Then suddenly something in the steering gear broke and the vessel was at once unmanageable and just after that the typhoon struck them. The tops of the masts and all the sails were carried away and much other damage done. One "monster sea" weighing "several hundred tons" broke over the vessel smashed in a skylight and flooded the saloon and cabins and stove in all the boats. Three sailors were so injured that they had to be left in the hospital at Singapore. For nearly eight hours the vessel was completely at the mercy of the typhoon, and if it had been a little sooner they would most probably have been dashed on the rocks of a group of islands they passed. We share in their thankfulness for the merciful preservation.

—PEARL FISHERY. Our Government Agent has

gone to Silavattury for a short Pearl fishery. Captain Doman in his inspection found about 30 millions of oysters left over from last year's fishery, but these will probably be fished later. He found besides "an excellent little bank" with 3 millions which he wished fished at once, as there might not be time next year. It is a little north of Dutch Bay. Fifty boats have gone to the spot and will fish for ten days,—500 boat loads. The general public are not invited to bid for the oysters as there is fear of an outbreak of cholera if many people come together. Therefore the Government will wash the oysters on its own account and sell the pearls.

—A SERIES OF LECTURES in connection with the Young Men's Literary Association of Vannarponne was inaugurated last Friday evening, the 15th inst. by a lecture on "The Days and Work of Creation" delivered by Rev. S. W. Howland in the Wesleyan School room Chetty street. There are to follow lectures by Rev. G. T. Fleming on the Young Men of Jaffna, Rev. E. Rigg on the Signs of the Times, Proctor Tambo, Dr. Paul and others.

Dr. MARCH who visited Jaffna in '87 writes to an American paper as follows:—

One of the many signs of dawning light in the East, and of growing unity among all nations, is the rapid diffusion of the English language all over the world. I spent five months in India, travelling from Ceylon on the south to the utmost northern boundary of the great empire of two hundred and fifty millions, and then, passing eastward from Bombay to Calcutta, I left the country for Burma, with the full expectation that English will be the language of business and education and public affairs in India fifty years hence, and that in a hundred years multitudes of the common people will speak it as their mother tongue. Even now five millions of scholars are learning English in the schools at any one time, and as many more millions are learning it in the intercourse of trade and social life.

In the public schools of Japan the English language is required to be taught by law. One needs no prophet's vision to foresee that English will be the ruling language of the Island Empire in fifty years. Constantinople has long been a Babel of tongues. Dr. Riggs, himself a learned linguist, told me that he had heard twenty different languages spoken within a half-hour's walk in that great cosmopolitan city. But among them all English is fast coming into use as the fittest to be a universal medium of communication on that great highway of nations between East and West.

I believe the English language to be the chosen and sacred medium which divine Providence will use to bring the Eastern nations to right conceptions of truth and duty. Its progress in our day is a clear indication of the coming of an age when all the nations shall have one language, one faith, one law of duty and of love to God and to each other. Ingenious men are at work in the endeavor to invent a universal language which shall serve as a medium of intercourse among all nations. It is all lost labor. The inventors are behind the time. The language is already found, not invented by men, but the natural outgrowth of the providential lead and teaching by which English-speaking people have encompassed the globe with their commerce and their colonies, their inventions and their literature, their missions and their power, their truth and their faith. The exhaustless physical forces of the earth are most completely in their hands; all arts, sciences and machines are at their command; they are endowed with energy and vitality which enable them to live in any climate between the poles, and they must be foremost in bringing the great Christian age of the future which is every day drawing near. Mr. Gladstone has said that a hundred years hence, there will be seven hundred millions of people speaking the English language, and they will be scattered all over the earth. And in that day, if they retain their present tireless energy and their practical sagacity, it will be easy for them to bring the remaining millions of men to the adoption of their speech, and the acceptance of the one universal religion which has given English-speaking people their peculiar power in the past, and their immortal hope for the future.





## IS IT STEALING?

Stealing is the taking of others' property unjustly or without rendering an equivalent. When several persons join together and each gives a certain amount (say Re. 1 each) to a common fund, agreeing that one of their number shall receive the whole, the individual being indicated by the casting of lots, or by the turning of a wheel bringing up the number which points him out, or by the swiftest horse among a number in a race, what shall we call the performance? It goes by the names raffle, lottery, betting, gambling, pooling, etc. But is it not more correctly designated as "stealing"? One says it is not stealing because all parties agreed to the transaction. But consent is not sufficient. When one man stops a traveler on the highway and presenting a loaded pistol, says 'your money or your life,' the traveler says, 'don't shoot! I will give you all I have.' He consents to pay over the money. Is it therefore any the less highway robbery? But the man in the lottery agreed to it of his own accord. Yes, but was he any more satisfied with the result than the traveler. Even if he says he is satisfied, is it true? Would he have paid the money if he had not had some hope of getting the whole amount? If not, then when he gets nothing, it cannot be true that he is satisfied. He only means that he does not wish to make complaint. If two highway robbers sally forth and meet each other, and one get the other's money, the latter may not complain because it is what he intended to do to the other, yet the crime is the same.

But some say it is just like trading; men invest their money; some gain, and some lose. Not in trading a man sells the goods for more than he paid for them, because he must include the interest of his capital and the value of the time he spends. When he does so he still sells the goods cheaper than the buyer could get elsewhere, so that the trade is a benefit to both the buyer and the seller. If the trader loses it is generally his own fault, for trying to sell goods not wanted by the public, or for not bringing his goods properly to the attention of the public, or for not buying wisely, or for some similar reason. When Government takes a man's property for taxes against his will, it is not stealing, because it renders an equivalent in the benefits of good government.

We do not see how anything can besaid to show that betting and lotteries and the like are not violations of the eighth commandment and also of the tenth, for no one goes into a lottery except he desires to get his neighbour's property. That is, he covets it. We see by this the essential evil nature of all such transactions. But we might show it by the disastrous results which follow. The Tamil poets have many pithy sayings on the subject, drawn from the school of experience. If there were no other evil, the making a man feel that there is some easier way of getting money than by giving its equivalent, in work or otherwise, is an evil which should be shunned more carefully than a poisonous serpent. Many a man has been ruined body and soul by getting this idea implanted by means of some apparently harmless raffle. They are all the same in principle, whether called gambling, or only raffling, or even art prizes.

The Ceylon Legislature is passing a law against gambling, which is like lopping off a few branches of the poisonous upas tree, while the main tree stands untouched. Of all forms of getting money or other property by chance, or without giving a fair equivalent, we can say with Scripture: "they that desire to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, which some reaching

after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

## JAFFNA IN '88.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of Administration Reports of the different provinces for 1888. The one for the Northern Province is of the most interest to the Jaffnese, though nearly two thirds of it is taken up with reports of Mannar, Vilankulam and Mullaitivu. We note first the substantial increase in the revenue of Rs. 449,024. A large part of this is due to the pearl fishery, but there is an increase of Rs. 54,292 in the ordinary revenue. This was due chiefly to customs revenue and paddy rent, both indicating an improved condition of the people. The fact that altho the paddy crop was much better than usual more paddy was imported, means that the people lived better. The amount raised was estimated at 1,250,000 bushels and about as much was imported. The deficiency of the palmyrah fruit accounts for a part of this, as also does the increase of the tobacco. Of this latter 75847 cwt. worth Rs. 1,877,951 was exported, which is a large outturn for Jaffna, altho in '85 it was 5000 cwt. more. This is nearly 40th exported for every person in Jaffna, to say nothing of the large amount consumed at home. It is a question worth considering as to whether Jaffna gives a fair equivalent for this amount of money.

A good amount of salt was collected—117,242 cwt. of which nearly two thirds was manufactured, but most of it was not sold during the year. The revenue from firewood and green leaves Rs. 3000, is a new feature. Nearly 300,000 palmyrah timbers were exported, but there does not seem much danger of a dearth of palmyrah trees, as there are many new groves growing.

It seems a little surprising that the births were 3000 more than the deaths. This would indicate so much of an increase in population if the figures were correct. Cholera was reported in 13 villages, with 138 attacks and 65 deaths. Permanent hospitals and dispensaries within easy reach of the people are recommended, and it seems that the Government is about to adopt this plan very generally in Ceylon.

The recommendations for various public worksshow that our Agent is quite alive to the wants of the people. Among other things are two lacs for iron bridges in place of wooden ones. Rs. 5000 for experiments in regard to artesian wells. It seems a pity that the attempt at Mannar is not pushed. Twice they have stopped because of striking rock, and not having suitable tools. But what did they expect? It would not be much of a well if it did not go through rock. A tower for a red light at Kangesantery is mentioned, but we are surprised not to see a pier recommended for that port. It is doubtful if the pearl fishery is a blessing or otherwise. But as Jaffna suffers so heavily from it we should receive more benefit pecuniarily and we trust that it will be so in the future.

ORIGIN OF THE THREE RS.  
BY PROF. MAX MULLER.

What should we be without our A B C, without being able to write? Mere illiterate savages, knowing nothing of the past except by hearsay, caring little for the future except for our own immediate posterity. Now whenever we read a book or write a letter we ought to render thanks in our heart to the ancient scholars of Egypt who invented and perfected writing, and whose alphabetic signs are now used over the whole civilized world, with the exception of China. Yes, whenever you write an a or b or c you write what was originally a hieroglyphic picture. Your L is the crouching lion, your F the cerastes, a serpent with two horns; your H the Egyptian picture of a sieve.

There is no break, no missing link between our A. B. C. and the hieroglyphic letters as you see them on the obelisk on the Thames Embankment and on the much older monuments in Egypt. The Egyptians handed their letters to the Phoenicians,

the Phoenicians to the Greeks, the Greeks to the Romans, the Romans to us. All the Semitic alphabets also, as used in Persian and Arabic, and the more important alphabets of India, Ceylon, Burma, and Siam, all come in the end from Phoenicia and Egypt. The whole of Asia, except that part of it which is overshadowed by Chinese influence, Europe, America, Africa, and Australia, so far as they write at all, all write Egyptian hieroglyphics. The chain of tradition has never been broken, the stream of evolution is more perfect here than anywhere else.

Reading and writing, therefore, have come to us from ancient Egypt. But whence did we get our arithmetic? when I say our arithmetic I do not mean our numerals only, or our knowledge that two and two make four. That kind of knowledge is home-grown, and can be traced back to that common Aryan home from which we derive our language, that is to say, our whole intellectual inheritance. I mean our numeral figures. There are many people who have numerals, but no numeral figures like our own. There are others, such as the Chiquitos in Columbia, who count with their fingers but have no numerals at all; at least we are told so by the few travellers who have visited them. There are others again who have a very perfect system of numerals, but who for numerical notation depend either on an abacus or on such simple combinations of strokes as we find in Egypt, Phoenicia, Babylon, China, India, and even among the redskins of America. There are others again who, like the Greeks and the Hindus, use certain letters of their alphabet instead of, under certain circumstances, figures.

You may imagine with such contrivances arithmetic could never have advanced to its present stage of perfection, unless some one had invented our numeral figures. Whence then did we get our figures? We call them Arabic figures, and that tells its own tale. But the Arabs call them Indian figures, and that tells its own tale likewise. Our figures came to us from the Arabs in Spain, they came to them from India, and if you consider what we should be without our figures from one to nine, I think you will admit that we owe as much gratitude to India for our arithmetic, as to Egypt for our reading and writing. When I am sometimes told that the Hindus were mere dreamers and never made any useful discovery, such as our steam-engines and electric telegraphs, I tell my friends they invented that without which mechanical and electric science could never have become what they are, that without which we should never have had steam-engines or electric telegraphs, they invented our figures from 1 to 9, and more than that, they invented the nought, the sign for nothing, one of the most useful discoveries ever made, as all mathematicians will tell you.

Let us remember then the lessons which we have learned from antiquity. We have learned reading and writing from Egypt, we have learned arithmetic from India. So much for the famous three R's.

## Local and General.

—SIVITE ARMY. The appearance of this army dates from the opening of the new barracks of the Salvation Army at Vannarpoone. A handful of the Sivites of the place, dressed in brown, wearing peacock feathers on their heads and attended with the noise of native music, daily stroll along the streets preaching and singing as they go.

—GREAT LONDON. Who can realise the multitudinous life of London? Every four minutes marks a birth. In the next two hours after you read this, thirty babies will have been born and twenty deaths will have taken place. Think of it; the evening paper that recorded the births and deaths of the preceding four and twenty hours would have to give three hundred separate items. Verily the joys and sorrows of the great city are immense. London has seven thousand miles of streets—and if you walked them at the rate of twenty miles a day, you would have to walk almost a year—and more than a year by nearly fifty days if you should rest on Sundays. The seven thousand miles have 570 miles of public-houses—no wonder there is so much misery and sin. In a year the people of London drink two hundred million quarts of beer, ten million quarts of rum, and fifty million quarts of wine. As regards food I find that Londoners consume five hundred thousand oxen, two million sheep, two hundred thousand calves, three hundred thousand swine, eight million head of fowls, five hundred million pounds of fish, five hundred million oysters, two hundred million lobsters,—and if that is not enough there are some million tons of canned provisions, no end of fruit and vegetables, and fifty million bushels of wheat.

The Fireside News.