

# THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 51.

Jaffna, Thursday the 8th of Jan., 1891.

No. 1.

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

## The Morning Star for 1891.

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### செய்துகள் ம் ஞா தரணகை.

ஊவ்வொரு மாதத்திலும் முதலாம் முள்ளும் விபர முக்கிழமைகளுக்குப் பதினாறு இரண்டு கிழமைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு விபர முக்கிழமைகளில் பிச்சரிக்கப் படுகின்றன. ஆகவே வருஷத்தில் 24 சக்கினைகளுக்குப் பதினாறு 26 சக்கினைகளை.

### RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR

Jaffna Town	Dr. W. T. Garrett B.A. 1890	1.50
Manepay	Dr. C. T. Mills	1.25
Mallagam	Mr. C. Sapapathy.	.62
Lindula	" N. Ramanathan.	1.75
Jaffna Town	Rev. Osbourne, and Messrs Ponnampalam, Cathiresu, Tampere, Sābapathy, A. Alwis, B. Bryant, V. Tambiply and P. Murugasupilly.	10.62
Puttoor	Rev. J. Parinayanayagam.	1.75
Alavetty	Messrs Moses and Arunasalam Odiar.	2.50
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Lindula	" N. Ramanathan.	1.75
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Pandeterippo	Rev. S. Eliatambiy and Messrs. S. Hemphill, S.A. Paul, E.A. Canapathipilly and Ambalavaner.	6.25
Jaffna Town	Messrs S. Allegacocon, S. Olagasagam, B. Santiagupilly, S. Champion, Satrusingam, T. M. Tampoo & T. Changarapilly 1889	9.25
Batticaloe	Mr. J. Allegacocon.	1.75
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Batticotta	S. Hensman	1.25

### FOR SALE,

A Second hand American Baby Organ in perfect order and good condition. Price Rs. 45 cash, Apply to C.P. ANKETEL, Udsville, Jaffna.

### ORDER NISI.

#### In the District Court of Jaffna.

In the matter of the Goods and Chattels, Estate and property of the late Ahamadokany wife of Mahayadeen Segotamby Maracair of Vannarponne Testamentary Jurisdiction } Mohamado Moheyadeen. No. 384. Mohamado Segoparitho Lebbe of Vannarponne.

1. Meerasaibo Moheyadeen Segotamby Maracair.
2. Mahamadu Sultan Nachia widow of Mohamado Lebbe Ahein.
3. Mohamado Pattomanachia.
4. Mohamado Lebbe Aliem Aboohelkai Thavathoo.
5. Mohamado Lebbe Aliem Mohamado Sagoehamitho.
6. Mohamado Lebbe Aliem Mohamado Moheyadeen, all of Vannarponne (the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th named persons are minors).

#### Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esquire, District Judge of Jaffna, on the 18th day of December 1890, in the presence of Mr. T. M. Tampoo, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, Mohamado Moheyadeen Mohamado Segoparitho Lebbe of Vannarponne, and the affidavit of the said Mohamado Moheyadeen Mohamado Segoparitho Lebbe, dated the 16th day of December 1890, having been read, it is ordered that the said Mohamado Moheyadeen, Mohamado Segoparitho Lebbe be and he is hereby declared as one of the next of kin and as such entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said late Ahamadokany wife of Mahayadeen Segotamby Maracair of Vannarponne, issued to him, unless the above named Respondents or any person shall on or before the 26th day of January 1891 shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court, to the contrary.

P. W. CONOLLY.

District Judge.

Jaffna 18th Dec. 1890.

### ORDER NISI.

#### In the District Court of Jaffna.

In the matter of the Estate and property of Valliamma widow of Supiramardar of Batticotta West deceased. Testamentary Jurisdiction } Supiramaniar Sithamparapillai of Batticotta West. No. 385.

#### Vs. Petitioner.

Supiramaniar Tambiah of Batticotta West now at Malacca, Straits Settlements. Respondent— This matter coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esq. District Judge of Jaffna on the 11th day of December 1890 in the presence of Mr. T. M. Tampoo, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, Supiramaniar Sithamparapillai of Batticotta West and the affidavit of the said Supiramaniar Sithamparapillai dated 16th day of December 1890, having been read, it is ordered that the said Supiramaniar Sithamparapillai be, and he is hereby declared, entitled as one of the intestate to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said late Valliamma widow of Supiramardar of Batticotta West, issued to him, unless the above named Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 26th day of January 1891 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

P. W. CONOLLY.

Dist. Judge

Jaffna 18th Dec. 1890.

### ORDER NISI.

#### In the District Court of Jaffna.

In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of Vallepuille widow of Ponnampalam Sinnacutty late of Tellipalay, deceased. Testamentary Jurisdiction } Sinnacutty Ponnampalam of Tellipalay. Petitioner. No. 373.

#### Vs. Respondents.

1. Ponnampalam Chinnamby, his wife.
2. Sevakampillai of Tellipalay West.
3. Vyravanather Vannitamby his wife.
4. Teywanepulle of do.
5. Sangaranather Valupulle and his wife
6. Katheraspulle of do.

#### Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Sinnacutty Ponnampalam of Tellipalay praying for Letters of

Administration to the Estate of the above named deceased coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esquire, District Judge, on the 23d day of November, 1890 in the presence of Mr. T. Changarapillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of Ponnampalam Sinnacutty of Tellipalay dated the 3rd day of October 1890 having been read, it is ordered that the said Sinnacutty Ponnampalam be, and he is hereby declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the Estate of Vallepuille widow of Ponnampalam Sinnacutty deceased, issued to him with copy of the Will annexed, unless the Respondents or any other persons shall on or before the 19th day of January 1891 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. W. CONOLLY.

Dist. Judge.

22nd. November 1890.

### ORDER NISI.

#### In the District Court of Jaffna.

In the matter of the Estate and property of Ponnau wife of Ampalavy Sinnatambiy of Vannarponne East deceased. Testamentary Jurisdiction } Arunasaleen Mylvaganam of Vannarponne East. Petitioner. No. 383.

1. Ampalavy Sinnatambiy of Vannarponne East now at Matale.
2. Tangamuttu wife of the Petitioner of Vannarponne East.

This matter coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esq. District Judge of Jaffna on the 11th day of December 1890 in the presence of Mr. T. M. Tampoo, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, Arunasaleen Mylvaganam of Vannarponne East, and the affidavit of the said Arunasaleen Mylvaganam dated 2nd day of December 1890, having been read, it is ordered that the said Arunasaleen Mylvaganam, be and he is hereby declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of Ponnau wife of Ampalavy Sinnatambiy of Vannarponne East deceased, issued to him, unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 21st day of January 1891 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

P. W. CONOLLY.

Dist. Judge.

Jaffna 16th Dec. 1890.

### MARRIAGE.

At Kopay Church on the 29th ultimo by the Rev. John Niles, Mr. Richard Sherrard to Miss. Julia Selannah Sivaganather of Erupaly.

### ERRATUM.

CEYLON ALMANAC, 1891. See Page 35 under Eclipses Lunar read First contact with the shadow 10 h. 1 m. instead of 6 h. 1 m. P. M.

அச்சப் பிழை.

துணிக் கம் ஞா பஞ்சாங்கத்தில் 4 ம் பக்கத்தில் கிரகணங்களின் சீழ் பூரண சந்திர கிரகணம் பரிசகாலம் 6 மணி 1 நிமிஷம் என்றதை 10 மணி 1 நிமிஷம் என்று வாசிக்க.

### விளம்பரம்.

பாற்ப்புண உலகெல்லியம் பிச்செய்கச் போதலு சக்தி வித்தியாசாகையிற் சேர விதம்புவோரின் பரிட்சை 1891 ம் ஞா தை மீ 15 ம் உட்குத்தப் படுகும். வரலிதம்புவோர் 5 ம் தாத்திற் சித்திபெறு 14 வயது கிரகணவெற்றி பெற்றவர்களும், கண்டடைக்காக 100 ரூபலுக்குக் கல்விப்பொருத்த ச்சாதனமெழுதிக்க கொடுக்கத்தக்கவர்களும் வலுந் தல் வேண்டியும். இதோடு பிறந்த திகதி கடைபி யாயப் படித்தபள்ளிக்கடம் சோதனைகொடுத்த தாம் திகதி யென்பவைகளைக் காட்டக் கூடிய சாதகக் குறிப்பு, சமைப் புத்தகக் குறிப்பு, சேர்வியப் புக்குறிப்பு முதலியவைகளைக் கொண்டு வருவேண்டும்.





## CENTRAL SCHOOL JAFFNA,

Principal.—Rev. William Towers  
Garrett B. A. (Lond.)

Head Master—Rev. Daniel P. Niles  
aided by an efficient staff of 8 masters.  
The school will re-open on Monday, Jan.  
5th 1891. Students will be received into  
the new Matriculation class on that date.

Students will be admitted to the new  
F. A. classes, senior and junior, on the  
16th February 1891.

All applications for admission to be  
made to the Principal.

N. B. The public are particularly requested to  
take note that henceforth Latin will be taught  
as a school subject in the Middle and Upper schools.

## 1891.

With this number we enter on the last  
decade of the nineteenth century, and on  
the last half of the first century of the  
Star's existence. We have good hope for  
the future, and trust that the coming few  
years may be better than any of the past  
for our Island as well as for our Peninsula.

The year 1890 has been of special interest  
to us for several reasons, chiefly perhaps  
for the turning of the tide in favor of the  
Jaffna railway, and we think we may see  
the iron horse in Jaffna before 1899. The  
removal of the tax on dry grains has been a  
special boon to Jaffna farmers. The paddy  
tax will have to follow at some time in the  
future, because with the other it is a relic  
of Oriental Government. It finds its justifi-  
cation in the fact that it was at one  
time the easiest and fairest tax for the peo-  
ple. But that time is fast passing away.  
The change to commutation was an admis-  
sion that the former reasons for such a tax  
were becoming obsolete, and it was the  
first step toward a civilized land tax.

Our New Governor is to be thanked for  
these favors. His interest in such matters  
was impressively shown by his recent visit  
to the irrigation works to see for himself  
whether the charges made in Council were  
true that they were a practical failure. It  
is no doubt largely due to him that the  
new Director was able to do away the rule  
retaining the quarter grants until the end  
of each year. Whether the appointment of  
Mr. Cull was in any special sense the be-  
ginning of a new regime in the Department  
of Education remains to be seen.

The health of the Island, and of Jaffna  
in particular, has not suffered as much as  
in some years. The peculiar world-wide  
influenza had many victims, but only a few  
deaths were attributed to it. The fever  
epidemic of '89 did not return. Cholera  
has been more or less prevalent, but has  
not caused much panic and it is watched  
so closely by the Medical Officers that it  
does not spread widely. The absence of the  
floods in November and December  
make circumstances very favorable for its  
prevalence, and calls for great vigilance on  
the part of the authorities. The year for  
least rainfall in Jaffna has passed, but the  
rain has been so scanty for two years now  
that much is to be feared both from pesti-  
lence and from scarcity of food. The rain-  
fall for the past year has been only a trifle  
more than the previous year, 32 inches,  
while the average is near 50. The solar  
activity as indicated by spots is now on the  
increase, and if we can safely pass this year  
we may look for better times for some  
years to come both in health and in crops.  
We refer of course chiefly to Jaffna.

The fact that the Ceylon Government  
has sent a competent and experienced Medi-  
cal man to Germany and France to study  
the cures for consumption, leprosy and hy-  
drophobia is matter for congratulation, as  
indicating that these cures are to be intro-  
duced to our Island if found satisfactory.  
Jaffna is a healthy place for some consump-  
tives, but not for others, and the disease is  
not uncommon here. Dr. Koch is also appar-

ently on the eve of a discovery of a cure for  
cholera, and it is to be hoped that Dr. Mc-  
Donald may be able to get this also before  
his return to Ceylon.

For ourselves we do not need to say  
much. We signalize the beginning of the  
second fifty years by a double page sup-  
plement. We should be glad to keep it up,  
if our readers cared enough for it. We  
propose also this year to issue the *Star*  
every other Thursday, instead of the 1st and  
2d Thursdays of each month. This will  
give two more numbers in a year, and will  
not allow so long a time to pass between  
two numbers as has been the case twice a  
year thus far.

## OUR CHURCHES.

The annual meeting of Pastors and Dele-  
gates of the churches connected with the  
American Mission was held at Tillipally  
on New Year's Day. From the reports  
there presented we learn that the total  
membership is now 1485, which is a gain  
of only eight. The additions on profession  
of faith were 57, which is a smaller num-  
ber than for many years past. The deaths  
were 28 or about one in fifty. The num-  
ber of infant baptisms was 57 which is an  
improvement. It is evident that the pas-  
tors have been revising their lists, as there  
were 49 transfers, and 14 names cut off.  
The finances show improvement, the total  
of contributions to the fifteen churches  
being Rs. 7144, or Rs. 250, more than the  
previous year. Of this Rs. 6408. is from  
native sources.

## DEGREES.

A contemporary asks several questions  
in regard to Jaffna College and degrees. It  
is in one sense true that the going with-  
out degrees is "sour grapes," because it was  
thought that they could not be had with-  
out injuriously changing the character of  
the institution. When it was said that the  
"College has never paid much regard to  
degrees," it was not meant that they  
were not at all cared for, but that more  
concern was felt for giving a thorough  
practical education than for getting de-  
grees, which were considered of second-  
ary importance. The Cambridge Exami-  
nations are availed of chiefly for the  
purpose of having some slight means of  
comparing the Jaffna College education  
with that of other institutions and fur-  
nishing an added stimulus to the stu-  
dents. But they have only been consider-  
ed subsidiary, as the course of study con-  
tinues for 18 months after the Senior  
Cambridge Examination. If degrees had  
been considered of prime importance, they  
might easily have been attained by affilia-  
tion with an Indian University. A  
Ceylon University is sought because it is  
thought that a course of study could be  
secured which would be more satisfac-  
tory than those of the Indian Colleges,  
while at the same time the secondary ben-  
efit of degrees might be had in addition.  
A degree is a good thing when it is a  
sure mark of a good education. But the  
good education, even without a degree, is  
better than the degree without a good  
education; and too many students care  
everything for the degree, and nothing  
for the education.

## IDOLATRY.

The *Hindu Organ* thinks that Christi-  
ans are "ignorant of the fact that the so-  
called idols are only symbolical represen-  
tations of abstract ideas" etc. The mis-  
sionaries are certainly not ignorant of the  
fact that this is claimed by the Hindus.  
No one can find fault with symbolism as  
such. Nowhere is there more of it than  
in the Christian Scriptures. The book of  
Revelation is full of symbols. If the claim

of the Hindus could be proved true much  
of their symbolism could not be criticized,  
though on the other hand there is much  
that ought to be condemned on the ground  
of indecency. But our claim is that it  
is a matter of experience rather than  
theory that the use of symbols in worship  
tends to idolatry, i. e. to a rendering to  
the symbols a part of the worship due to  
God alone. Because of this the Lord's  
Supper, which besides being duly authori-  
zed, is a very useful symbolism, has with  
some persons degenerated into idolatry.  
For the same reason the brazen serpent,  
made according to the command of God,  
had after a time to be destroyed, because  
it was worshipped. The whole system of  
sacrifices and varied symbolism of the  
Jews, which was so important a part of  
their training, came in time to be practi-  
cal idolatry, and was condemned as such  
by Jehovah himself. (see Is. 66:3) It is for  
the same reason that Protestant Christi-  
ans, although using symbols to some ex-  
tent, are careful to avoid the appearance  
even of bowing or kneeling to any of  
them, and they deeply regret that the  
branch of Christians which does not ac-  
cept the term Protestant is not equally  
careful. We assert that it is practically  
impossible for human beings in this life  
to frequently make use of these forms  
which belong to worship towards a sym-  
bol, without a part at least of the worship  
being rendered to the symbol, and then  
it becomes idolatry. When we say a part  
of the worship is rendered to the symbol,  
we do not refer to the outward sign but  
to the mental or rather spiritual exercise.  
The thought of the worshiper rests in part  
at least on the visible symbol, and it thus  
brings his thought down from God rather  
than lifts it up to Him. When we close our  
eyes in worship it is in order that the  
sense may the less hinder the spirit. We  
do not hesitate to affirm that we have  
practically universal experience to prove  
our statement, that such a use of a symbol  
is necessarily idolatry. When we say uni-  
versal experience, we of course do not  
mean that the vast majority of mankind  
who have followed this practice will di-  
rectly admit the truth of the statement,  
though many pious men among them have  
done so. But we prove it indirectly,  
though none the less certainly, from their  
own words. Take for example the article  
to which we have referred, printed Dec. 24  
'90. The writer speaks of "panapratistha  
(inculcation of vitality)" [we do not see  
what *inculcation* means in this connection,  
but probably he means *installation*]. He  
must admit that this word shows that the  
orthodox Hindu believes that what was a  
mere symbol before this ceremony becomes  
in some special sense, other than ordinary  
matter, the residence of deity. Again the  
writer speaks of "the Supreme Spirit"  
as an "abstract notion." Now an abstract  
notion is one that has been abstracted  
from concrete notions. A thorough-going  
idolater might use this expression, but not  
a believer in a spiritual God. We presume  
it was used inadvertently, and as simply  
meaning that our knowledge of God is  
lazy and indefinite, because he says again  
"good visual representations or symbols of  
God and His attributes make men more  
moral and spiritual than mere abstract  
ideas can do." But even this meaning  
proves what we say. To suppose that  
without idols our ideas of God are indefi-  
nite is to believe that he reveals himself  
by means of the idol, and this is idolatry.

## WHAT IS TRUTH.

Truth is that which is. The Tamils call it *unnei* a verbal noun from *ul*, meaning to exist. The same root gives us the meaning *within* indicating that it is not only that which abides without change, but is that which is within, the substance, which stands under the changing phenomena, the inner reality, rather than the deceptive outer appearance. For this reason all forms of truth inhere in that Being who exists without beginning or end and who is within every form of existence, and all forms of truth are partial revelations of him. Therefore the search for truth is the search for God, and the study of truth is thinking the thoughts of God over after him, and is one of the means for holding communion with him. The apprehension of truth, or of what *is*, is knowledge. The test of truth is experience. Science is truth apprehended, tested and arranged. One man's experience is not enough, altho it may be necessary for him. All men do not see alike; some have a weakness of vision, some a dimness, some a one-sidedness. Therefore surety is only obtained by a common agreement. Truth is seen by each man directly and for himself, but because the vision of so many deceives them, what is seen by each must be in some way confirmed by what is seen by men in general, before it can be relied upon with full confidence. This applies to all kinds of truth, whether in the physical or in the spiritual world, scientific or religious. A man who is blind or conscious of defective vision, may have to depend chiefly on statements made by others, and he relies upon them just so far as he has evidence of their intelligence and honesty. We all do this to a certain extent. This is called authority. The Tamil classification is very good into revelation, reason and experience, as the three proofs of truth. We may apply these in all departments of truth, and we propose to take up the discussion of some disputed truths. The reason for dispute we have already explained. The fact of dispute need not discourage us, because in many cases the dispute has been one of mere words, which have been understood differently by different parties while in reality their opinions did not much differ. Often the dispute has been like that of the two knights who saw different sides of the same shield, both are right; or it has been like the dispute about the chameleon which changed its colors, a dispute about changing appearances. However men have differed they agree better as time passes on. Dispute among honest men always tends to bring out the truth, and with such men the motto holds good *in medio tutissimus ibis*, the middle course is safest. We intend to discuss the questions. What is Man, Matter, Spirit, God, Duty etc. We are sure our readers will be interested, and we trust that they will agree that we represent the *Truth* on these subjects.

## THE CONFERENCE.

This is to begin on the 21st inst. and continue for three days. The public in general are specially invited to the evening meetings which it is expected will be held in the old Dutch Church in the fort. Seats will be provided for over a thousand, and it is expected that they will be filled. There will be three speakers each evening, and special efforts are being made for the singing, several instruments of different kinds being secured for aiding and leading. The services of Wednesday the 21st except the evening will be especially for Christian workers. Rev. W. W. Howland addressing ministers at the Wesleyan chapel at 9 1/2 A.M. Mrs. S. W. Howland the women at St. Paul's school. There will

be a meeting for mothers on Thursday conducted by missionary mothers. The principal day meetings of Thursday and Friday will be held in the Wesleyan chapel on the esplanade and are intended especially for Christians though all who care to come will be made welcome. On these two days there will be morning meetings at 8 1/2 A.M. especially for business men. Rev. J. I. Pickford will preside over the principal meetings of Wednesday. Rev. T. S. Smith on Thursday and Rev. G. J. Trimmer on Friday. The subjects for the day meetings will be salvation and sanctification, the work of Christ and of the Holy Spirit. The full program is being printed and will be soon ready for distribution. Arrangements will be made for securing accommodations for all who wish and will pay for meals and lodging, on application to the Wesleyan missionary or Ministers in the town. To save them unnecessary trouble application should be made before hand.

May God bless his people with abundant showers of divine grace.

## EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF COLLEGE STAFF OF CANADIAN MISSION COLLEGE, INDORE.

The sad intelligence of the death of Mr. R. O. D. Asbury was communicated to the Association by the President Revd. J. Wilkie.

### Resolved.—

"That a telegram followed by a letter of condolence be sent to the bereaved family and friends at Jaffna expressing the deep and unfeigned regret and warm and sincere sympathy of the Staff of teachers who can never forget the invaluable services rendered by Mr. Asbury both in connection with the College as Head Master and with the Church at Indore as Deacon and Elder. He had a natural gift at planning and organizing and his Art of teaching was admired both by his friends and enemies. In the opinion of this association the death of Mr. Asbury is a great loss to the cause of Education.

"But it is a source of consolation to remember that Mr. Asbury lives in his pupils to exert a healthy influence in the Educational world one of whom is the present head master of our institution."

Canadian Mission College,  
Indore  
December, 22 1890.

MY DEAR MR. STRONG,

I cannot tell you how pained we all were to hear that our dear brother had at last been relieved of his long life of suffering, so patiently borne. At a meeting of the College staff I laid your letter to me before them, when sincere sympathy was at once expressed by all and the enclosed minute prepared.

Not only a successful teacher but as an earnest faithful Christian Mr. Asbury left a record behind him at Indore that will not soon be forgotten. Everywhere I meet with the same expression of tender regard when his name is mentioned, and of sincere regret when his departure from amongst us is told. Would that there were more Christians like him. As has been said of another "If there were more Asburys there would be fewer Hindoos and Mohamedans." He was one of the very few native Christians I have met with, who reminded me of some of the brightest Christian lives of my own land, combined with a breadth of mind, wide range of knowledge, and the ability to impart it to his pupils and an enthusiasm in the pursuit of it that very few possess.

That his Christian experience should have proved a firm support in his last days is only what I should have expected. It must have been a privilege to have been with him at such a time.

But all these things are better known to you than to us, and deeply do we all have sympathy with you that are left in your hours of sorrow. We can however turn to him who proved so true to Mr. Asbury, and ask for the comfort and consolation that you all so much need.

Kindly convey our sincere condolences to his aged and Reverend Father and to all the members of his family. This I write not only in the name of the Native and European Christians here, but also on behalf of a large number of Hindus and Mohamedans who so kindly remember Mr. Asbury when here.

(Signed.) J. WILKIE.

## Local and General.

—MEETING AT THE ESPLANADE. In pursuance to a notice that had been given, people gathered together, though not so large a number as was expected, on the Esplanade green at 5 1/2 P. M. of the 30th ult. A sheet bearing the inscription "dry grain tax abolished" was set up, and speeches in Tamil expressive of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the abolition of the tax were made by Messrs. Saravanamuttu, Coomararswamy and Vettivaloe. We too unite our thanks in common with all the people for the redemption from the

tax which has long been talked against and whose abolition the Governor promised in his opening speech to the Council.

—DR. ATTYGALLE. Our Colonial Surgeon is expected to return here on or before the 10th inst. His short stay in Colombo must have been a very busy one. His eldest daughter was on the 29th ult. married with much grandeur by the Lord Bishop of Colombo in the church on St. Sebastian Hill, Colombo, to Mr. T. F. Danuwille acting Cadet at the Kandy Kachchery.

—VISITORS. Dr. V. Saravanamuttu called on us a few days ago, having come here on sick leave. He expects to return to Trincomallee his station in a short time. Dr. L. Joshua of Changamai is also here on a short leave and returns soon to Mantotte to resume his duties as a dispenser.

—THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS have given an interim report. It appears that an immediate extension to Kurunegalle has been recommended but the commissioners have not at present a favorable opinion as regards extension northwards. The facts and figures given by the several District committees have not been a sufficient guarantee to convince the commissioners. They require more definite facts, and for this, we understand that persons are stationed at certain stations on the central road to keep a record of the traffic carried on by the central road. Other plans also have been made to form an exact estimate of the income which will be secured if the railway be extended.

—PADDY CROP. There has been no rain for over three weeks and the failure at the time when the rice ears were coming out of the stalks has wrought an exceedingly pitiable loss. In many places the plants have been abandoned as hopeless and in a few other places the fields from which something should be harvested have been watered from pools though not sufficiently to meet the requirements of the plants. Water in the pools has been insufficient to be shared by the farmers more than once. The harvest of this year is a disappointment to the farmer and the worst of all is the want of sufficient means for irrigation whereby he can conveniently water his fields. The Government acting upon the advice of the local headmen has pecklessly sold many village tanks and pools for nominal prices which would have at present been invaluable to the farmer. The remaining pools are quite shallow, and incapable of holding all the rain water which falls. They receive water with the beginning of the wet season and dry up almost with its close and are not much better than the fields adjoining. The headmen who recommended the sale of these pools must now see the necessity of deepening the pools, and securing this and similar facilities for irrigation with the same avidity and promptness with which they urged the sale of the pools.

—ATHLETICS. There was an awakened interest in athletics in Jaffna College on Wednesday Dec. 24. The events were few, but many contended for the honours in each, and were cheered by enthusiastic supporters. We are confident that we can surpass our first attempt, and challenge any institution in Jaffna to set a higher mark.

The following measurements have been accurately taken.

Jaffna College	FIELD DAY.	Dec. 24th '90.
Event	1st Prize	Record
1. Standing High Jump	Kanagaratnam (J.)	3ft. 5in.
2. Running High Jump	Spaulding (Fresh.)	4ft. 2in.
3. Standing Broad "	Ponnampalam (s.r.)	7ft. 5in.
4. Running "	Chinniah M. (s.r.)	15ft.
5. 100 Yd. Dash	Theyagarajah (s.r.)	12 sds.

—Y. M. C. A. The Colombo Y. M. C. A. Union held a Convention recently in connection with the visit of Mr. Hind Smith, the General Secretary of Y. M. C. A. for England and it was resolved to make an effort to get a general traveling Secretary from England or America. If such a Secretary could be secured we believe from a proposal made in the Convention, that the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. Union will be united with the Colombo Association and Jaffna will be also made one of the important stations for his visits. The effort it appears to us promises much benefit and growth to the Association.

—MR. S. H. GSANAMUTTU of Batticotha who was for sometime acting as a Dispenser at Delft has been transferred to Mannar as an assistant to the Medical officer at Mannar.

—MEDICAL CHANGES.—Dr. A. Nell returns here as Sub-assistant Colonial Surgeon. Dr. Muttukumar takes Dr. Nell's place at Mannar. Dr. Halllock goes to Mullativu vice Dr. Muttukumar, Dr. Eliatham takes charge of Vavunia Hospital and Dr. Seeneetty will be sent to the newly built, handsome and well equipped Hospital at Mantotte.

—DENTISTRY. Mr. Hume Purdie L. D. S. arrived here by the S. S. Lady Gordon on the 6th inst. and is staying at the Rest House, in the Town, where he may be consulted from the 7th to 16th insts. He is very skillful and successful in all departments of dentistry.

