

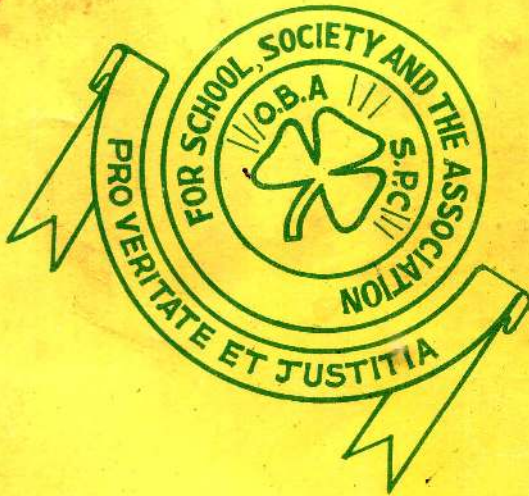
VOL: 2

ISSUE 1

MAY 1990

The Patrician Sunshine

COMMEMORATIVE
NUMBER



59, ST. PATRICK'S ROAD
JAFFNA
SRI LANKA.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION
ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE
JAFFNA.

With the Best Compliments

of



COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON LTD.

**474, HOSPITAL ROAD,
JAFFNA.**

"The Bank to Grow With"

Head Office:-

COMMERCIAL HOUSE

21, Bristol Street,
COLOMBO - 1.

*A Token
of Love and Gratitude*

To

Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG O. M. I.,

BORN : 22nd APRIL 1896

Ordained Priest - Easter Sunday 1920
Joined St. Patrick's - January 1921
Rector - 1936 To 1954
Died - 30th April 1961

On the occasion of the release of a

Commemorative Stamp in his honour

ON

22nd MAY 1990

of Love and Sacrifice
To

Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG O.M.I.

BORN : 22nd APRIL 1896

Ordained Priest - Easter Sunday 1920
Joined St. Patrick's - January 1921
Rector - 1926 to 1951
Died - 30th April 1961

On the occasion of the release of a

Commemorative Stamp in his honour

ON

22nd MAY 1990

Our Heavenly Patron

The Breastplate of St. Patrick

May the strength of God guide me this day,
And may His power preserve me.
May the wisdom of God instruct me;
The eye of God watch over me;

The ear of God hear me:
The word of God give sweetness to my speech:
The hand of God defend me;
And may I follow the way of God.

Christ be with me, Christ before me.
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ at my right hand, Christ at my left.

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks to me.
Christ in every eye that sees me.
Christ in every ear that hears me. Amen.



*Hail, glorious
Saint Patrick!*

The College Anthem

Alma Mater! blest sanctum of learning,
Where the mind is adorned with rich lore,
And each tutored faculty's yearning
Is sated and taught to seek mores.

Chorus :

Alma Mater! fond nurse of my childhood,
So indulgent, yet prudently firm,
Thy affection and smile cheer my boyhood.
And foster each heavenly germ.

Alma Mater! whose love brooks no fetter
To the heart thou doth culture with toil,
'Tis that science and art may thrive better,
When rooted in virginal soil.

Alma Mater! when tired and faint-hearted,
In our minds mist and sorrow arise,
This glad secret your lips then impart
The cross is both light and repose.

Alma Mater! when launched on life's ocean,
Oft temptation must needs try thy child;
Oh! where all tends to stifle devotion,
Pray, Mother, lest I be defiled.

Alma Mater! handmaid of Saint Patrick,
May thy mission like his soon be crowned,
And our Lanka, by Faith's spark electric
Chaste, learned like Erin be found.

And that we wish to believe is to preserve and protect the finest legacy
ed us namely his deep faith and piety. It is for us then to follow the
and work our way up to Heaven when "angels" voices, we come to the end
have that we would certainly and truly have triumphed and rightly celebrated
to salute them and then only could we sing triumphantly:



Editorial

.....

THE TRIUMPH

" Venit, Vidit, Vicit "

(He came. He saw. He conquered)

These famous words in Latin, slightly modified, are ever so applicable to Fr. Long to whom this special Souvenir of the "Patrician Sunshine" is respectfully and gratefully dedicated. Our joy knows no bounds. Our hearts are too full for words. It (the Stamp) certainly is a triumph for the motto of the O. B. A. "Pro Veritate et Justitia" i. e: for Truth and Justice.

For some years now we have been trying to tell the truth about Fr. Long. But for reasons unknown which mystify us, this great Rector and all his monumental labours have been ignored and lesser mortals have been glorified and their memory perpetuated. The God of Truth however has made us triumph and as we rejoice in the fruition of our relentless pursuit of justice we raise our hearts and minds to God in thanksgiving for the fulfilment of our purpose. It is also a triumph for the motto of the College "Fide et Labore" i. e: by Faith & by Labour. Yes, by faith in God and man and by dint of hard labour we have got what we wanted and set out to prove.

We are overwhelmed. For a time we were sceptical but the flood of articles and messages we received from around the world simply swept us off our feet. It also made the work of the Editor both easy and difficult: easy because he has been spared the difficulty of having to condense or cram an enormous amount of thoughts and ideas into the limited space of an editorial by the numerous and lengthy discourses and treatises on the subject: difficult because the Editor was in a quandary as to which ones to choose for publication.

Anyone with the true Patrician cachet will, we are sure, feel a sense of pride and elation surging through his veins as he reads through the pages of this magazine. They do certainly warm the cockles of one's heart. The issue of the stamp is also a triumph for all the lofty ideals for which Fr. Long stood. It is a triumph for the efficacy of Prayer too which was Fr. Long's chief weapon and the secret of his success and which he recommended to everyone. It is a triumph for the indomitable Patrician spirit inspired by this almost supernatural being. That his statue alone of all should have escaped unscathed the ravages of recent times and stood majestically and defiantly is a triumph in itself. And our triumph is all the greater when we consider the fact that even after the lapse of over a quarter century since he went to his eternal reward Fr. Long is still strong and is going to be with us in the shape of a stamp. Perhaps he does not want to leave us; his spirit still hovers over us. As you'll see when you read through these pages (and we'd exhort you to read them from the first to the last despite their length and repetition) especially the extracts from the letters to Fr. Louis Ponniah O. M. I. which are so poignant, that he has loved us too much to be separated even in death. When comes such another?

Oh Father Tim 'thou art mighty yet, thy spirit walks abroad' and thou hast triumphed indeed! We can see that there is a consensus among all writers that Fr. Long not only deserves to be honoured with a stamp but also with something much more. No one is going to be so knave as to deny that. And that we wish to believe is to preserve and protect the finest legacy which he has bequeathed us namely his deep Faith and Piety. It is for us then to follow the path he has shown us and work our way up to Heaven when 'nolens volens' we come to the end of our lives. If we achieve that we would certainly and truly have triumphed and rightly celebrated this occasion with great eclat. Then and then only could we sing triumphantly :

' I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness ;
 Where is death's sting ? Where, grave thy victory ?
 I TRIUMPH still, if THOU abide with me.'

3
 Historical

To borrow a blessing from our dear Rector's own native land: "May his shadow never grow less!"

Vivat Rector Bonus!
 Long live our good Rector!

W. J. P. Gnanaretnam
 Editor

For some years now we have been trying to tell the truth about Fr. Long. But for reasons unknown which mystery us, this great Rector and all his monumental labours have been ignored and lesser mortals have been glorified and their memory perpetuated. The God of Truth however has made us triumph and as we rejoice in the future of our restless pursuit of justice we raise our hearts and minds to God in thanksgiving for the labours of our purpose. It is also a triumph for the motto of the College 'Fide et Laboro' set by Palm & by Labour. Yes by Faith in God and man and by dint of hard labour we have got what we wanted and set out to prove.

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The GREATEST HERO is he who makes his enemy his friend.

THE TALMUD
 warm the cockles of one's heart. The issue of the stamp is also a triumph for all the faithful for which Fr. Long stood. It is a triumph for the efficacy of prayer which was Fr. Long's chief weapon and the triumph which he won.

Let us sink 'I' and 'mine' in common nationality to be truly free.

MÀHATMA GANDHI
 stone of all should have escaped unscathed the ravages of recent times and stood majestically and defiantly is a triumph in itself. And our triumph is all the greater when we consider the fact that

GOD brings men into deep waters, not to drown them, but to cleanse them.

AUGHEY
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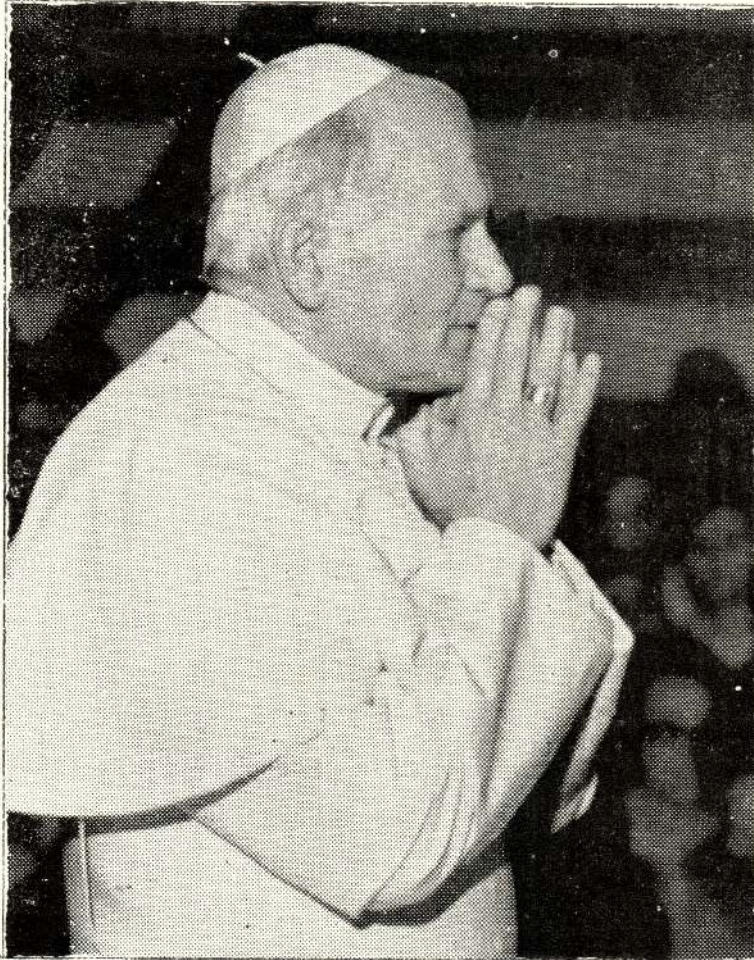
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Our Beloved Pontiff



*His Holiness Pope John
Paul II to whom we pledge
Our filial Love & Loyalty.*

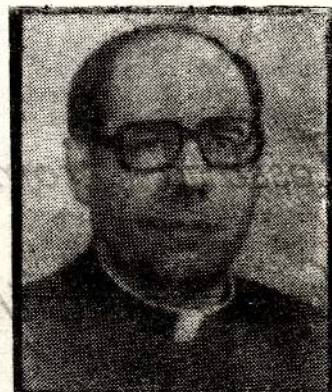


With Apologies to Dryden

Two Rectors in Erin and in England born
Did St. Patrick's with grace adorn;
Dunne's Fame for scholarship still doth last
Matthews in actions great surpassed:
Fair Lanka needed a strain more strong
She joined the two to make a Long.

Message from His Excellency

The Apostolic Pro-nuncio



It is always a great pleasure and privilege for me as the Representative of the Holy Father, to associate myself with all Catholic Institutions and Organisations. Therefore it is with great joy and happiness that I send this message to the Old Boys' Association of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna on the occasion of the release of a Commemorative Stamp in honour of Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG O. M. I. by the Government of Sri Lanka.

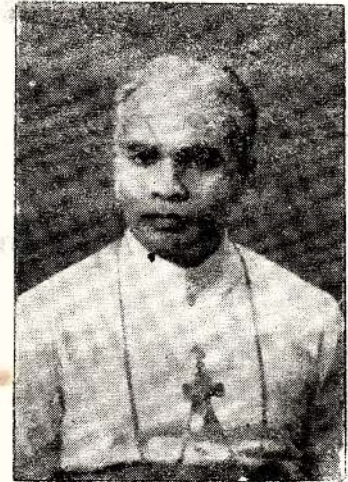
St. Patrick's is one of the foremost Catholic educational Institutions in Sri Lanka. All its Rectors who were mostly French and Irish have contributed to the greatness of St. Patrick's but perhaps Fr. Long's contribution is the most appreciated. It is a pride and honour for all Patricians, past and present. I compliment the OBA on this great achievement. Fr. LONG has certainly done quite a lot not only in education but also in other fields throughout Lanka.

Like the lotus that germinates in ponds in this country and finally reaches the surface of the water and blossoms in all its beauty so schools like St. Patrick's through the calibre of Rectors like Fr. Long have made generations of Students blossom into full manhood. May St. Patrick's continue to foster its great ideals for years and years to come.

I join the O. B. A, the Rector, Staff and Students of St. Patrick's in rejoicing with them on this momentous occasion and impart my Apostolic Blessing.

✠ **Archbishop Francois Bacque**
Apostolic Pro-nuncio.

Message from
His Grace the
Archbishop of Colombo



It gives me great joy to send this message to "The Patrician Sunshine" which will honour one of Sri Lanka's reputed missionaries and educationists, Late Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG OMI.

It is quite fitting for those who are connected to St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, to commemorate this past Rector, the eminent educationist whom his past pupils now advanced in years recall as a friend, philosopher and guide. His love for Jaffna and its people's love for him, it is said, was due to his personality than to his activities. He was a person with a mind and manner of his own but was open and adaptable to others.

His activities had been almost exclusively educational and consequently had a great impact on the young lives of many a student of the North of that time. He has opened various avenues for the students of Jaffna to excel in their character and talent. In sports he insisted on team-work and fairplay. A famous debate organized by Fr. Long had been "Does man make the age or the age the man", which it is said drew the attention of respected citizens of Jaffna. As a Cadet Master he had trained students in discipline and hard work. All these were to increase the Patricians' sense of dignity, effort and responsibility.

While saluting this great missionary, educationist, social worker let all Patricians rededicate themselves to the welfare and betterment of the children of Jaffna. I wish success to all your ventures connected with the commemoration of Fr. Long OMI.

✠ *Nicholas Marcus Fernando*
Archbishop of Colombo

Message from the

Hon. Minister of Posts & Telecommunications



I welcome this opportunity of paying my tribute to the Late Fr. T. M. F. Long, O. M. I., M. A., the architect of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. Fr. Long rendered Yoeman service in the field of education in Sri Lanka, particularly in the Jaffna peninsula.

I am happy to issue a commemorative stamp in his honour today as a token of appreciation of his selfless service to Sri Lanka.

Alick Aluwihare

Minister of Posts & Telecommunications.

*Message from the
Bishop of Mannar*



On the occasion of the release of a Commemorative Stamp for Very Rev. Fr. TMF LONG O. M. I. former Rector of St. Patrick's College, I wish to congratulate the Patrician OBA and their collaborators and well wishers for their laudable efforts to honour this great Oblate Priest, Educator and lover of people. He was my Rector at St. Patrick's and I very well remember the moving send-off given when Fr. Long left Jaffna. The streets lined with thousands of youth who with tears-filled eyes bade farewell to their beloved Rector who had worked and toiled for their betterment. Truly we could say that he had become one with 'Jaffna'

✠ Thomas Sacundaranayagam
Bishop of Mannar

Message from
the Chief Pastor
of the Diocese



The issue of a Commemorative Postal Stamp in honour of the late Rev. Father T. M. F. Long, O. M. I. is truly a fitting tribute to this great Educationist priest. He was among those who contributed greatly to the cause of Education during the time he was Rector of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

Two other special accomplishments to his credit are:-

- 1) The Public Library which work he spear-headed and laboured tirelessly.
- 2) The conversion of the Military Air-Port of Palaly into a Civil Air Port was due largely to his efforts and patronage.

We gratefully acknowledge the recognition given by the State to this pioneer and wish to express our sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister and his Department for the issue of the stamp.

✠ Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai
Bishop of Jaffna.



Message from His Lordship

The Bishop of Trinco - Batticaloa

I have great pleasure in sending this message to the Patrician Sunshine to be released on the memorable occasion of the issue of a Postage Stamp in memory of Rev. Fr. TIMOTHY M. F. LONG OMI the much loved, respected and revered Rector of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

I have enjoyed the privilege of studying under Fr. Long and should confess that the Christianity classes, then known as "Apologetics" were few of the most illuminating and interesting classes we had gone through.

Fr. Long is a man among a million. The interest he evinced in education, sports and character formation was not confined to the mere walls of the School but was diffused at regional and national level. That he was an indomitable figure of his times is curiously symbolised today by the fact that his statue alone stands unaffected among the devastation and debris, caused by the recent years of war, alongside the Public Library which he caused to be built.

Fr. Long was a man of God and that explains why he left behind his hearth and home and burnt himself out in serving the people of God in the mission territory he chose. We are grateful to the Oblate Congregation and to the Irish Church for having gifted a priest in the person of Fr. Long to the people of Jaffna. Long live St. Patrick's and may it grow from strength to strength in the true spirit of Fr. Long.

+ *Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Kingsley Swampillai*
Bishop of Trinco - Batticaloa,

Message from his Lordship

Rt. Rev. Dr. L. R. Antony,

Bishop Emeritus of Trincomalee Batticaloa.



The late Very Rev Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. was not only a great man in stature but also in his interior and highly motivated life for humanity.

I had come to know him more intimately after I left the College.

There are three occasions I can recollect about him. The first time was in 1952 when he passed through Rome on his way to the United States of America. How anxious he was to do whatever possible for Jaffna. From then on we were corresponding.

The second was in 1956 as a new priest when I had just returned from Rome, when there was a get-together of the Old Boys at the College Library. Fr. Long had come from Australia for eye treatment. I was astonished when he said "At last some one for consolation". Anyway I was extremely happy to have given him this consolation.

Finally I met him when he was on his way to England for treatment in 1961 which took him to his Master for Eternal Reward. I met Fr. Long at the Archbishop's house in Borella. At the dinner table he asked for plantains and I passed him a number of them.

In 1975, the Holy Year, when I made my first Ad Lumina to Rome to Pope Paul VI and then on my way to see my old Bishop Glennie S. J., I managed to visit the grave of Fr. Long in Ireland. Rev. Fr. Daniel Long O. M. I. his brother, was very grateful to all friends and Old Boys. May the wonderful missionary Fr Timothy Long O. M. I. rejoice and be exalted with the Immaculate Mother above the Choirs of Angels as we commemorate worthily his achievements and endeavours for humanity in Jaffna.

✠ *L. R. Antony Mis. Ap.*

**Bishop Emeritus
Trinco - Batticaloa.**

A Letter from Rev. Sr. Josephine Tynan, — the Last

Irish Principal of The Holy Family Convent, Jaffna.

Holy Family Convent,
Magherafelt,
Co Derry BT45 6BC, North Ireland
16. 4. 90

My thanks for the letter and news of the great honour being conferred on my fellow countryman, the late Fr. T. M. P. Long. O. M. I. It is my pleasure and privilege to send you my best wishes and assurance of prayer as you pay tribute to the man once dubbed "the uncrowned king of Jaffna". He was indeed a giant of a man, physically, intellectually and spiritually. To be honest, he could at times be intimidating, but at heart, as I discovered, he was a big soft Irishman, vulnerable like the rest of us.

I can still recall some of his 'bon mots'. If and when people hinted that Jaffna was at the back of beyond - he was quick on the defensive with his Irish drawl - "Sure, doesn't the cream always go to the top?". He was kind and helpful too. When I was a young Sister studying privately for a London Degree and wondering if I should offer Economics, his advice was - "Don't, that's a brute of a subject. Instead he launched me into the fascinating realms of English Literature and helped me to interpret the famous Anglo Saxon Reader. For this I am eternally grateful to him.

I'm sure your bumper edition of the Patrician Sunshine will be a rich compendium of treasured memories and eulogies, befitting one of Jaffna's great luminaries, now to be ranked as a National hero. May your old boys the world over continue to be faithful to your society's inspiring motto, "Pro veritate et justitia" and may your commemorative ceremony be a very happy occasion for you all. God bless that great school St. Patrick's where so many men of intergrity and renown were educated. Your school library helped to educate me too. I salute all the Alumni - past, present and to come.

Yours Sincerely

Sgd: Sister Josephine Tynan



Message from His Grace,

Archbishop Emeritus of Kuala Lumpur

It gives me great pleasure to contribute my mite for the publication of "The Patrician Sunshine", to commemorate the late Rector Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG O. M. I. on the occasion of the release of a postal Stamp in his honour by the Sri Lankan Government. May our National heroes influence all Sri Lankans to work disinterestedly for Justice, peace and equality in that Orient.

Yours sincerely,

✠ Tan Sri Dominic Vendargon

**Archbishop Emeritus
Kuala Lumpur**



Message from the Rector,

St. Patrick's College Jaffna &
President of the O. B. A.

"Jaffna's children, grand children and great grand children of all castes and creeds will always speak of a Long that was. He will even be a HERO of the long, long ago to the long, long afterwards". These words written by the Late Mr. F. J. Armstrong, former teacher of 'Bottled Sun-shine' fame, on the departure of Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. from the Island in 1954, find fulfillment today as the Sri Lankan Government duly acknowledges Fr. Long as a National Hero.

Fr. Long, together with his mentor, Fr. Charles S. Matthews O. M. I, who begot him to St. Patrick's, was the very incarnation of the Patrician ideal, "Fide et Labore". They were men of faith and work, and the work they did cannot be gauged. They have bequeathed to the College a tradition and a spirit that remain unchanged in a world of change - the greatest testimony to the genuineness of their work.

The dynamic personality of Fr. Long was not confined within the walls of the College. For over three decades he identified himself with all our hopes and aspirations as Tamils and Sri Lankans, and made his influence felt in shaping the country's destiny as he propounded solutions to the various national problems, such as the use of National languages, bilingualism, 'approaching these problems axiomatically'.

We have gone through one of the most painful transformations in the history of our land. We have been called to be actors of this epoch of transition. The pioneers like Frs. Matthews and Long, who are no more with us, yet who by their generosity, sacrifice and love are ever present to us, are the invisible guides of the destiny of St. Patrick's. But what the 'Greater St. Patrick's' that Fr. Long envisaged needs are men with greater generosity, sacrifice and love. Let this, therefore, be an occasion to the Patricians to rally round their Alma Mater to make Fr. Long's dream of the 'Greater St. Patrick's' come true with its full reach and inner content of that simple phrase.

Fr. G. A. Francis Joseph
RECTOR

Message from

The Superior General of the Oblates



I am delighted to know that the Government of Sri Lanka is about to honour Fr. Tim Long, OMI, a man who was so highly respected by all who knew him. Indeed, his contribution to Education, especially among the Tamil people, was great.

I am also pleased to learn that the work begun by Father Long in St. Patrick's College has developed so well under succeeding Rectors, both Oblate and non Oblate. There are many Patricians who have made a major contribution in a variety of fields as a result of the education they received in St. Patrick's. It is my hope that St. Patrick's will never cease to educate men who will contribute to their country and their faiths in the difficult years ahead.

The events of recent years which have saddened the life of Jaffna and its people and brought so much suffering, have caused you and your fellow citizens to be present frequently in my thoughts and in my prayer.

May God bless all of you and your country!

MARCELLO ZAGO OMI

Superior General.



Message from

*The Rector of
Iona College*

It was the Lebanese poet Kahlil Gibran who wrote 'love knows not its own depth until the hour of parting' and so often we find this true with regard to people and friends in our lives. It is often in their passing that we come to realise the debt we owe them.

Fr. Tim Long was certainly appreciated in his lifetime, especially by his beloved students of St. Patrick's and Iona, but even now a quarter of a century after he has gone to his eternal reward, can his influence and vision be seen in the institutions of which he was so much the guiding spirit.

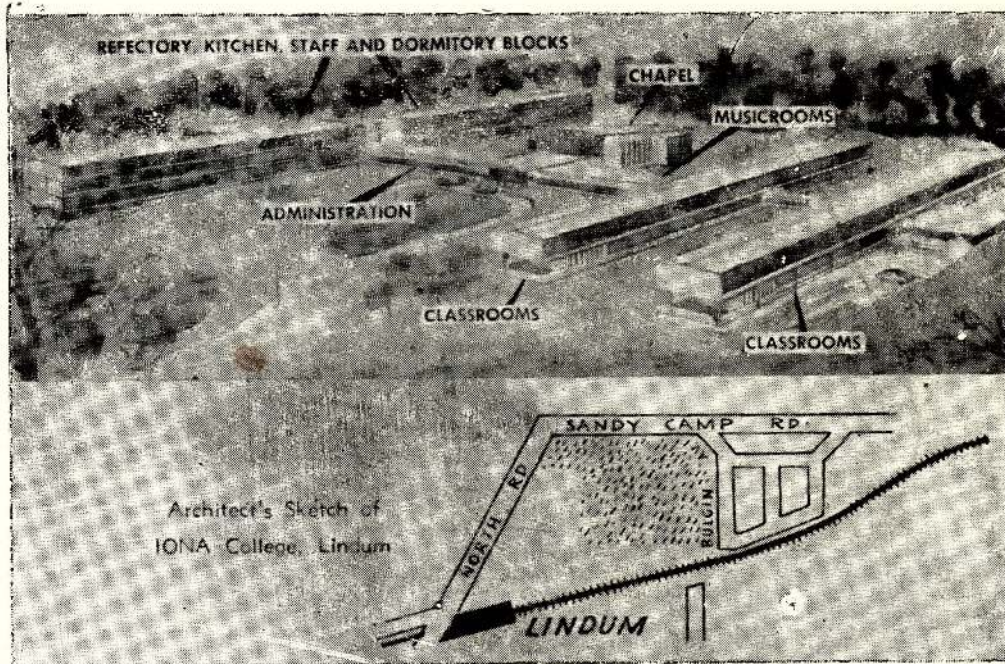
It was with a genuine sense of pride that the present Community of Iona College, Rector, staff and students send greetings to St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, on this most auspicious occasion when a commemorative stamp is being issued by the Sri Lankan Government to honour Fr. Tim Long O. M. I., for educational work at St. Patrick's.

We claim some small share in your pride and achievement, because after leaving St. Patrick's he came to Australia and founded this school, Iona College. We have no doubt that the wisdom and educational and religious vision that Fr. Long brought to his work of founding Iona College, Brisbane, Australia, was honed and deepened by his work and life at St. Patrick's.

Our sincere congratulations to all at the College and to the Old Boys' Association for whom Fr. Long was and is a shining light and a model of integrity and Christian values.

Fr. Pat Moroney O. M. I.

B. A., M. A. (Psy.), M. Div., M. A. Ps. S., M. A. C. E.
RECTOR



ARCHITECT'S SKETCH OF IONA COLLEGE, LINDUM
founded by Fr. Long in Brisbane, Australia.

(An extract from the same folder by way of introduction)

SLEMISH
48, Tenth Avenue,
St. Lucia.

After some thirty years in the Colonial Public Service of Ceylon, I can testify to the wonder-working efforts of Father LONG and of his Oblate confreres in the field of education. As the Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Ceylon's first Prime Minister testified on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, it was Schools like Father Long's that educated Ceylon to independent nationhood.

Sgd. CLIVE C. SCHOKMAN

St. Patrick's loss was Iona's gain.

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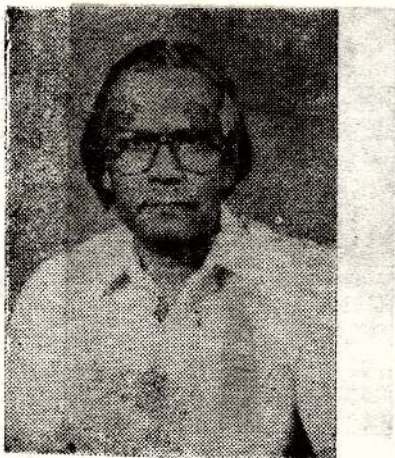
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Yarl Beach Inn



Another famous cartoon by Collette depicting Fr. Long's successful mission to the States.



Message from The Government Agent

(Jaffna District)

It is both an honour and a privilege to send a message of felicitation on the occasion of the issue of a stamp in memory of the late Rev. Father T. M. F. Long O. M. I. one of the most distinguished Rectors of St. Patrick's College. For nearly two decades he made his unique impact on both the educational system in the district and the development and moulding of the students under his tutorship at St. Patrick's College. His concern for the development of the total personality of the human being was evident from the number of leading citizens who came out of the portals of St. Patrick's College. I am happy that although belated the Government has acknowledged the invaluable services rendered by this eminent educationist. May his soul rest in peace and may St. Patrick's College continue to shed lustre as it did during Fr. Long's period.

ANTON ALFRED

Government Agent (Jaffna District)

Message from the Municipal Commissioner Jaffna.



I am happy to send this message on the occasion of the issue of a Postal Stamp by the Government to honour the late Rev. Father T. M. F. Long, O. M. I., Rector, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

The Jaffna Municipal Council and the people of Jaffna are highly indebted to Father Long because of his involvement with the Jaffna Public Library. Father Long was chiefly responsible for the building up of the Library which was once considered as the best in South East Asia. He helped it to become a treasurehouse of knowledge by providing it with valuable books. On his tour of some Western countries, he collected a good sum of money for the Library Project.

St. Patrick's College became so famous after his appointment as Rector, that it attracted students from all over the country and from all races. Under his leadership, St. Patrick's produced distinguished personalities not only from Jaffna, but also from all parts of the country.

Rev. Father Long excelled in all fields of activities. He had high influence in all the communities of Sri Lanka, and was able to solve any intricate problem with his high thinking and high qualities. His views and advice were sought after by policy makers up to Ministerial level. Above all, Father Long had deep faith in divinity, and it was this faith that took him to such heights in all the affairs he involved himself.

Jaffna, in particular, and the country in general, lost a dominant and leading personality when suddenly, Father Long was asked to leave for Australia by his Religious Order, and within a short space of time, he was called to rest by the Almighty.

V. P. Balasingham
Municipal Commissioner, Jaffna.

Message from The President

St. Patrick's Old Boys Association Colombo



I am happy to send this message for publication in the Souvenir produced by the O. B. A. in Jaffna.

It is 46 years since I left St. Patrick's College. I have often wondered why Patricians, who came under the influence of the late Fr. Long, talk of him with affection and hold him in high esteem although, whilst when they were at school they found it difficult to understand him.

I believe Fr. Long influenced many boys to follow his example to reach excellence in everything he did. The strict discipline that he enforced enabled many boys to meet the challenges of the world in later life. Not to be forgotten was his deep commitment to the Christian way of life.

The O. B. A. in Colombo is anxious to revere the memory of Fr. Long in many ways. In consultation with the Rector two projects have been identified. One is to build a Gymnasium and the other a modern Hall to accommodate 1,500 persons, not only for school functions but also to be used by the public.

Cyril Lawrence

Fr. Long Commemorative Stamp Issue

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Fr. Long Commemorative Stamp Issue
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(2nd - Row)
 X. I. Thangarajah, S. Sahayarajah, S. A. Gladstone, S. J. Sahayanayagrm, J. G. Rajendram
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 Rev. Fr. P. Jesunesan OMI. Rev. Fr. Bernard.

We Salute
the
Great Rector!

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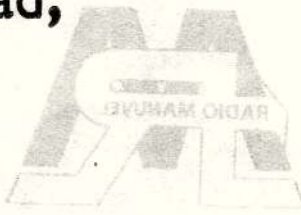
“ கி. பி. 1911-ம் ஆண்டு நவம்பர் மாதம் 15-ஆம் திகதி ”

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We Salute
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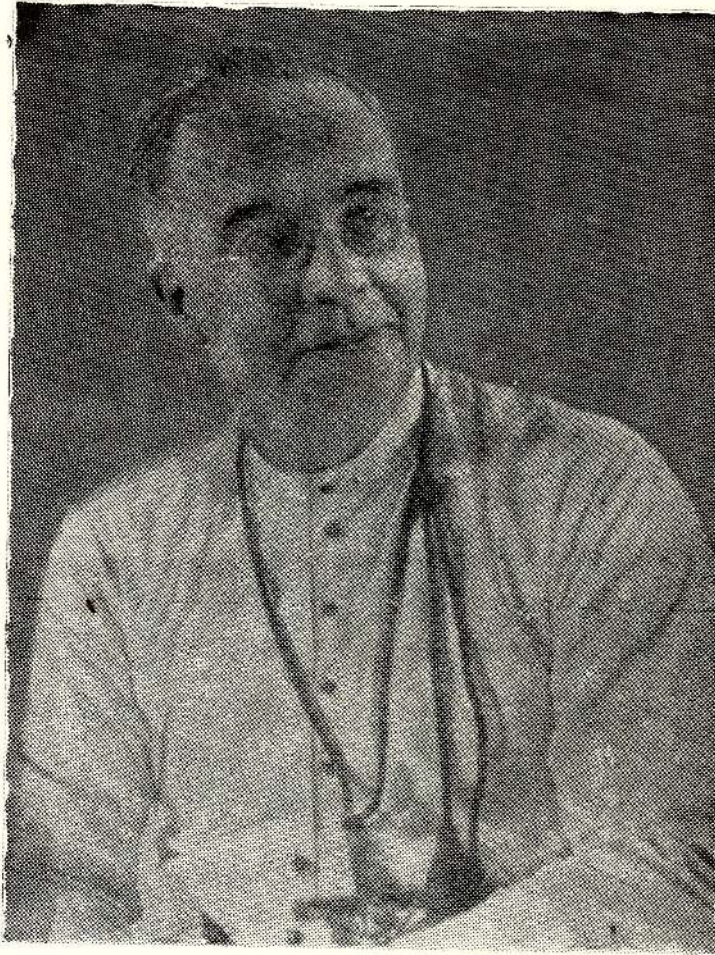
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Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I.

ESTO PERPETUA!

(Be thou for ever!)

M. A. (Cantab.)

**Words of Fr. Long from a Preface to
"The Patrician's Prayer Book"
(dated March 15th 1948)**

Prayer is Everything

Believe me, my dear friends, believe an experience ripened by thirty years in the Sacred Ministry. I do affirm that all deceptions, all spiritual deficiencies, all miseries, all falls, all faults, and even the most serious wanderings out of the right path, all proceed from this single source—a want of constancy in prayer. Live the life prayer, learn to bring everything, to change everything into prayer—pains and trials, and temptations of all kinds.

PRAY in the calm; pray in the storm;
PRAY on awakening, and PRAY during the daytime;
Going and coming, PRAY;
Tired out and distracted, PRAY;
Whatsoever your repugnance may be, PRAY
PRAY, that you may learn to PRAY

"Teach us, O Lord, how to PRAY"

— St Luke : XI. 1

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord;
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.*

— AMEN.



Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG O. M. I.

— the great Oblate Missionary

by Very Rev. Fr. PAUL BYRENE OMI

OBLATE PROVINCIAL, DUBLIN.

When a nation honours an individual by releasing a stamp to commemorate him that indeed is great honour. So the news that the government of Sri Lanka has agreed to design and release such a stamp in honour of Fr. Tim Long, O. M. I. has brought great joy and indeed pride to his fellow Oblates in this, his home province - the Anglo Irish. I feel sure too that the pride will be felt by all the people of his native Ireland.

Ireland has a long tradition of sending her sons and daughters to preach Christ's message far away from home, following in the proud tradition of their St. Patrick who came to them in the first instance as a slave, a stranger, and later as Christ's messenger. It is no coincidence that your great college should be called St. Patrick's. Irishmen played a leading part in St. Patrick's from its very beginnings, when, a few years after the terrible famine which devastated Ireland an Irish layman Patrick Foy became the first principal of the school in 1849. The Anglo Irish province made St. Patrick's one of its chief missionary Priorities, sending from England two Oblate brothers, brother Brown, and a namesake of my own brother Byrne, who died a young man in Jaffna. For twenty years our brothers played an important part in the success of the Jaffna Boys seminary as the school was well known, building its reputation as one of the best schools

in the country. Arguably this was one of the most significant achievements of our brothers anywhere.

In all that story of achievement however one man stands out, Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. From 1920 to 1954 this remarkable man gave his life to St. Patrick's and to his beloved Jaffna. In this regard words spoken at his funeral oration are worth remembering "a bright star, a brilliant sun in the firmament of Jaffna, giving warmth, light and glory to St. Patrick's, to the town, to the Peninsula and the whole island of Ceylon. But he claimed to be first and foremost a Jaffna man himself. He loved Jaffna. He lived for Jaffna. He worked for Jaffna".

In 1961, we here in Ireland commemorated the fifteenth hundred anniversary of the death of St. Patrick by declaring it a Patrician year, and on that occasion one of our Oblate scholars Fr. J. C. Daly, O. M. I. wrote a long article on Fr. Long and St. Patrick's. He wrote of him as gentleman, missionary, educationalist, leader and Oblate priest. For anyone to be remarkable in all these facets of his life, as Fr. Tim undoubtedly was, is a mark of the greatness of the man. Here was a priest who inspired love and gratitude, who influenced not only pupils but government ministers, and who has earned the gratitude of a country far from his native Limerick in Ireland. Yes, indeed, he deserves that stamp.

Long Live Fr. LONG

by Rev. Fr. Marcelline Jeyakody OMI



Rev. Fr. Long was an accident in my life. A very lucky accident. He was there when I went there, to St. Patrick's College.

He smiled on me. I smiled back.

The Irishman has an alphabet of smiles.

I don't quite remember what he said. I don't quite remember what I said. But I understood his smile. I know he understood mine.

The long and short of Fr. Long was that he was a very amiable but strict disciplinarian.

Every Monday we had the assembly in the sandy courtyard under the shadow of the dark mahogany trees. The breeze blew down its dark green leaves on us like Confetti.

There he briefed us. We knew what was on for the week.

One of the memorable things that happened once at the assembly was the ceremonial cremation of the Cane.

Disciplinarian? Yes. Without Mr. Cane.

Fr. Long knew how to correct a student with one look. With one smile.

He had Mr. Cane brought. Laid him on a pyre. The fire was lit. And the ashes were buried.

When he wanted the boys to do something, he gave the order and put the question, "Can do?". And the answer came back, "Can do". Who would dare say, "No, can't do"?

When Fr. Long wished to correct someone, he had a way of attributing to him the virtue he lacked, which he then would try to cultivate and prove that he really had it.

We seldom met. Sometimes he tried his recipe on me too. When he saw that I was off colour, he would smile and greet me with the question, "How are you, holy man?".

I knew it was just an Irish Expression that made me however, to correct my face.

The great thing about Fr. Long was that he became one of the people of the country. I sometimes heard him say, "We Jaffnese....."

Under the Long rule, the teachers worked like clock-work - Long or no Long they were a dedicated lot. The boys knew what they wanted and took to their books like fish to water.

Long live St. Patrick's! Long live Fr. Long!

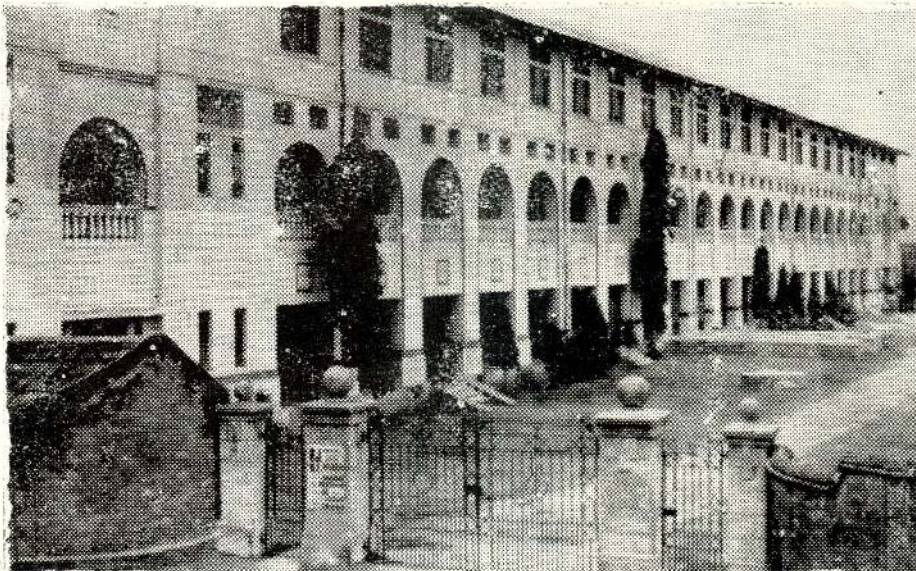
I am happy to hear that Fr. Long is going to come back to us in the shape of a stamp so that his memory may be stamped for ever in the annals of St. Patrick's.



Three Rectors

(R-L: *Fr. Matthews, Bp. Guyomar
&
Fr. Long*)

at the entrance to the college just before
the laying of the foundation for the
Greater St. Patrick's.



“The Greater St. Patrick's”

The Matthews BLOCK after completion.

Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG *O. M. I.*

— A True Friend of Jaffna College

Rev. Dr. S. JEBANESAN,
PRINCIPAL, JAFFNA, COLLEGE.



"In spite of my proximity to Long. I am going to be short" is one of the witticisms - one liners - often quoted to show the wit and humour of Rev. John Bicknell, one of the great Principals of Jaffna College in the twenties and thirties of this Century. The occasion was a fellowship dinner at which both Principals participated.

Fr. Long himself was famous for his wit and humour. In this as in many other matters both Fr. Long and Rev. Bicknell shared common attributes and similar interests. Both were missionary educators, who at a very important period in the history of our Island, the pre-independence era, moulded the character of a new generation and helped develop men of strong character and determination who were to play important parts as administrators and educators.

Fr. Long was not only a close friend of Rev. Bicknell; he was a dear friend of Jaffna College as well. He took a keen interest in the growth of our institution and was a trusted supporter of our causes. He had a reputation as the most colourful guest speaker at functions associated with Jaffna College and the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India.

Hence our journals 'Jaffna College Miscellany' and 'the Morning Star' have numerous references to Father Long. I think it will be appropriate to give below a few of the interesting reports published in these journals.

Paying a tribute to Rev. Bicknell on his sudden and unexpected death in December, 1936 Fr. Long made a lengthy and moving reference to Rev. Bicknell at the Prize-Day function of St. Patrick's College which came off a few days after Rev. Bicknell's death. I quote in full the tribute as it furnishes clear evidence of the closeness of the two Principals to each other and the respect they had for each other.

"If there was any one we thought we could not spare from the educational world in Jaffna, it was Mr. Bicknell, whose departure leaves us all with a sense of personal bereavement. Those of us privileged to know him intimately felt, as indeed some of us said at his Jubilee celebrations, that he could still stand four square to every wind that blew for another 25 years. For us who are Principals, his loss touches us more deeply still, for if the phrase "Sister Colleges" was ever feelingly spoken and striven after as an ideal, it was when it fell from his lips.

We shall treasure and keep evergreen the memory of that upright almost military, figure, Upright, and straight in every sense - that was the stamp he left on his work. God rest that fine, scholarly gentleman and may He brace his devoted widow and son to bear the cross put on them."

Paying a tribute in 1953, to Dr. Buell of Green Hospital, Manipay for his unique spirit of service to the community, Fr. Long said that a

new expression should be coined to remember him by - 'A Buell of a Doctor'. This is a remarkable Proof of the one-liner witticisms for which both Fr. Long and Rev. Bicknell were well-known. This tribute is recorded in the Morning Star of September 4, 1953.

The Morning Star of March 26, 1954 carries a lengthy article on Father Long who was scheduled to leave for Australia shortly to take up work in a large Oblate School. I am quoting the article in full as it pays a moving tribute to Father Long and refers to many of his sterling qualities and to his wide interests.

Go getter by Nature

"Jaffna will soon bid farewell to one of its most prominent public men, the very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I., Rector of St. Patrick's College. He is going to Australia shortly to take up work in a large Oblate School.

The eldest son of a family of four children, Fr. Long had his early education at Mungret College, an institution run by Jesuits. He had his theological education at Belmont House Stillorgan. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1920 and in 1921 he joined the staff of St. Patrick's College. After a brief teaching service he went to Cambridge where he took the Modern Languages Tripos and later the Master of Arts Degree. He succeeded Fr. Mathews as Rector of St. Patrick's College in February, 1936.

It is not alone as a builder of St. Patrick's College that Fr. Long will be remembered. Few people occupied such a large place in the public life of Jaffna as he did. He had a very wide range of interests. He edited the 'Jaffna Catholic Guardian' and helped to shape public opinion in Jaffna on many matters of importance. Every public cause in Jaffna found in him not merely

an ardent supporter but an indefatigable worker. His latest contribution to Jaffna is the large scale blue print in conjunction with the Mayor and Municipality for the erection of a Public Library in Jaffna. A go getter by nature Fr. Long spent himself in any public cause that he undertook. In him Jaffna found not a foreign Missionary who had merely come to run an educational institution but a person who identified himself with the fortunes and aspirations of the people in whose midst he was placed.

Jaffna shall always keep his memory green. Even after his departure to Australia, Jaffna College and the Diocese continued to maintain an abiding interest in Father Long. This is evidenced by the reference in the Morning Star of December 31, 1954.

I quote:- 'We understand that Father Long, formerly of St. Patrick's College has had much trouble with his eyes. It is said that he has lost the use of one of his eyes and that he is having difficulties about the other eye as well.'

In conclusion I could do no better than to draw the reader's attention to some of the statements made in the article already quoted from the Morning Star of 26-3-1954 to spotlight the high esteem in which Father Long was held by the public of Jaffna.

"Few people occupied such a large place in the public life of Jaffna as he had. He had a wide range of interests..... He helped to shape public opinion in Jaffna on many matters. Every public cause in Jaffna found in him not only an ardent supporter but an indefatigable worker. May his memory be ever green in our midst, and may St. Patrick's College and Jaffna continue in richer measure to be blessed by his intercessions for us at the throne of God."

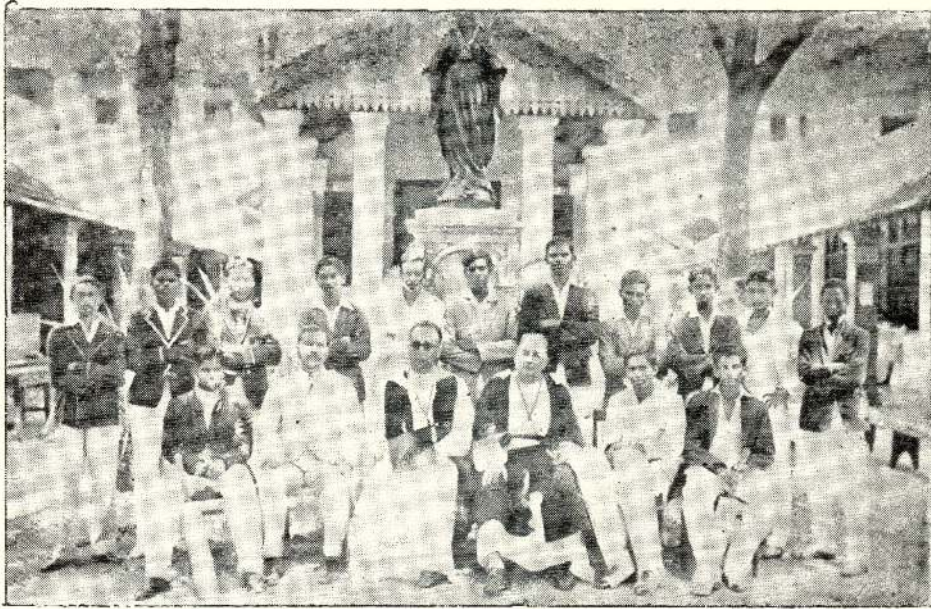


Definition of GOD :

*Though earth and moon were gone,
And suns and universes ceased to be
And Thou wert left alone,
Everyday existence would exist in Thee.*

— Emily Bronte

THE CRICKET CHAMPIONS, 1936



With the in-coming & out - going Rectors.



JOINT SOCCER CHAMPIONS 1936 (J. C. & S. P. C.)

With the two Principals Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG O. M. I & Rev. S. K BUNKER



"To Fr. Long O.M.I.

- My grateful Tribute"

by Dr. Jaya Pathirana,

Former Judge of the Supreme Court.

The year, I believe, was 1936. The year was a watershed for St. Patrick's College. It ended the Matthews era and ushered in the Long era. The dramatic change that took place at St. Patrick's that year became a reality to us students only at the farewell ceremony in the College hall to the departing Rector, Fr. Chas. Matthews. When Fr. Matthews rose to make his valedictory speech he commenced his speech thus: "Fr. Rector, Members of the Staff, Boys". Fr. Rector was T. M. F. Long O. M. I. It then dawned on us that the Long era had commenced at St. Patrick's. Momentarily, this evoked ripples of subdued laughter among us, but this was only the prelude to the tears that swelled into our eyes for our departing Rector, Fr. Matthews.

Until then Fr. Long was our Prefect of Games, Professor of History and lecturer in Apologetics for the senior Catholic students.

Parents, teachers and students at St. Patrick's were still uncertain in their minds as to what the Long era was going to be. We had known him as a strict disciplinarian, who would not hesitate to cane a member of the cricket team on the grounds itself for cutting practice. But we students soon realised that the guiding motivation for him as far as St. Patrick's was concerned was going to be Discipline. In enforcing discipline he was no respecter of persons. It was enforced as a rule of law. It was equality before this law for both students and members of the Staff. I remember an occasion when a member of the Staff came late to class, Fr. Long shouted..... double up, double up". This was an admonition which registered in our minds that it was meant for us students also. A towering personality,

Fr. Long would stride the corridors of the College reading his breviary, instilling in us a sense of respect and reverence for him.

Discipline began at the portals to the entrance to the College, which were called "the Pillars of Silence". Woe be unto a student who was caught talking by the Rector, once he crossed this threshold. Of course, we had a way of knowing whether Fr. Long was about the place. We would take a deep breath and sniff into the air and if we smelt the aromatic flavour of the tobacco smoke from his seasoned curved smoking pipe, we knew that he was about the place. He would enforce discipline and punishment with typical Irish sentiment. Whenever he decided to cane a boy, he would tenderly address him thus "Kneel down, Child", and the cane would administer the cuts with this benediction. No recriminations after that.

Discipline was the infrastructure on which Fr. Long built the sterner stuff that every Patrician was expected to be in life. At Assembly time under the benign statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the shade of the hardy mahogany rees that lined the quadrangle, Fr. Long would infuse into us what he called "the Patrician spirit" of what he also called the Patrician *Espirit de Corps* which epitomised the qualities of unity, courage, loyalty and fearlessness. This spirit enjoined us to strive, to seek and not to yield. In our time St. Patrick's performance was not only outstanding in studies but in sports we went on for three consecutive years to win what Fr. Long called the "Triple Crown", the championships in Cricket, football and athletics among the schools in the Northern province.

Fr. Long's vision of a "Greater St. Patrick's" made him embark on a mission to the United States and Europe to collect funds to put up the imposing buildings for St. Patrick's, which would be more enduring than bronze or marble.

The great Irishman, who left the shores of that "Emerald Island" to serve the people of Jaffna, in course of time became a "Jaffna Man" by adoption. Often when speaking he would say "We Jaffna people". I have also heard him saying "We Tamils". This devotion and loyalty to Jaffna which characterised Fr. Long was ably depicted in a cartoon drawn by one of this country's outstanding cartoonists "Collette". The cartoon shows Fr. Long accoutred in the dress of a typical Jaffna Man in long shut coat, trousers and a turban on his head clutching a hand bag with a label "Australia" and some Jaffna drumsticks held tightly with the handle of the bag. The legend below the cartoon had the words "He comes from Jaffna". On his departure to Australia to take charge of a Seminary for training priests a farewell dinner was given to him at Hotel Taprobane by Old Boys and well wishers. To each

of those who graced the occasion Fr. Long presented a copy of this cartoon personally autographed by him with the words "With very kind regards, Yours rememberially". To this day the framed cartoon adorns my chambers as Grateful memento of this great man who moulded me the hard way to achieve whatever I could in life.

Only the physical form of Fr Long went to Australia. His heart and soul were always in Jaffna and at St. Patrick's.

On this memorable occasion when the Government of Sri Lanka in recognition of the distinguished services rendered to this country by Fr. Long has decided to release a postage stamp in his honour, let us all reverentially bow our heads in gratitude to this great Irishman who served us, guided us and gave us the courage and wisdom to meet the challenges of life in the true Patrician spirit.

May his memory be everlasting.

Jaya Pathirana

ஷண்ஜீவ்

ஸ்ரீகுடியோ அன் வீடியோ சேவீஸ்

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“யாழ். மகனாக”

வாழ்ந்து மறைந்த தியாகச்சுடர், லோங் அடிகளார்

டாக்டர் J. P. C. பிலிப்ஸ் J. P.



“தோன்றிற் புகழொடு தோன்றுக - அஃகுதிலாற்
தோன்றலில் தோன்றமை நன்று”

வள்ளுவரின் வாக்குக்கு மெருகூட்டியவர் லோங் அடிகளார்.

உலகிலே தினமும் ஆயிரம்-ஆயிரம் உயிர்கள் தோன்றி மறைகின்றன. ஆனால் மக்களின் மனதில் அணையாத தியாகச் சுடராய் ஒளிபரப்பிக் கொண்டிருப்பவர்கள் ஒரு சிலரே. இத்தியாகச் சுடர்களின் வரிசையில் லோங் அடிகளாரும் ஒருவராவார்.

அயர்லாந்து நாட்டில், லிமொறிக் என்னும் இடத்தில், விசுவாசம் நிறைந்த கத்தோலிக்கக் குடும்பத்தில், 1896ம் ஆண்டு சித்திரை மாதம் 22ம் திகதி லோங் அடிகளார் பிறந்தார். சிறுவயதிலேயே ஆண்டவன் மேல் அசையாத பற்றுக்கொண்ட லோங் அடிகளார் தமது பாடசாலைக் காலத்திலேயே அமலமரி தியாகிகள் சபையில் சேர்ந்துகொண்டார்.

காலஞ்சென்ற அருட்திரு. மத்தியூஸ் அடிகளாரால் 1921-ம் ஆண்டு ஜோன்கைமர், லெகோக், லோங் அடிகளார் ஆகிய மூவரும் இலங்கைக்கு அழைத்து வரப்பட்டனர். லோங் அடிகளார் சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் ஆங்கில ஆசிரியராகக் கடமையாற்றி லத்தின், சரித்திரம், சமயம் ஆகிய பாடங்களுக்கும் மாணவர்களுக்கு திறம்படக் கற்பித்ததுடன், வினையாட்டுப் பொறுப்பாசிரியராகவும் இருந்து, சகல வினையாட்டுகளிலும் மாணவர்களைக் கடமை-கண்ணியம் கட்டுப்பாட்டுடன் வினையாட வைத்து வெற்றி பெறவும் செய்தார்.

இக்காலகட்டத்தில் லோங் அடிகளார் மேற்படிப்புக்காக, இங்கிலாந்து சென்று “கேம்பிறிட்ஜ்” பல் கலைக்கழகத்தில் விசேட பட்டம் பெற்று, மீண்டும் யாழ். சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் கடமையாற்றி, 1936ம் ஆண்டு இதே கல்லூரியின் அதிபரானார்.

லோங் அடிகளார் சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் 18 ஆண்டுகள் (1954-வரை) அதிபராகக் கடமையாற்றினார். இவரின் அதிபர் காலம் கல்லூரியின் “பொற்காலம்” எனக் கூறலாம். எல்லாத்துறைகளிலும் இக்கல்லூரி மேம்பட்டு விளங்க பெருந்தொண்டாற்றினார். விசேடமாக இக்கல்லூரி, ஒழுக்கம் கட்டுப்பாடு என்பவற்றிலும் புகழோங்கி இருந்தமையால், இலங்கையின் பல்வேறு பாகங்களிலுமிருந்து மட்டுமல்ல, பிற நாடுகளிலுமிருந்து மாணவர்களை இக்கல்லூரி கவர்ந்தது.

“மிகத் திறமையானவைதான் சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரிக்கு உகந்தது”. என்னும் கொள்கையை கடைப்பிடித்து, மிகச்சிறந்த ஆசிரியர்களை நியமித்தார். யாழ்ப்பாணத்தை தாயகமாகக் கொண்ட, இத்தியாகச்சுடர், தமிழ் மாணவர்களையும், தமிழ் மக்களையும் நன்கு நேசித்தவர். குறிப்பாக யாழ். நகரின் வளர்ச்சிக்காக அயராது உழைத்தார்.

நமது நாட்டின் கல்விக்காக பாடுபட்ட பிற நாட்டுக் கல்விமான்களுள் லோங் அடிகளாரின் பெயர் முதன்மையிடத்தை வகிக்கின்றது. இவரின் ஆலோசனைகளை தேசாதிபதிகள், மந்திரிமார், கல்விமாண்கள், வெவ்வேறு திணைக்கள உயர் அதிகாரிகள், திட்டமிடும் உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் பெற்று வந்தனர். ஆங்கிலேயரின் ஆட்சிக்காலத்தில் இவரின் செல்வாக்கு மிகவும் உச்சக்கட்டத்தைப் பெற்றிருந்தது. 2-ம் உலக யுத்தக்காலத்தில் பிரிட்டிஷ்காரரால், பலாலியில் அமைக்கப்பட்ட விமானப்படைத் தளத்தை, அப்போ திருந்த தேசாதிபதி அன்றா கால்டிகொர்டின் அனுமதியுடன் இத்தீவின் யுத்தகாலப் பொறுப்பு

பதிகாரி சார். ஜியோபிறி லெயிற்ரன், விமானப் படைத் தளபதி கொமெடோர் ஏ. ஆர். வாட்டில் ஆகியோரின் அனுமதியுடன், உள்நாட்டு சிவில் விமான நிலையமாக மாற்றி, கொழும்புக்குப்-யாழ் நகருக்கு மிடையிலான விமானச்சேவையை ஆரம்பித்து வைத்தார். 1940-ம் ஆண்டில் "Send the plane Fund" என்னும் பெயரில், விமான நிதியம் என்னும் களியாட்ட விழாவை நடாத்தியுத்த தேவையைப் பூர்த்திசெய்தார். 1938ம் ஆண்டில் யாழ். நகரில் முதன் முறையாக, மாபெரும் கைத்தொழில் களியாட்ட விழாவை சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரி மைதானத்தில் நடாத்தி புகழும் பெற்றார்.

தமிழ் மக்களின் கல்வி வளர்ச்சிக்கு உறுதுணையாக இருப்பதற்கு, ஒரு நூல்நிலையம் அவசியம் என லோங் அடிகளார் உணர்ந்து, உலகின் பல பாகங்களுக்கும் சென்று, பணம் திரட்டி, 'ஒரு கோடி நிதியம்' என்னும் நிதியத்தின்மூலம், தென்கிழக்காசியாவிலே சிறந்து விளங்கக்கூடிய ஒரு நூல் நிலையத்தை உருவாக்கினார்.

இப்பெரியார், யாழ் நகர மக்களுக்காக அமைத்துக் கொடுத்த மேற்படி இரு சேவைகளும், இப்போது தமிழ் மக்களுக்கு பயன்படாது இருக்கின்றது. நூல்நிலையம், இலங்கை இராணுவத்தால் எரிக்கப்பட்டு சாம்பலாக்கப்பட்டது. பலாலி விமான நிலையம் கடந்த காலங்களில் விஸ்தரிக்கப்பட்டு தமிழ் மக்கள் மீது குண்டுமாரி பொழியவும், தாக்கப்படவும் பாவிக்கப்பட்டதென்றால் லோங் அடிகளாரின் ஆன்மா எவ்வளவு வேதனைப்பட்டு கண்ணீர்விட்டிருக்கும் என்பதை எம்மால் உணர்ந்துகொள்ளமுடியும்.

லோங் அடிகளாரின், உயர்ந்த பரந்த நோக்கங்களாலும், ஆழ்ந்த இறைப்பற்றாலும் ஒரு தெய்வீக மனிதராகவிருந்து எல்லோரையும் கவர்ந்தார். சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரியை கட்டிடங்களாலும், மைதானங்கள், நீச்சல்தடாகம் முதலியன நிறைந்த சகல நவீன வசதிகள் கொண்ட இலங்கையிலேயே மிகப் பிரமாண்டமான கல்லூரியாகத் திட்டம் தீட்டி அதற்காக வெளிநாடுகள் பலவற்றுக்கும் சென்று கோடிக்கணக்கில் பணம் திரட்டியது மட்டுமன்றி, புதுப்புது கல்விமுறைகளைக் கொணர்ந்து செயற்படுத்தி, பிரம்படியை அறவே ஒழித்து வெற்றியும் கண்ட பெருமகன். 1954-ம் ஆண்டில் லோங் அடிகளாருக்கு மாற்றலாகும் உத்தரவு திடீரெனக் கிடைத்தது. இதைக் கேள்விப்பட்ட யாழ். நகர் மக்கள்

குறிப்பாக சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரி மாணவர்கள் குறிறினார்கள். "ஆண்டவனின் தொண்டன் நான். அவரின் கட்டளைப்படியே நடப்பேன். ஆனால் நான் எங்கிருந்தாலும் "யாழ் மகனாகவே" இருப்பேன். என்பிரிவால் யாரும் துக்கப்படவேண்டாம்", என யாழ். புகையிரத நிலையத்தில் லோங் அடிகளார் தன்னை வழி அனுப்ப வந்த பிரமாண்டமான மக்கள் கூட்டத்தைப் பார்த்து கூறினார்.

இறைமகன்யேசு லாசறஸ் குடும்பத்தை நன்கு நேசித்தவர். லாசறஸ் இறந்தசெய்தியை யேசு கேள்வியுற்றதும் விம்மி விம்மி அழுதார். அதேபோல் லோங் அடிகளாரும் தாம் நேசித்த யாழ் மக்களை விட்டுப் பிரியும் நேரம் நெருங்கியதும்; ரயில் யாழ்நகரை விட்டு நகரும்போது மக்கள் கூட்டத்தின் முன் விம்மி விம்மி அழுதார். கூடிநின்ற மக்களும் வாய்விட்டுக் கதறினார்கள். சிலர் ரயிலின் பின்னால் அழுதவண்ணம் ஓடினார்கள். "மனதை உருக்கும் இக்காட்சியை என்னால் பார்த்துக்கொண்டு நிற்க முடிந்ததே ஒழிய கட்டுக்கடங்கா இம்மக்கள் கூட்டத்தை கட்டுப்படுத்த என்னால் முடிய வில்லை" என அன்றைய யாழ். பொலிஸ் நிலையப் பொறுப்பதிகாரி கூறினார்.

யாழ் நகரைவிட்டு மாற்றலாகிய லோங் அடிகளார் அவுஸ்திரேலியாவுக்குச் சென்று அங்குதனது சொந்த முயற்சியால் "அயோனா" (IONA) என்னும் கல்லூரியை, ஸ்தாபித்தார். ஈற்றில், 1961-ம் ஆண்டு சித்திரைமாதம் 30-ம் திகதி லண்டன் மாநகரில் இறைபதமடைந்தார். அவரின் பூதவுடல், அவர் சொந்த நாடாகிய அயர்லாந்திற்குக் கொண்டு செல்லப்பட்டு அங்கு நல்லடக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டது.

யாழ். சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரியின் புதிய சகாப்தத்தை உருவாக்கிய யாழ். மக்கள் மனதில் நீங்கா இடத்தைப் பெற்ற இத்தியாகச் சுடருக்கு, யாழ் நகரமக்கள் இதுவரை காலமும் செலுத்திய நன்றிக் கடன், ஒரேயொரு "அயோச சிலை" மட்டும்தான். ஆனால் யாழ் சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரி, இப்பெருமகனுக்கு வருங்காலத்தில் ஓர் ஞாபகார்த்த மண்டபம் அமைக்குமாகில் அது வரவேற்கத்தக்கது.

"அடிகளாரின் ஆன்மா இறைவனுள் சாந்தி பெறுவதாக."

THE WIZARD OF St. PATRICK'S

by Mrs. Margaret Saverimuttu



It is the annual feast of Christ the King. The knights of the Blessed Sacrament (Patricians) and the Handmaids (Familians) assemble in the College Chapel.

Our young hearts thrill to the rousing Chorus
"Christus Vincit
Christus Imperat

Christus regnat _____ Alleluia!"

Down the aisle walks Fr. Long, with imposing mien & measured tread, leading the Rosary. Unforgettably the memory stays with us, Familians, of that magnetic personality, of that man of wide ranging vision, who strove to raise St. Patrick's to almost undreamt of heights. That his statue in front of the Jaffna Library has survived, unscathed, the ravages of vandalism all around, is symbolic of the indomitable courage of this great missionary.

In the early years of this century he came from the verdant banks of the Shannon, this Irish man; he left in the early fifties, a Jaffna man. In the thirty eight years he laboured here, he came to regard Jaffna as his home & the people of Jaffna as his own. He understood their genius and culture and was concerned for their development. He grew to admire a community intent on preserving their own traditions while trying to imbibe the best in others. He loved Jaffna & this love found expression in the indefatigable manifold services he rendered. He had great influence with men in high positions & power and this influence he used to the full for the uplift of Jaffna. Two examples may be quoted: his success in getting

the Palaly military airport for civil aviation soon after World War II, and the founding of the Jaffna Library, one of the best in South East Asia. He played a prominent part in the Library Movement: he launched the Million Rupee Fund for the project, & obtained the help of an expert in Dravidian Architecture and an eminent Professor of Library Science, both from India. When in 1981 this Library, the fruit of such intense planning, was subjected to devastation, the people of Jaffna had a rude shock for the institution had been a monument to the vision and patriotism of Fr. Long.

By serving Jaffna he served Ceylon as well. He viewed the problems of the Peninsula from an all-island stand-point and many a time acted as an ambassador of good will between the people here and the leaders of the South. He brought to bear on the political scene, in a silent and secret way, not only a force to be reckoned with but more significantly a softening influence in time of stress and friction. He was also an important figure in the nation's educational circles and policy-makers in this field quite often sought his advice and leadership. He was guide and counsellor to more than one Director of Education and an accepted leader especially among School Principals. For who could resist the enchantment of his sharp intellect, his deep understanding of human nature, sunny humour and true Irish bon-homie?

But it was at St. Patrick's that his wizardry came into full play. With personal drive and infectious enthusiasm he forged ahead with manifold plans to put the College on the map. His winning manner and quick perception of hidden talents won the confidence of Teacher & Taught. The

College soon rose to magnificence in every sphere and the "Long Regime" came to be regarded as the "Golden Age" of St. Patrick's. Staff and students were spurred on to high endeavour and unprecedented successes in the academic and extra mural activities.

Fr. Long lived the College motto: "Fide et Labore". With implicit faith in God primarily and then in the intrinsic goodness of his co-workers & students, he fired one & all with his own philosophy of "Can Do". Every teacher and student was persuaded to feel that the school and its progress was his personal responsibility and that his particular job was the most needed. In the early years of his career he spent himself as Prefect of Games, Editor of the College Magazine, Drama coach and Tutor; later as helmsman par excellence, he guided the Institution with inimitable skill and unerring judgement. As Editor of the Jaffna "Catholic Guardian", he wielded a powerful pen and combined it with tact and wisdom in his parry and thrust with the contemporary "Morning Star" & "Hindu Organ". In everything he set an example, of dedicated Labour, and inspiration to generations of Patricians.

Fr. Long was a strict disciplinarian but he rejected regimentation. The abolition of corporal punishment with the ceremonial burning of the cane in the College Quadrangle, helped develop in the staff a sense of sacredness of a boy's personality and evoked in the boy a responsive motivation for action. Consequently the atmosphere at St. Patrick's was one of good spirit and co-operation. Generations of young men, well-grounded in faith and morals, in learning and civic responsibility, became University scholars, Religious Leaders, Professionals, Civil Servants & patriotic citizens, fulfilling Fr Long's conviction: "The best is good enough for St. Patrick's". The secret was not only did he see to every detail in educating them in their College years but he followed them out of school; many a boy was found placement in the world of work through his personal efforts.

Cast in the heroic mould of Irish missionary educators, working selflessly for Christ, Fr. Long laboured many years in the cause of Jaffna's advancement. A stamp issued on National Heroes' Day, enshrining the memory of his varied commitments, is indeed a fitting tribute to this Wizard of St. Patrick's College.

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Fr. Long the Jaffna man as caricatured by Collette in the last of the series.

An Irishman From Jaffna

by **A. J. Canagaratna**

Now that I am no longer blessed with total recall, I can't remember when I first saw Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long. It must have been somewhere in the early forties that the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna gave us the marching orders. We were not too sorry to go. After all, we were boys now and what was more natural than seeking admission to a boys' school. Entering St. Patrick's was for us, then, an outward sign of having outgrown cissyhood.

As I recall it, I must have joined the Lower School. Fr. Long was then a distant deity to us all; the only time we caught a glimpse of him was during the lunch break: a gigantic figure, with tomato red cheeks, and a measured tread engrossed in the breviary. That figure has stamped itself on our collective memory. Rumour had it that he was a stern disciplinarian: several unfortunates who had been at the receiving end of his 'cane juice' (pirappampalam) treatment kept rubbing their bot-toms (as Fr. Long himself used to refer it) for several minutes afterwards. But this montage of impressions would be unfair to Fr. Long if I froze the shot at this point, with Fr. Long's cane poised high over his head.

It was this very same Fr. Long who later on abolished corporal punishment and ceremonially burnt the cane. This shows his ability to respond to the best elements in contemporary educational thought.

The next shot projected on my memory's screen is Fr. Long in the pulpit. Those were the days when all of us, that is, Catholics, had to attend Sunday Mass at the College chapel. His sermons were pithy and punchy. He would take exactly ten minutes to preach his sermon (though 'preach' is perhaps an inappropriate word here); you could set your wristlet by it.

My memory at this point favourably contrasts Fr. Long's sermons which really had something to say to us, though we only half understood them then, with the dreary rambling monologues of some other priests who shall remain unnamed.

The scene now shifts to the SSC form with Fr. Long taking our Apologetics class. His exposition was very lucid and he had a knack for capturing our attention, with a deft turn of phrase. But unfortunately like in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam we came out by the same door as in we went.

My last close encounter with him before I entered the University was when I was in the Entrance Class. He did a General Knowledge class with us, as well as English for those of us who were offering it as a subject. His General Knowledge classes were very illuminating and he showed himself thoroughly familiar with the labyrinthine corridors of international politics. His English classes too were very interesting. Thought he had been Prof. Quiller Couch's pupil at Cambridge University, he had no difficulty in updating himself and coping with the New Criticism. Leavis, Empson, Richards and the American New Critics held no terrors for him. St. Patrick's had always boasted a fine school Library but Fr. Long saw to it that the Literature and Criticism sections were updated, with the latest periodicals being made available. Wasn't he as pleased as Punch when not only did I get through English (at that time, the myth was that only students from prestigious Colombo schools could pass Entrance English) but was admitted direct to the University, breaking a hoodoo which seemed to have dogged Arts students for some years at St. Patrick's?

Then came the heart-breaking announcement: Fr. Long was moving to Australia. I shall not

dwell on the reasons for his abrupt departure or the emotional farewells accorded him. Post mortems are certainly unedifying & odious Suffice it to say with the poet 'The old order changeth giving place to new.'

Collette's cartoon which appeared just before Fr. Long left for Australia captioned 'He comes from Jaffna', showing Fr. Long turbaned and carrying drumsticks under his armpit, is the one

I'd like to remember him by.

He was an Irishman who should have been born in Jaffna.

It's been nice knowing you, Fr. Long, though the quirks of history made our relationship an unequal one. You taught us the English Language but, unlike Caliban, we have profited by it.

The following extracts have been taken from letters written by Fr. Long from Australia to Very Rev. Fr. Louis Ponniah O. M. I. the Oblate Provincial and one of the Vice-Presidents of the O. B. A., when he was at the Oblate Navitiate in Kalutara and later at the Scholasticate in Rome. The stressing is the Editor's work.

— Ed

I. 6. 9. 54

I am grateful for the nice things you say about me and especially about St. Patrick's retreats which are, I think, unique in Ceylon at least. You may remember me mentioning more than once that I had to ask the Redemptorist Fathers not to quote St. Patrick's boys to the other schools as such schools might soon get tired of hearing so much about dear old S. P. C.

II. 14. 12. 54

News from Patricians is always a thrill for me as I left a large portion of my heart with the dear old college. I know that Patricians in the past have given a good account of themselves at 'Mont Eden' Kalutara and I know too that the Patricians now there will continue that tradition.

III. 22. 7. 55

As you surmised it has been a thrill for me to get 'home' to Jaffna and I have been given a really wonderful welcome everywhere. I have to thank the good and generous Australian friends who made this trip possible for me.

IV. 28. 11. 55

I am happy that the quota of Patricians at Rome is being maintained. I have no doubt about your keeping the Patrician flag flying. There can never be too many colleges like St. Patrick's in the world. My eyes are definitely better since my trip to Ceylon and I am inundated with work for retreats, parish novenas, triduums and conferences for religious - I love every second of the work.

V. 5. 4. 56

What you say about our stations of the Cross impresses me enormously. I have tried them out here and everybody says much the same. I shall have to get them printed separately out here even though I got half a dozen manuals out here recently as priests here insisted on having their own copy.

We expect a decision on the site of the Oblate College when the Visitor comes out here in the course of the year. I should be able to realise my plans, here at least, for the greater St. Patrick's.

I love the work as I love the country and the people here, even though I feel ever so often a nostalgic twinge towards dear old Jaffna and dearer S. P. C.

VI. 22. 11. 56

I was in hospital recovering from an operation for the removal of the gall-bladder and 2 gall-stones. I was also suffering from a duodenal ulcer. If I did not know that I had this ulcer I should be telling everyone that I am feeling wonderfully fit. I attribute the ulcer to the tremendous emotional strain experienced at the time of my departure from Ceylon.

VII. 1. 2. 57

I have been receiving ever so many letters from my Old Boys for Christmas, the New Year and my Feast Day. The Fathers here remark how my face lights up when I get a letter from Old Boys or from Ceylon. It looks as if I am to have a particularly active year getting ready for the new college. It will be like 'those days' in Jaffna. My Jaffna apprenticeship will not have been in vain.

VIII. 19. 11. 57

I am often inclined to ask myself whether I ever lived through those fabulous years in Jaffna, but there is the stream of letters and there is the brochure my good friends perpetrated on me before I left and on the wall in front of my desk is the beautiful picture given me by S. F. S., and the original of Collette's 'He comes from Jaffna'.

How will Ceylon impinge on Iona? The LONG suffering students, parents and benefactors will have theoretical add practical experience of phrases like 'The devolution of responsibility' 'Positive, constructive and progressive!' and 'Turn liabilities into Assets!' If only I had Fr. Christie, S. F. S., B. R. M., V. C. J. C., Satchchi and my two Headmasters!

If a man is as young as he feels, then I am very young indeed!

IX. 3. 9. 58

I am, thank God, keeping in splendid health and spirits, and thanks to an old Patrician, Dr. Sivasubramaniam, F. R. C. S. my eye troubles are over. God has been very good to me in giving me a new lease of life and wonderful scope here at Iona.

X. 26. 2. 59

I am not as young as I used to be and perhaps it would not be everyone's idea of fun or retirement on pension to start in the sixties a huge college in a country where one is unknown, has no assets and no collaterals. I honestly think that one of the reasons why I am one of the happiest men alive is that my recuperative powers have always been outstanding.

Ceylon has had much (better forgotten) to her discredit since I wrote my last circular. I prefer to dwell-my pet words again - on what is positive and constructive such as for instance the Jaffna Central Library. Any news of it? Any wonderful thought? Snaps would be ever so welcome. Pars magna ful.

XI. 11. 1. 60

I do have an occasional peremptory reminder from my ulcer that I may not take liberties with my diet. Otherwise I am in first class trim. The best comment is perhaps that of a dear Ceylon friend whom I met recently and who had not seen me since 1949. 'Fr. Long, you look younger and fitter than you did in 1949'. 'The old man' can therefore be considered to be holding out.

நெடியவன் வாழ்வுளம் நெஞ்சுறக் கலந்தே

(இணைக்குறள் அகவல்)



தாவும் கடலலை தழுவும் தண்பொழில்
மேவும் அடைகரை விரிந்த மணந்தரை
சூழ்ந்த யாழ்குடா
ஆழ்ந்த தமிழ்ப்புலன்
கனிந்த மன்பதை
இனிந்த பேற்றுடன்
வையம் கண்டிட
உய்ய-வந்தவன்
ஐயன் நிலைகொள்
ஐந்த வித்தவன்
அந்தணன் வாய்மையன்
மெய்யுணர் வானவன்
உலோங்கு அடிகளார் என்பதை
உலகம் உவப்பச் சான்றோர் சொல்வரே!

* * *

புலவர்

“வேல்மாறன்”

(ஆசிரிர், புனித பத்திரிகியார் கல்லூரி)

அழகின் பனிமலை அடுக்கடுக்காக
வானகம் உயர்ந்து
போனகம் பொழியும்
தேனகப் பெருக்காய்
சனநதி பாயும்
எல்லையில் லாத
வல்லமை வளத்தைக்
கவினுறக் காட்டும்
பசுமைக் கோல
பிரித்தானி யாவின்
குடியரசு சங்கம்
அயர்வாந்து நாட்டில்
பிறந்த பெற்றியன்
இளமையில் பல்கலைக் கழகக் கல்வியைக்
களங்கம் அறவே
பயின்று தெளிந்தவன் !
எண்குணத் தாவின்
எழில்செஞ் சேவடி
போற்றி வணங்கி
ஊற்றெனப் பாய்ந்து உலகத் தவரை

வழிகொளச் செய்யும்
 அழிவற்ற கல்வியைப் பரப்ப
 அமிழ்தினும் மேலாம் எமதுயிர்த்
 தமிழீழம் வந்தவன் !
 அற்றைக் காலத்தில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்திலே
 போற்றும் கல்லூரிக் கூடமாய்த் திகழ்ந்த
 புனித பத்திரி சியார்கல் லூரியில்
 ஆசிரிய னாகக் கடமையைத் தொடர்ந்து
 பதினாறு ஆண்டுகள் நிறைந்து
 அதிபராய் உயர்ந்தவன் !
 இவனென என்றும்
 அலகிற் சோதியன் அமரன்
 மலரடி இறைஞ்சி மகிழ்வோம் நாமே !

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பொன்னிற மேனியன் ! பொலிவுறு முகத்தினன் !
 எண்ணிய சிந்தனை ஏறு நெற்றியன் !
 கண்ணார் கூர்மையன் ! கருத்தினைச் சமந்தவன் !
 விண்ணோர் போற்றிடும் விரிந்த நெஞ்சினன் !
 தண்ணளி காட்டிடும் தாதையன் !
 வேதியன் கல்விக்கூடத்தை
 சோதியாய் உலகுக்கு ஒளிரக்
 காட்டிய கரும வீரனாய்க்
 கூட்டிய சங்கங்கள் எத்தனை
 இவன்புகழ் கேளிரோ !—
 அறிவின் பெட்டகம்
 செறிவின் நூற்புலன்
 பயன்கொளச் செய்யவே
 அயன்நாடு பலவும்
 வியப்புற ஏற்றிப் போற்றுதற் கமைவாய்
 யாழ்நகர் நங்கையின்
 வாழ்வொளித் திலகமாய் பெருநூல் நிலையம்
 அமைப்பதற் கான அடிகோல் அமைத்து
 இமைப்பொழு தயரா திமையம் போன்ற
 தேட்டப் பெருநிதி யத்தை
 சிந்தையுடன் அளித்தவன் !
 தனக்கென வாழாப் பிறர்க்குரி யானாய்
 குணக்குன் றோய் குவலயம் வாழ
 தொண்டனாய் வாழ்ந்தவன் !
 ஆன்றவிந் தடங்கிய கொள்கைச்
 சான்றோர் மனத்தினை
 ஆண்டகை பூண்டவன் !
 அழிவற்ற அறிவின் நூல்நிலை யத்தை
 அழித்தனர் கொடியவர் அழிவுண் டனரே !
 அழிப்பிலும் அழியா ஆன்மீக சக்தி
 விழிப்புயிர் பெற்றது
 விழித்தனர் தமிழர் !
 அன்றே அறிவின்
 விடிவுக்கு வித்தாய் நின்றவன்
 நெடியவன் வாழ்வுளம் நெஞ்சறக் கலந்தே !

THE FUNERAL ORATION ON THE DEATH OF Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG O. M. I.

by Very Rev. Fr. P. J. Jeevaratnam O. M. I.

Rector, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

"Ecce Sacerdes Magnus qui in diebus suis placuit Deo"

"Behold the great priest who pleased God in his days"

My Lord, my brethren and friends of Fr. Long,

When, two months ago, like a lightning or a meteor, Fr. Long flashed through the darkening skies of Jaffna, we never thought, and he never thought either, that ^{that} was to be his last visit to his dear Jaffna. He said that he was coming back in August for a longer stay. But God has willed it otherwise and called him to his eternal rest. Oh God, only yesterday he was in our midst in the best of health, gladdening our hearts and spreading sunshine all round. And today he is no more: O God you granted us, at least, the consolation of that fleeting visit and thus lightened our present sorrow. We thank you for it.

Fr. Long was a bright star, nay a brilliant sun in the firmament of Jaffna, giving light, warmth, life and glory to St. Patrick's, to the Town, to the peninsula and to the whole Island of Ceylon, for 34 years, the best years of his life, almost his whole life. He came to us a young priest of 24 and left us an old priest of 57. But he has left the imprint of his greatness on everything he touched. St. Patrick's College stands the most magnificent monument to his greatness its majestic buildings, its traditions of nobility and loyalty and best of all, the thousands of old boys, who are thrilled and are proud to be called his old boys. The name of Fr. Long was a magic word that gifted the Jaffna Plane to the Great war, that brought the Air Service to the North, (that brought the Air Service to the North,) that started the Million Rupee Library in the Town and that produced the living Passion Play of St. Patrick College.

Fr. Long was a giant in stature and his efforts were all gigantic. His heart too was as big as himself. Though he was a terror when he grimly stood at the pillars of Silence, he was most understanding, affectionate and helpful, when anyone was in trouble. Hundreds of boys who are doing well today, owe everything to his kindly and influential help. His magnetic and charming personality won him friends all over the Island, without distinction of Language. But he claimed to be, first and foremost, a Jaffna man himself. When he was here two months ago, he often repeated, "Oh it is wonderful, this feeling of belonging to Jaffna." Yes, he loved Jaffna. He lived for Jaffna. He worked for Jaffna.

All his greatness, as a man and as a priest, emanated from his deep Faith in God and holiness of life. He had the Irish Faith in him and the Irish piety. His parents were most exemplary Catholics who consecrated to the service of God all their four children—three boys and one girl. The eldest, Fred, became the Assistant Rector of the great Seminary of Maynooth. The second, Timothy, became our Rector. Emma became Mother Mechtilde, and Dan, the youngest, was for a short while here at St. Patrick's and later became the Superior of Piltown Scholasticate. Thus, Fr. Long came of a saintly family and has left us, as legacy, his own saintly life. The Holy Mass and the Rosary were the two fountains of his deep spirituality. He has bequeathed to St. Patrick's these two fountains of solid sanctity by the daily Rosary at the opening of the session and by the frequent Masses in the College Chapel.

At the age of 64, he was actually on his way to Rome to make a long spiritual Retreat of 30 days, in order to 'reconsider his life', as he put it. He had to get a special permission for this, because only those below 55 years of age are allowed to make this rigorous retreat. But God found that Fr. Long was ripe for Heaven and called him to Himself.

But, O God, what am I trying to do? My words of praise fall like a few petals at the feet of a Colossus. Can I ever recount all that Fr. Long has done for St. Patrick's and for Jaffna? won't it be like trying to empty the Jaffna lagoon into a little hole with a tiny thimble? Thou alone, O Almighty God can reward him for the tower of strength he was to us and the pillar of glory he was to Jaffna.

We thank You O God of Goodness, for giving him to us. We thank you for all the great things You have done to us through him. Now we beg of You, grant him the eternal reward promised to a good and faithful servant.

And you, our own dear Fr. Long, your body lies in the soil of your own near Ireland. But your spirit is here with us. Your great spirit is moving in our midst. You live in the heart of every old boy and every present boy. And your own great heart, though still in death, has Jaffna written across it. May God grant that we all meet one day, the old boys and the present boys, round you, our great Rector, at the throne of God to sing once more our Alma Mater.

Amen.



FORGET IT

*Forget the slander you have heard,
Forget the hasty, unkind word;
Forget the quarrel and the cause
Forget the whole affair, because
Forgetting is the kindest way
Forget the hurts of yesterday.*

= ANON

இறவாப் புகழ்ப்படைத்த துறவி

அமரர்

ரி. எம். எவ். லோங் அடிகளார்

“யாழ் ஜெயம்”



உரைகல்விற் சரிபார்த்த செம்பொன்மேனி, உயர்ந்த தோற்றம், நிமிர்ந்த நன்னடை, ஒளிபொழியும் நீல மணிக் கருணைக்கண்கள், மலர்போலும் எழில்முகம், மதுரமொழி, வெண்பனிபோல் உடல் போர்த்த தூய அங்கி, அரையிலே தொங்கும் கரும் பட்டுநாடா, களங்கமில்லாப் பனிங்கனைய துறவுக் கோலம், கட்டழகர். இத்தகைய ஒரு பொற்சித்திரமாய் அகக்கண்முன் காட்சி தந்து நிற்பவரே அன்பின் வண்ணமும் அறத்தின் சின்னமுமான அமரர் அருட்டிரு ரி. எம். எவ். லோங் அடிகளார்.

அவர் ஞானப்பலிப் பீடத்தில் மூவாசைகளையும் அர்ப்பணித்த தியாகத் துறவி. ஒளிவிடும் உயர்ந்த சிந்தனைகளில் அவர் ஒரு சுடர்த்தாரகை. கர்த்தரின் திருமறைப்பணியும், கல்விக்கடமையும், தேச சேவையும் ஒருங்கேயாற்றி எரிந்து நறுமணக்கான்ற கர்ப்பூரம், சொற்களை விட உயர்ந்த குரலிற் பேசும் செயல்வீரர். மாணவருலகின் கற்பனை, உணர்ச்சி, இலட்சிய ஆர்வம் என்பவற்றை முழுதுங் கவர்ந்த உளநூல் விற்பன்னர். அடிகளார் வாழ்க்கை அரசுகம்பீரமானது. அறவழி பிறளாமையும், அறிவான்மையும், நிறையருளும் அவரைக் குன்றின் விளக்காய் உயர்த்தி நின்றன. உத்தம தரிசனம் பொதிந்த சத்திய தரிசனத் தரும் உன்னத காவிய நாயகனாய் அவர் நம் மத்தியில் வாழ்ந்தார்: வாழ்கின்றார், வாழ்வார்.

1896 ஆம் ஆண்டு, சித்திரைத்திங்கள், 22ஆம் நாள் அயர்லாந் நாட்டிற் பிறந்து, கேம்பிரிஜ் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் எம். ஏ. பட்டதாரியாக மலர்ந்து, 1921இல் யாழ். புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் பேராசிரியராய் அமர்ந்தார் அடிகளார். 1936 முதல் 1954வரை புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் அதிபர் திகமாய் உயர்ந்தார்.

தெளிந்த நீரிற் பால்கலந்தவாறாய் அடிகளாரின் மதிமாண்பு மிகுந்த நிருவாகத்தில், கல்லூரி நிறைந்த பிரகாசம் பெற்றுத் திகழ்ந்தது. ஒழுக்கநெறி, ஆன்ம

பலம், கல்வித்துறை, கலைவளம், உடல்நலம், கட்டுப்பாடு அனைத்திலும் புகழோங்கி ஒளிர்ந்தது. ஈழத்தில் மட்டுமன்றி, உலகின் பல்வேறு திசையில் வாழ்ந்த மாணவருள்ளங்களையும் கல்லூரியின் வளர்ச்சி வளப்புக் கவர்ந்தது. பல்கலைக்கூடங்கள், பாரிய கட்டிட வரிசைகள், பரந்த மைதானங்கள், நீச்சல்தடாகங்கள், பலவும் அமைத்து, ஈழநாட்டின் தலைசிறந்த கலைக்கோபுரமாகப் புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரி இலங்க வேண்டுமென்ற இதயதாகம் அடிகளாரிடம் கொழுந்துவிட்டெரிந்து கொண்டேயிருந்தது. பிற நாடுகள் சென்று திரட்டிய நிதிகளாலும், புதிய கல்வி நெறிகளாலும், கல்லூரி வளம் பெற்றுயர அடிகளார் புரிந்த தியாகசேவைகளை வரலாறு பேசுகிறது. ‘பிரம்படித் தண்டனை நீக்கம்’ மாணவருள்ளத்தில் தென்றலாய் வீசுகிறது.

அடியெடுத்துச் சென்றுவிட்ட அதனாற் பயனில்லை, அடியொவ்வொன்றும் படியெடுத்த மக்கள் நலம் வளர்த்தல் வேண்டும் என்ற பரந்த மனப்பண்புடன் அடிகளார் துடிதுடித்துச் சமூக சேவைகளிலும் ஈடுபட்டார்.

1938ஆம் ஆண்டு முதன்முதலாக யாழ்நகரில் அகில இலங்கைத்தொழிற் சமாகமும் களியாட்ட விழாவும் ஒழுங்கு செய்தார்.

‘யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் விடை’ என்ற பெயரால் விமானநிதிக் களியாட்டம் நிகழ்த்தி யுத்ததேவையைப் பூர்த்திசெய்தார்.

தென்கிழக்காசியாவின் முடிமணியெனத் திகழ யாழ்நகரில் ஒருகோடி நிதியத்தின்மூலம் ஒரு வாசிக சாலையை உருவாக்கினார்.

பலாலியிலுள்ள ரோயல் விமானத்தளத்தை உள் நாட்டுச் சிவில் விமானத்தளமாக மாற்றியமைத்தார்.

இலங்கைத் தேசாதிபதி, அமைச்சர்கள், பல்வேறு திணைக்கள உயர் அதிகாரிகள், திட்டமிடும் அலுவலர்கள் முதலானோர்க்கு அவ்வப்போது தமது அநுபவ அறிவு ஆலோசனைகளைத் தந்துதவினார்.

அறிஞர் உலகு வயிரமணிச் சொற்களால் அடிகளாரின் சேவை நலம் பாராட்டி வியந்தது. இலங்கை அரசு அவரது உருவம் பதித்த முத்திரையொன்றை வெளியிட்டு அவரைக் கௌரவித்தது.

இவ்வண்ணம், பணிவுப்பண்புடன், விளம்பரம் விழைதலின்றித் தொண்டர்க்குத் தலைத் தொண்டராய்ப் பட்டை தீட்டிய வைரம் போன்று பல துறைகளிலும் அருஞ்செயலாற்றி ஒளி கொடுத்த

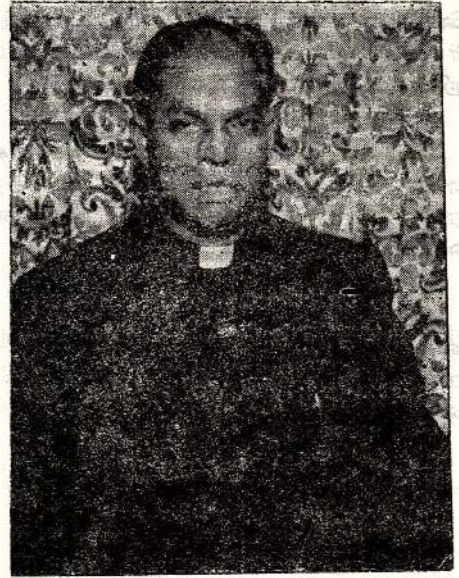
திருத்துறவி யாழ் வரலாற்றில் அழியாத அடிச் சுவட்டைப் பதித்துவிட்டுத் திடீர் மாற்றம் பெற்று 1954ஆம் ஆண்டு அவுஸ்ரேலியாவுக்குச் சென்றார். அங்கும் தமது கலைப்பெருமைச் சின்னமாக 'அயோனா' என்னும் கல்லூரியை நிறுவினார்.

தம் கனிந்த உள்ளத்தை நம்மிடம் விட்டு, எம் அன்பையும் இன்பநினைவுகளையும் தம்மோடு எடுத்துச் சென்று பறந்த தவப்பிறவி 1961ஆம் ஆண்டு சித்திரைத் திங்கள் 30ஆம் நாள் இலண்டன் மாநகரில் இறைபதம் சேர்ந்தார். அவரது பூதவுடல் - தாயகமாகிய அயர்லாந்திற் பூமிதானஞ் செய்யப்பட்டது.

'புனிதமான செய்கைகளிற் கமழ்வதே புகழ்'

Remembering An Eminent Educationist In This International Year of Alphabetism.

by **Fr. L. B. Rayappu O. M. I., L. Ph., S. T. D.**



The General Assembly of the United Nations Organization has proclaimed the year 1990 as the International Year of Alphabetism. It is quite fitting and just that the Government of Sri Lanka had decided to issue a postage stamp this year to honour Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I., an eminent educationist, who had rendered yeoman service in assisting thousands of Sri Lankans, not only to learn how to read and write but had made a substantial contribution to their intellectual and moral development and progress.

It is a sad phenomenon that there are still around 120 million children between the ages 6 and 11 who have no possibility of attending any school at all. Thus it is not surprising that analphabetism is rampant in the world. According to statistics, analphabetists in the world number about 890 millions, that is one fifth of the entire world population does not know how to read or write. Of these, 70% are females, that is, about 561 millions; 98% of all analphabetists that is 869 millions, live in the so-called developing countries: about 634 millions in Asia, 162 millions in Africa, 49 millions in Latin America and the Caribbean Islands, 60 millions in the Arab States and 20 millions in the USSR.

In spite of the fact that Asia counts the greatest number of analphabetists: India - 264 millions, China- 220 million, Pakistan-39 millions, Bangladesh -37 millions, it is consoling to note that Sri Lanka

is a country with a very low percentage of people who do not know how to read or write, namely 14%, about 2.25 millions.

It is an undeniable fact that the Catholic Church has been mainly instrumental in reducing the number of analphabetists in the entire world through her interest in the education of peoples. History proves that it was a Spanish Catholic priest in the person of Joseph Calasanctius, who built the first schools in Rome in the middle of the 16th century for those who were known as the street urchins, namely neglected children, in rags, dirty, hungry, addicted to all sorts of vices and who were not even considered as human beings.

If Sri Lanka glories itself as one of the countries of Asia with the least number of analphabetists, Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. could undoubtedly be claimed as one of the eminent educationists who contributed towards this.

A whole generation of the students of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna will attest to the fact that the standard of education improved by leaps and bounds in Jaffna largely due to the genial personality and the educational capability and efforts of Rev. Fr. Long, an Irishman who had spent the best part of his life in the service of the youth of Jaffna.

Fr. Long has been hailed as a modern crusader, fighting valiantly for the cause of education. From the moment he was brought in from Ireland in 1921 to enrich the tutorial staff of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, he became an outstanding teacher, not only at St. Patrick's, but in the entire Northern Province. By and by Fr. Long became an institution in himself, and as another educationist puts it, he was something like a modern Colossus in the field of education. He also was a guide friend of many an educationist of Sri Lanka.

Fr. Long's contribution to education was not limited to the people of Jaffna. Perhaps very few people may be aware of the fact that Fr. Long played a significant role in shaping the "White Paper" and the "Education Amendment Act of 1948". Thus he collaborated in providing a better education for the people of the entire country, and increased the rate of literacy in our fair Isle. As an educationist, Fr. Long was liberal, progressive and venturesome. It is only today that educationists insist on giving a totally integrated education or rather formation to the students. But already in his days, Fr. Long did his best to give all a broad general education by helping them develop their physical, intellectual and above all, their moral endowments. Thus he tried to widen the mental horizons of the children and of the public of Jaffna.

Fr. Long who was himself a great savant, an eminent educationist, an intellectual giant and a fabulous scholar, understood that it was reading that makes a man. Realizing the need for good libraries in Jaffna, Fr. Long launched the Library Movement. Not only was he the architect of an excellent Library at St. Patrick's College, but he was also the driving force behind the Jaffna Public Library scheme. The Jaffna Public Library and the tall statue that stands in front of it are an unforgettable and outstanding memorial of the tireless contribution of Fr. Long to the education of the people of Jaffna in order to make more and more people become educated and thereby reduce illiteracy and analphabetism in the country.

Several great men who lived in Ceylon during the time of Fr. Long have recognised his talents as an educationist. Lord Soulbury, one-time Governor General of Ceylon, had a great admiration for Fr. Long as an educationist. A. C. Collette, the famous cartoonist, described Fr. Long as a champion of progressive education and as one who symbolized the true educationist. I am truly overjoyed to find that the present Government of Sri Lanka too has recognized the importance and talents of Fr. Long as an eminent educationist, who has contributed immensely to alphabetism and literacy in our country and has decided to issue a postage stamp to honour this giant of an educationist.



*Blow, blow winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude
Although thy breath be rude.*

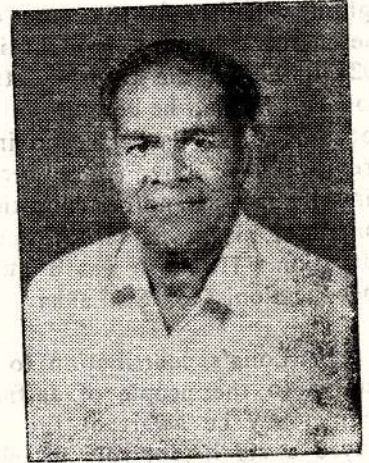
*My strength is as the strength of ten
Because my heart is pure.*

As You Like it, II, vii, 174-177

— Ivan Zulrich.

The Indomitable Swami Long — the Greatest Hero

by Mr. C. Vamadeva



(A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR :-

This article was written by the late Mr. C. Vamadeva, one of the Vice Presidents of the O. B. A, just a few days prior to his sudden death in Colombo, in his inimitable and emotional style. It is being published 'in toto' for its sentimental value. It was handed over personally to the Editor with profound apologies and profuse words of thanks and praise. It certainly reflects his mood and his whole personality. It is indeed a pity that the person who mooted and proposed the very idea of the issue of a stamp for Fr. Long should not live to see it. Such are the inscrutable ways of God! He was very simple, child-like and innocent at heart and a man with a fund of goodwill. He was every inch a Patrician. The O. B. A. in a special manner and the entire Patrician family shall always miss his ever-present genial personality and his bubbling enthusiasm and loyalty. While thanking God for the gift of Vama, we tender our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and lay this glowing tribute of his to his beloved Rector at his own feet as a token of our own debt of love and gratitude to one who was staunch and loyal and true and one who had in him the true Patrician cachet (May God rest his Soul).

I am a staunch Hindu and I will be failing in my duty if I do not refer to the fact that Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. though a Catholic priest has been a real, sincere and genuine friend of the Hindus. I dare say, his services to Jaffna have always been well appreciated by the Hindus. He was a real patriot of Jaffna. He viewed the problems from all angles and acted as an ambassador of peace between the Leaders of Jaffna and the Leaders of South Lanka and well cemented the unity that existed and settled the differences that arose from time to time.

In 1942, he revamped the St. Patrick's Annual with himself as Editor so that the magazine, the "Bottled Sunshine" might serve as a volume that will renew in the old boys attachment to their Alma Mater and their dedication to the motto "Fide et Labore". The spiritual welfare of the old the Patricians was never allowed to take a second place. He spared no pains to contact boys who were not quite steady in their faith. Such was Fr. Long. He was a class by himself. Fr. Timothy Long will be long remembered by the people of Jaffna not only for his meritorious services to

Education but also for the social uplift of the poor people. He was indeed a Jaffna man because he understood not only the virtues of our people but also their weaknesses. He knew that the Jaffna man by himself would not be able to build such a big library that Jaffna had very recently and so he went all the way to America to bring gold

Fr. Long was one of the greatest Rectors of St. Patrick's who not only dreamed of a greater St. Patrick's but had it all in blue print as well. If he had lived today he would certainly have made a mighty second attempt to give us another library far, far bigger than the one we had. That means he was a statesman who would have by now found a solution to our ethnic problems and brought the two communities together in a manner that befits the dignity of his people - the Jaffna Tamils. He loved the Tamils and they loved him immensely and they considered him as a hero and the Government itself has testified to it by issuing a postage stamp in his honour on National Heroes Day on 22nd May, 1990.

Fr. Long left the shores of his native Ireland to work for our people, our Church and the Tamil community. We shall never forget him and our memories will be more lasting than the statue which the grateful old boys have erected for him and which still stands miraculously preserved in front of the Public Library. My prayers to Almighty God to protect his statue from damage during the various operations have been heard. It was a miracle indeed whilst all others in the vicinity were in shambles. On the eve of his departure to Australia he gave a broadcast speech to the nation. In it he made mention of Mr. Sam. A. Sabapathy, then Mayor of Jaffna and self too. It is still ringing in my ears. The name and fame that our Alma Mater enjoys today are all due to the mighty efforts of our late beloved Rector and his eminence. It was during his stewardship that the College took giant strides and huge leaps in Education, Sports and Discipline and his period was acclaimed as the 'Golden Era' of St. Patrick's. He had three sterling qualities viz. ability, charm and holiness. He was one who considered himself "A Jaffna man" and did his utmost to improve the lot of the Jaffna man. Fr. Long was a Jaffna tonic and stimulant to which many had become chronic addicts. He would often say, "Prayer is everything", "Keep the faith". The Long era was really long and enduring. It was a period of grandeur

and scintillating activity - a period of coveted carnivals, exhibitions, pageantry and live open air passion plays.

I was in the Hindu Boarding at the time Mr. E. L. B. Hurulle, presently High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Australia, was there. And the mischief makers we were we got our share and taste of the Rector's cane & wrath. Fr. Long was an educationalist "par excellence". He began the million rupee fund to put up the Jaffna Public Library and engaged the services of Dr. Ranganathan an eminent architect from India. Fr. Long is always in my dreams. He used to walk to and fro on the corridors holding the tassel of his cord in one hand and the Breviary in the other and at other times reciting the rosary. He joined St. Patrick's in 1921 and was Rector from 1936 to 1954. He knew that the secret of successful administration was decentralisation and put it into operation. He was one who readily subscribed to the theory that the 'Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton' and when he was appointed Prefect of Games in 1921, he proved the truth of it. Sports was his first love. He was the very embodiment of the Patrician motto "Fide et Labore". The Jaffna man can never forget him. Boys cannot easily forget his insistence of a slow devout recital of the prayers. Boys will also remember for many a year, his repetition of "And blessed is ..." a third and a fourth time and that in successive HAIL MARYS. He introduced the Black Book. He got priests for "Retreats" the ablest and the best preachers. He used to say "only the best is good enough for St. Patrick's". Two of his happiest days were the day of Sri Lanka's Independence and the day of the consecration of the first Ceylonese Bishop of Jaffna, the Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Emilianuspillai O. M. I. Fr. Long has become an institution in Jaffna. He took a personal interest in the students not only when they studied in school but even after they had left school. He even went to the extent of using his magnetic influence to secure employment for them. I am one of those who benefited from his magnanimity. He gave me a letter to the Director of Public Works and I was given the job straightway. He was indeed a true democrat and a patriot.

To Sound a personal note. During Fr. Long's time, my elder brother the late Mr. C. Nadarajah was reading in the London Matriculation class. Fr. Long taught Latin to my brother and as he progressed Fr. Long was amazed at my brother's

extra-ordinary skill and ability. Believe me, he was the only one who carried away all the prizes beating even the seminarists who were there. My brother died of Black water Fever - the day the Matriculation results were out. The moment the Rector, Fr. Long, heard the news of his death, he announced it at an assembly, declared the school closed, came along with the teachers and students to our house at Navalur Road, Nallur, placed the congratulatory telegram stating that my brother had passed in the first division. on the body and stood with his head bowed in silent prayer and paid his last respects to one of his brilliant students. Such was his sense of feeling and love for others. It was under Fr. Long's guidance I played tennis and earned the title "Lob king of Jaffna".

Before becoming Rector, Fr. Long preferred to take the middle school classes because he wanted to catch them young, tame them and mould them into well-patterned, disciplined men. The first thing he did was, to make us memorise the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling. He knew that that poem was more than enough a fortification for a student to enter into manhood and to face life. He did not leave us at that, He saw to it that the poem was framed and hung at the entrance to the College Library so that the general student population could also benefit by it. His lessons were pleasant. His cordiality and reverence to the students endeared him so much that he left behind his imprint on generations of students, He never treated any student of his as a "hopeless case". Instead, he

gave dozes of encouragement and pep-talks to the weaker ones "to help the lame dog over the stile" as he'd put it. And that was why, the then student fraternity hailed him as the "Teacher of Teachers" and "Preacher of Preachers". Whenever he caned a boy (and he used the birch lavishly) he always called him "child" which obviously shows that he did it much against his will and only for the student's own good and out of the love and concern he had for him. During his regime he made S. P. C. shine not only in studies but also in sports and extra-curricular activities like Cadeting. Another wonderful facet of his administration was the running of the hostels. The Wardens of the hostels were also as keen and enthusiastic as the Rector himself in their day to day duties. The success of St. Patrick's was to a large measure due to his policy of decentralisation of offices, which we should all be proud of. But the most stupendous of all, which he bequeathed to us is his deep Irish faith and piety.

In conclusion, the Patricians of yesteryears will not fail to recollect the towering personality of Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. and his deeds done to St. Patrick's and to the people at large. Big, Burly and Benevolent, exuding Bon Homie Fr. Long will be long remembered by the grateful, discerning, devout Jaffna man as long as the English tongue survives and the last stone remains unturned in the portals of St. Parick's College, Jaffna or the Jaffna Public Library.

Till we meet again in Heaven - farewell dear Fathr.
Long live LONG.



FEAR DEATH?

**Bear the brunt of pain, darkness and cold,
For sudden the worst turns the best to the
brave.**

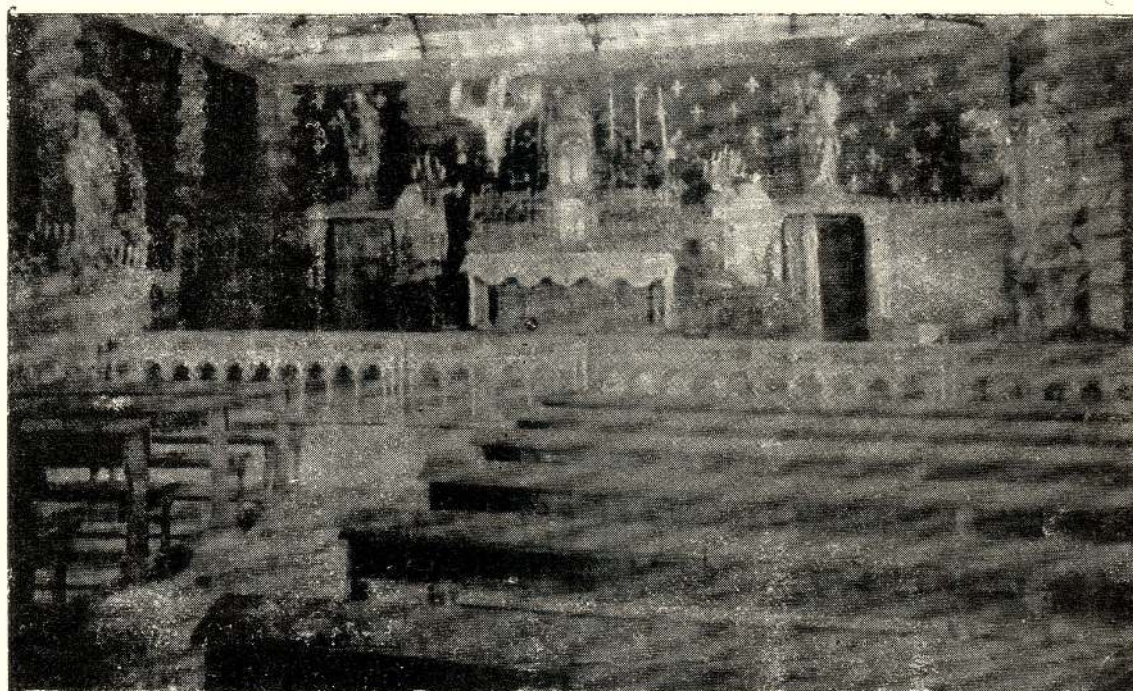
And life's at an end.

— Robert Browning's 'Prospice'

Fr. Long in his office.



(Note the statue of the Blessed Virgin MARY on the table & the pipe in his hand.)



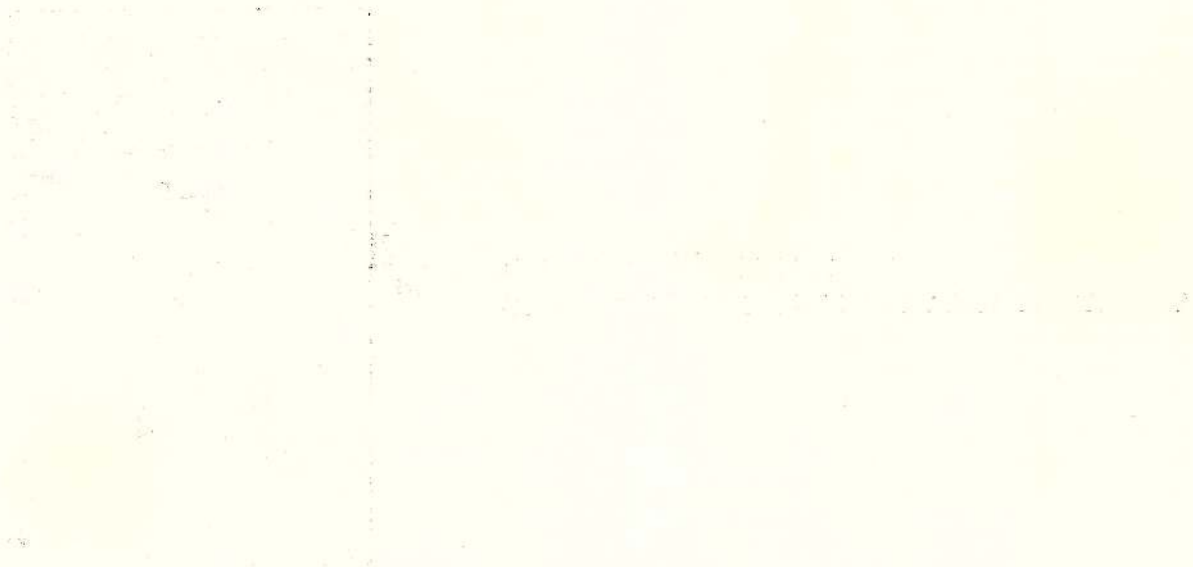
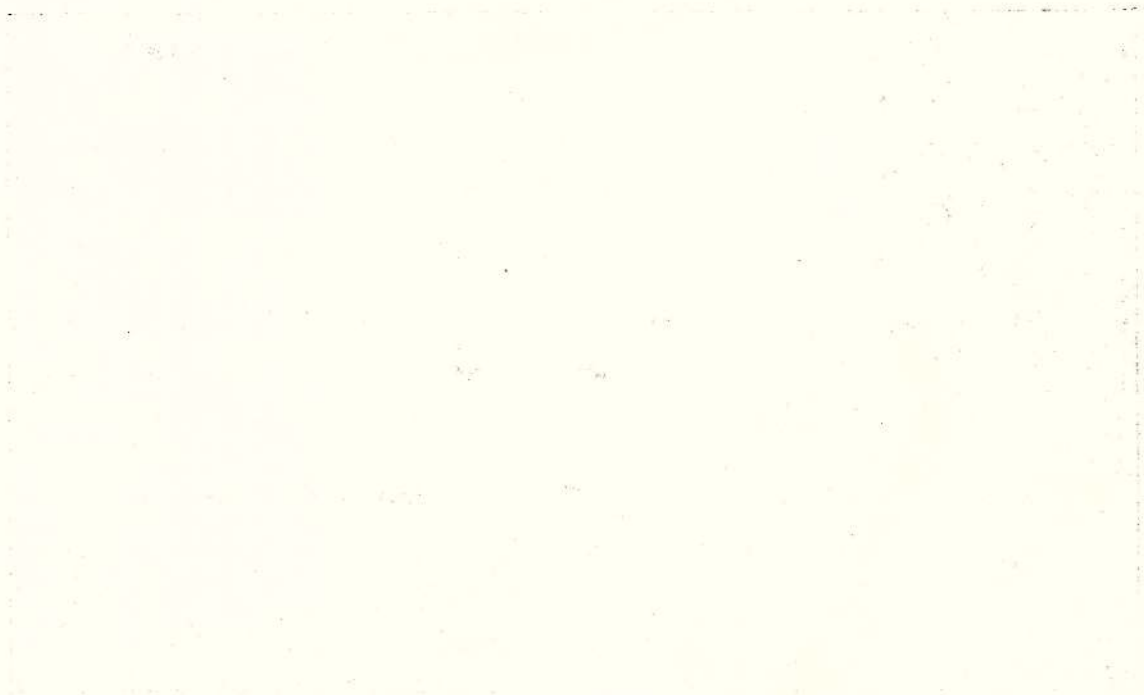
The Beautiful altar and Sanctuary of the College Chapel

An Historic Occasion

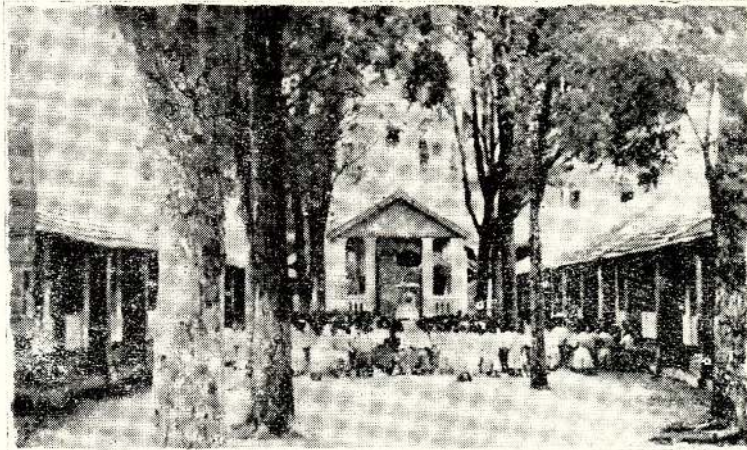
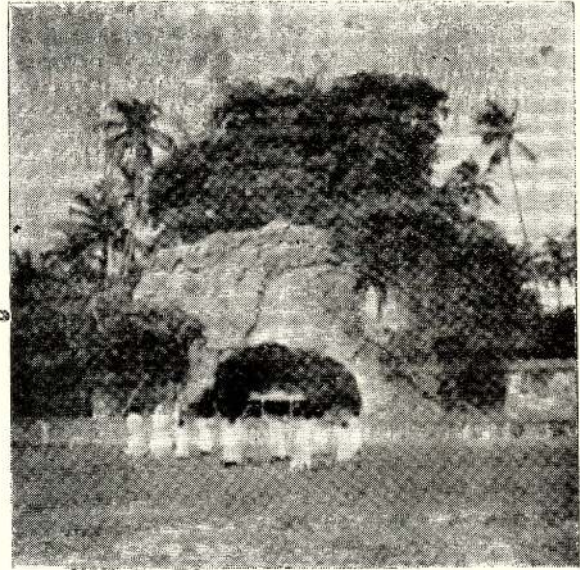
“The Burial of Mr. Patrick Cane”

The Rector & students holding placards decrying corporal punishment.



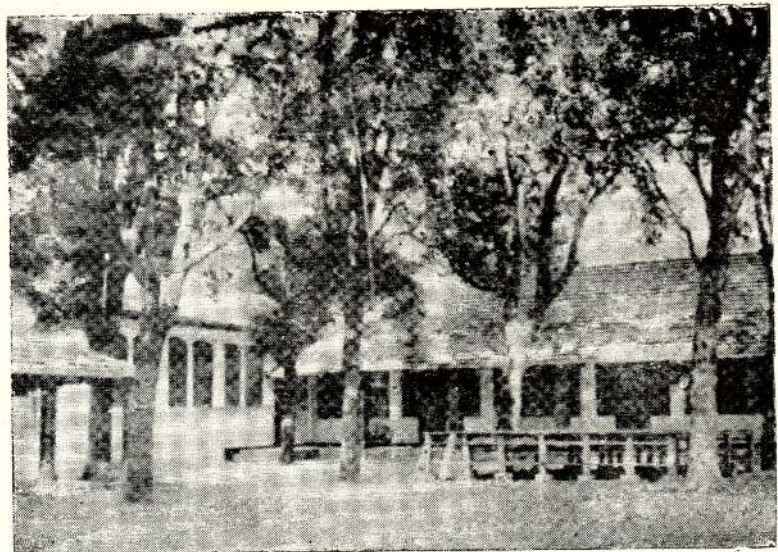


A strikingly realistic Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes erected in 1938 at St. Martyn's, now a part of the "Arul Ashram" of the Rosarians.



Prayers at the foot of Our Lady of the Patricians in the quadrangle → led by Fr. Rector.

The Boxing Ring in the Quadrangle. The Science Lab, the Physics & chemistry Lecture rooms & the Tuck Shop are also visible.



The Late Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. LONG,

O. M. I.

(An Educationist par Excellence and a man incomparable)

By Mr. Augustine Saverimuttu



To write on the multi-faceted life of the late Fr. Long is doubtless a noble task. Nevertheless, it is a laborious task, something venturesome, which I am both unworthy and incompetent to undertake. My task is rendered all the more difficult when I realise that I have to cramp all that I have to say of that full-blooded Irish educationist from Catholic Ireland, in the narrow space of a few columns of this magazine which diffuses the beams of its sunshine to its far-flung Patricians scattered today the world over.

I had known the late Fr. Timothy quite closely during my student days. This was from the early 30s to the late 30s. Fr. Long succeeded the late Rev. Fr. Chas S. Mathews O.M.I. of revered memory, as Rector on February 10, 1936.

I can remember in an assembly held in the college hall one afternoon, the late Fr. Mathews reading out the letter to Fr. Long from the late Rt. Rev. Dr. Alfred Guyomar, Bishop of Jaffna, appointing Fr. Long as Rector of St. Patrick's College. The letter was written in Latin the contents of which were read and explained to the assembly by Fr. Mathews.

Fr. Mathews also made the announcement that Fr. Long would take over office from him, as Rector, the next day itself. He then called for three hearty cheers for the new Rector which received a thundering response from both teachers and students. Fr. Mathews gracefully made his exit from office the next day.

Fr. Long, as the worthy successor of Fr. Mathews, studiously and scrupulously maintained the great and noble traditions of the school, especially in the matter of discipline set by his predecessor. But unlike his predecessor, Fr. Long believed in the principle of devolution. He didn't want to keep all power to himself.

The new Rector appointed a Head Master, the late Mr. D. Saverimuttu, and made him share part of his administrative and disciplinary functions. He inculcated a sense of responsibility in the students. He assigned a measure of responsibility to the school Prefects, to the House Captains and to the Monitors of the classes. Fr. Long also wanted to abolish corporal punishment in the school. He thought it would be possible if he gave the students more responsibility and imposed complete trust in them. This innovation, he felt, would make the students realise their duties better and restrain them from doing wrong.

Fr. Long did succeed in his plan to a great extent. He was finally able to abolish corporal punishment totally at St. Patrick's and celebrated the event by burning the cane in a public and dignified school ceremony which he called, "The burial of Mr. Cane."

There was one duty that Fr. Long unfailingly performed every year at the beginning of the first term and that was to explain to the whole school the meaning of the school motto, "Fide et Labore." He explained the meaning in English as, "By Faith and by Labour." He told the students that nothing can be achieved in this world except by faith and hard work. Faith in God first, and in our own selves next, and studious labour.

Fr. Long also explained the meaning of the Latin tag. "Laborare est Orare" meaning to labour is to pray. All work, he explained, was noble and prayerful; even studies. He also instilled into the students a sense of duty. Fr Long defined duty, as that which we do which we often do not like to do. He would also say that we should not want to do what we like to do, but we should like to do what we have to do. I have still to find a better definition of duty.

Fr. Tim also emphasised respect for authority. He told us that we should pay due respect to authority because, as he said, "all authority comes as it must come, from the ultimate authorship of God." There was however one paramount fact that he emphasised and that was, "Learn to value authority justly, but not submit to it slavishly." In other words, he taught us not to become slaves to authority.

As a member of the tutorial staff Fr. Long taught English, Latin and History. Whatever he taught he ingrained it into the students' mind. He had a knack for imparting knowledge into his students. He had his own technique in the task of teaching. I remember in the Latin class Fr. Long explained the 'participial construction' as the 'Caught Boy' construction and the students understood this construction better:

The participial construction is like this: a sentence like "they captured the city and burnt it" has to be changed into, "they burnt the captured city" when translating it into Latin. The word "captured" is the participle. Fr. Long explained the construction this way. He gave the sentence, "he caught the boy and punished him." This sentence, he told us, had to be changed into, "he punished the caught boy." All Fr. Long's Latin students understood this explanation better and the participial construction thereafter became known as the "Caught Boy" construction at St. Patrick's College.

When teaching in the Apologetics class about the dangers of mixed marriages, especially between a Catholic and a member of some other faith, Fr. Long taught us that there was a high degree of risk in such marriages in that the influence of the non-Catholic partner can gradually pervade his or her Catholic partner leading to the latter's faith in his or her religion beginning to wane and finally all faith being lost permanently. As an example he said, "You cannot live near an iceberg without feeling cold."

I remember learning in Fr. Long's Apologetics class (and incidentally he gave me the gold medal too, the most coveted distinction at St. Patrick's then despite my provoking him with my cross questioning) about the Theory of Evolution, the Theory of Transmigration (re-birth) the Theories of Fatalism, Pantheism etc. One thing he told us was that theories were subject to change but the Biblical story of Creation would never change.

Fr. Long had not only done an immeasurable lot for St. Patrick's but also for the common good by establishing the new Public Library in Jaffna

Fr. Long taught us never to be discouraged, never to be daunted by initial failures. "A failure" he told us "is only a bend on the road and not the end of the journey." Fr. Long always emphasised that we should learn to look at the brighter side of things. "Face the sun," he would always say "and the shadow will fall behind."

Fr. Long was a man who had tremendous faith in the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He told us that if we have faith in the Blessed Virgin Mary and keep gazing at her statue many thoughts would cross our minds. Those thoughts, he told us, were our prayers in themselves.

Among the many educationists, both locals and foreigners, who have laboured in Sri Lanka for the cause of education, Fr. Long's name will rank very high.

In the class room Fr. Long was a teacher of no mean abilities. He had an inherent skill for imparting knowledge. I was one of those who were privileged to sit at his feet and drink, though not deep, of the Pierian spring of his profound knowledge. I can already visualise him in the class room expounding with Daedelian skill the most intricate rule in Latin or the most abstruse verse in English literature, with such a lucidity as almost amazed all his students.

Fr. Long had in him a concentrated essence of almost all the best qualities. He was virtuous to a fault. He loved his boys with a paternal affection and the boys, all of them, loved him with a filial affection. Fr. Long called every student "child" and the students regarded him as another father.

Fr. Long watched over his proteges with the utmost solicitude and consistently endeavoured to lead them to great heights of glory. Is it any wonder that Patricians occupied pre-eminent positions in the country, both in the public and private sectors?

Thoughts of Fr. Long bring back to my mind painful memories. I can still picture Fr. Long seated in his office and smoking his favourite pipe the fragrance of which one could get as one entered the school gates.

I remember at a Colombo O. B. A. meeting presided over by Chevalier Sir Sittampalam Gardiner, at which Fr. Long was billed to speak, and where there were several wives of the Old Boys also present, Fr. Long got up and opened his address with the words, "Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen. I come from Jaffna." Yes, Fr. Long always took pride in calling him self a Jaffna man

It can be said that Fr. Long loved St. Patrick's more than his parents, more than his country and more than everything else in this world.

Fr. Long was transferred to Australia very much against his wishes. He wanted to live and die in the land of his labours just as Fr. Mathews did. But that love was denied to him. I can remember at the Jaffna railway station just before Fr. Long entrained for Colombo to leave the country, Fr. Long embracing Fr. Mathews who was also present at the railway station, and sobbing unashamedly. Fr. Mathews sobbed too because it was he who brought Fr. Long to Jaffna & to St. Patrick's College. Everybody else who was present at the railway station and witnessed that scene was also moved to tear s.

When he was in Australia Fr. Long took every chance to visit Ceylon because his longing to see his old school in Jaffna where he spent the best and happiest years of his life was irresistible. I remember the last time he visited Jaffna was in the year 1961. Fr. Long was on his way to Rome for a retreat.

Fr. Long took the chance to stop over in Colombo and visit his old school. I met him that time in the school and asked him how he felt to be back in Jaffna. Fr. Long replied with visible emotion, "Oh, its like being back home!" Fr. Long really meant what he said. Fr. Long left his "home" for good after a brief stay in Jaffna.

On his way to "Home" he suddenly took ill in the aircraft and the 'plane had to be diverted to London where he died in a hospital.

Fr. Long is now lying buried in his own country, in Inchicore Cemetery, in Dublin, Ireland. In my daily meditative prayer I am able to picture clearly the College chapel, my two Rectors, Fr Mathews and Fr. Long, the other fathers, my teachers and my colleagues. It is a painful picture that rescurs to my mind.

I am now in an alien country, far away from my homeland, but I daily recall to mind that poem "Patriotism" by Sir Walter Scott, which I learnt at St. Patrick's. Yes sweet remembrance of my country and my old school come rushing back to my mind. I also often recall that truthful and painful paradox, "the crown of sorrows is remembering happier days." There is also another beautiful paradox that I learnt during my school days at St. Patrick's, "the sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thoughts." Yes, I was a member of the school choir when I was at school My voice was loved by Fr. Long. When I recall the songs and hymns I sang at school they bring back bitter-sweet memories.

THE GREEN & GOLD FOR EVER

1. In days of yore from Erin's shore
Oblate fathers gladly came
And planted firm the Shamrock badge
On Jaffna's palmed domain.
Here may they wave our boast, our pride,
And join in love together,
The Shamrock Badge our breasts entwine,
The Green and Gold for ever:

Chorus

The Green and Gold our emblem dear,
The Green and Gold for ever,
God bless our Rector, Heaven bless
The Green and Gold for ever!

2. To Father Long our Rector dear
All glory, laud and honour,
For he doth guide us erring sheep
Throughout our school career;
From strength to strength ma he gone on
For ever and for ever,
From age to age may Patrick's fly
Her Shamrock Badge for ever!

My one fervent prayer is that I be given the blessing to visit Catholic Ireland once, to kneel at the grave of my revered Rector, Fr. Long, and to pay him my homage. I hope that prayer will be granted:

The college anthem "Alma Mater" which brings back to me poignant memories whenever I sing it to myself is in my humble view, the best school anthem that can be found anywhere in the world. It was composed by an Irish priest, Fr. Murphy, who was then attached to St. Patrick's and who was drowned while sea bathing in the seas near K. K. S.

Finally, Fr. Long is dead and died a long time ago. But he will continue to live in the realm of memory where he can never die. His memory will live enshrined in the hearts of all those Patricians who have known him and loved him. To live in the hearts of those who loved him is not to die. Fr. Long is a name that is destined to remain at St. Patrick's as long as the institution lasts. May his spirit continue to guide us!

Character is what you know you are,
not what others think you are.

— J. P. Tatchet.

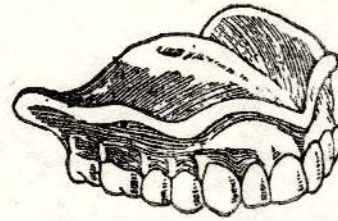
Rapine, avarice, expense - these we adore,
plain living and high thinking are no more.

— William Wordsworth.

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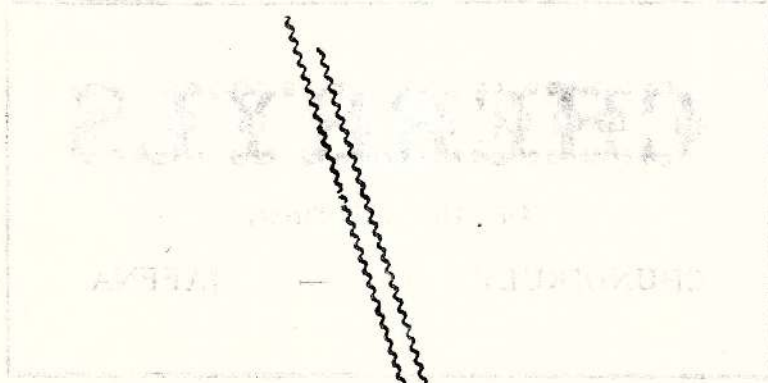
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தொலைபேசி: 23752

பேரறிஞர் லோங் அடிகளின் பணிகள்

பிரான்சில் சென் றேச்

(துரை ஆரோக்கியதாசன்)

B. A. (Cey.), Sp. Trd., Dip.-in-Ed. (Final)

விசிவுரையாளர், பலாலி ஆசிரியர் கல்லூரி.



எழில் நகராகிய யாழ்நகரின் புனித மரி அன்னை பேராலயத்திற்கு முன்னால் ஒரு மாபெரும் குன்று. அதில் அணையாத கல்வித்தீபம் சுடர்விட்டுப் பிரகாசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. அதுதான் ஈழக்கல்வி வரலாற்றிலே புகழ்பூத்த கல்வி அன்னை புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரி. இதனை உருவாக்குவதற்குப் பல கல்விமான்கள் பணிபுரிந்தார்கள். இன்றும் இதன் வளர்ச்சிக்கும் எழுச்சிக்கும் உயர்ச்சிக்கும் பலர் தொண்டு புரிந்து கொண்டே வருகிறார்கள். இவர்களுள் தலைசிறந்த கல்விமான் மத்தியூஸ் அடிகளின் சீடரான தனிப்பெரும் தலைவரும் இன்றைய மலரின் நாயகனாகத்திகழும் மாமனிதருமாகிய லோங் அடிகள், அன்றோன் உருவந்தாங்கிய முத்திரை வெளியிடும் வரலாற்று முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த பொன்னுளில் வெளியாகும் மலர் இதுவாகும். "பொன்மலர் நாற்றமுடைத்து", என்றபடி இம்மலர் பேரறிஞர் லோங் அடிகளின் பணியின் உன்னதநிலையை எடுத்துக்காட்டுகிறது.

இற்றைக்கு மூன்று தசாப்தங்களுக்கு முன் லோங் அடிகள் (30-04-1961) மறைந்தும் மறையாதவராய்ப் புகழ்பூத்த செம்மலராக திகழுவதற்கு அடிகளின் அன்புப்பணியே தக்கசான்றாகும். லோங் அடிகளின் பிறப்பினால் ஐரிஷ் நாட்டு அன்னை 'மகிமையுற்றான், யாழ் அன்னை, லோங் அடிகள் நிறத்தாலும், மொழியாலும் சமயத்தாலும் வேறுபட்டாலும் தனக்கொரு சமூக ஜோதி கிடைத்ததையிட்டுப் பெரும் மகிழ்ச்சி கொண்டாள். ஈழநாடு சிறந்ததொரு கல்விமான் கிடைத்ததையிட்டு இன்று (22-05-90) தேசிய வீரர்களின் பட்டியலில் லோங் அடிகளைச் சேர்த்து உலப்பிலா உவகையடைகிறார். அனைத்து அன்னைகளுக்கும் 'வள்ளுவர் பெருந்தகையின் வாக்குநிறைவுறும் மங்கள தினம்' இன்றாகும்.

"ஈன்ற பொழுதிற் பெரிதுவக்கும் தன் மகளைச் சான்றோ நெனக்கேட்ட தாய்"

(திருக்குறள் 69)

(Even more than she did when she gave birth to him, a mother rejoices on hearing her son spoken of as a perfect man)

பேரறிஞர் T. M. F. லோங் O. M. I., M. A., அடிகளின் தனிவாழ்வை ஆராய்ந்தால் அதனைப் பெரும் காவியமாக, உன்னத ஓவியமாக, ஏன் பேரிலக்கியமாகவும் சமைக்கலாம். இவர், அன்றைய அரசியல், சமூக, பொருளாதார, நிலையில் கல்வியை யாழ் மக்களின் தனிப்பெருஞ் சொத்தாகத்திகழ உணர்வை உருக்கி உள்ளொளி பெருக்கின மாவீரனான இவர், ஈழமணிநாட்டின் கல்விப்பாரம்பரியத்தில் அனைந்தும் அணையாத தீபமாகப் பிரகாசித்துக்கொண்டேயிருக்கிறார். இத்தீபத்திலிருந்து ஆயிரமாயிரம் தீபங்கள் சுடர்விட்டுப் பிரகாசித்துக் கொண்டே தொடருகின்றன. லோங் அடிகள் தோற்றத்திலே இமயமலை, தொண்டிலே மெழுகுவர்த்தி, ஆற்றலிலே மின்விளக்கு அன்பிலும் பண்பிலும், வழிநடத்தலிலும் குன்றிவிட்ட தீபமாக திகழ்ந்தார். ஆளுமைக்கு வைரவிலக்கணம் கூறமுடியாது. ஆனால் பல்வேறு சிறப்பியல்புகளைக் கொண்ட ஆளுமையின் ஒட்டுமொத்தமே லோங் அடிகள் என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது.

ஒழுங்கு உதயமாகும் இடமே ஒழுக்கமாகும் இதனை லோங் அடிகள் தம்வாழ்விலும், கல்லூரிப் பணியிலும் சமூகப்பணியிலும் கடமை, கண்ணியம், கட்டுப்பாடு என்பவற்றை தாரக மந்திரமாகக் கொண்டு ஒவ்வொரு சொல்லுக்கும் செயல்நுட்பம் அளித்த செயல்வீரன் என்றால் சாலவும் பொருத்தம். "நுண்ணறிவு அன்புடன் இணைந்துவிட்டால் அதனால் அடைய முடியாத எதுவும் அவனியில் இல்லை" என்றார். கவிஞர் கதே. இதற்கு இலக்கணமாகத் திகழ்ந்தவர் லோங் அடிகள் ஒழுங்கு DISCIPLINE என்ற ஆங்கிலப் பதத்தில் வரும் ஒவ்வொரு தனி எழுத்தையும் பிரித்து நோக்கினால் லோங் அடிகள் எவ்வாறு புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரியை இயக்கினார் என்பதை ஓரளவு உய்த்துணரலாம்.

D - Decision making - தீர்மானம் மேற்

கொள்ளல்

I - Integrity - நேர்மை

S - Sincerity - உண்மையுணர்வு

C - Courage - துணிவு

I - Impartiality - நடுவுநிலை

P - Punctuality - காலந்தவருமை

L - Loyalty - பத்திமை

I - Initiative - முன்னெடுக்கும் ஆற்றல்

N - Neatness - ஒழுங்கு, சுத்தம்

E - Efficiency - திறமை

நானே விடுமுறை தினமாக்கி அதன்பின் ஆசிரிய மாணவ உறவு, ரோமை ஆட்சிக்காலத்திலிருந்த சர்வாதிகாரப் போக்கிலிருந்து மாற்றியமைத்து, தோழமையை வளர்த்தார்.

லோங் அடிகளின் வாழ்வின் சில சம்பவங்களை வெளிக்கொணருவது ஒரு பாணைசோற்றுக்கு ஒருசோறு பதம்போலிருக்கும். ஒரு தடவை ஒரு மாணவனுக்குத் தவறுதலாக பகிரங்கப் பிரம்படி கொடுத்தார். அதன்பின் சில உண்மைச்சான்றுகள் மூலம் அவன் குற்றமற்றவன் என்பதை உணர்ந்தார். அவர் உள்ளம் உருகியது. மணியை அடிப்பித்து மாணவர்கள் அனைவரையும் கல்லூரியின் பிரதான மண்டபத்திற்கு அழைத்து, பகிரங்கமாக அம்மாணவனிடம் தன் தவறுதலுக்கு மன்னிப்புக் கோரினார். குற்றம் புரிவது மனிதஇயல்பு. அதனை உணர்ந்து திருந்தி நடப்பது தெய்வீகத்தன்மை அழகால் மயங்காதவர் யாரும் உளரோ என்றபடி தாம் மட்டும் தம்முடைய தூய வெள்ளை அங்கியுடன் வருவதுபோல் மாணவரும் புனிதமாக பாடசாலைக்கு வர வழிகாட்டினார். இவருடைய காலத்தில் மாணவ சீருடையை அறிமுகப்படுத்தி, பொன்னும் பச்சையும் கொண்டதாக ஒரு கழுத்துப்பட்டியை அன்றைய காலத்தில் உத்தம மாணவ தலைவனாக திகழ்ந்தவரும், இன்று யாழ் அமலோற்பவ மரியன்னையின் தியாகிகள் சபையின் உயர்தலைவர் அருட்தந்தை லூயிஸ் பொன்னையா அ. ம. திக்கு கௌரவித்த காட்சி இன்றும் என் நினைவில் உள்ளது. இன்றும் பழைய மாணவ சங்க உறுப்பினர்களின் கூட்டத்துக்கு தொடர்ச்சியாக கலந்துகொள்ளும் விரல்விட்டு எண்ணக் கூடியவர்களில் அருட்தந்தை பொன்னையா அவர்களும் ஒருவர் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

இத்தனையும் ஒருசேர அமைந்தவர் அடிகளார். லோங் அடிகள் புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் 1936 - 1954 வரை பணிபுரிந்தார். இவரின் காலத்தில் புனித பத்திரிசியார் அன்னை கல்வியிலும், விளையாட்டுத்துறையிலும், சமயத்துறையிலும், ஒழுக்கத்திலும் மாணவச்செல்வங்கள் புகழ்பூத்துப் பொற்காலம். அன்றைய சாதனைகள் புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரி வரலாற்று ஏட்டில் பொன்னெழுத்துக்களால் பொறிக்கப்பட வேண்டியவை. இவரால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட மாணவப் பரம்பரை ஈழநாட்டில் மட்டுமல்ல அகிலமெங்கும் சுடர்விட்டுப்பிரகாசிக்கும் தீபங்களாகத்திகழுகிறார்கள் புனித பத்திரிசியார் அன்னைக்கு நூற்றாண்டு விழா பூர்த்தியாகும் வேளையில் பாரிய மத்தியூஸ் மாடிக்கட்டிடம் பூர்த்திபெற்று உன்னதமான பெருவிழாவும் நடைபெற்றது. நானும் புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் சிறுவனாகக் காலடி வைத்த கழிவூட்டும் தினமாகும். லோங் அடிகள் அதிபர் திலகமாக திகழும் காலத்தில் நானும் மாணவனாக இருக்கக் கிடைத்ததையிட்டு பெரும் பாக்கியமெனக் கருதுகிறேன்.

அன்று கல்லூரி வாழ்வில் நிகழ்ந்த நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் இன்றும் என் உள்ளத்தில் பசுமரத்தாணிபோல பதிந்துள்ளன. அவற்றில் சிலவற்றை பகிர்ந்துகொள்ள விழைகிறேன். காலதாமதமாக வரும் மாணவருக்கு அவர்கள் உணரும் வகையில், இன்று உயர்வகுப்புக்கள் நடைபெறும் முன்றலிலுள்ள மல்யுத்த மேடையில், ஒரு சாக்கின் நான்கு மூலைகளை நான்கு பெரிய மாணவர்கள் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு கல்லூரிக்குத் தொடர்ந்தும் பலதடவை தாமதித்து வரும் சிறுவர்களை ஒவ்வொரு வராகச் சாக்கில் கிடத்திப்படைக்கும் காட்சி இன்றும் பசுமையான நினைவே., இதனால் பலரின் நடத்தையில் முன்னேற்றம் ஏற்பட்டது. குற்றம்புரியும் மாணவர்களுக்கு பகிரங்கமாக தடியால் அடிக்கும் தண்டனை வழங்கும் காலம் அது. அதேவேளை மாணவன் உளவியல் ரீதியாகப் பாதிக்கப்படுவதை உணராத காலம். 'அடியாத மாடு படியாது' (Spare the rod and Spoil the child) என்ற வழியைக் கடைப்பிடித்த லோங் அடிகள் சிறிதுகாலம் வெளிநாட்டிற்கு சென்று திரும்பிய பின் அன்பினால் மாணவர்களை சீரிய வழியில் நெறிப்படுத்துவதே தலைசிறந்தது என உணர்ந்து பிரம்படிக்குச் சாவுமணி அடித்து, பிரம்புகளை எரித்து அன்றைய

'கலை இன்பமே நிலை இன்பம்' என்றபடி லோங் அடிகள் கவின்கலைகளில் ஈடுபாடுடையவர் என்பதற்கு பல சான்றுகள் உள. இவருடைய காலத்திலே அகில இலங்கை கைத்தொழிற் களியாட்டு விழாவும், சும் மேளமும் நடைபெற்றன. இற்றைக்கு அரைநூற்றாண்டிற்கு முன் இலைமறை காய்போலிருந்த கலைஞர்களுக்கு உயிருட்டம் அளித்துக் கௌரவித்த பெருமகன் லோங் அடிகள் என்றால் மிகையாகாது. எனது அருமைத்தந்தையும் பழைய மாணவரும் கலைஞருமாகிய அமரர் பிரான்சீஸ் துரையப்பா சலமோனின் கலைப் படைப்பிற்கு "போட்டோகிராபிக் புளக்" வெள்ளிப் பதக்கம் வழங்கி, சான்றிதழும் லோங் அடிகளினால் முத்திரையிடப்பட்டிருப்பதைக் கண்டு பரவசம் அடைந்தேன். யாழ்நகரில் முதல்முதல் காணியேல், மல்யுத்தம் பொருட்காட்சி ஆட்கள் நடித்த திருப்பாடுகளின் காட்சி முதலிய பல்வேறு வைபவங்களை நடத்தி வெற்றிவாகையீட்டிய மாவீரன் லோங் அடிகள்.

லோங் அடிகள் தம் வாழ்க்கையில் கல்விப்பணியிலும், சமூக சேவையிலும் சிறந்த சிகரமாக மிளிர்வதற்கு அடிகளின் ஆன்மீக வாழ்வே அடித்தளமாக அமைந்திருந்தது. சமயம் என்பது வார்த்தையில் அல்ல, வாழ்க்கையில் என வாழ்ந்துகாட்டிய ஞான சீலர் அவர். புனிதபத்திரிசியார் மாணவர்களை மட்டுமல்ல அவர்களை வழிநடத்தும் ஆசிரியத்திலகங்களை யும் நல்லதொரு குடும்பமாக நீண்டகாலம் நெறிப்படுத்திய பெருமைக்குரியவர் லோங் அடிகள். இன்றும் அவரினால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட பல்லாயிரம் மாணவர்கள் உலகின் எட்டுத்திசிலும் பரந்து சிறந்து விளங்குகிறார்கள். நன்றிப்பெருக்குடன் லோங் அடிகளின் மாணவப்பரம்பரை தொடர்ந்தும் சிறப்புப்பணியாற்றுகின்றது.

தமிழ் மக்களின்மீது லோங் அடிகள் கொண்ட தீராத காதலைப் பிரபலியம் வாய்ந்த நகைச்சுவை ஓவியம் வரையும் கொலெட், (Collette) அன்றைய பிரபலியமான ஆங்கில தினசரி ஏட்டில் கேலிச்சித்திரமாக அடிகளைக் கருப்பொருளாகக் கொண்டு சுவாமியின் தலையில் தமிழருடைய தலைப்பாகையும், கையில் சூடையும் வாயில் யாழ்ப்பாணச் சுருட்டும், வேட்டியும் சால்வையும் அணிந்துகொண்டு கொட்டும் மழையில் பலாவி விமான நிலையத்தில் விமானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கும் காட்சி. இவர் யாழ் மண்ணின் மைந்தர் என்பதை எடுத்துக்காட்டியது. அனைத்திற்கும் லோங் அடிகளின் பணியைக் காலமெல்லாம் நினைவுகூர யாழ்ப்பாண மக்கள் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளார்கள்.

புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரி ஆங்கில மொழிச் சூழலில் லோங் அடிகளின் காலத்தில் சிறந்து விளங்கினாலும் தமிழ்மொழியின் கலை கலாச்சார வளர்ச்சிக்கும் பெருந்தொண்டு புரிந்தார். அன்றைய சூழலில் ஆட்சிமொழி ஆங்கிலமாக இருப்பினும் தமிழ்மொழி வளர்ச்சிக்குப் பல்வேறு வகையில் துணை புரிந்தார். சிறந்த தமிழ் ஆசான்களைத் தேடித் தன் கல்லூரியின் கல்விப்பணியில் ஈடுபடச்செய்த பெருமை லோங் அடிகளைச் சாரும். கல்வி அன்னைக்குப் புகழாரம் ஈட்டிய சிறந்த மேதைகளான நல்லூர் சுவாமி ஞானப் பிரகாசர், தமிழ்த்தூதர் தனிநாயகம் அடிகள், கலாநிதி தாவீது அடிகள், முத்தமிழ் வித்தகர் விபுலானந்த அடிகள் வரிசையில் லோங் அடிகளுக்கு முத்திரை வெளியிடுவது அன்னைதான் அக்களிப்பை அளவிட முடியுமோ?

லோங் அடிகள் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் கடமை அலுவலாக வாகனத்தில் போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது முக்கியமான சந்தியில் ஒரு மனிதன் விபத்தில் சிக்கி இரத்தக்கறைபடிந்து குற்றுயிருடன் போராடுவதைக் கண்டு உள்ளம் உருக நல்ல சமாரித்தனாக உடனே அந்த விபத்துக்குள்ளான மனிதனைத் தன் தூய வெள்ளை ஆடையின் மடியில் அரவணைத்துக் கொண்டு மருத்துவமனையில் சேர்த்து அவனை உயிர்பிழைக்கச் செய்தார். அடிகளின் நற்பணிகள் மறைவதில்லை.

யாழ்நகரில் தென்கிழக்காசியாவிலே தலைசிறந்த பொதுசன நூலகம் உருவாவதற்கு வித்திட்ட சிலரில் இவரும் ஒருவர். நூலக கட்டிட நிதிக்கும் லோங் அடிகள் தனது தொப்பியை நீட்டி வெளிநாட்டில் யாசகம் செய்து நிறைய நிதியைத்திரட்டி உவந்தளித்தார் என்றால் அவரின் தியாகப்பணியைச் சொற்களால் வருணிக்கமுடியாது. நல்லதொரு நூலகம் சிறந்ததொரு பல்கலைக்கழகம் என்பதைச் செயல்படுத்திய மாமனிதன் அடிகள். அதன் அழிவு எமக்குப் பேரிழப்பாகும். 20-12-1975 இல் யாழ் பொதுசன நூலகத்திற்கு முன் நன்றியுள்ளம் படைத்த பழைய மாணவர்கள் லோங் அடிகளின் சிலைத்திறப்பு விழாவைச் சிறப்பாகக் கொண்டாடினர். லோங் அடிகளே பலாவி விமான நிலையத்திற்கு அடிகோலிய பெருமகள், விளையாட்டுத்துறையில் மட்டுமல்ல, சமூகசேவையிலும் மும்முரமாக உழைத்த அடிகளின் பணிகள் மடிவதில்லை.

1954 இல் லோங் அடிகள் தீவிர அலுவல்திரேவி யாவிலே பணியாற்ற பணிிக்கப்பட்டார். யாழ் முற்ற வெளியில் மாபெரும் சனசமுத்திரம் திரண்டு அவருக்கு பிரியாவிடையும் நன்றிநலவிலும் விழாவும் கோலாகலமாக வழங்கியது. ஊர்வலங்கள் "லோங் அடிகள் நீழி வாழ்க" என்ற சுவரொட்டிகள் "Long live Father Long" என்ற கோஷங்கள் வாளைப்பிளக்கும் சத்தம் ஒலித்தன. யாழ்ப்பாண மக்கள் அனைவரும் அன்பினால் உள்ளம் உருகிக் கண்ணீர் வடித்தார்கள். இறுதியாக லோங் அடிகள் என்ற இமயமலை எதையும் துறக்க கண்ணீர் வடிக்காத மாமனிதன் யாழ் மண்மேல் கொண்ட தீராத பாசத்தினால் கண்ணீர் வடித்தார். அந்தக்கண்ணீர் எம்மை 30-4-1961ல் அடிகளின் மறைவினால் நிரந்தரக்கண்ணீர் ஆகிவிட்டது. ஆனால் அடிகள் புகழுடலில் நம்மோடு வாழ்கின்றார்.

I Remember Fr. Long with Love

by **Mr. K. S. Santiapillai**
(LIBRARIAN)



The major part of my career was during the grand Long Era. We remember his bonhomie and amiability, his zeal and magnificent achievements. Let us not forget specifically his strenuous efforts to update the school Library. I am one of the very few who still linger from a different age - one of a handful who had practically daily contact with him. I remember him with love.

Before Fr. Long, the nearly seven hundred books we had, were scattered in many different parts of the school. Fr. Long consented to my suggestion to collect all the books in one site and have a common library. Earlier, the books were not lent and the books were mostly for reference. He approved the issue of books to the boys and added fresh stocks of well-bound school editions of high class English writings. All the books were housed in a Common Library - the spacious Smythe the Hall. Soon the reading habit caught on and with still more additions of popular books, we had the best Boys' Library in Jaffna. Father Long was himself a voracious reader. He donated his personal Library, whole and entire, to the School. After reading a book he sent it to the library and every week-end I could expect a hamper of books for the library. Fr. Long could finish reading not one but four books per week!

Fr. Long opened a Suggestion Book in the Library. Teachers and eleven boys were invited to suggest books for the Library and invariably these suggestions were acted upon.

The time soon came, when because of the rush of new consignments of books the shelves were crammed. Fr. Long, to ease the congestion got a new shelf made every week. The Library received a new shelf made every week. The Library received a new look with new satin wood uniform shelves and an imposing array of Library Chairs and tables. Our Library became the envy of many a school, so much so, that a picture of the Library was on show at the Colombo Plan Exhibition 1952. The thousands of books were sorted according to the Dewey Decimal system and arranged subjectwise. The Library was open on Saturdays and Sundays too from 8 to 11.30 A.M. and remained open on weekdays till 5 P.M. for the convenience of the upper school boys, who wished to do reference.

Looking back I cannot but be amazed at the attachment the boys had then for the library. It was indeed inspired by Fr. Rector himself. During the lunch interval and after school long queues of boys waited at my counter to check in and check out books. They were hours of strain but still a happy experience to see our children so earnestly book-minded.

Fr. Rector presented his radiogram to the Library and the boys came on schedule to listen to the school radio programmes.

The walls had the portraits of famous writers; Collete's cartoon of Father Long with the caption "He comes from Jaffna" hung at the entrance. Father Long was no mean Art Lover and paintings both oil and crayon of master pieces decorated the library walls. The Library was also an auditorium. I remember a debate at which Justice Nihill presided. The boys debated whether P.G. Wodehouse's picture should remain on St. Patrick's library walls. Those were war days. When St. Patrick's was in the thick of the war-effort Anti German feelings were running high and P.G. Wodehouse was a Nazi sympathiser. It was resolved that a writer's political leanings should not prejudice his literary fame and P.G. Wodehouse's picture continued to adorn our walls. Once more Fr. Long's St. Patrick's maintained a characteristic level-headedness! The Library was also an important venue when the famous Burning of the Cane episode was enacted. Father Long fresh with new ideas from the U.S. decided to burn the cane - a long standing emblem of the never failing Patrician discipline. The burning actually took place in the College Quadrangle in the presence of the entire school. This was cremation with a difference. The representatives of the boys spoke condemning the cane. "The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones". The chief mourner at the funeral was appropriately the Head Master - the chief executioner whose hitherto unpleasant duty had been to wield the cane. The ashes were deposited in an urn and the cortege

skirted the roads round the school and finally reached the Library. There the urn was consigned to the Archives. The news papers next day had Head Lines screaming "Father Long Burns the Cane".

Perhaps the last important meeting held in the Library at which father Long presided was when in 1954 Dr. Ranganathan spoke to the boys. He was the Professor of Library Science at the University of New Delhi and had come in response to a special invitation to advice the Town Library Committee.

An old man lives on memories. I remember Father Long's days at St. Patrick's as a time of scintillating activities and spectacular achievements. Then people spoke of St. Patrick's as Father Long's school and people grieved when he left Ceylon and Jaffna and St. Patrick's. In my own humble way I shall always remember this man with a mighty heart for the deep fervent love for our Boys. I will be failing in my duty if I do not refer to the great piety of Father Long. It is his piety that made him face challenges with courage. Every last week of the year from 25 December evening to New Year morning Father Long made his spiritual retreat. Incidentally I was sacristan. He got the Chapel key from me and I know personally he would spend hours before the Blessed Sacrament in silent meditation. This was indeed a very edifying example to all of us.



*He who weaves thoughts of love and might, shapes
his high end in Truth's unerring light.*

— James Allen

First Ever School Boy to Participate in the then A. A. Meet.

By Mr. M. G. Gunasingham



The first ever school boy to compete at the then All Ceylon Amateur Athletic Meet was from St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. This was in 1942 when the late Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. was Rector and the late Mr. B. R. Motha was Coach and I happened to be the material moulded by them and sent to this meet.

I joined St. Patrick's College, Jaffna on 9-5-1932 in the First Year where my Class Teacher was Miss Tousaint, an English Lady and the Lower school Principal was the late Rev. Fr. L. J. Augustine O. M. I. I still clearly remember the tin shed which was my class room and the wooden shed of Fr. Augustine's Office. It was whilst in the middle school in Form II that the Rector Walked into the Class and wanted the whole class to go to the grounds at the end of the day and give their names to participate at the coming St. Patrick's Day Inter House Sports Meet. This was in 1939. At that time I did not understand the logic of making all students to take part, but I later realised that this was a move to observe and pick out talents to be trained.

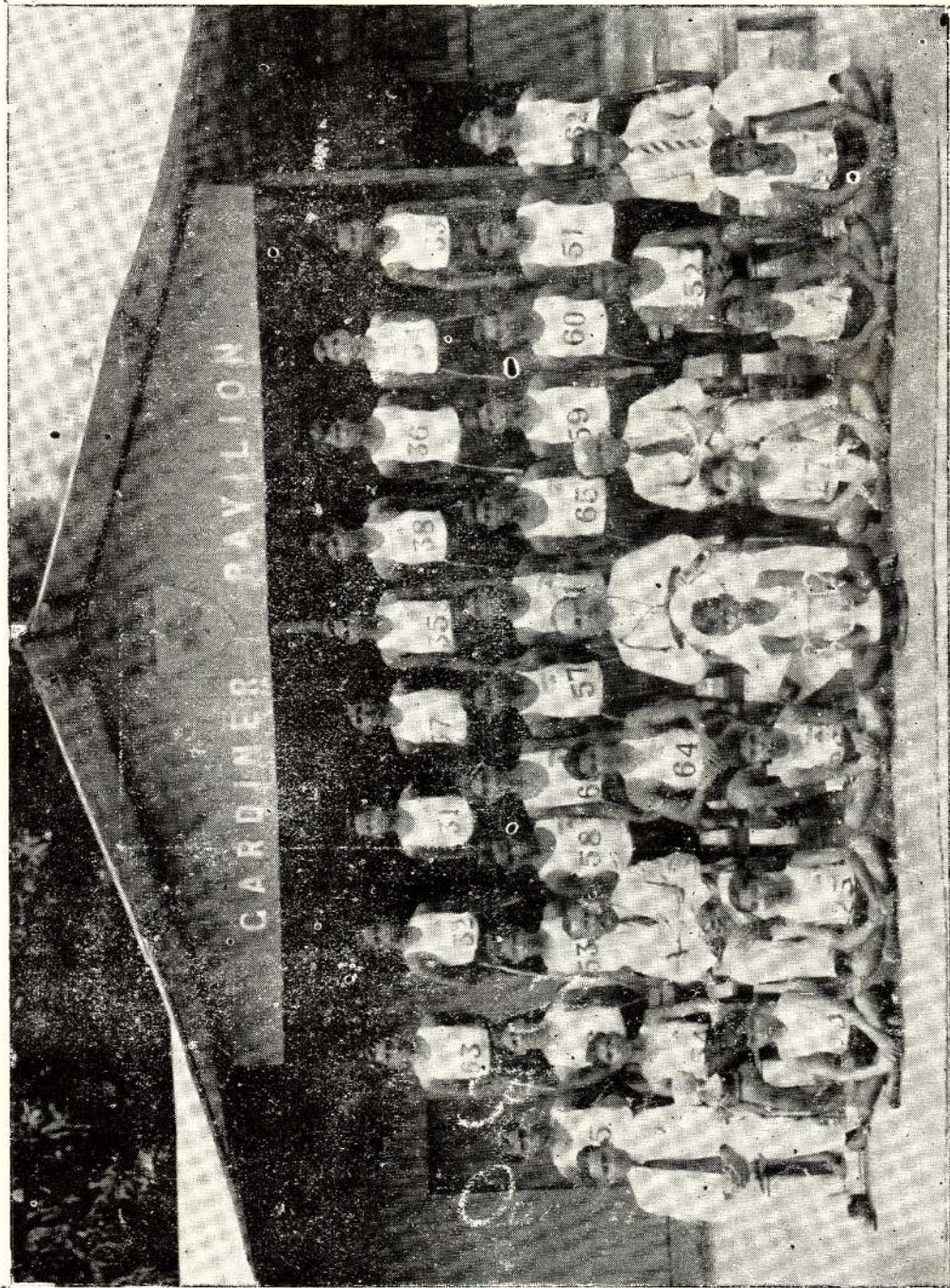
In that year I won the first place in the one Mile and half mile races. From then on I came under the eyes of our Ace Coach Mr. Motha. The different athletes selected, had to go through very severe training both before and after school daily. The Rector was personally there to see to our regular attendance and give his encouragement. At the end of every day's training each trainee was given a cup of warm Ovaltine. The Wizard of training, the late Mr. Britto Motha, who had never donned a spike or

entered an Athletic grounds to compete, watched every one of his trainee very closely with books, and stop watch in his hand and a whistle round his neck. Every trainee was given individual attention and told how and where to improve speed, style etc.

I can never forget the strenuous training in stamina given to me. It was Mr. Motha who proved to me that with enough stamina and will power I could keep up good speed right to the end of the race. This was drilled into me day in, day out and virtually forced till I completed the race as desired by him. During the period of training once in 2 weeks or so the Rector would take a class for the trainees, with Mr. Motha. This was not only a great incentive but also a fright that one should do one's best.

When I was first initiated into the College Athletic Team participating in the J. S. S. A. Meet, in 1939 I was able to get only a 2nd place in the 1 mile race. On the following year I won the 1st place in both the 1 mile and 3/2 Mile races. I also annexed the Parson's Challenge cup for my school for creating a new record. In 1941 I once again obtained first places in both races and improved my own record of the previous year. This Record was unbroken for a period of 6 years.

I was a member of the College team that participated in the Public Schools Meet in Colombo in 1940. I was the only person who was able to get placed. I won the 1st Place in the one mile and 3rd place in the half mile.



The Gardiner Pavilion erected in 1936 at St. Martyn's.

Fr. Long, my beloved Rector, together with Mr. Motha encouraged me to compete in the All Ceylon Amateur Athletic Meet in 1942. I was the only school boy to compete in this meet and obtained a 3rd place in one mile and 2nd place in half mile. On my return to Jaffna after the meet I was given a tumultuous welcome at the Railway Station, Jaffna by the College.

My brother, the late Mr. M. Jacob, who was on the tutorial staff of the College was deeply worried that I was paying too much attention to Athletics

at the expense of my studies. He tried all possible ways to dissuade me from my love for these races but the encouragement given by both the Rector and my Coach egged me on to go on and I followed them. My brother was so annoyed that he used to tell his students (in Tamil) whenever I had to go to him, that here was a person who was a miler but miles apart from studies

Fr. Long was one who gave the best facilities and expected the best results in return. His period of office is said to be the Golden era of St. Patrick's

By Dr. A. Dunnington

During my period of office, there were about seven Sinhalese boys in the hostel. One for a variety of entertainment the warden wanted us to stage a Sinhalese play. The play was "Madani Kappawa" (Marriage Broker). The broker was W. M. P. H. M. M. M. I played the role of the bride. It was well appreciated by everybody, including our Rector Fr. M. P. Long.

During this period three brothers from Trincomalee came to the hostel. One when they were on their way home for the holidays they carried a very big bag full of books to Trincomalee. This was like carrying coal to Newcastle, and they were promptly nicknamed (Sinhala) Kattalikkas the eldest Pina-Kattalikka, the other Kattalikka & the youngest Pina-Kattalikka.

Once at the hostel union elections all the hostelers agreed unanimously to elect the three Kattalikka brothers as the President the Vice-President & the Secretary respectively. It was great fun to see the three Kattalikkas conducting the affairs of the Union. One day Pina-Kattalikka approached me and wanted me to give a talk to the Union. I vehemently refused this as there was only one week before my S. S. C. examination. He complained to the warden who called me to his room and advised me to say something and be

A little common sense, a little tolerance, a little good humour, and you don't know how comfortable you can make yourself on this planet.

I entered St. Patrick's College, Jaffna in the mid-1930s. It was Form I (std. 6) where I was the only Sinhalese Buddhist. We had a fine set of teachers to name a few: Fr. John, Fr. Charles, Mr. Saverimuthu and Mr. Jambastota. There was a Sinhalese trained teacher Mr. Palle from Negombo. I think that it should go on record that all the students from std. vi upwards were learning Sinhalese. As far as I know this was a common feature in all the leading schools in the peninsula at that time. If this practice had continued, one can just imagine the tremendous impact it would have had on the people of this beautiful island. Although I was the only Buddhist Sinhalese boy in the class, there was never any discrimination or favouritism done against me. The number of prizes including Mathematics was high and my being ranked either first or second in the class proved my point.

My best attraction to S. P. C. was its wonderful library which I class as the best school-library in the island. My favourite author was G. Hardy. All his books are on hunting expeditions to Africa, and after reading his full set of books I developed a craving for hunting. This was my hobby until 1977.

I was in the High hostel and our warden at that time was Mr. Jambastota. One day he took me and some other boys on a trip to Chennakam marshy land for a foreign priest who had come to Jaffna. We were very successful in catching some wild ducks &

— Somerset Maugham

at the expense of my studies. He tried all possible ways to dissuade me from my love for these books but the encouragement given by both the Rector and my Cousin egged me on to go on and I followed them. My heart was so annoyed and I followed them (in Tamil) whenever I had to go to school. There was a person who was a first class student.

St. Patrick's College was one of the best facilities in the island. During my period of study at St. Patrick's College it is said to be the Golden Age of St. Patrick's

Good old Days at

St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

By Dr. A. Dunusinghe



to compete in the M.C.I. in 1945. I to compete in this race in one mile and 2nd place was mine after I returned to Jaffna after my studies at the College.

M. Jacob, who was on the staff was decorated with the attention of the Rector.

I entered St. Patrick's College, Jaffna in the mid-forties. It was Form 1 (std. 6) where I was the only Sinhalese Buddhist. We had a fine set of teachers: to name a few: Fr. John, Fr. Charles, Mr. Saverimuttu, and Mr. Innasimuttu. There was a Sinhalese Trained teacher Mr. Pulle from Negombo. I think that it should go on record that all the students from std. vi upwards were learning Sinhalese. As far as I knew this was a common feature in all the leading schools in the peninsula at that time. If this practice had continued, one can just imagine the tremendous impact it would have had on the people of this beautiful island. Although I was the only Buddhist Sinhalese boy in the class, there was never any discrimination or favouritism done against me. The number of prizes including Mathematics I won, and my being ranked either first or second in the class prove my point.

My best attraction to S. P. C. was its wonderful library which I class as the best school-library in the island. My favourite author was G. Henty. All his books are on hunting expeditions to Africa, and after reading his full set of books I developed a craving for hunting. This was my hobby until 1971.

I was in the Hindu hostel and our warden at that time was Fr. Alston Mathuranayagam. One day he wanted me to arrange a hunting trip to Chunnakam marshy land for a foreign priest who had come to Jaffna. We were very successful and managed to bag some wild ducks & Blue-coots.

During my period there were about seven Sinhalese boys in the hostel. Once for a variety entertainment the warden wanted us to stage a Sinhalese play. The play was "Magul Kapuwa" (Marriage Broker) The broker was W. M. P. B. Menikdiwela & I played the role of the bride groom. It was well appreciated by everybody, including our Rector Fr. T. M. F. Long.

During this period three brothers from Trinco joined us in the hostel. Once when they were going home for the holidays they carried a gunny bag full of brinjals to Trinco. This was like "Carrying coal to New-Castle" and they were promptly nicknamed (Brinjals) Kaththirikas the eldest Periya-Kaththirica, the other Kaththirica & the youngest Pinchu-Kaththirica.

Once at the hostel union elections all the hostellers agreed unanimously to elect the three Kaththirika brothers as the President the Vice-President & the Secretary respectively. It was great fun to see the three Kaththirikas conducting the affairs of the Union. One day Pinchu Kaththirika approached me and wanted me to give a talk to the Union. I vehemently refused this as there was only one week before my S. S. C. examination. He complained to the warden who called me to his room, and advised me to say something and be done with it. That day I planned my line of action with the rest of the hostellers. We collected old tins, buckets & anything that could make any kind of noise & quietly stole them to Union Hall and kept them under the desks of the back benches, so that they could be kicked about without

exposing themselves. In the evening the meeting began with the Kaththirika brothers seated at the head of the hall. When my turn arrived to give the talk I began, "Gentlemen, the topic I have selected this evening is 'BRINJALS.'" Oh, what a noise they made for about one minute. Then I continued, "It belongs to the family SOLANACEAE. In Sinhalese we call it WAMBATU and in Tamil we call it Kaththirika." I looked amusingly at the three brothers. About this time the tins & buckets moved with more vigour and more noise, which brought Fr. warden into the hall who promptly grasped the situation, vetoed my speech, and cancelled the meeting.

After passing the S.S.C. examination with an exemption from the London Matriculation, I left St. Patrick's College, and joined St. Joseph's College Colombo.

Another occasion where St. Patrick's College came to my rescue was when I appeared before a panel of Tamil examiners for the Health Department Proficiency Exam' in Tamil. When they heard that I had been studying at St. Patricks. Jaffna for four years they promptly passed me, thinking that I knew enough Tamil.

The Christian Apologues that Father Long taught laid a solid foundation for my religious faith and has stood me in good stead through all the vicissitudes of life. I count this as one of the greatest blessings of my life.

Father Long was a precious gift to us at St. Patrick's. I salute his memory with deep love and reverence. When I think of him I cannot help thinking of his doughty predecessor, the majestic Father Matthews and my other teachers, from whom whose influence I benefited greatly in one way or another. They were the golden years that with joy and achievement in the evening of my life the sweet remembrance of these years had a rejuvenating effect on me.

I take this opportunity to pay homage to my 'Alma Mater', 'best sanctum of learning', the fond guardian of my boyhood, to whom I owe my successes in the Public Service for forty years, and in the years that have followed.

As I conclude this short account of my dear loved teacher, a vivid picture of him with his irresistible smile flashes into my mind and I am reminded of Mark Anthony's famous tribute to the dead Brutus in Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' (which incidentally was the English Literature text for the London Matriculation examination in 1910, my last year at College.)

His life was so gentle and the elements so mild to him that Nature might stand up And say to all the world: 'This was a man.'

Although sixty years have passed since I left St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, after completing my education there, the memory of Father Long remains fresh in my mind.

Father Long is a person who cannot easily be forgotten by anyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a presence with his towering personality and winsome ways - a lovable son of Erin and a polished product of Cambridge University.

Father Long's reputation as a great educator and a brilliant administrator spread outside the confines of Jaffna. He was well known in the country. When you were educated at St. Patrick's the response often used to be: 'Oh the college of which Father Long was Rector.'

His beneficial influence, whether they be eminent judges, Court, distinguished Lawyers, Government leaders, intellectuals, and dignitaries. — Arthur Guiterman

The story is told of how an eminent judge of the Supreme Court, a few came to talk to the preside over the Axioms and left talking with the decision to enter the Catholic Church, after meeting and conversing with Father Long, such is the measure of the impact he made on people.

Father Long had a singular flair for winning friends and influencing people - by his radiant smile, his distinctive charm, his intangible Irish wit, his deep sense of understanding and his remarkable ability to change the thinking and perceptions of people, who had the good fortune to discourse with him.

The cricketers, footballers and athletes adored Father Long for the sporting way he treated them and identified himself with them. He was far ahead of his time in his understanding of and empathy with youth.

Father Tim Long

— A Winsome Personality by Mr. Cyril Chinniah

He shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old,
At the going down of the Sun
And in the morning we shall remember him.

Although sixty years have passed since I left St. Patrick's college, Jaffna, after completing my education there, the memory of Father Long remains fresh in my mind.

Father Long is a person who cannot easily be forgotten by anyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a Presence with his towering personality and winsome ways - a lovable son of Erin and a polished product of Cambridge University.

Father Long's reputation as a great educator and a brilliant communicator spread outside the confines of Jaffna. He was well known in the country. When you were educated at St. Patrick's the response often used to be 'Oh the college of which Father Long was Rector'.

His beneficial influence touched all and sundry, whether they be eminent Judges of the Supreme Court, distinguished lawyers, Government leaders, intellectuals, administrators or religious dignitaries.

The story is told of how an eminent judge of the Supreme Court, a Jew, came to Jaffna to preside over the Azzizes and left Jaffna with the decision to enter the Catholic Church, after meeting and conversing with Father Long. Such is the measure of the impact he made on people.

Father Long had a singular flair for winning friends and influencing people - by his radiant smile, his distinctive charm, his inimitable Irish wit, his deep sense of understanding and his remarkable ability to change the thinking and perceptions of people, who had the good fortune to dialogue with him.

The cricketers, footballers and athletes adored Father Long for the appealing way he treated them and identified himself with them. He was far ahead of his time in his understanding of and empathy with youth.

He was my teacher of English Literature and Christian Apologetics. His classes were among the most interesting that I attended at St. Patrick's. I learnt from him the not so easy art of writing simple English, clear concise and lucid. My proficiency in English and my love of English Literature I owe to him and also to Chevalier Arulanantham, of happy memory. Their classes were among the most joyous experiences of my life.

The Christian Apologetics that Father Long taught laid a solid foundation for my religious faith and has stood me in good stead through all the vicissitudes of life. I count this as one of the greatest blessings of my life.

Father Long was a precious gift to us at St. Patrick's. I salute his memory with deep love and reverence. When I think of him I cannot help thinking of his doughty predecessor, the majestic Father Matthews and my other teachers, from whose influence I benefited greatly in one way or another. They all contributed to my happiness during the seven years I studied there - golden years replete with joys and achievements. In the evening of my life the sweet remembrance of these years had a rejuvenating effect on me.

I take this opportunity to pay homage to my 'Alma Mater', 'blest sanctum of learning', the fond guardian of my boyhood, to whom I owe my successes in the Public Service for forty years, and in the years that have followed.

As I conclude this short account of my dear, revered teacher, a vivid picture of him with his irresistible smile flashes into my mind and I am reminded of Mark Anthony's famous tribute to the dead Brutus in Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' (which incidentally was the English Literature text for the London Matriculation examination in 1930, my last year at College.)

'His life was so gentle and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world 'This was a man'

THE LAST DAYS OF Fr. LONG

(An interview with Rev. Fr. John. A. Francis O. M. I., emeritus
Rector and Parish Priest, St. Antony's Church, Passaiyoor)

Question: It is stated that you were with Fr. Long a few hours before he died, Is it correct?

Answer: Yes, that is correct.

Q: Where were you then and how did you happen to meet him?

A: I was at Stilorgan, Dublin at that time doing my Diploma in Education. I was staying at the Oblate Scholasticate. The superior phoned me up and said that I was invited for a special high tea and that a very pleasant surprise was in store for me. The pleasant surprise of course was none other than our dear Fr. Tim Long who hugged me and went into ecstasy at meeting the only student from Ceylon and that too from St. Patrick's.

Q: How did Fr. Long look? Did he show any signs of illness?

A: Yes, he did look rather pale and sickly but he never allowed it to overshadow his ebullient spirit.

Q: I thought he was on his way to Rome to make a long retreat? Why did he come to Ireland first?

A: Yes, he was to go to Rome but he wanted to see his old sick mother first. She was actually bed-ridden.

Q: What was Fr. Long's reaction on seeing you?

A: Oh! he was really thrilled and was all the time asking about Jaffna and St. Patrick's although he had stopped over in Jaffna on his way from Australia. This made the other Oblate Fathers remark he was full of Jaffna.

Q: Where did he actually die - in Rome or London or Dublin? And how did you get the news?

A: After meeting me he flew over to London en route to Rome. We got a call around 10 to say that Fr. Long who was suffering from eye trouble had been suddenly taken ill and was hospitalized.

Q: What did you do then?

A: Our superior, Fr. Mcgough telephoned London every 2 hours to get news of his condition. So on the 28th, I went to see his mother and to tell her about Fr. Tim, but in the meantime, his brother Dan had broken the news. And the mother said, "I have sacrificed three sons"

Q: When did you get the news of his death?

A: On the 30th morning, before my lectures I telephoned London hospital and heard that Fr. Tim was no more.

Q: How did you take it? How did his mother take it?

A: Oh well, it was terrible news. I was really shocked. I rushed to his mother and broke the news. She took it calmly and said, "Thanks be to God. Tim is gone". I also went to Sr. Clare and told her the sad news.

Q: How about the obsequies? Where did that take place?

A: The body was flown to Dublin and on the next day i. e. on the 1st of May at 1-30 p.m. there was a concelebrated requiem Mass at St. Teresa's Church. Fr. Dan Long (Fr. Tim's brother) was the chief celebrant and I assisted. Since I was the only one from Ceylon present, Fr. Fred (another brother of his) insisted on my heading the cortege with the Cross. Around 2-30 p.m. Fr. Long was laid to rest, and I had to rush back for my final teaching practice at 3-00 p.m.

Q: Were you able to do well?

A: I was somewhat nervous but thank God I handled the Class well and got an Honours Grade for my teaching. It was a Grade IX Class at St. Mary's Dublin. I attribute my excellent grading to Fr. Long's intercession.

Q: What were his last words to you Father?

A: He said, "I am going to Rome. Next time I'll come and stay longer." He then took me aside, and "said Be a man of prayer. When you are worried, Pray. When you are happy, pray and thank God".

Q: What's your impression of Ireland and the Irish people?

A: Oh it's a wonderful country with wonderful people, just like the people of Jaffna, very warm and friendly unlike the English who are somewhat cold. Most of them are very tall and long-lived. Fr. Tim's was a mishap and I think we too had a share in his early death. That's a pity. You cannot beat the Irish for their strong faith and their devotion to Our Blessed Lady and to St. Patrick. Whenever I go for a walk in the evenings I can hear the Rosary being said in every home. On all feast days they sing "Hail glorious St. Patrick" the very same one we sing here."

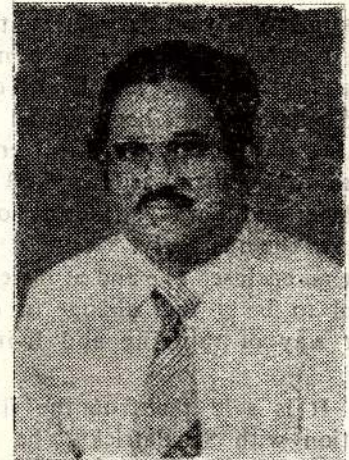
Thank you Father.

Father Long

— The Great Pedagogue

By **Mr. D. S. Gnanaprasam**

(Retd. Teacher, S. P. C.)



Fr. Long is normally and justly described by a whole generation of Patricians who were there during his time as 'God's greatest gift to St. Patrick's in particular and to Jaffna in general'. I am one of these fortunate Patricians who had been brought up under his care. We consider it a privilege to have been under the influence of such an eminent, dedicated, kind and genial personality. The little success I had as a teacher myself is due to the splendid training I received as a student under Fr. Long and the encouragement he gave me subsequently when I was in the university.

Fr. Long taught me Apologetics in the Senior classes and English in the university entrance classes. He was a very successful teacher and the secret of his success was his inimitable and unique style of explaining the subject to the students. He used to have regular tests and they were marked and returned to us the very next day with wonderful precision. We used to wonder how he managed to do it. He used to come to our classes armed with a list of mistakes. He knew precisely who made which and he would put it in such a way that not only the student concerned but even the others in that class would not make those mistakes again. Writing good essays was a terrible problem for us but he taught us to be brief, strictly logical and to the point. He used to insist that instead of writing a big essay for pages and pages and making a lot of mistakes, to limit the length of the essay and to see to it that within these narrow limits we did our best. Whenever we wrote a good essay he used to praise us and encourage us by his

favourite remark 'O excellent young man'. A few days before the final exams he used to have discussions and conferences and give us valuable hints to face exams boldly. Fr. Long used to be in touch with the most up-to-date methods of teaching and techniques of examinations and made it a point to put them all at our service.

It was during Fr. Long's time that devolution of responsibility and administration was started and effectively implemented. The system of Deans of faculties, Prefects of studies, of discipline, of games, board of prefects, head prefect, School of prefects, house captains, sports, foot-ball, and cricket captains etc. come into effect as a process of decentralisation of administration and Fr. Long carefully guided the initial steps of it.

Fr. Long was a man of Faith and was always loyal to the Catholic Church and to his superiors. In his administration he gave top priority to the religious atmosphere of the school. He always made it a point to be there for the morning prayers, then in the afternoon and finally in the evenings. It was indeed a real pleasure for us to recite the Holy Rosary with him, the Patrician prayer and the way of the cross during the lent season. Both for students and teachers he used to get down very eminent priests normally Redemptorists or Jesuits to preach the annual retreats and even terminal retreats no matter what the cost was. His policy in everything was 'Only the best is good enough for St. Patrick's. What really astonished most of us those days was that Fr. Long

was personally on duty during the retreat and from the first roll call at 6-30 a. m. to the final dismissal at 6-30 p. m. Even during the sermons and other exercises he would be there as if he were also a participant of the retreat. Just before we were to be dismissed at 6-30 p. m. he would say 'Silence on the way, silence at home' and we used to follow them strictly. Retreat at St. Patrick's was like an enclosed one and at the end of the retreat there used to be a real change in our attitudes and in our way of thinking and living.

It is said that from the first day of his association with St. Patrick's he was in charge of the Games Department and sports was his first love. We were told that it was he who created the house system. He had a wonderful way of discovering talented students for various activities and even discovering talents in students. He provided the best training available those days - there again he would personally be there in the grounds from 4 p. m. till 5-45 p. m. His interesting efforts were rewarded and St. Patrick's rose to dizzy heights during his period, - Athletic champions for 10 years in succession, cricket champions for 5 years in succession, and the triple champions for 5 years in succession in the northern province & the J. S. S. A. competitions - a really proud and unbroken record.

Fr. Long was the senior chaplain of the Ceylon Defence Force and also the president of the Head Masters' Conference. In the discharge of his duties he used to travel from Jaffna to Diyatalawa and Colombo during the week-ends but would be back at school at 8-30 a. m. on Mondays after travelling back by the Sunday Mail train. He would be fresh as usual and we used to wonder how he could withstand the strain of a whole night's travel.

Fr. Long engaged himself not only in the educational & sports field but also worked silently and secretly in the political field for the advancement of the Tamils and the cause of the Tamils. He felt that the Tamils were beginning to be treated as second class citizens of the country and were not given proper places in the administration of the Government. So he endeavoured along with

the then Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Emilianuspillai, to secure for the Ceylon Tamils a proper place in the Government. On a number of occasions he acted as an ambassador of peace between the Tamil leaders and the Leaders of the south, and cemented the differences that arose from time to time.

Fr. Long was the driving force behind the Jaffna Public Library Scheme. The one million Rupee fund was entirely Fr. Long's idea, and to form the nucleus of this Fund he organised the Yarl Vinotha Carnival in 1952 which was a tremendous success both as a carnival as well as a fund raising project. He went further to get big donations from Colombo and from foreign Embassies. To our ill-luck it was at this stage that he was transferred out to Australia.

Fr. Long had been affectionately regarded as an Irish-Jaffna Man. The famous cartoonist Collette was fond of caricaturing him. He had caricatured him on a number of occasions but the one that he did on the departure of Fr. Long to Australia was the best. In that cartoon Fr. Long appeared with an umbrella in his hand and a turban on his head and below the cartoon it was inscribed 'He comes from Jaffna'.

Patricians belonging to Fr. Long's golden era regret much that the present generation of Patricians do hardly know anything about this great man. Some have not even heard of such a person. I consider it relevant to quote from a speech made at a farwell function to Fr. Long, which in a nutshell describes the real personality of this distinguished Rector of St. Patrick's. (It was Fr. Long's enterprise, dedication, loyalty, absolute devotion to the growth and prosperity of the institution which was handed over to his care, which had brought St. Patrick's to the present status of a premier leading college of the country'.) The issue of Fr. Long's memorial postage stamp and the functions associated with this great event would I trust in some way or other make the younger generation of Patricians and the Jaffna Public know about this great eminent educationist who had worked for years in the cause of the people of Jaffna whom he really loved so much.

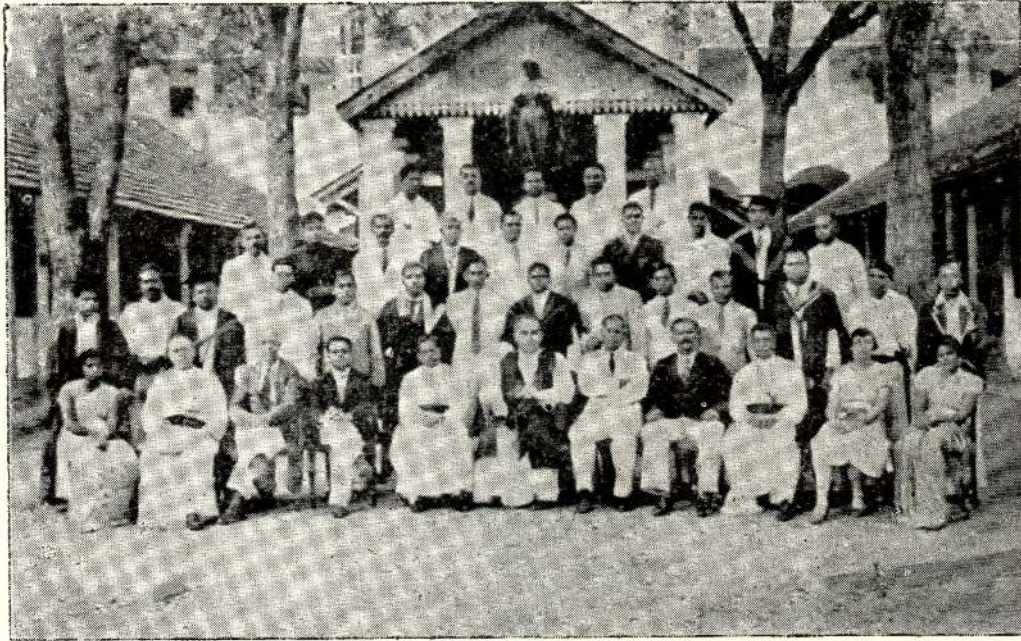
Another Historic Occasion—the Centenary Celebrations — 1950.

*The first Prime Minister the
Hon. D. S. Senanayake being led to the
rostrum. Fr. Matthews can be seen in the
background.*



*Fr. Matthews being presented to the
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam Minister of
Industries & Fisheries Bp. Emil, the Prime
Minister & the Rector Fr. Long look on.*

**The Superb Helmsman and his goodly
Crew that manned St. Patrick's in 1936**



THE STAFF 1936

Seated:

Miss M. Aseervatham, Fr. Chas. Chovan O. M. I. Mr. S. Arulanandam,
Mr. R. Rajadurai, Rev. Fr. B. A. John O. M. I., Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F.
Long O. M. I., Mr. D. Saverimuttu, Mr. S. A. Alagaratnam, Rev. Fr. L. J.
Augustine O. M. I., Miss V. Toussaint, Miss Hilda Saverimuttu.

Standing:

(1st row) Rev. Fr. H. S. David, Pundit P. Saverimuttu, Mr. K. A. Subramanya
Aiyar, Mr. J. S. B. Selladurai, Mr. S. P. Innasimuttu (Ignatius), Mr. T. M.
Mathai, Mr. N. Kandiah, Mr. P. Pancras, Mr. C. W. D. Alwines, Mr. F. N. C.
Saverimuttu, Mr. S. Augustine, Mr. P. Sambanthar, Rev. Fr. S. Martin O.M.I.,
Mr. S. Francis

2nd Row:

Mr. J. C. Keil, Rev. Fr. Chas. S. Navaretnam O. M. I., Mr. S. Amirthalingam,
Mr. B. R. Motha, Mr. F. J. Armstrong, Mr. S. C. Lawrence, Mr. C. Sinniah,
Mr. S. Joseph, Mr. V. Thuraisamypillai. Mr. A. David

Top Row:

Mr. S. F. Santhiapillai, Mr. A. J. Selvadurai, Mr. G. C. Mendis, Mr. M. Jacob,
Mr. S. E. Alfred.

“IMMORTAL STILL”



THE ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS, 1936.

Letter from Rev. Fr. Long



Mr. B. Wilfred

*That record Stand
in 1946
still intact*



Mr. Z. Singarayer

(From our Jaffna Sports Correspondent)

One of the few cricket records in the North to stand the test of time is the 252 unbroken, opening partnership by Z. SINGARAYER (112 not out) and B. WILFRED (122 not out) for St. Patrick's against Jaffna Central in 1946, Central collapsed for 40 before these two amassed 252. In the second essay Central were skittled for 70 leaving the Patricians victorious by an innings and 42 runs.

"BOOM" TIME

SINGARAYER belonged to the period when St. Patrick's were going through the "boom" period having remained unbeaten from 1939-45. Besides captaining the cricket team he was also in the Schools unbeaten 1948 soccer side as its skipper.

Among his contemporaries at cricket in St. Patrick's, he picks out SYLVESTER JOSEPH (all-rounder & former D. I. G.) E. S. MUTHIAH (wicket-keeper) and late S. J. EMMANUEL (bowler) as outstanding players.

Cricket in the forties was dominated by St. Patrick's and St. John's. He remembers with awe the mighty struggle between these two schools for leadership His pick among the Johnians were the "terror bowler R. S. PETER and all rounder

K. THIRUNAVUKARASU.

STILL THERE

Though 62, he hasn't given up his interests in cricket and football. He is one of the key sports administrators of the province. He is the founder member and President of the Jaffna Cricket Umpires' Association, the official coach of the Jaffna Football Association and President of the Jaffna Community Centres' Sports Association.

Umpiring was according to him "a neglected field. School matches were umpired by Prefects of Games and coaches and this resulted in "Questionable" decisions.

With the founding of the JCUA the entire complexion of the game had changed. He is grateful to Fr. T. M. F. LONG, the revered Rector of St. Patrick's under whom St. Patrick's took giant strides in every field of human endeavour and cricket coach A. KANDIAH, old Royalist skipper who was the envy of other schools.

He bemoans the lack of interest in Inter-school cricket tourneys and attributes it to a wrong sense of values by the present generation of schoolboys.

Letter from Rev. Sr. Clare

Holy Family Convent,
16, Ings Road,
Leeds LS9 9EJ
Yorkshire,
England,
9-5-1990

Dear Mr. Editor,

I received your letter shortly after Easter regarding 'A commemorative Postage Stamp' in honour of Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I., Yes; I agree with you that he was a great priest & Educator of his day, He certainly worked hard to give the boys who passed through his hands a solid education, a deep faith, an ardent charity & love for one another. He himself loved all no matter to what caste or creed they belonged - In his eyes they were all God's children.

I got copies of the letter you sent me and I sent one to Rita Saverimuttu now Doctor R. Segarajasinghe who works in Manchester I gave copies to Sr. Josephine-Essex who does so much for the Sri Lankan people in England. She will be in touch with many who knew & revered Fr. Long in the old days.

I am sending you a cheque for £ 10 — to further the cause and I hope those I was able to contact will help you in your noble endeavour.

I pray you do well & that peace may soon come permanently to your land where I spent 47 years of my life and loved every minute of it amidst a loving and grateful people.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Clare

OUR LATE BELOVED RECTOR



Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I,
ESTO PERPETUA ! M.A. (Cantab.)
(Be thou for ever!)

The Power and the Glory of Priesthood

A pupil's sermon at the pedagogue's Silver Jubilee.

(Sermon preached by the late Rev. Fr. X. S. Thaninayagam on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the late Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. former Rector, St. Patrick's College, Jajjna on 25 June 1945)

Of his fullness we have all received - *John 1, 16.*

My Lord, Very Revd. Fr. Jubilarian, Brother
Patricians.

From heights, great and small, from mountain springs, and streams, and rolling rivers the water rushes down into the catchment area, into the reservoir of the giant dam. Mighty walls of concrete stem the rising flood. For months the water climbs higher and higher on the shoulders of the dam, till at last it is full, and of its abundant supply a cascading river glides over the spillway. A symbolic river, an eloquent evidence of over-flowing and superabundant fullness.

How many bidden forces are gathered and stored in these heaped-up waters of a dam? They turn engines that give strength and power to the wheels and motors of industry; they produce a million spears of light to the hearths and homes of the people; they irrigate parched acres turning them into smiling fields

We may think in like manner of the accumulated riches of the Catholic Priest. Like Christ in whom "dwelleth all fullness bounty," the Catholic Priest is a reservoir wherein are stored the waters of grace. Of that fullness of Christ we have all received through His sacred minister. From Christ's representative do flow rivers of living water. If any man thirst let him come to Him and drink.

From this storage of "living waters" comes the power that moves the wheels of supernatural energy in society; from these cascading falls originate the lights that illumine the paths to

heaven; from this dam proceed the anicuts that water the fields of God, the souls of men.

There was a certain fullness in the Pagan priesthood. The pontiff and the flamen offered sacrifice; gave advice in matters of state: were courted leaders in society; were welcome in the halls and groves of learning. There was much greater fullness in the Jewish priesthood, but even that fullness is but a shadow and a figure before the fullness of the priesthood of Christ, before the Order of Melchisedech

Father Roper, Editor of the "Examinee" was once passing through one of the busy thoroughfares of Bombay. A Hindu gentleman obviously wealthy, ran up to him and left him as rapidly as he had approached him saying, "You are sacred, aren't you? I wanted to have the privilege of touching such a sacred object", Non-Catholics see in the Priest, an object worthy of respect and reverence, but to the eyes of faith, *the Priest is Christ himself.*

Christ is present in the Eucharist; but the Catholic Priest as the complement of the Eucharist completes His presence in the world. Christ is silent on our altar: He does not speak. He does not teach. He does not rule; all this is done for Him by the God Man's double—the Catholic Priest.

Like Christ Himself, his chief work is prayer; prayer in the prayer of all prayers, the Holy Mass; prayer in the official prayer of the Church the Breviary. If a Priest but performed these two duties he would have more than merited the gratitude of the whole world, Catholic and Non-

Catholic. But is he satisfied? No, he is the healer of souls and of bodies, of broken hearts and sore minds; he is the lamp of learning, the consoler of the sick and the afflicted, so that even the most bitter anticlerical cannot but recognise his refining and civilising influence in the world, though neither refinement nor civilisation is the direct and immediate scope of the Priesthood. Like his Master he goes about doing good

Twenty-five years ago in Ireland, Ireland of Missionary saints and scholars; Ireland of Monasteries and churches; Ireland of Amargh and Clonard, Lismore and Bangor; Ireland of Columba and Columbanus, and Fridolin, Cuthbert and Killian. Twenty five years ago in Belmont, in the Chapel of the Oblate Scholasticate, from which came to us the Conways and the Dowlings, the Murphys and the Dunnes, of whom we have heard our fathers speak with so much gratitude and love, a tall young levite, in the flower and bloom of youth, lies prostrate before the Altar, while the Choir invokes the saints, that he might be holy, his mission successful, his vocation permanent. All ye Monks and hermits ... All Confessors ... All ye Saints, Pray for us ... rises the plaintive chant. At that time we must believe that St Patrick and the many missionary Saints of Erin obtained for him the grace to keep burning in this corner of the earth the twin torches of faith and learning

Among the kneeling, praying congregation, are many relatives and the parents of the deacon who is being ordained; parents who in course of time shall have offered all their children to God. The father, now no more with us, but witness of our celebrations from the realms above, the mother who would feign be here now to see the glory of her son, watch with thankful eyes the anointing of their first-born. Among those present are also the two younger brothers Fred and Dan, and a younger sister, Emma, all three of whom will soon consecrate themselves to God following the footsteps of their elder brother Timothy.

What an example of Faith and Love of God does not the family of the Longs of Limerick give everyone of us here present? The Longs had four children, all of them they dedicated to the service of God. Their family ends as far as this

world is concerned, but ends like a river proud to lose itself in the immensity of the ocean, ends in the Eternal Priesthood of Christ, ends in the virgin choruses of heaven. If you were surprised at this, the Jubilarian will give you the same reply as Charles Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the Congregation of which he is a member. Charles was questioned by his Grand uncle, "Is it true you are going to become a priest? How can you think of such a step? Don't you know you are the last of our family? Is our name to die out?" Charles then replied, "What greater privilege can our family have than to end in the Eternal Priesthood of Christ?"

These four by the sacrifice they have made have merited to rear very large families to God. When in Ireland, I remarked the singular fact, that all four of them have found their vocation in the Church as educators. Dr Frederick Long as Dean in Maynooth, the Ecclesiastical College that trains the flower of the Irish Secular Clergy; Fr. Daniel Long as Professor of Moral Theology in the Oblate Scholasticate, Pillton; Sister Mary Mechtild on the Staff of the Ladies' Training College, Kerrysford; and Father Timothy Long as teacher and Rector of the institution that has nursed us. Is it a wonder then, that coming as he does of a family of Catholic Educationists, the Jubilarian has always striven to give us an integral Catholic formation, and led a splendid fight for our schools?

Of the Jubilarian's years in Jaffna, of what he has accomplished during these 25 years, I am by no means competent to judge. For the sapling that grows under its shade knows not the mighty proportions of the parent oak. It was not so very long ago that I sat in his classrooms. Yet I am thankful to this graceful tribute of an invitation extended to the pupil to preach at the Silver Jubilee of the pedagogue.

At the various functions which form part of this programme of celebrations, mention will be made of the jubilarian's great contributions to the welfare of the College as teacher and Rector, to the welfare of the town and of the Island, of his social and philanthropic activities. Mention will be made of the many outsiders who have received of his fullness. But short as this sermon must be, I must needs mention his great apostolate as a Catholic priest.

I have always noted and admired and striven to follow the deep interior life of the jubliarian—his sense of the supernatural, his ardent faith. The grace that is in him by the imposition of hands he has always stirred up and increased by a remarkable fidelity to his life of contemplation, to his vows as a religious. And this interior life he has always fed and nursed amid the most distracting occupations of his office, amid continuous journeys and long drawn duties. His zeal has been like the irrigating waters of benediction. He has preached, lectured, instructed wherever he has gone; he has tried in season and out of season to create a like interior life in the boys and in those with whom he comes into contact. Monthly and terminal retreats for teachers and boys; the Legion of Mary, the new life infused into the Confraternities, the devotion to the Blessed Virgin—all speak of the supernatural sense, the *sensus Christi*, of this man of God.

And what shall I say of his great fund of sympathy for the sufferer, his warm Irish affection? What shall I say of his apostolate among boys, his apostolate among the circles in which he moves; his apostolate among the Englishmen and Irishmen scattered over the Island, his ministry to the men in the services for whom he has devoted all his spare time, his legitimate rest at the sacrifice of his health celebrating as many as three Masses a day at places removed from one another far away in the malarial jungle.

These are a few landmarks of his apostolate. But he is great in our eyes also for what we do not know about him. We know not of his many hours of prayer, his colloquies with God, his vigils, his fasts, his victories and his triumphs in the realm of souls, his crosses—yes, his crosses and his suffering, for since he has been singularly blessed in his ministry, we must perforce believe that he has brought to the Altar much suffering in union with the Sacred Victim. Alas for the blindness of men, that they see but appearances! They see but the glamour and not the tedium and sometimes read a life of ease and comfort into the most crowded years of a priest's self-sacrificing zeal. If the Pharisees and Saducees and Scribes could hurl the most opprobrious and unfounded attacks on our Lord, is it a wonder that we, poor priests are the victims of slander and inconsiderate tongues? If St. Paul the

great apostle, could be derided and spurned by the very Corinthians to whom he had given supernatural life is it a surprise that we receive the most ingratitude of those from whom we may least expect it?

But, my dear boys, learn to admire. If today in considering the life of your eminent Rector you feel called to dedicate your life too in a like service in the priesthood of Christ, do not close your ears to the voice that is calling; for in no walk of life can your youth find that fruition and crowning which it will have in the Catholic priesthood. And if today you, parents, feel called to imitate in some measure the sacrifice of the Longs and acquire their glory, let not considerations of a worldly nature prevent you from consenting to the greatest privilege you can ever have.

Today is a day of thanksgiving. For you boys the best thanks you can offer is the living up to the spiritual ideals the Rector has taught you. You garlanded him yesterday; but remember the loveliest flowers around his neck today and on the day of judgement are your own selves....

The mother of a Patrician family, the Gracchi was visited by some lady friends who showed her their jewels, and since she had no jewels, wanted to know where they were. She went to the adjoining room and brought in her children saying: "These are my jewels." Similarly we are the brightest ornaments of our Rector...

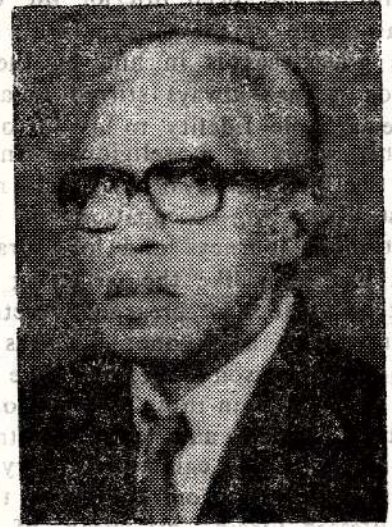
We thank God for the many fruitful years God has deigned to bestow on the jubliarian. We thank the jubliarian for his wholehearted and undivided service to us, We thank his country, his parents, and his congregation, for having given him to us. We thank God for the spirit of loyalty and devotion that binds us Patricians to our Alma Mater. We pray for the success of the Jubliarian's mission; that he return to us restored and rejuvenated for another quarter century of labour among us.

These our thanks and our prayers we offer in union with the Eucharistic Sacrifice which is essentially a thanksgiving a '*gratiarum actio*'. Our thanks, our prayers and our hopes we gather up in the beautiful collect of the liturgy of thanksgiving.

Deus cuius misericordia non est numerus ... Amen

The Many Facets of Fr. Timothy Long

O.M.I.



by M. Jaya Wijyaratnam

Every human being is called upon to play different roles during his or her life-time. The degree of success of course, depends on the individual's capacity, capability, knowledge, learning and skills-both inborn and acquired, adaptability to keep up with the times and environment, awareness of one's limitations, decision making, judgement, drive and initiative etc.

Rev Fr. T. M. F. Long O.M.I. during his life time in this country, had to play various roles in the college, amongst the Tamils in the North and even on a national level. He played all the roles to their fullness and to the acceptance and admiration of all concerned.

In his primary role as a Priest of God, he made great and lasting impacts on almost everyone who came in contact with him. He gave pride of place to this role and demonstrated beyond all doubt that he was a real servant working in the Master's vineyard. As a member of the fraternity of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate he amply manifested his love and devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. He went all out to cater to the spiritual needs of not only his students and teachers but also those who were not of the fold. By his practice he instilled into everyone, that prayers were the greatest forte to overcome all difficulties in this world.

He started and ended every session of the College with prayers. He introduced the recitation of the Rosary daily before commencement of work. A portion of the morning recess time was spent on short prayers in the College chapel. Tridiums preceding the feasts of the Sacred Heart and St. Patrick were held. Month of May was given to special service daily. Hearing of confessions was arranged on days preceding First Fridays and special festival days. Annual Retreats were arranged for lower, middle & upper school students and the teachers as well. The Way of the Cross was led by him in the Chapel during lent. The College took a leading role in the annual Eucharistic Festival in the Jaffna Diocese and the College Cadet Platoon provided the guard of honour. Special experienced Redemptorists were picked by him as preachers for the Retreats. He made it a point to be present at almost all religious activities.

In keeping with the then prevalent theory 'compulsory training of people over a period will make such training a habit' he compelled both students and teachers to attend all religious services conducted by the College. He took attendance and took to task the absentees. On one occasion the Rector had to face a berating by one of his teachers. The Rector had reprimanded this teacher in a rather firm tone for not attending service.

and the Way of the Cross, The teacher would not take it lying down and told the Rector in anger and in loud tones that as a celibate he (the Rector) would not know the crosses of a married man with a large family. He told the Rector that he had done a greater Way of the Cross than the one conducted by him in the Chapel and stormed out of the Rector's office. The understanding person that he was, the Rector kept mum and took no notice. But that very evening he was at the door of this teacher's house with a present for him. He apologised to the teacher sincerely and left. From then on compulsory attendance at religious service was given up. The attendance never slackened on the contrary it is reported to have increased. The teacher concerned was so overwhelmed that he never missed a single service in College thereafter, and up to his death considered Fr. Long as a saint and prayed to him for help after the death of the Rector.

His priestly activities outside the College were equally powerful, if not more. He was appointed senior Chaplain for the Armed Forces in Sri Lanka during World War II. He became a close friend of a Jewish family - Sir and Lady Sydney Abrahams, Sir Abrahams was then Chief Justice. It would suffice to say that Fr. Long converted Lady Abrahams to Catholicism. He instilled his Irish faith into all.

In the roles of Teacher and Administrator he was unique. As a teacher he taught Apologetics, English and Latin. He was able to pick out the weak students and paid great attention to them. He explained in simple language and went down to the level of the student. He filled his explanation with stories or day to day happenings so that his students understood the subject. He worked hard to see that every student got the message. As the chief administrator and head of the college, he divided his duties and responsibilities amongst all the members of the staff. Each member had some responsibility or other however small it might be, and was made to feel that he too was as important as the Rector for the growth and development of the College. This feeling made each teacher give of his best and that too voluntarily. He had such deep insight that he was able to pick out the correct person for the correct job. He showed no favouritism to any teacher and treated all alike. He did not consult selected members of the staff

but consulted the whole staff in administering the College, at regular Teachers' conferences. The real leader he was he induced every teacher to actively participate in the conferences and give his suggestions. In recruiting his staff his deep insight, quick assessment of personalities and correct judgement enabled him to recruit the best. He would often say 'The best is good enough for St. Patrick's'. He naturally insisted on everyone to follow this and give of their best. He also saw to it that his teachers enjoyed their holidays & arranged excursions & picnics. On one occasion they were sent to the Maniagar at Oddusuddan for a few days safari in the Vanni.

In the role of Prefect of games he was par excellence. This was the first office he was given at St. Patrick's. The manner in which he played this role amply manifested that games was near and dear to him. He wanted to pick out the best to form the College Teams. He therefore virtually got every student in the College to the playground where the coaches of the different games could pick out the best talents. The College Teams were not made up of one group or community of students. All were given equal opportunity. There was no discrimination at all. When he became Rector, he placed the burden of Prefect of games on proper shoulders. This enabled the College teams in Cricket, Athletics and Soccer to win the Northern Championships for a number of years in succession. St. Patrick's engraved its name in the sphere of sports on a national level as well. He strode the play ground during practices and provided special nourishing diet to members of the College team.

His role as a disciplinarian was misunderstood by many. However a greater percentage of persons in the country deeply appreciated this and sent in their children to St. Patrick's. Thus the College became literally a National School having students from the four corners of the country and from all races in the country. The old dictum, "spare the rod and spoil the child" was strictly followed by the Rector. He used the birch freely and lavishly. His physical make up and the cane in his hand made him a terror for some. His firmness was even interpreted as regimentation. He seems to have felt this and gradually kept himself away from the cane by using the Head Master to do the dirty work. He would tell the student to get so many 'cuts' from the head Master and the student

Went to the Head Master to receive this. The Head Master carried out these orders more as a symbol which the Rector was fully aware. When newly propounded theories proved the ill effects of corporal punishment, the Rector gladly accepted it and had a colourful ceremony of burning the cane under the title of "The burial of Mr. Patriek Cane". He was one who was ready to adjust to time and environment.

Outside the College he was accepted as a great educationist. There were many occasions when he had crossed swords with the Education Minister and Ministry officials in the formulation of educational policies. His leadership was accepted by the principals and Headmasters of the schools in the country so much so they appointed him as Chairman of the Association of principals and Head Masters. When he mooted the proposal for a Public Library Jaffna, he was given the burden of being the Secretary. His proven leadership, correct judgement and drive resulted in the Public Library Committee accepting his plans and giving him the undivided support for the project. This resulted in his initiating the Million Rupee project and his touring America for support. The then famous Cartoonist Mr. Collette had caricatured him in a number of cartoons.

His role as an entertainer was equally effective like other roles. The first massive carnival and exhibition known as the All Ceylon Industrial Rally and Carnival in 1938 was a grand success. Thereafter he organised the "Send a Plane

Fund" and "Excelsior Carnivals". He brought in wrestlers of international fame to wrestle in the College grounds. He brought South Indian Film stars. His organising talents in this sphere was such a great success that he earned the nickname of "Domavan Andree of the North".

Fr. Timothy Long was a dynamic personality with magnetic influence. In keeping with his physical stature he was virtually a human dynamo. His sincere broad smile was something that no one could resist and helped him to be received with open arms and obtain whatever he wanted. He used all these qualities in him to help his students and the people of the North. He got the R. A. F. Air Port at Palaly to be used as a civilian air port in the North.

Fr. Long has played all the roles given to him most admirably and for the uplift of the College students and the Tamil speaking people of the North in special and the country in general. It is a pity that he was not allowed to serve in Jaffna for a few more years at least till, he realised his ambition of a greater St Patrick's. He has completed his roles and bowed out of this stage and gone home to his Master to receive his reward. The best that we old Boys, students, friends and well wishers could do is to rally round and make real his dream of the "greater St Patrick's". To start with I exhort all of you to take very early steps to put up a three storeyed Fr. Long Block with all modern amenities in the College grounds.

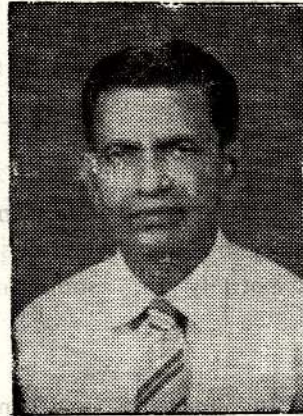
"Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for your need, always asking Him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6,7

"... the church would have no alternative but to say it would be justifiable for Christians to use violence and force to overthrow an unjust regime"

— Bishop Desmond Tutu, civil rights campaigner & Nobel Peace Prize winner in relation to S. Africa's brutal and stubborn policy of apartheid.

The Intrepid Irishman



by Mr. Edward Selvanathan
(Retd Teacher & former Bell-keeper)

The Late very Rev. Fr. T.M.F. Long O.M.I., possessed a commanding and vivacious personality. Sober and stout senses, a simple and humble heart, magnetic and penetrating eyes, fearless and dauntless deeds, kindly and sympathetic ears, radiating and captivating smiles and an intellectual and humorous cahibre. He was a great educationalist and a well known philanthropist.

He was an ideal Irishman who voluntarily sacrificed all momentary and temporary pleasures and dedicated himself to serve God and mankind spiritually and temporally in any part of the world.

After his academical qualification in Cambridge, he came over to our beautiful island, the pearl of the Indian Ocean, and assumed office as Rector of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna after Very Rev. Fr Charles S. Mathews his predecessor. As Fr. Long was young and strong he accelerated the progress of St. Patrick's College. He scrupulously and sensibly selected ideal teachers, veterans in specialised subjects and versatile scholars to adorn the educational field. St. Patrick's College not only shone brightly and widely in the field of academical studies but also came

off with flying colours in extra curricular activities

He was a man of discipline. He always practised what he preached. He was very stern and firm in his irrevocable and admirable decisions and judgements. There was no room for favouritism or nepotism in his calm and peaceful regime. The teachers and non teachers cooperated and collaborated with him to promote the progress of the college. As a Rector, he went round the classes personally to punish the weak students for the fortnightly marks. This severe action stimulated the students to work hard. Even in the playground the Rector visited the participants and supervised the games. The absentees were severely dealt with. His regular presence in the playground encouraged and motivated the participants to play the games honestly and enthusiastically. His direct supervision caused St. Patrick's College to become victorious in all extra-curricular activities.

The Rector not only conducted religious knowledge classes but also moral classes to grown up children. The moral classes were very thrilling and interesting. They were very fruitful and useful to teenagers. The talks were very indispensable to mould their characters.

SOME HIGH-LIGHTS OF HIS TALKS

1. "Whenever you want to meet the Rector you should go to the office and knock at the door first. If there is no reply or response, you should not knock hard a second time, which would irritate his nerves. You should not peep through the door to see whether the Rector is in the office or if he is partially deaf. But you should understand that he is probably very busy. So you must wait patiently and politely for some time for your call."

"Yawning and sneezing in front of people are highly anti-social and abominable habits. You should avoid these spontaneous habits with the help of your handkerchief or hand."

2. "Whenever you meet a very elderly person or an invalid, always respect him, give all assistance & make every effort to satisfy him. Always help the lame dog to climb over the stile."
3. "Always wait for your turn patiently and politely. Don't rush or push others and put others into difficulties"
4. "Always cheer the rival teams when they deserve it. But you should never jeer at them"

STRANGE QUALITIES

1. Once Rev. Fr. Chovan, a Frenchman was conducting an English class for our class in grade six. The Rector came to punish the weak students for the fortnightly marks. When the Rector was about to enter, Fr. Chovan signalled him not to enter. The Rector without much ado turned away from the scene smilingly. But he never retaliated or victimized Fr. Chovan.

2. Whenever the Rector entered the late Mr. F. N. C. Saverimuthu's English class to talk to him he always requested him (Mr. F. N. C.) to be in his seat. This polite gesture of the Rector put the teacher into a very embarrassing position, as the Rector preferred to stand and listen to him very attentively as Mr. F. N. C. was very fluent in English. This showed that Fr. Rector gave due respect to the genius of Mr. F. N. C. who was more honoured in college than elsewhere.
3. Whenever the Rector saw a boy committing a fault, he would ask him to go and rub his nose against the wall or ask him to sit under the table and lift the big table with his head. Sometimes he would ask the defaulter to say, "I am a goat Father". Once a witty boy replied, "You are a goat Father". He only laughed at him.
4. I had the privilege and pleasure of being an altar boy and a bellkeeper of St. Patrick's College for two years under his regime. The Rector controlled the administration of the College whereas I controlled the working of the College with the strokes of the bell. Sometimes my mischievous classmates put the time of my alarm clock five or ten minutes ahead without my knowledge. So I used to ring the bell according to my clock for the close of the College. When the Rector met me all times he used to ask me, "What is the time child?" I had no other alternative but to show my clock and he in turn would only smile at me.

The Late Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. was a great educationalist and a very popular philanthropist. He was altruistic. He wanted to wipe out illiteracy and lethargy from most of the Jaffna people irrespective of race, creed, or caste. He wished to ameliorate and liberate the people of Jaffna from obscurity and

ignorance. So he voluntarily came forward to enrich and enlighten the minds of the Jaffna people. To this end he initiated and inaugurated the building of a modern Public Library for the people of Jaffna. He in spite of much opposition and suppression travelled to America to collect money for the million rupee fund to erect a gigantic Public Library in Jaffna Town. Even the Jaffna Stadium and the Palaly Air Port were his primary suggestions and decisions.

The Late Very Rev. Fr. Long O. M. I was as constant as the Northern Star. He was not a coward. "Cowards die many times before their deaths. The valiant never taste of death but once" but jealousy soared high to oust him from his seat. There is a great rumour that he

was victimized by iron hands in velvet gloves. But his sincere and everlasting works prevail in our midst. "Honour to whom honour is due" "Duty is the path to glory" It is a great shame to note that such a great man of fame does not have a monument in his name at St. Patrick's College. So it is the bounden duty of the loyal old Patricians to erect a predominant and permanent structure in memory of the Late Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I

"Sceptre and crown must tumble down and in the dust be equal made". Only "the actions of the just smell sweet and blossom in the dust."

Very Rev. Fr. Long is dead and buried. But his supreme spirit lives on with us.

"Long live Fr. Long".

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By. Mr. B. J. Vincent

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On receiving summons that I was wanted by the Beloved Rector I made it to his office one morning and I did not very much worry to announce my arrival but breezed into the Rectors Room. The beloved Rector who was at his desk raised his eyes and said, "Will you kindly get back and knock at the door." I immediately stepped back and gave a hard knock at the door. "That is not the way child" the Beloved Rector said "a mild knock would do". and I gave a gentle knock. Once in he said, "Now say may I interrupt you father?" I did as I was told, and thereafter I was offered a seat and our conversation followed in good form.

On another occasion Rev. Fr. Long was having his evening exercise with his tenniquoit ring and a class master happened to pass that way whistling a happy tune. The poor man was rudely disturbed when the stentorian voice of Rev. Fr. Long rang out "Surely master this is not a picture palace". Such was the discipline inculcated in us by our beloved Rector Long, which to this day has stood hundreds of Jaffna students who came under his influence in good stead.

Rev Fr. Long to those of the present generation who had not have the good fortune to know him, was a colossus in a white cassock whose steel, blue eyes could terrorize the beast in any man and his Sergeant Major's voice shake the very foundation of the college hall. However between his cold and hard exterior, reposed a heart of gold.

Long of Jaffna



Rev. Fr. Long came of Old Irish stock and had all the characteristics of the proverbial Irish man and he inculcated into all those who came under his influence a sense of justice, love of country and fellow men.

I came under the influence of Rev. Fr. Long during the latter part of my school career and thereafter when I had to seek his advice on matters concerning my career path

I vividly recall the occasion I went to see Rev. Fr. Long to seek his advice regarding my joining the Bank of Ceylon which was then a privately managed bank. On that occasion Rev. Fr. Long questioned me as to why I did not wish to pursue my studies and having been satisfied with my explanation promptly remarked "I should think it is a fine place; if you are selected give a good account of yourself and of St. Patricks". True to his words I am glad that I had done my part as a Patrician.

Out of school and while employed at the Bank's Branch in Jaffna I rallied round him to assist in his now famous "Excelsior" Carnival which brought to Jaffna for the first time internationally famous wrestlers like Dara Singh and King Kong. Jaffna on that occasion turned out in their thousands to watch the spectacle which not only thrilled the crowds but brought in the shekels needed to finance his long felt dream of a "greater St. Patricks".

Rev. Fr. Long also had a great respect for all that was Jaffna including its culture and life style. He also had a great desire to establish a Central Library a long felt need for Jaffna. With this end in view he started a million rupee fund. A Life Size statue of his stands as a lone monument at the site where once stood the Central Library the finest in Asia and which is now a burnt out shell.

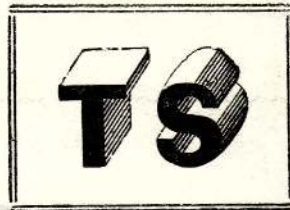
I have received letters written in his own hand which indicate to what extent he was interested in the Jaffna Central Library, in Jaffna itself & in the whole island of Sri Lanka then known as Ceylon.

Rev. Fr. Long is no more with us. But let us at least fulfil one of his cherished ambitions to see that the Jaffna Central library is revived to its former glory as one of the best in Asia.

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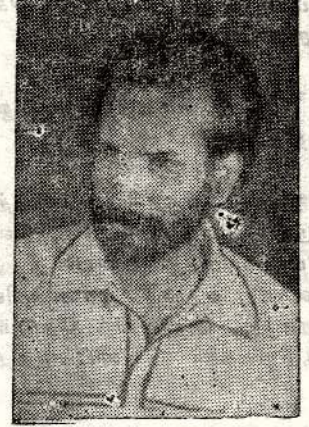
(erected by the Jaffna O. B. A.)

*that still stands majestically & defiantly
in the Jaffna Public Library Premises,
the only one to survive.*

*The Facade of the
Jaffna Public Library.*



அருட் திருத்தந்தை லோங் அடிகளாரின் சில தந்த சிந்தனை



தாவிது தாசன்

பிறப்பென்ற உதயம் வந்தால் உலகில் இறப்பென்ற மறைவு வந்தே தீரும். பிறப்புக்கு மீறப்படக்கும் இடைப்பட்ட காலம் வாழ்வு. இவ் வாழ்வில் மனிதமேம்பாட்டுக்காக உழைத்தவர்களை, உழைத்தது போல் நடித்தவர்களை நினைப்பதற்காக லாழும் மனிதன் சிலை செய்வான், மண்டபம் கட்டுவான், ஸ்தூபிகட்டுவான். கல்விக்கூடம் கட்டுவான் கால ஓட்டத்தின் தாக்கத்தால் சில சிலைகளைப் பாசியும் தூசியும் பற்றிக் கொள்ளும். மண்டபங்களைப் புள்ளினங்கள் புகலிடமாக்கும், நினைவு மலர்களை எலிகளும் கறையான்களும் பதம் பார்க்கும், ஸ்தூபிகளைச் சுற்றிக் களைகள் உருவாகும் கல்விக்கூடங்களைக் கயமை கவ்விக்க கொள்ளும். ஆனால் .. அடிகளார் சிலை யருகே நீண்ட நாட்களின் பின் நான் சென்றேன். அந்தச் சிலையை, அதன் பின்னே இருக்கும் மக்கள் நூலகத்தைப் பார்த்தேன். என் கண்கள் கலங்கின. என் உள்ளம் பல ஆண்டுகள் கடந்து பின்னோக்கிப் பறந்து சென்றது.

கம்பீரமான நெடிய உருவம் "பொங்கி வடியும் ரோஸ் நிற அழகிய வதனம். மேவி இழுத்துவிட்ட அழகிய கேசம், கப்பீர நடை, சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரி மாண்பு மிக்க அதிபர் அருள் திருத்தந்தை லோங் அடிகளார், சிறுவகை இருந்த என் மனதில் பதிந்த உருவம் என் முன்னே வந்து நின்றது.

மூன்று மாடிப்படிக்களால் இறங்கி வரும் நேரம் கல்லூரி ஆரம்பமாகப் போகும் நேரம் அண்மித்து விட்டதைக் கட்டியம் கூறி நிற்கும்.

காலை நேரம் ஆலயத்தில் தினமும் செப வேளையில் ஆலயத்தின் நடுவில் நடந்து நடந்து செப மாலை சொல்லும் போது கேட்ட அவரின் சிம்மக்ரூர் என் காதில் ஒலிக்கிறது.

ஆலயத்தில் கதைப்பவர்களுக்கு அவர் அளிக்கும் அந்த அறை. அப்படியே நிற்கிறது. அவரின் சிலை இங்கு நடந்த அத்தனை அழிவுகளுக்கும் மத்தியில் அசையாது அழியாது அப்படியே எப்படி நிற்க முடிந்தது? அதற்குக் காரணம் தேடினேன் தேடிப் பெற்ற சில செய்திகளை உங்களுடன் பகிர்ந்து கொள்கிறேன்

தவத்திரு லோங் அடிகள் காலம் சம்பத்தாரிசியார் கல்லூரியின் வரலாற்றில் வளம் மிக்க காலம் இக்காலத்தில் தான் கல்லூரி தனது நூற்றாண்டு விழாவைக் கொண்டாடியது. இலங்கை சுதந்திரம் அடைவதற்கு முன்னும் பின்னும் அதிபராக இக்கல்லூரியில் இவர் கடமையாற்றியவர். 1896 ஆம் ஆண்டு சித்திரை 22 ஆம் திகதி, மரசுதத்தீவு என அழைக்கப்படும் அயர்லாந்தில் பிறந்தார்.

கேம்பிரிஜ் பல்கலைக்கழக முதுகலைமாளில் பட்டதாரியான இவர் சம்பத்தரிசியார் கல்லூரியில் 1920 ஆம் ஆண்டு தொடக்கம் 1936 ஆம் ஆண்டு வரை ஆசிரியராகவும், 1936 ஆம் ஆண்டு தொடக்கம் 1954 வரை அதிபராகவும் இருந்தார்.

இவரின் காலத்தில் கல்லூரியின் பிரதான அங்கமான மூன்று மாடிக் கட்டிடம் முற்றாகக் கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டு அதற்கு மத்தியூஸ் ரூபகக் கட்டிடம் என்ற பெயரும் சூட்டப்பட்டது.

பல இன மத மாணவர் கற்கும் கல்லூரியில் கடமை கண்ணியம், கட்டுப்பாடு முதன்மை பெற்று சீரும் சிறப்புடன் தன் நீர்வாகத்தை அடிகளார் சிறப்புறச் செய்தார்.

கத்தோலிக்க மாணவர் இறைபற்றில் இறுகி வாழ வேண்டும் என்பதற்காக நாள் தோறும் செப மாலை சொல்லும் வழக்கமும், ரூயிற்றுக்கிடும்மைகளில்

மாணவர் கல்லூரி ஆலயத்தில் நடைபெறும் வழி பாட்டுக்குச் சமூகம் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்ற நன் மையான கட்டுப்பாடும் செயல் முறைக்குக் கொண்டு வரப்பட்டன.

இவர் காலத்தில் கல்லூரி சாதித்த சாதனைகள் அதிகம்.

ஒரு கல்லூரியின் கலைத்திட்டத்தைச் செம்மைப் படுத்தி முழுமையாக்குவதில் நூலாதிபதி பங்கு இன் றியமையாதது என்பதை நன்கு உணர்ந்தவர் அடி களார், அதனால் மாணவரின் படைப்பாற்றல், ஆய்வு நோக்கு, அறிவைத் தேடும் பயணத்தில் அவர்களின் ஆற்றல்களை வெளிப்படுத்த யாழ் மக்களுக்கு ஒரு

பொது சன நூலகத்தை அளித்தார். அத்துடன் அந் நூலகத்தின் வாசலில் எரிந்த பின்னும் சரிந்த பின் னும் இன்றும் சாத்து நிற்கிறார்.

அவர் உயிரோடு இன்று இருந்தால் நூலகத்தை மீள்வித்தும், புதுப்பித்தும் தருவதற்கு திரவியம் தேட உலகெங்கும் தன் பயணத்தை ஆரம்பித்திருப்பார் அவர் உயிரோடு இல்லாவிட்டாலும் அவரில் இருந்து புறப்பட்ட ஆயிரம் ஆயிரம் மாணவர் அவரின் உள் ளுணர்வை உணர்ந்து செயல்பட்டு அச்செயலைச் செய்து முடிக்க ஆண்டவன் அருள் செய்வான். இது உண்மை. "இறைபற்றும் உழைப்பும்" என்றும் நிலைக் கும்.

"இறை பற்றும் உழைப்பும்" என்றும் நிலைத்து, செழித்தோங்கி இக்கட்டுரையை அளிக்கிறேன்.

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A GUIDING STAR

Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I.



By Mr. A. Adaikalam

(Retd. Post - master)

A NEUTRAL JUDGE:

Fr. Long's dominant personality is the outward sign of his inward fathomless enlightenment and selfless service to humanity.

I wish to narrate a few unforgettable happy incidents I experienced as the Captain of the Soccer Team and as a student, during the years 1940 & 1951.

When I captained the Soccer Team I was reading in the S. S. C., and there were four players in the team, who were reading in the H. S. C. They made a protest to Fr. Long, that one among them was more Senior than Adaikalam and that he should be appointed Captain of the Team. The Rector at once sought the advice of Mr. Britto Motha who was the Soccer Coach at that time.

Mr. Motha explained, there was no doubt that Adaikalam and Mahroof entered the 2nd eleven Soccer Team together, but that during the year's series Adaikalam was more a 1st eleven player than a 2nd eleven player. Only once had he to be reverted to 2nd eleven to play a match against St. John's College, and that in regard to the standard of the game the best player should be given the due place.

Fr. Long convinced those who protested and the matter was settled amicably.

Mischief—makers punished:

Once we won a foot—ball match in 1951, it's very difficult now to recollect the name of the college against whom we won.

We got the Rector's permission to go for a picture and for a feed at the Milk—Bar. When the Rector gives the permission, we have to approach Rev. Fr. Christy Selvaratnam, who was the Bursar. Generally the contribution would not be less than Rs. 25/- nor more than Rs 50/- All the players happily went for a Tamil picture called "Aayiramthalaivankiya-Apoorvasinthamany", the Longest Tamil picture produced at that time. When the picture was over it was past nine-thirty, refreshment at the Milk—Bar further delayed us. When we came to the hostel to see the boarders off it was past 10.30 p.m.

That night, the players from the Catholic boarding created a big scene, disturbing the boarders who were fast—asleep Rev. Fr. Mathews who was in charge of the Catholic boarding made a complaint to Fr. Long on the following day.

Immediately I was summoned to his office. When I explained to him the length of the picture and the duration of the time taken the Rector yelled at me and chased me out of his office with the remarks - "I can't believe a

picture going on till 9.30 p.m. The next time you come and ask me for a picture I will crush your head"

Although that season too our 1st eleven remained invincible we were all frightened to bell the cat. However the ban was lifted at the last match the Battle of the Golds, where we defeated Jaffna College, after a lapse of 4 years.

PROMPT DECISIONS

One day during the last period, Mr. D. James the Chief Clerk at the office called me from the class, saying the Rector wanted to see me. I took permission from the class teacher and entered the Rector's office. As I entered I saw Rev. Fr. Mathews seated in front of Fr. Long. The Rector at once ordered: "Go and dash your head against the wall." I was simply taken aback. I didn't know what provoked Fr. Long to compel me to do this act. When I was engaged in that ordeal, I could hear Rev. Fr. Mathews shouting "Shame for a Captain! shame for a Captain!"

After a few minutes the Rector called me closer and asked me as to what hindered me from attending the Foot-ball practice on time. He had received a complaint from the coach that I came to the field late in the evenings. During my school days with my limited expressions, I explained to Fr. Long that I lived about a mile away from the college and that at home I had to help my parents. The Rector asked me the nature of the help that I rendered to my parents.

I replied that I had to seek fodder for the two or three goats at home, water the plants and do shopping for my mother and thereafter dash to the foot-ball field. Having listened to my tale of woe, he was very quiet and calm. He lifted his eyes, looked at me and asked "What kind of help can I give you child?"

During those years, the last period was a P. T. class. When I said if sportsmen could be exempted from the P. T. class, it would facilitate their being on the field in time. Fr. Long readily accepted my suggestion and made all concerned to exempt sportmen to dedicate themselves and bring laurels to their Alma-Mater

HE LOOKS TO NO CEREMONY TO HONOUR STUDENTS:

During the interval we always play in the Cathedral compound. The church was not built at that time but the foundation was laid.

On that eventful day, it was the interval. We were playing in the far end of the Cathedral compound. All of a sudden all the students were rushing into the hall. The Rector had called for a general assembly. We were a mischievous crowd. We ignored his call and continued our games. The Rector called my name (Adaikalam). My friends knew I was in the backyard of the Cathedral compound. One came running and said "Fr. Long is calling you: you are sure to get six cuts." I came running and when I entered the hall, Fr. Long asked me to come up on the platform. There was perfect silence. All anticipated the execution of six cuts in an assembly like that but none ever expected it would turn into a scene of joy. When I stood by his side Fr. Long patted me on my shoulder and said "I am very proud of Adaikalam; he has brought credit to our College." There was a thunderous applause. When the clapping subsided Fr. Long continued, "Our cadets have been attending Diyatalawa for the last 30 years but this is the first time a student of our College has won the foot-ball colours." He further said, "I regret that I am unable to present the Colours with the blazer because of the wardays. I like to see how Adaikalam looks with the Colours on." Then he placed the Colours on the pocket of my shirt, and again there was thunderous clapping that shook the hall.

HIS SPIRIT OF SERVICE

The scripture classes for all divisions of the S. S. C. form were conducted by the Rector.

One day while conducting the scripture class, the Rector had noted that I was not in my seat. The next day after the class was over and when we were about to leave the hall, the Rector in his usual customary manner called me "Captain, one minute" and asked me "I didn't see you in your seat yesterday, where were you?" When I told him that I had to go for an

interview he laughed and said "What interview for you? You have not passed your S. S. C. yet and who conducted the interview?" I replied that I had got through, the local Government Examination and that the interview was at the Jaffna Kachcheri conducted by the then, Government Agent Mr. Hudson. He shook his head and said "O. K. go back to your class".

The following day after the scripture class, the Rector called me and said that he had inquired from Mr. Hudson, and that I had got an 'A' pass, and that I might be selected. This clearly shows his willingness to help his students voluntarily.

A TREASURE TO BE PRESERVED.

After passing the S. S. C. I went to the Rector's office and asked him for a character certificate. He looked up and asked me, "Adaikalam have you finished your studies? I expected much from you." I reluctantly replied that I was born

into a poor family and that my parents were not rich enough to support me for higher studies, hence I had to find a job,

He felt very sorry and said that he was not in a position to help me. He took his pen and wrote a Character Certificate in his own hand, handed it over to me and wished me good-luck. When I came out of the Rector's office, Mr. James (clerk) called me and said "This is the second time that I have seen during my long tenure Fr. Long writing a Character Certificate in his own Hand-Writing." He also said that I was very fortunate indeed. I am still reserving it as a TREASURE.

When I think of my old college as an old-boy it is the image of Fr. Long that lingers in front of me as a GUIDING-STAR.

I personally salute his memory. His historic contribution to the development of the college shall forever be enshrined in our hearts.

Those friends thou hast, & their adoption tried,
Grapple them unto thy soul with hoops of steel;
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment of each new-hatched unfledged courage.

Polonius' advice to his son Laertes in Shakespeares Hamlet (i) iii
61 - 65

The Champion of Human Rights



by Mr. Eugene Mariampillai
Attorney at law

Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. is hailed as a great educationist. He is also hailed as one who took an active part in building the Jaffna Public Library. In this I see him as a great worker for human rights, for education is a basic human right. Hence I have thought it fit to share my thoughts about human rights with the reader.

The phrase "human rights" is a modern phrase. But probably the concept of human rights is as ancient as civilization and as civilization itself has evolved so probably has this concept.

Firstly, from the point of view of a lawyer, a right is a legally protected interest. That is, if a right is infringed upon then the one who has been aggrieved can take the other party to a Court of Law.

But from the point of view of a humanist, human rights refer to certain basic needs. If we go through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promulgated by the United Nations; the rights mentioned are the Right to life, the Right to leisure, the Right to honour & reputation etc.

Man has certain basic needs; these needs may be either corporal or spiritual. Corporal needs are those for food, leisure etc. Non Cor-

poral needs would be the need for love, the need for a meaning in life, etc. It is difficult for a government to enforce the spiritual needs, except indirectly.

Human Rights refer to basic needs, say the need for leisure. There are other needs which I would call ephemeral needs which individuals do have e. g. the need to watch television, or the need to smoke, or the need to drink. But underlying all these singular needs is the need for leisure.

We are requested by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to respect the needs of others. Thus it is important for us to realize, first, that we as well as other persons have needs. That we all have needs is fairly clear to most of us. But that the other person too has needs is not so much realized.

Another fact that I would like to point out is that many persons are working for human rights—though we do not often think along these lines. The Declaration refers to the right for food, the right for medical care, and the right for education. Thus doctors and teachers are both working for human rights. This would perhaps bring some consolation to many of us—that we are working for human rights. Even a novelist who probes the psychology of an indivi-

dual, or the comedian who entertains people are in a way working for human rights.

The Universal Declaration has 30 articles. Let me highlight a few of them:

Art. No. 1 : All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Art. No. 2 : Every one is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration without any distinction such as race, colour, sex language, religion, political or other opinion national or social origins property, birth or other status.

This shows that all human beings have a need for equality. If the other man can enter the University with a certain aggregate of marks why can't I? If such a discrimination is made it would mean that God has created one person above the other; no, all are equal in the eyes of God

After all what is important is the human spirit; not my colour, not my language. If this type of thinking is encouraged, then we would learn to respect persons for what they are and not merely for their riches or their colour-

Art. No. 18; Everyone has the freedom of thought, conscience and religion or worship. I believe that any religion that is imposed on people even by the state would go counter to this article.

Art. No. 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure. This is an important one. Everyone must have relaxation. That is why I believe that even comedians are fostering human rights. Some believe that asceticism and mortification is always good. This is not so.

Further, there are those who believe that God is a kill-joy - like some men who live in ivory towers. They are not interested in the genuine happiness of their inferiors. This type of attitude is not beneficial to mankind.

Art. 26; Every one has a right to education. As mentioned earlier Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. has rendered yeoman service in catering to this basic right. What is education? The word education is derived from the Latin word 'educere', which means 'to draw out', that is we have to draw out the hidden potentialities and creativity of a person. Unfortunately, today education has come to mean imparting certain information to a person. True, in the modern world acquiring knowledge of certain subjects is necessary. But we should not stop with this. Reading of general books should be undertaken with a view to improving one's creativity.

To end this short article, I would like to pay homage to the person, who had spent his life, fostering human rights. He was a person who responded to the needs and sufferings of others. In that sense he was a good samaritan. A good samaritan is after all one who responds to the sufferings of others. And Fr. Long was such a person-



"Shame is a revolution in itself. It is a kind of anger turned in on itself. And if a whole nation were to feel ashamed it would be like a lion recoiling in order to spring"

Karl Marx

My Schooldays Under Fr. Long



by Mr. W. J. Navaratnam
(Teacher, S P. C.)

The passage of time dims the clarity of events and makes it a conscious effort to sought out the brighter lights from the myriads of hazy patterns in my memory. Nevertheless there are some events in the past about Very Rev. Fr. Long O. M. I. which remain evergreen. They derive their significance either from the spectacular changes they wrought or from the appeal to one's senses. Consequently the latter variety of events unlike the former vary from person to person in relation to the same institution.

I was waiting outside the Rector's office for a test to be held in the afternoon to determine the division to which I was to be admitted in Form I on the 8th of June, 1940. It turned out to be a long wait from 9 O'clock. Meanwhile I saw some new students dressed like Seminarians enter the office and return with the division A assigned to them. I too followed in their wake, with some trepidation of course, and saw the Rector in his swivel chair smoking a pipe. I made bold to say, "Good Morning Father, Could you kindly tell me what my division is?" He was somewhat surprised and then raising his eye brows and looking down at me, a little whipper-snapper, said "Good morning child." I could see a streak of smile on his face. He looked at me for a long minute perhaps somewhat perplexed at my innocent-looking face. He then got my admission form, and wrote down B and handed it back to me with a smile. He could have sent me back with reproof but he did not want to extinguish the burning flax in a young heart. In fact he always encouraged direct contact with him. From that moment onwards I liked everything about him.

The College promotion examination was nearing and the Rector was on his usual war path going round the verandahs. As ill luck would have it, that day our Physics teacher was late. We were a wee bit noisy but there was pin drop silence as he approached. I too was quite still with my book in front. He stopped near me and said in a commanding voice, "Why are you glooming in space? Open up your book and study." I nearly died of fright but managed to open the first book before me and that was my undoing. It was a Tamil book of poetry. "What is the subject of this period?" the Rector asked. "Physics, Father," I answered. "Quick, run child and get six from the headmaster," he bawled reddening. I went at once and as I left, the teacher entered the class. When I returned from the office the teacher asked me why I was punished and when he learnt the reason he was highly perturbed because we had not been prescribed any text book. Since I had not explained this to the Rector, the teacher took it upon himself to do it and even made the Rector convey his regret to me, That was Fr. Long's greatness.

It may truly be said that his period was the Augustinian Age of St. Patrick's College. At that time the name of Fr. Long was synoymous with Jaffna and he became a naturalized citizen of Jaffna adapting himself to Jaffna's customs and culture and giving the right type of education. This was clearly displayed in the play "Popular Ponnudurai" he got his staff to stage. It was a grand hit. The Director of Education himself came over to Jaffna to see the Play which was staged a second time for his special visit. But

it was in the teaching of Apologetics that he was at his best, making some of the Gospel scenes come alive with his dramatization. We were amazed at his deep knowledge of the scriptures.

Good education grows around personalities and not the day to day curriculum of studies. This our revered Rector understood, and when he returned from the U. S. A. he had the ceremonial burning of the cane, thus proving that he was not averse to new methods. He really felt that no education was worth its name if it did not lend itself to character formation and give

the student the power of sustained thinking and self-expression. The depth of his learning and his grasp of educational and youth problems fully equipped him for the work of a superb educator. No one could have been more human and humane. If we could imbibe his spirit of devotion to duty, utter dedication to any cause he espoused and follow in his foot steps here couldn't be a better stamp or monument than his own ideals to perpetuate the memory of this great priest of God and man.

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Patricians in France Send Greetings

On the occasion of the issue of a Postal Stamp to honour one of the greatest educationists and disciplinarians St. Patrick's has ever seen — Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. — Patricians in France have great pleasure in sending their greetings and pledge of fidelity and loyalty to their Alma mater.

We believe that the living memory of Fr. Long in the hearts of all Patricians living world-wide,

in every nook and and corner, is sufficient testimony to the high esteem in which Fr. Long is still held, inspite of the fact that more than one generation has passed through the school since his departure.

May he continue to inspire generations to come! We wish to convey our felicitations and good will to the "Patrician Sunshine", the parent body of the O. B. A. in Jaffna, the Rector, staff and students.

K. J. Packiarajah

Secretary

O. B. A. France

Fr. Long the Martinet

by Mr. W. Benedict

When I came to St Patrick's College in 1939 I was only eleven years old, and boarded at St. Martin's Hostel under the kindly eyes of Fr. L. J. Augustine whom I learnt to love and revere.

On my way to the Lower School I used to catch glimpses of a forbidding giant who used to walk up and down inside the entrance of the College reading his Breviary. I kept out of his way - Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long. I cannot remember coming into contact with him till I was in the higher classes when he taught us English and Apologetics. I can still remember his favourite phrases "doing the goat" and "looking like a cow watching the train". Of course one cannot forget the "Martial Laws" which were declared now and again and quite a number of boys got six of the best for failing to do their home work.

I had the misfortune to fall into his bad graces, having been sold by a Judas who had a good feed at the V. S. S. K. at my expense to celebrate two of our friends making up after "being angry" for sometime. The feed over, some one suggested a surreptitious smoke in which we indulged amid coughing and choking, being our first venture.

This happened on a Saturday when we boarders went for a walk and Sunday evening brought a

turkey red Fr. Long striding into our study hall. We were shivering while Fr. Long thundered and asked the boys who smoked to stand up. My two friends who had made up and I stood up and one by one we were blasted and stripped of all Offices and Privileges. In addition I was to receive a public caning at the quadrangle the next day.

My whole world crashed around me and everything I had achieved as a student was taken away. The ignominy of a public caning was more than I could bear and I confided in Fr. Augustine that I was going to run away from School and not to home either. Fr. Augustine dissuaded me and pleaded on my behalf with Fr. Long but he was adamant.

The next morning the news was all over School and a deputation of teachers consisting of Messrs. K. A. Subramaniya Aiyar, F. J. Armstrong, F. N. C. Saverimuttu and P. Pancras met Fr. Long and spoke on my behalf. The result was that there was no public caning but there was public tongue lashing in the Chapel while I had to stand up. However I had the satisfaction of telling Fr. Long what was bottled up in me before I left School & he took it without any recrimination for he appeared to be satisfied that what he had done was for the good of the child.

Although I felt that I had been wronged in this instance I owe a lot to Fr. Long and remember him with affection and gratitude. I am a disciplined man today and owe a debt of gratitude to Rev. Fr. Long and my Alma Mater.

In 1945 I went up for an interview for Special Engineering Apprentice at the G. M. R's office. Colombo. Two candidates were interviewed before me one from Royal College and the other from St. Thomas' and the Board Members—all Europeans commented favourably on the Schools. When I was asked what College I came from, I answered 'St. Patrick's College'. One interviewer asked 'Where the hell is that?' Then another of them asked me 'Sorry, is that Fr. Long's College?' I replied, 'yes' Then he said, 'Fr. Long, first class man, first class College'—and I was selected—thanks to Fr. Long.

There is a sequel to my College escapade. I was stationed at Nanu Oya in charge of the

Myself when young did eagerly frequent Doctor and Saint, and heard great Argument About it and about; but evermore came by the same Door; as in I went.

Honour to those whose works and deeds,
Thus help in our daily needs,
And by their overflow
Lift us from what is low.

Locomotive Depot and hopped the train to Bandarawela where my father was Station Master.

I had got into a First Class Compartment and when I sat down and looked up, I saw Fr. Long having his tea. He promptly ordered another cup and chatted with me. After the tea, he offered his tin of cigarettes to me and I said "No, thank you, Father, I do not smoke!" He just could not believe it. I had to explain to him that my school escapade was just for a lark.

I met him twice after that along with Messrs. Arulpiragasam and J. A. Selvaratnam when Fr. Long went on Furlough and then again somewhere else. I could not have had a better Rector than Fr. T. M. F. Long. O. M. I. May his soul rest in peace.

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The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam by Edward Fitzgerald

H. W. Longfellow

A Powerful Personality

by Dr. M. Sundaralingam
MBBS (Cey.), D(Obst.) R.C.O.G. (Lond)

Rev. Fr. Long was the greatest educationist in Jaffna, during the period he held office as Rector of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. He was tall, well-built and had a very impressive personality.

Fr. Tim Long used to often stress the importance of the 3 D's viz. Discipline, Determination and Dedication to his students as well as the staff. He was a sincere, kind, hard working and efficient head of the College who was prepared to give advice and help the students whenever they needed his help. He was a strict disciplinarian who believed in the Maxim "Spare the rod and spoil the child".

Fr. Long also encouraged every student to take part in games. He used to say that games were intended mainly to promote health and experience joy. He made teachers also attend these events to sustain the enthusiasm of the students, stressing that teachers should not confine themselves only to the classroom. He moulded the students to become men of

character and learning when they left college. Getting a job alone was not the sole aim of education. He often said that in addition to knowledge derived from text books, a student should gain wisdom through experience.

The Rector would very often warn parents of spoiling their offsprings by petting them too much or mollicoddling them. Parents ought to know that the good qualities which are instilled into the children when they are young will alone stand them in good stead all their lives. Under the leadership of Fr. Long, the students and staff brought up St. Patrick's as a leading institution in the North both in Education and in the field of Sports and Athletics.

I am greatly indebted to Fr. Long for encouraging me to take part in Athletics and for giving me all the encouragement to pursue my medical studies. And thanks to him I am now in the medical profession and render service with the true Patrician Spirit.

To reach the Supreme goal, the 'Magnum bonum' of life tread the path of Love.

John Burroughs

Bitter Sweet Memories

by Mr. A. J. Stanislaus J. P.



The issue of a postage stamp by the State as a souvenir to honour the late Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long o. m. i. is indeed an act of gratitude by the country and its people for one who did his best for the welfare of individuals, groups, the state, and the country at large & for peace and unity in Sri Lanka. I was a student at St. Patrick's for 10 years, having finished my primary at the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, during the reign of Rev-Mother. Clare. Thanks be to God for her fostering care of my education in my childhood. Fr. Long was an inveterate disciplinarian. He maintained two wooden pillars of silence black in colour at the entrance to the then College and forbade the loitering of students at 'Kulirappa's Junction' the rendezvous of pupils, before the morning and noon bell rang for the sessions. He insisted on the presence of students in the Study Hall if ever they happened to come before time. He strolled the precincts like a hawk with his missal in hand to catch any offender.

One noon we were having fun and frolic at Kulirappa's Junction and waiting for the bell to ring Fr. Long paced forward along St. Patrick's road from the Northern side towards the infamous junction, reading his missal. All ran helter skelter towards the Study Hall. Blocked by the running

crowd I and a few others could not speed up. We were spotted out The bell rang. After the prayers Fr. Long shouted, 'Stanislaus, Antony and Felthman fall out and get into my office'. We received three cuts on our buttocks. We were writhing in pain. That was the last day of my stay at Kulirappa's junction.

A similar incident occurred another day at the 'Pillars of silence' Edmund Paul, Rangarajah, Joseph St. George and I entered the portals talking loudly in Tamil and when just passing the silence zone Fr. Long emerged from a corner and nabbed us & shoved us into his office. We were given five cuts each on our buttocks for the offence of talking in Tamil and for breaking the silence rule.

That was how we were moulded at St. Patrick's to be law abiding, dutiful and religious minded citizens, by Rev Fr. Long.

Many old boys were found jobs by him in Firms, Banks and the Police Department. Fr. Long was also generous and kind - hearted. He found that some of the students were very often being chased out of class for non-payment of school

fees in time. One day our Latin Teacher, Rev. Fr. Peter, (now deceased) asked me and my class mate M. A. D. Vincent who Later became Prof and was known as Prof Devanayagan, to see the Rector. We were surprised to receive a bonanza from Fr. Long.

He said that our progress in studies had been watched keenly by him and since our parents were not financially well off to pay our school-fees the 'Selvamaniam Scholarship' was being offered to us to be shared by both till we Matriculated. By this offer we had to pay only half the school fees monthly. This was his magnanimity to poor but bright students. Fr. Long carved a niche in my heart. When Working at the Maradana Railway Station in the Lost Property

Section, a tobacco pipe was handed over to me emanating fine aroma, as found property in the berth compartment. Having checked the berth list I found that the owner was my Rector Fr. Long I mailed an official letter for verification. He replied by return 'Stanislaus, an old boy has been there at the right spot at the right time. Send it by the next passenger train. I shall have the rail freight paid and collected at Jaffna. Thank you, Lord bless you' Thus every old boy had an affection for him-why? His rigidity blended with kindness turned out every student to be a good citizen and every student realised his aptitude in the society What a contrast now! May the Good Lord grant you eternal bliss dear Father and we beg you to remember your old boys and to pray for them

For what are men better than sheep or goats that nourish
a blind life within the brain,

If knowing God they lift not hands of prayer

Both for themselves and those who call them friend?

from 'Morte de Arthur' by Lord Tennyson.

Revenge, at first though sweet, Bitter ere long back on itself recoils.

Milton (Paradise Lost)

To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own.

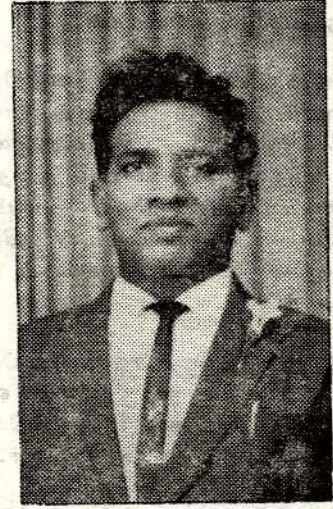
Abraham Lincoln.

அதிவண, பிதா

ரி. எம். எவ். லோங் அ. ம. தி.

அவர்களை

கௌரவிக்க வெளிவரும் முத்திரை



திரு டோறஸ் வி. மு. இராசசிங்கம்

முத்திரை

இலங்கை "இந்து சமுத்திரத்தின் முத்து" என விளங்குகின்றது. அவ்வித சிறப்பினைக் கொண்ட இலங்கை மகத்தான சாதனைகளை நிலைநாட்டியோரைக் கௌரவிக்க அதன் தபாற் தந்தித் திணைக்களத் தினூடாக முத்திரைகளைக் காலததுக்குக்காலம் வெளியிட்டுக்கொண்டிருப்பதை யாம் அறிவோம்.

இவ்வழியில் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பிரமுகரென்றும் சிறந்த கல்விமானென்றும், யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் குரலென்றும் அழைக்கப்பட்ட சம்பத்திரிசிவார் கல்லூரியின் பெயரை இலங்கை வரலாற்றில் சிறந்த ஆடததைப் பெற வைத்தவருமான அருட்திரு. திமதி எம்.எவ். லோங் அ. ம. தி. எம். ஏ. (காராப்) அவர்களின் சேவையைக் கௌரவிக்க அவரது உருவத்தைக் கொண்ட ரூபா ஒன்று மதிப்பினைக்கொண்ட ஒரு தபால் முத்திரையை வைகாசி மாதம் 22 ந் திகதி தபாற் தந்தித் திணைக்களம் வெளியிடவுள்ளது பாராட்டுத்தருரிய விடயமாகும். இவ்வித சிறப்பினைக் கொண்ட இப்பேரறிஞரான அடிகளாரைப்பற்றி அறியுமுகமாக அவரைப்பற்றிய இக்கட்டுரையினை வெளியிடுவது சாலவும் சிறந்ததாகும்.

விசுவாசத்தின் தொட்பில்

ஐரோப்பாவின் மரகதத்திவென அழைக்கப்படும் விசுவாசத்தின் தொட்பிலென்றும் அழைக்கப்படும் அயர்லாந்திலுள்ள விமெறிக் என்னுமிடத்தில் கல்வியில் சிறந்து விளங்கியலோங் தம்பதியினருக்கு இரண்டாவது பதல்வகாக 1896 ம் ஆண்டு ஏப்பிரல் மாதம் 22 ந் திகதி பிறந்தார்.

வளரும் பயிர்

இவரை இவர் குடும்பத்தினர் திமதி என அழைப்பர். இவரது அண்ணன் கலாநிதி பிறெட்ரிக் லோங் என்றும் இவரது தம்பியார் கலாநிதி டானியல் லோங் என்றும் தங்கையார் அருட்சகோதரி எமாலோங் என்றும் அழைக்கப்பட்டனர். வளரும் பயிர் முளையிற் தெரியுமென்பது போல் இளமையிலே இவர் கல்வியில் சிறந்த ஆர்வம் காட்டியதுடன் நில்லாது விசுவாசத்தில் வேரூன்றியவராய் இவர் பக்தியில சிறந்து விளங்கினார். இவரது நாட்டமெல்லாம் யேசுவின்பால் செல்லவே தமது விருப்பத்தைத் தம் பெற்றோருக்கு அறிவித்து அவர்களுடாக மனித புகத்து வத்தைக் காட்ட மதகுருவாக மாற குருத்துவக் கல்லூரியில் சேர்ந்தார்.

திராட்சைத் தோட்டத்தில்

குருத்துவக்கல்வியை முடித்துக்கொண்டதும் குருலாகத் திருநிலைப்படுத்தப்பட்டு அமல மரித தியாகிகளின் கூட்டத்தில் சேர்ந்து சேவையாற்றும் சேவாணுனார். இவர் சேவையில் ஈடுபட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கையில் ஐரோப்பா சென்ற முன்னாள் சாபத்திரிசிவார் கல்லூரியின் அதிபராக விளங்கிய அதிவண பிதா சாள்ஸ் எஸ். மத்தியூஸ் அ. ம. தி. அவர்களால் யேசுவின் திராட்சைத் தோட்டத்தில் சேவையாற்ற அழைக்கப்பட்டார். அவ்விதம் அழைக்கப்பட்டவரன் முன்னாள் யாழ். மறை ஆயர் கியோமர் அ. ம. தி. அவர்களும் ஒருவராவார். இளங்குருக்களான அருட்திரு. லோங் அடிகளும், அருட்திரு. கியோமர் அடிகளும் இலங்கை வந்த இருவரும் சேவையில் ஈடுபட்டனர். அருட்திரு. கியோமர் அடிகள் பங்குத்தளத்திலும் அருட்திரு. லோங் அடிகள் கல்லூரி தளத்திலும் பணிக்கு அமர்த்தப்பட்டனர்.

கல்வித்தளத்தில் கல்விமான்

கல்லூரியில் கல்வித்தளத்தில் அமர்த்தப்பட்ட அடிகளார் 1921 ம் ஆண்டில் யாழ். புனித பத்திரிகையார் கல்லூரியின் ஆசிரியர்களுவில் சேர்ந்த இவர் முதன் முதலில் வினையாட்டு துறைக்குப் பொறுப்பாக நியமிக்கப்பட்டார். அதன் மூலம் பல வினையாட்டு வீரர்களை உருவாக்கியதுடன் வினையாட்டில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் பெயரை இலங்கைப் படத்தில் பொறிக்க வைத்தார்.

இக்காலத்தில் தமது பட்டப்படிப்பை கெம்பிற்றிஜ்ஜிலும், கலைமணி (எம். ஏ.) பட்டத்தையும் பெற்றுக்கொண்டு கல்வித்தளத்தில் சிறந்த கல்விமான் என்பதை நிரூபித்தக்கொண்டார்.

வினைத்திறனைக்காட்டும் வினையாட்டின் மூலம் மாணவர்கள் முன்னேறலாம் என்பதை பல வழிகளிலும் காட்டி கல்லூரியை உயர்த்துவதில் நிர்வாகத்துடன் ஒத்துழைத்தார்.

அதிபரான அடிகளார்

தமது சிறந்த சேவையின் மூலமும், ஆற்றலின் மூலமும் 1936 ம் ஆண்டில் புனித பத்திரிகையார் கல்லூரியின் அதிபராக உயர்த்தப்பட்டார்.

கல்லூரி அதிபரானதும் கல்லூரியினை நவீனப்படுத்துவதில் தமது கவனத்தைச் செலுத்தினார். கல்லூரியைப் பல துறையிலும் நவீனப்படுத்துவதில் பேரார்வம் காட்டியதுடன் அத்திட்டங்களுக்குச் செயல் வடிவமும் கொடுத்ததின் பயனாக கல்லூரி பல நன்மைகளைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டது. புதிய நவீன நூலகம், குருத்துவ மாணவ விடுதி வினையாட்டுத்திடலை யொட்டி வினையாட்டுகளைப் பார்வையிடுபவர் அமரும் அரங்கு, செமினறியில் கெபி, அமலமரி அன்னையின் முன் நாற்கோண முற்றம், குத்துச் சண்டை மேடை, மத்தியுஸ் கட்டிடம், புதிய வினையாட்டு மைதானம், புதிய ரென்னிஸ் முற்றம் ஆரம்ப கல்விக்கூடம் போன்றவை இவரின் சேவைக்கு கட்டியங்கூறுவனவாகும். மேலும் இலவசக் கல்வி அறி முகப்படுத்தப்பட்ட போது அதனை அமுல்படுத்துவதில் மிகவும் ஆர்வம் காட்டி உழைத்தவர் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

முதல் கடமை முதலில்

எவ்வேலிலும் முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுக்கப்பட வேண்டியதை முதலில் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்பது அடிசொளியின் குறிக்கோளாகும். அதில் ஆழமான சமயக் கவனியே முதலில் வழங்கப்படவேண்டும் என்பதை தமது வாழ்வில் கடைப்பிடித்துக்காட்டியவர் அடிகளாராவார். அதிகாலையில் பாடம் ஆரம்பிப்பதற்கு முன் செபமாலை, முதல் பாடம் சமயம், சிசேஸ்ட்ட மாண

வர்களுக்கான சமய பாடத்தைத் தாமே எடுப்பது, மாணவருக்கும், ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் சிறந்த போதகர்களைக்கொண்டு ஞான ஒடுக்கம், சனி, ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமைகளில் கல்லூரி ஆலயத்தில் சகல மாணவர்களுக்கும் பூசை போன்ற சலுகதையும் தாமே முன்னின்று நடத்திக் காட்டி வாழ்வின் கொடுமுடிக்கு வித்திட்டவர் இவர்.

சிறந்த பேச்சாளர்

அயர்லாந்துக்காரர் சிறந்த போராளிகளாயினும் அதேவேலையில் சிறந்த ஆசிரியர்களாயும், போதகர்களாகவும் விளங்கியுள்ளனர். சிறந்த இயல்புகளுடையே பிறந்த இவர் சிறந்த பேச்சாளராகவும் விளங்கியதில் வியப்பில்லை. இவர் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் உள்ளரங்கை வெளிக்காட்டும் பேச்சாளராகவும், தூதுவராகவும், யாழ்ப்பாணம் எனும் ஸ்தாபனமாவே மாறினார் என்றால் மிகையாகாது.

பத்திரிகையார் குடும்பம்

தீவிலுள்ள பெரும் குடும்பத்தின் தலைவராக விளங்கிய இவர் பத்திரிகையார் குடும்பத்தை வளர்ப்பதிலும், பேணுவதிலும் பெருமுயற்சி எடுத்தமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. இதனால் பழைய மாணவரிடையே பத்திரிகையார் குடும்பப்பற்றும் பாசமும் வளர இது உறுதுளை புரிந்தமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

முனைப்பின் முன்னால்

யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் கல்வி மேலோங்க ஒரு பொது நூலகம் அவசியமென்பதை உணர்த்தியதுடன் அக்குறிக்கோளை அடைவதற்கான வழிமுறைகளையும் பெற வழி சமைத்தக் கொடுத்தவர் அடிகளாராவார். நிதியினைப்பெறப் பல திட்டங்களை அறிமுகப்படுத்த உதவினார். அதன் பப்பனாகவே தென் கிழக்காசியாவிலேயே மிகத் திறமையானதென பலராலும் வர்ணிக்கப்பட்ட யாழ். பொது நூல் நிலையத்தின் காரண கர்த்தாவானார். இப்பிரமாண்டமான நூல் நிலையத்திற்கான நூல் நிலைய நிதித்திட்டத்தை அமுலாக்கலானார். இதற்கென உருவானதே யாழ். விநோத காணி வலாகும். எனவே முன்னோடியான இம்முன்னோடித்திட்டத்தை முன்னெடுத்துச் செல்லும் முன்னோடியானார். இதற்கு பொது நூல் நிலைய வளவில் அமைந்திருக்கும் அவரது உருவச்சிலை சான்றாகும்.

செயல் வீரர்

அடிகளார் சிறந்த நிர்வாகி. அதிகாரத்தைப் பன்முகப்படுத்துவதினால் ஏற்படக்கூடிய பலாபலங்களை நன்குணர்ந்தவர். அதிபரானதும் அதிகாரத்தைப்பன்முகப்படுத்தியமையால் கல்லூரியின் நிர்வாகம் சிறப்பாகச் செயற்பட்டது. அதிபர், ஆசிரியர்கள், மாணவர்கள் அனைவரும் கல்லூரியின் பங்காளராக மாற

அதிகாரப்பரவலாக்கல் உதவியமையால் சகல தரத்திலும் எம்மால் "முடியும்" என்ற குறிக்கோளை எட்டுவதில் மாணவர், மாணவர் தலைவர்கள், ஆசிரியர்கள், விளையாட்டுக்குப்பொறுப்பாளர், பகுத்தலைவர்கள், உப அதிபர், செயற்படத் தூண்டியமையால் அதிபரின் குறிக்கோளை அடைவதில் இது உந்துகோலாயிற்று. எனவே அருட்திரு. லோங் அடிகளார் புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரியின் அதிபராகவிருந்த 1936ம் ஆண்டு முதல் 1954ம் ஆண்டு வரைக்குமான 18 வருடங்கள் கல்லூரியின் பொற்கால மாயிற்று. இக்காலத்தில் தான் அடிகளார் அமெரிக்காவிலிருந்து இலங்கை திரும்பியதும் "அடியாத மாடு படியாது" என்ற கூற்றை மாற்ற 'சரியான வழிகாட்டல் இருப்பின் தண்டனை தேவையில்லை' என்பதை உணர்த்த அடிக் கப்பாவிக்கும் தடியை (பிரம்பை) ஊர்வலமாகக் கொண்டு சென்று தீயிடச் செய்தவருடைய அடிசாளாரே. எம்மாணவனும் கெட்ட மாணவனல்ல என்பதை உள்ளத்தில் பதிய வைக்கவும் செயலில் சம்பத்திரிசியார் மாணவன் திசுழ வேண்டுமென்பதையும் உள்ளத்தில் பதிய இதனைக்கையாண்டார். அதிகாரப்பரவலாக்கலும், அனைவரிலும் நம்பிக்கை வைக்கத்தூண்டும் பாணியும் இவரின் வெற்றியின் ரகசியமாயின.

இவர் அதிபராய்ருந்த காலத்தில் கல்வித்துறையிலும். வேறு பல துறைகளிலும் பெற்ற ஆற்றல் அனுபவங்களினாலும், கடின ஒழுக்க நெறிகளினாலும் கல்லூரியை மிகவும் பிரபல்யமடையச் செய்தன. இதனால் இலங்கையின் பலபாகங்களிலுமிருந்து மட்டும் மல்லாது வெளிநாடுகளிலுமிருந்து மாணவர்கள் இக்கல்லூரியின் பால் கவரப்பட்டு அனுப்பப்பட்டனர்.

சிறந்த ஆலோசகர்

அதிபர் லோங் அடிகளாரின் ஆலோசனைகளை தேசாதிபதிகள், மந்திரிகள், பல்வேறு திணைக்களங்களின் உயர் அதிகாரிகள், திட்டமிடல் அதிகாரிகள் போன்ற பலரும் தேடிப் பெற்றுவந்தமை இவரது சிறப்பைக்காட்டும். இவர் பாதுகாப்புப்படைபினரின் ஆன்மீக ஆலோசகராகவும் விளங்கியமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

பலாலி விமானத்தளம்

புத்த காலத்தில் ரோயல் விமானப்படை ஓடுதளமாகப் பாவிக்கப்பட்ட பலாலி விமானத்தளத்தைசெவில் விமானத்துறையாக மாற்ற உழைத்தவரும் இவரே.

வாழ்வில் மகிழ்ந்த இரு தினங்கள்

அடிகளார் தமது வாழ்வில் மகிழ்ந்ததாகக் கருதிய நாட்கள் இரு தினங்களாகக் கருதப்படுகின்றது. முதலாவது நாள் இலங்கை சுதந்திரம் பெற்ற நாள். மற்றது இலங்கையின் முதலாவது (சுதேச) யாழ்ப்பாண ஆயர் அபிசேகம் செய்யப்பட்ட தினமாகும். இதில்

அவரது ஆண்மா சாந்தி அடைவதாக.

ருந்நூ அவர் எவ்வளவு தூரம் ஐனநாயகத்தை நேசித்ததார் என்பதும், யாழ்ப்பாணத்தவரை நேசித்தார் என்பதும் தெரிநிறதல்லவா?

அடிகளார் விருப்பிய இரு கூற்றுகளும் செயலும்

அடிகளார் தமது வாழ்வில் விருப்பிய இரு கூற்று களை சகல மாணவர்களும் பின்பற்ற வேண்டுமென விருப்பினார். வங்கக் கவிஞர் தாகூரின் "அன்பின் ஆர்வம்" (Supreme Courage of Love) நியூமன் எழுதிய "கனவான்" (Definition of a Gentleman) பற்றிய விளக்கம். அவர் விருப்பிய செயல் புனித கிறிஸ் தோப்பரின் செயல் (இறைவா என்னைச் சாந்தியின் கருவியாக்கியருளும்)

அயர்லாந்து தொண்டனாக வந்து

இலங்கையராகத் திரும்பியவர்

1921ம் ஆண்டில் அயர்லாந்தின் இறைத்தொண்டராக வந்த அருட்திரு. லோங் அ. ம. தி அடிகள் சிறந்த இறைத் தொண்டனாகவும், முன்னேற்றசுரமான சிறந்த கல்விமானாகவும், நட்பிற்கும் பல துக்கும் ஊற்றுகவும், சிறந்த திட்டமிடுபவராகவும், சிறந்த நிர்வாகியாகவும், சிறந்த ஆலோசகராகவும், சிறந்த நிதிப்பொறுப்பாளராகவும், சிறந்த எழுத்தாளராகவும் சிறந்த பேச்சாளராகவும், சிறந்த பத்திரிகையாசிரியனாகவும், யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் சகல தேவைகளையும் பகுத்துணர்ந்தவராகவும், சிறந்த தேசாபிமானியாகவும் விளங்கிய இவரது சேவையை அவுஸ்திரேலியா மத பிடம் கோரியமையால் 1954ல் அவுஸ்திரேலியா கண்டம் சென்று அங்கு அயோனா என்னும் கல்லூரியை ஸ்தாபித்தார் அவர் இலங்கையை விட்டுச்செல்லும் போது யாழ்ப்பாணத்தவராக - குறிப்பாக இலங்கையராக அவுஸ்திரேலியா சென்றார்.

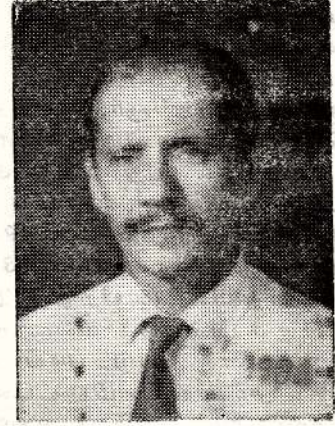
ஈடேறாத இரு லட்சியங்கள்

அவர் அமெரிக்காவிலிருந்து 1953ல் திரும்பிய போது புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரியின் திறந்த வெளிவாரி பட்டதாரிப் போதனைப் பீடத்தை ஆரம்பிக்க எண்ணியமை கை கூடவில்லை. அவரால் தூண்டப்பட்டு ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட யாழ். பொது நூல் நிலையம் முற்றுப்பெறாத நிலையிலுள்ளது. இரண்டும் முற்றுப்பெற்ற ஈடேறுமாயின் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் கல்வி நிலை உச்ச நிலையை அடையும் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை.

அமரபதமடைந்த அடிகள்

1954ம் ஆண்டில் அவுஸ்திரேலியா சென்று அடிகள் பெருந்தொண்டாற்றியபின் 1961ம் ஆண்டு சித்திரை மாதம் 30ந் திகதி லண்டன் மாநகரில் இறை பதமடைந்து இறவா புகழ்படைத்து அமரராணர். அவரது பூதவுடல் அவரது சொந்த இடமாகிய அயர்லாந்துக்கு எடுத்துச் செல்லப்பட்டு அங்கு நல்லடக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டது.

மணி ஓசை



திரு. X. R. பிரான்சிஸ்

தூண்ப்பாறிய தொழில்நுட்ப உத்தியோகஸ்தர்.

மணி ஓசை கேட்டதும் விரைந்து செல்கின்றனர்
என் திசை மாணவர் யாவரும் பாடசாலை நோக்கி,
ஓர் நாள் 3ம் பாடநேரம் அழைப்பு வந்தது,
அதிபர் அருட் தந்தை லோங்கிட மிருந்து,

அச்சம் கிலேசம் அங்கலாய்ப்பு ஏக்கமுடகி சென்றேன் அதிபரிடம்
ஏக்கம் கலக்கம் யாவும் பரிதிமுன் பனியென மறைந்தது!
அதிபர் அவர்கள் வதனம் கண்டு
ஆசனத்தில் அமர்த்தினர் அக்களிப்புடன்;
அமர்ந்தேன் அவர் உரைகேட்க ஆர்வமுடன்
உரைத்தார் இன்சொலால் "உமக்கோர் பாரமான வேலை,
செய்வீரோ செப்புவிர்" என்றார்,

எதுவேலை? என்னால் முடியும் முடியாததை தாங்களே அறிவீர்கள் என்றேன்.
மணி ஒலி பரப்பும் நேரங்களை கூறுவீரோ என்றார்:
தயக்க தடங்கலின்றி உரைத்தேன் நேரங்களை
மெத்த நல்லது மகனே மெச்சுகிறேன் உன்னை
நானே முதல் பாரம் ஏற்பாய் மணி ஒலி பரப்பும் வேலையினை என்றார்.
ஏற்றேன் பணியை ஆற்றினேன் ஆர்வமுடன்
பெல்கீப்பர் பெயர் பெற்றேன்
பெருமையுடன் வாழ்ந்தேன் பல்லாண்டு காலமாக
வாழ்ந்தேன் வளமாக, படித்தேன் கணிப்பாக ஆனால்
புரிந்தேன் சிறுசிறு பிரளிகள் விழைந்த பயன்

பண்பாய் உயர்வாய் வாழ வழி வகுத்துத் தந்தார்
என் அருமைத் தந்தை வண. பிதா லோகி அவர்கள்.
அன்று அவ்வேளை நான் அடைந்த மகிழ்ச்சியினை
இன்று நான் எண்ணினாலும் அக்களிப்பு அடைகின்றேன்

Dejected ?

APPROPRIATE GIFT: A Correspondent informs us that a friend of his recently donated a loudspeaker to his parish church as a memorial to his deceased wife. *

‘Looks like a bad storm coming up,’ said the hostess. ‘You’d better stay for dinner.’
‘No thanks’ said the guest absently, ‘I don’t think it will be that bad.’ *

The priest was sitting in the confessional in the semi-darkness when suddenly two sets of eyes appeared on the penitent’s side ‘What’s this?’ he said.

One of the sets of eyes owned a small voice. It said:

‘Father my little brother here is such a liar that I came in with him to make sure he tells the truth.’ *

‘My boss is the same as he was twenty-five years ago.’

‘But that’s impossible.’

‘That’s what I’m saying, he has always been impossible’ *

A school medical officer was once speaking from the boxing ring in the quadrangle at S. P. C on T. B. Halfway through, the Rector, Fr. Long climbed up and said,

‘Excuse me doctor, but another word for T. B. is consumption, isn’t it?’

The doctor replied, ‘Yes, Father.’

The Rector then threw up his arms in a theatrical manner and holding his head said,

‘Oh dear! In that case all our boarders have got terrible consumption.’ *

Tommy was in tears: Daddy hit his finger with the hammer.’ ‘You shouldn’t cry about that, you should laugh.’

‘That’s what I was doing, but daddy saw me.’

Old hen to young hen: ‘Always remember: an egg a day keeps the axe away.’ *

Don’t keep telling her that you are unworthy of her.’ ‘Why not?’

‘Let it come as a surprise.’ *

‘The boss said he saw you going home long after mid-night. What were you doing?’

‘We were playing golf.’

‘Playing golf at that time of night?’

‘Yes; we were using night clubs.’ *

A large crowd gathered for the funeral of the farmer’s mother-in-law, who had been Kicked to death by the farmer’s mule. But the predominance of men among the mourners was a cause of comment, even by the minister who asked why there were so many men present.

‘Oh,’ said the farmer, ‘they all came to buy that mule.’ *

A woman was talking about the small attendance at church. ‘It gets so bad on Sunday morning,’ she said, ‘that when the minister says, ‘Dearly beloved,’ it makes me blush.’ *



SMILE AWHILE

A Lady's Testimony

by Miss Hippolyta Saverimuttu

No news could have been more welcome, soul satisfying and heart warming to me than that of the issue of a stamp in honour of Father Long.

Father Long still lives and will continue to live in the hearts and minds of so many, practically all over the world and not merely in Ceylon, Ireland or Australia. We Tamils today occupy some spot in every part of the world.

When nature makes a genius she breaks the mould. When God created Fr. Long and sent him to Ceylon, to Jaffna and to St. Patrick's, He made sure that there was no equal to Fr. Long. Father Long reached immeasurable heights in very many fields, may it be with the young Patricians, the old Patricians, their families, the people of Jaffna or the people of Ceylon in general. With his liberal views on Religion,

Education, Sports and Politics - his forthrightness, courage and dynamism he dispelled the narrow outlook on religious beliefs and made all respect each other's Religion.

With us Fr. Long is a household name. Memories of him go back to 1922 when my father was a teacher and later a headmaster when Father Long returned from England. My sister was named Emma after Fr. Long's sister, a nun in Ireland and my brother Timothy after Father Long. Two of my sisters Hilda & Rita were on the staff along with my father. I was a child then. Now I am 74.

I do not know why I write all this. No wonder I cannot restrain my thoughts.

He was a great man - a powerful & saintly man, a sublime human. You have done him honour which he richly deserves.

Hippolyta Saverimuttu
5, Cavendish Avenue,
London N3 QP
United Kingdom
7th April, 1990.

யாழ் மக்களுக்கென்று பூத்த தனி மலர்



திரு S. J. சகாயநாயகம்
பற்றிஷன் இன்ஸ்பிரியூட்

ஆண்டுகள் பல கடந்து விட்டது ஆனால் எம் நெஞ்சிலே முட்டிமோதும் நினைவுகளை மாறவில்லை - கற்சிலையாய், ஏட்டிலும், வாய்ப்பேச்சிலும் மங்காத தெய்வீகச் சொருபியாய் எம் நெஞ்சமதிலே தினம் தினம் பூத்துக்குலுங்கும் புதுமலராய் நறுமணம் வீசுகொண்டிருக்கும் அந்த உத்தம சத்திய உயர்ந்த மனிதரை அந்த வாடாத தனிமலரை நாம் மறக்க முடியவில்லையே. ஆமாம் அவர்தான் திமோத்தி M. F லோங் சுவாமி அவர்கள் தாயின் வயிற்றிலே கருவுற்று - உயிர் பெற்று - உன்னத வச்சியங்களால் படைக்கப்பட்ட இம்மலர் 1896 ம் ஆண்டு சித்திரைத் திங்கள் 22 ம் நாள் அயர்லாந்து தேசத்தில் மலர்ந்து வளர்ந்து படித்துப் பட்டதாரியாகி M. A. (Cantab) தன் சொந்த மண்ணில் மணம்கமழாமல் யாழ் மக்களுக்கென்றே இறைவனால் கொடுக்கப்பட்டார்.

1921 ம் ஆண்டு யாழ்நகரின் பிரபல்யமிக்க சம்பத்திரியார் கல்லூரியில் காலம் சென்ற மத்தியூஸ் சுவாமி அவர்கள் அதிபராய் இருந்த வேளை - லோங் சுவாமி அவர்கள் துணை அதிபராக வந்து சேர்ந்தார் தந்தையின் சொல்லுக்கு அமைந்த தனயன் போல் மத்தியூஸ் சுவாமி அவர்களுக்கு அமைந்து பணிந்து தன் திறமையின் தீர்த்தால் 1936 ம் ஆண்டு கல்லூரியின் அதிபரானார். உயர்ந்து சிவந்த உருவம் - பருத்தமேனி - புன்னைகை பூத்துக் குலுங்கும் எழில்மிகுவதனம் கெம்பிரமான நடை நடந்து வந்தாலே எல்லோரும் ஒருகணம் அவரை நிமிர்ந்து பார்க்கத்தான் செய்யும். நடந்தால் ராஜநடை என்பார்கள் அவர் நடையோ ராஜநடையா! வீர நடையா! சோக நடையா! இலட்சிய நடையா எல்லாமே அந்தந்த நேர மனதின் பிரதிபலிப்பை எடுத்துக்காட்டியது. அதுதான் "லோங் ஸ்ரைல்" ஒரு பக்கம் தொங்கும் குருசின் நாடாவைப் பிடித்த வண்ணம்

அசெப்பிளிக்கு செல்லும் வேளை அவர் மாணவர்கள் நடந்து வந்தால் அதை எப்படி வர்ணிக்க முடியும்?

அவரின் உள்ளமோ கள்ளம் கபடம் இல்லா வெள்ளை மணம் படைத்த குழந்தை உள்ளம் மாணவரிடையே அவர் காட்டிய அன்பும் பரிவும் அவர்களின் எதிர்கால வளர்ச்சிக்கு அவர் பட்ட பாடுகள், ஆற்றிய பணிகள் தன்னைமற்ற தியாகச் சேவைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் என்னவென்று சொல்லமுடியும் வினையாட்டு மைதானத்தில் குழந்தையாய், கல்லூரி காரியாலயத்தில் கடமையின் சுடராய் நற்பழக்க வழக்கங்களில் கண்டிப்பானவராய் உடல் வளர்ச்சியிலே போதனா வாசிரியராய் ஞானவளர்ச்சியிலே உத்தம குருவாய் போதகராய் அவர் வழிபாவி நடந்த விதங்களை எல்லாமே எம் மனிதருக்கும் கிட்டாத ஒரு தனி வரம் இதுவே அவரின் தனிப் பாணி

(அது தான் லோங் ஸ்ரைல்)

'சுப்பர் டிசிப்பிளின்' - 'பற்றீசியன் ஸ்பிரிற்' இவைகளை கற்றுத் தந்து இன்றும் கல்லூரிக்கு மாட்சிமையையும் பெரும்புகழையும் பெயரையும் கௌரவத்தையும் ஈட்டித்தந்த பெருமையும் உடைய இந்ந உயர்ந்த. மலரை ஒருகணமேனும் மறக்க முடியுமா?

வினையாட்டுப் போட்டியில் கடைசி 3 நிமிட ஆட்டத்தில் வீரர்கள் வினையாடி வெல்லும் விதம் 'பற்றீசியன் ஸ்பிரிற்' - பற்றீசியன் 'கடல்' என அவர் ஏற்றிவைத்த "அணையாத தீபம்" இன்னும் மைதானத்தில் பிரகாசித்தவண்ணமே இருக்கத்தான் செய்கிறது.

பாடசாலை நேரங்களில் ஆசிரியரோடு பழுவிய விதமும் - மாணவரோடு அணுகிய விதமும் - விசேடமாய் விடுதிச்சாலையில் தங்கி கல்வி பயின்ற தூர

தேச மாணவர்களை தந்தைபோல் பேணிக்காத்த விதம் (விசேடமாய் இந்துமாணவர்களுக்கே புரியும்) இப் பெருமை எல்லாம் எம் லோங்குவாமி அவர்களுக்கே உரியதாகும். எமது கல்லூரிக்கு மட்டுமல்ல நகருக்கும் யாழ்மக்களுக்குமே அவரால் தனிப்பெருமை கடல் கடந்து தேசம் தேசமாய் நிதிதிரட்டி வந்து அவர் ஆற்றிய பணிகளில் ஒன்று தான் இன்றைய யாழ் நூலகம் என்பதனை மிகப் பெருமையோடு சொல்வதில் ஐயமே இல்லை இன்னும் சொல்லப்போனால் பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரிக்கென்று அவரால் போடப்பட்ட நீச்சல் தடாகத்தின் 'பிளான்' தான் இன்று கொழும்பு யோசப்ஸ் கல்லூரியில் அமைந்திருக்கும் நீச்சல் தடாகம். இங்கு அதை நிர்மானிக்க முடியாமல் போகவே, FR. பீற்றப்பிள்ளையிடம் லோங் குவாமி அவர்கள் கையளித்த வரைபடம்,

ஒரு தியாக இலட்சிய மனிதராய், விளங்கிய, லோங் குவாமி அவர்கள், 1954 ம் ஆண்டு யாழ்நக

ரமே சோகத்தில் தடம் புரள தன் சபை மூத்த குரவரின் பணிப்புரையில் மாற்றலாகிச் சென்றார், தன் சொந்த தேசத்துக்கே, அன்றில் இருந்து எம் தந்தை பிற நாட்டில் என்ற மன திறையில் வாழ்ந்து வந்த மாணவர்களை எல்லாம் விட்டு 1961 ம் ஆண்டு, சித்திரை திங்கள் 30 ம் நாள் மரணமாளர் ஒரு லோங் மறைந்து விட்டார். ஆனால் அவரின் அடிச்சுவட்டைத் தழுவி வந்த எத்தனையோ லோங் இன்று எம்முடன் நடமாடுவதை எம்மால் உணர முடிகிறது.

அவர் மறையவில்லை அவர் நிறைந்த மனிதராய் இன்றும் எம்மில் வாழ்கிறார் அவர் எமக்கென்று பூத்த தனி மலராய் ஒவ்வொரு பற்றீசியனின் மன திலும் பூத்து குலுங்கிய வண்ணமாய் உள்ளார்.

இதை வரைவதற்கு சில பல குறிப்புகளை வழங்கிய திருவாளர், A. மரியதாஸ், Ground Boy மைக்கல் அவர்களுக்கு எனது நன்றி.

அன்பிலார் எல்லாம் தமக்குரியர்
அன்புடையார் என்பும் உரியர் பிறர்க்கு

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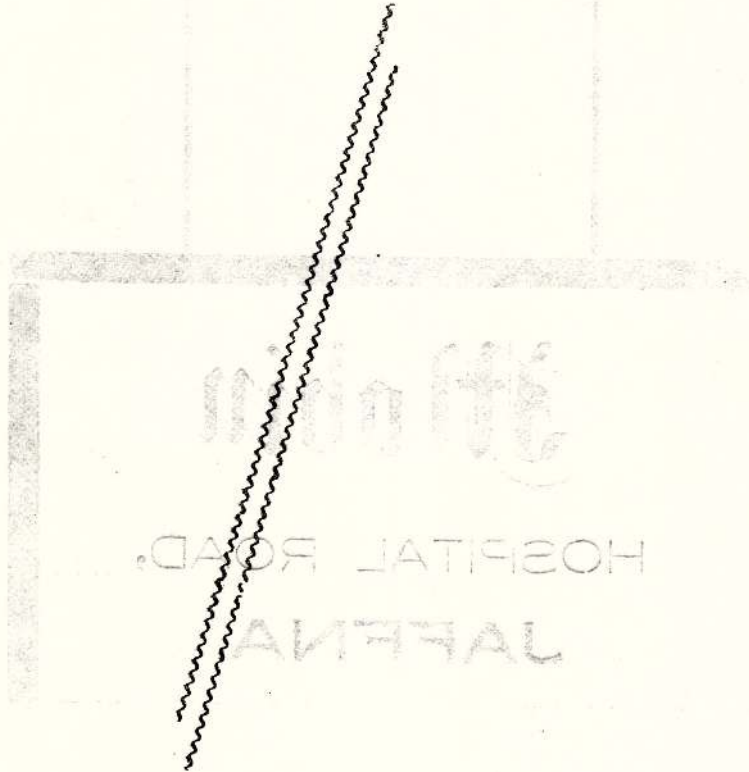
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A Great Missionary

With

A Difference



by Mrs. A. Saminather, J. P.
O. St. J., M. M. C.

In the early twenties Rev. Fr. Charles S. Mathews - then Rector of St. Patrick's College had visions of raising the position of the College to great heights and to help him in this noble task, he brought two Irish - men and a French - man all oblates, namely Rev. Fr. Long, Rev. Fr. Collin and Rev. Fr. Guyomar. These young energetic and enthusiastic priests, put their heart and soul to fulfil Fr. Mathews' ambition. Their efforts helped him to build the 'greater St. Patrick's, though only half finished, with the chapel as the centre. This edifice was the only one of its kind in height and imposing structure to dominate the Jaffna scene. The college rose to heights of glory academically, in Sports and games and in almost every sphere of educational and social development. There was a Cadet Corp the only one in the whole Peninsula, which brought great credit to the college by winning the all-Island Trophies at the Diyatalawa Army Camp. Some of its members became Lt. Colonels, Majors and other high officers in the Ceylon Army and saw action in various parts of the world during world war II. The man behind these activities was Fr. Long.

Fr. Long succeeded Fr. Mathews in 1936 as Rector and was at the helm till 1954. The 'Golden Era' of the College started with him. The number of students increased by leaps and bounds and the college was so famous for its discipline and success in Public Exams and Sports that many a parent from down south Sri Lanka and even from South Africa sent their sons to this institution and some of these illustrious Patricians became Religious dignitaries, Ministers Ambassadors and Govt. Agents and adorned the Civil Service of the country with merit and distinction in the various pre and post independent Governments.

Fr. Long was a man of many parts. He involved himself in all aspects of the life of the Jaffna man. He was interested in the social economical and religious activities of the common-man: He had a special love for the backward and down-trodden masses of the Peninsula. When the 'Temperance Movement' left hundreds of families destitute, it was he, who took up their cause with courage and fortitude and brought

relief to them, He did his best to eliminate the social disabilities of the poor in the area.

He was a born organiser and had the 'Midas touch' Any cause that he took up was always a success; hence he was consulted by many when they launched some project to raise funds for some purpose of amelioration; to mention a few 'The send a plane fund Carnival was not only a tremendous success but the Jaffna people saw many things for the first time - a Sea - Plane on the lagoon and in the Carnival grounds 'Dodge-em-Cars', giant wheels and many other novelties. The million rupee library fund was launched and was acclaimed internationally and the result was the famous Jaffna Library, built in 1956 and devastated by vandals in 1983. It was a cynosure both in architecture, dimension and contents of valuable manuscripts and books and was the pride of all South Asian countries. His contribution is honoured by his statue at the library site and this fortunately escaped the fate of the library

He was a Colossus amongst his contemporaries His imposing stature, benign ways and forthright speech endeared him to all those who came in contact with him. He was considered the voice of Jaffna by Politicians, Educationalists and Social workers; no project for the betterment of Society was taken up without his advice. Volumes can be written to illustrate the many sided facet of his activities. He was an honoured citizen of Sri Lanka and his influence with the Government was such that it helped him to secure Honorary Citizenship not only for himself but to

many other Europeans and one of these was Sr. Josephine Tynan, the then Principal of the Holy Family Convent, Collegiate School, Jaffna. I cannot conclude this article without mentioning his Religious zeal, his love for the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacred Heart and to Mary Immaculate. He was a man of prayer and to those in trouble his one remedy was exhortation to prayer. As a Priest of God he led the young and old to love and serve God by his example. His stentorian voice held spell bound the congregation at his sermons. The First Friday devotion was inspiring. The Knights and Hand-maids of the Blessed Sacrament were his special organisations. The sister Colleges, Patricians and Familians were brought together on the last Sunday of October on the feast of Christ the King and the chapel resounded with the chorus of young voices chanting the 'Christus Vincit' with Rev. Fr. Chouvan at the Organ and Fr Long in the Pulpit. Every student in the upper forms of the College was expected to be present at the Sunday morning Mass and evening Benediction. The Triduum preceding the Feast of St. Patrick was attended by all students irrespective of Religion. Prayer was the weapon, that brought him, his successes. He left our shores to continue his missionary educational work in new pastures in Australia, where he founded the 'Iona' College in Brisbane and was its first Rector. He visited Sri Lanka on his way to Ireland in 1961 and the same year on the 30th of April he passed away in London to enjoy Eternal Glory. He was buried in his native land - Eire. It is gratifying to see the nation, honouring such a great man an Irish-man by birth but a Sri Lanka by his life, work and solicitude for the nation by issuing a commemorative stamp, to perpetuate his memory.

I laugh not at another's loss;
I grudge not at another's pain;
No worldly waves my mind can toss;
My state at one doth still remain;
I fear no foe, I fawn no friend;
I loathe not life, nor dread my end,

Sir Edward Dyer.

A Great Father and Guide



by Mr. A. Antony, J. P., U. M.,

It is my pride and privilege to pay my humble tribute to a person who had been my mentor, disciplinarian and Rector in the personality of Very Rev Fr T M F Long O M. I It has been my unique and singular distinction of being a student and teacher under his Rectorship. Although my period as a teacher was short at St. Patrick's, I spent nearly ten years as a student. I was in the First Form in 1936 when Fr. Long took over the Rectorship of St. Patrick's and he was still Rector when I left St. Patrick's in 1941.

During my period as student at St. Patrick's I was very unfortunate in that I always was at the receiving end of his cane. I was very mischievous and though he punished me for all my mischief, he did it with fatherly affection calling me 'Child' and with a view to correcting me. He extended his loving care and protection over me. There were many confrontations and I remember vividly Fr. Long telling me, "Antony, next time I will hand you over to the Police as you are uncontrollable." It was this very same Fr. Long who took me on the staff of St. Patrick's and when I left in 1947 gave me a fine character certificate, which I still preserve, protect and cherish. To quote one sentence out of it: "We cannot pay him a higher

tribute than we did when we appointed him to our Teaching Staff." That was the kind gentleman Fr. Long was. He never harboured any ill feeling or animosity toward any student. His punctuality was proverbial. He trained us to be punctual for all our activities True to his training I am still maintaining this European trait which is so much wanting in Jaffna. He was much concerned about the studies of all of us and equally concerned about our participation in sports too. Before any big encounter with other Colleges he would brief us on how we should behave and exhorted us to give an ovation to the opposite side when it did well. Such was his broad outlook of all men and matters.

I remember once Fr. B. A. John, our Vice Rector addressing us after a Sports Meet at St. Martyn's Seminary Grounds. He related a most thrilling episode. It appears that Fr. Long's laundry man, the dhoby had put the dhoby mark as T. M. L. instead of T M F on Fr. Long's cassock. When questioned the dhoby, had said that his impression was that Fr. Long was a Tamil and that thought had induced him to mark it on the Cassock in short-hand form leaving out the letters "A" and "I" Fr. Long has identified himself with the Tamils so much that he was indeed a Tamil and wanted to die

as a Tamil and bury his bones in Jaffna. But as an oblate he had to serve the poor and the needy and had to leave the shores of Jaffna.

Fr. Long did not confine himself to Education alone but involved himself in other spheres whenever he found his services were needed. Many sought his advice, help and guidance which he readily gave.

One will be failing in one's duty if one does not mention his contribution to the needs of the people of Jaffna. The living memory of his large heartedness and his spirit of service is the Jaffna Library which stands as a sentinel to his sagacity and his contribution to satiate the literary needs of the people of Jaffna. I was also fortunate to be present at the Silver Jubilee Mass and celebrations of Fr. Long at St. Mary's Cathedral which was attended by several Service Personnel as he was the Chaplain of the allied forces stationed at Palaly.

Well, we have lost a great personality, Educationist, disciplinarian and above all a noble and holy priest of God. He must have been surely rewarded adequately and abundantly by his Master whom he served so faithfully and loyally throughout his life. He must be praying for St. Patrick's College and its future progress.

May his soul rest in peace and let perpetual light shine upon him.

A little common sense, a little tolerance, a little good humour, and you don't know how comfortable you can make yourself on this planet

-W. Somerset Maugham

Once we assuage our conscience by calling something a "necessary evil" it begins to look more and more necessary and less and less evil.

-Sydney J. Harris

It is better to burn the candle at both ends, and in the middle, too than to put it away in the closet and let the mice eat it.

-Henry Van Dyk

FRS. CHARLES S. MATTHEWS &
TIMOTHY M. F. LONG O. M. I.



An Appreciation



by Mr. P. S. Dionysius

I am honoured and pleased to convey my appreciable reminiscence of my studentship days at the request of the old Boys' Association of the Jaffna-branch. I am also proud to state that my scholastic career in full both as boarder and pupil had been under these two eminent dignitaries, Although a book could be written on their humble immense and untiring performances, I shall confine myself only to a fraction of their labours during my period.

The late Rev. Fr. Mathews was very well-known and liked by the college staff, students and the population of Jaffna. He served as Rector for over 28 years - the longest period. He was the real architect of St. Patrick's,

The popularity of St. Patrick's spread far and wide resulting in the parents in the other provinces of Ceylon irrespective of racial or religious differences seeking admissions for their children. Nearly a dozen African-boys were sent to Ceylon by their affluent parents on hearing the fame of St. Patrick's. After his yeoman service to St. Patrick's he retired to Colombogam,

Jaffna where he died at the ripe old age of 90 years. He had expressed a wish to be buried after his death in the cemetery near the college and this was done. May God grant him eternal rest is my daily prayer.

In addition to Fr. Mathews I wish to express my appreciation and loyalty to the Late Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. a six-footer, sturdy and a handsome Irishman, He was both a strict disciplinarian and a humanist whether in the class-room or in the playing field. He held the reigns of office for a period of 17 years and enhanced the noble task of his predecessor both in studies and sports. He was one of the talented and outstanding educationists among heads of colleges in the then Ceylon. The high-ranking positions held by some of the old Patricians during the period of the two eminent Rectors would speak for itself. To mention a few, their Lordship the Bishops, Cabinet-ministers, members of parliaments, Chief-justices, Judges of the Supreme - court. Heads of Govt. Departments and firms, Eminent doctors and Lawyers etc. The tutorial staff of the college deserve special mention in this regard. He completed the second half of

the Mathews Block. He was also responsible for the creation of a large play-ground and sporting facilities. In cricket athletics and Soccer the college team repeatedly won the northern inter-college championships for several years.

I will be failing in my duty here if I did not mention the names of the senior teachers who were responsible for the brilliant standards in these sports viz; The late Mr. S. A. Alagaratnam who succeeded Rev. Fr. Long as Prefect of Games and the Late Mr. N. Kandiah who had the dignified honour to captain the Colombo Royal College Cricket team twice in succession for two years, for the coaching done in cricket and soccer. The late Mr. B. R. Motha, B. sc. a one time Colleague of Rev. Fr. Long, for athletics. I wish to make a special mention of the

late Mr. Jacob and the late Mr. N. Arulpragasam who retired as Inspector of schools for the untiring training given by them as Captain & Lieutenant respectively in the Ceylon Cadet Battalion. I held the rank of platoon sergeant for two years in succession and was promoted to the rank of company Quarter master of 'F' company in the C. C. B. Many of the students who underwent this training held top-ranking positions in different defence forces of the country where everyone lived up to the college motto 'FIDE ET LABORE' meaning faith and labour. The few facts I have stated here are by way of a participant in the great event and an eyewitness to events of the past and I hope that future generations of Patricians would emulate the example set by the two great rectors and benefit themselves and the motherland

My prayers and best wishes to all

Goodwill is earned by many acts; it can be lost by one.

Duncan Stewart

The Rector
The Law
and
The Layman



by Mr V. Nadarajah J. P., U.M

In my earlier article published in the third issue in August 1989 I have analysed the importance of maintaining law and order by the Government in power and in short traced the main functions of the Judiciary. In this article I propose to deal with the protection afforded to the layman and the necessity for him to know the basic knowledge of the law.

The Government machinery through the various departments exists to serve the ordinary layman who is the pivot round which the entire legal system and our judicial process operate. The Government owes a duty to safeguard all the rights and privileges guaranteed in our constitution. Corresponding to this duty the layman should also show a greater awareness and interest and cooperate with the government that performs its various functions.

Generally the attitude of the layman has been negative and almost indifferent. There is

an English proverb which states that "He who goes to law holds a wolf by the ears". This general attitude of the layman leads to ignorance of the law that applies to him in his day to day life. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs in our country which has a well developed legal system and an independent and fearless judiciary.

Every layman must realise that in his day to day life when he goes on the road, or boards a bus, consults a doctor, or buys a property or enters into an agreement he is protected by the law. To understand the protection given by the law every layman must have a vital knowledge of the law. No doubt some may not have the opportunity but a keen awareness to have the basic knowledge of law is a must. I can also state that a similar knowledge of the science of medicine too is important. Everyone must know the elementary rules of hygiene, inf-

fectious diseases and the fundamentals of first aid. Lack of this knowledge makes a man suffer. That is why hygiene is a subject in schools. Now, why cannot it be the same in regard to law, atleast the basic principles? Ignorance of the law is no defence. As a lawyer, I have come across many instances where parties enter into agreements in respect of Landed property that are ab-initio invalid. Large sums of money have passed between the parties and where there is a breach of the agreement by any one of them, the entire amount has to be written off as bad debt. I can quote numerous instances where the layman suffers material loss through ignorance of the law. I am sure the authorities in the educational field will approve what I say. Hence why not moot the idea of teaching the basic legal knowledge for the students at the G. C. E. (A/L) class at least once a week. This will also create greater interest in the study of law and enter the legal profession where there is ample scope at the top. The legal profession and the courts for most of its part settle the day to day disputes, and maintain the orderly life in society. This is the backbone of the work of the profession, but this aspect attracts the least attention and passes completely unnoticed by the ordinary layman. The fundamental matter on which the layman must have a sound knowledge is the rule of law. The basic Principles of this concept is that (1) No one can be restrained or punished except for a violation of the law. (2) That every citizen irrespective of his rank, profession or status is governed by the ordinary law of the land. (3) That no one charged with violation of the law can plead the consent of the superior.

There are numerous rights given to the layman under the rule of law: his freedom of movement, his right for a fair trial, right to have recourse to court, freedom from arrest, his right to know the charges, his right to retain a lawyer, etc. A grasp of this principle is essential to his appreciation of his full dignity as a cit-

izen of our land. The useful contact with law makes a layman to have closer relationship with the legal profession which exist for his benefit and protection. Lawyers have generally maintained the highest traditions and loftiest standards of the profession. In this regard one must pay high respect to the old students of St. Patrick's College who have made a mark in the highest ranks of the profession.

The public may have come across a few who by their errant activities have created a wrong impression of the profession. But this alone should not be the criterion to judge the profession. By and large lawyers have earned the highest respect for their honour and integrity. This again is due to the training the lawyer had in his school days. Discipline with a religious background is a must for a young lad to mould his life for the future. In this respect I can boldly state that this background and foundation has been laid at St. Patrick's College during the time Rev Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. was rector. Religion was a compulsory subject. In my opinion all religions lead us to the same path. Religion in my opinion is a state of the mind developed by a disciplined way of life. Discipline in college was enforced with the co-operation of senior students and an organised system of school prefects and through delegation of authority, group activities in sports, dramas, and inter-house competitions.

Therefore I earnestly appeal that educational advisers and the authorities seriously consider the idea of introducing law as a subject for the senior students to enable them to help and build an orderly society and safeguard the fundamental rights and liberties guaranteed in our constitution for the ordinary layman.

Finally in this issue where the Government has released a stamp to commemorate very his Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. M. A. (cantab) his genuine and valuable services, I saluted and pray that he will be remembered for ever.

The O. B. A. Australia



Front Row : (L-R) *P. J. Seemampillai, S. A. Sylvester, J. Emmanuel, C. D. Rajanayagam, T. Sebaratnam, G. R. Paul,*

Standing : (L-R) *P. A. S. Jehendran, A. T. Arulanandam, Dr. V. Sundarasingham, (Vice - President), T. S. Selvakumarasamy, N C. Rajanayagam (Vice - President), V. Rajakulendran, Dr. John St. George (President), A. Rajakumar, Anton Arulanandam (Secretary).*



Hony. General Secretary's Report

It is a Unique and Historical Event for our Alma Mater and the Old Boys' Association. Our revered Rector the late Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. has been accepted as a National Hero and the Government of Sri Lanka is issuing a new postage stamp in his honour. The names Fr. Long and St. Patrick's College are synonymous to any one who knows Fr. Long. One cannot think of Fr. Long without St. Patrick's College at the back of one's mind. Likewise Fr. Long will be fresh in one's thoughts when remembering St. Patrick's College. In this context the honour bestowed on Fr. Long is honour done to St. Patrick's College as well.

A long cherished dream of the Old Boys of the Long era has come true. This group was working in many directions to get this honour conferred on Fr. Long which he so richly deserved for his long and valuable services to the Alma Mater and the people of Jaffna. Time and again their attempts were thwarted by the situation that was prevalent in the area and many other obstacles. However our attempt to get the Government of Sri Lanka to recognise him as a National Hero proved successful by the Divine blessings and the efforts of a grateful old boy. The General Membership endorsed in one voice a resolution brought forward at the Annual General meeting in 1988 requesting the Government to honour Rev. Fr. Long as a National Hero recognising his dedicated services to the people of this country. I do not wish to enumerate the multifaceted humanitarian services and achievements of Fr. Long. These are amply illustrated in the several articles and messages published in this issue. Consequent to the adoption of the resolu-

tion by the General Body a memorandum was addressed to the then President of Sri Lanka His Excellency the Hon. J. R. Jayawardene on 1st November, 1988 with copies to the Hon. Minister of Posts & Telecommunications and the Director of the Philatelic Bureau. A copy of the memorandum was also sent to Mr. W. M. P. B. Menikdiwela the Secretary to the President, a distinguished Old boy and Fr. Long's Student, with a request to recommend the issue of a new postage stamp in honour of the late Rector. Promptly came the reply from Mr. Menikdiwela conveying the President's directive to the Hon. Minister of Posts and Telecommunications to issue a stamp in memory of Rev. Fr. Long. We are deeply indebted to the devoted Patrician Mr. Menikdiwela who was chiefly instrumental in converting the dreams of the O. B. A. into reality.

Although we wished that the issue of the stamp should be on his death anniversary 30th April, the Philatelic Bureau decided otherwise and timed it for the National Heroes' Day, 22nd May, 1990.

We sounded the Old Boys both in Sri Lanka and abroad about the great honour to be conferred on our dear Rector and requested their assistance to celebrate this occasion in a fitting manner. The response was spontaneous and Old Boys both from within and without Sri Lanka showered us with their generous contributions. This made it possible to organise this great event with the grandeur it deserved. The Colombo branch of the Old Boys' Association responded magnificently and took it upon themselves to organise the event in Colombo where

the main function on the government level is being held. The Old Boys' groupings abroad in England, France, Australia, Canada, Norway and other places have all contributed in a great measure and have organised to celebrate the occasion in their respective places.

We are indeed very grateful for this wonderful gesture displayed by the old boys in the true Patrician spirit rallying to honour the Alma Mater and its great Rector, Rev. Fr. Long O. M. I.

Whilst making every effort to organise this event in a grand way, we are mindful of the need to curtail extravagance and wasteful expenditure. It is our intention to continue the Memorial Fund with the savings so as to erect a fitting Memorial Block in the College premises which is non-existent at the moment. We also hope to provide scholarships in the name of Fr. Long, to bright students of the College who are in need of assistance to pursue higher studies. Contributions to this fund hereafter too would be welcome.

We are very thankful to the old boys who have sent in articles to this Souvenir and we have taken every endeavour to publish as many articles as possible. However articles found to be worthy of publication and could not be accommodated in this issue would be published in the subsequent issues. I wish to thank the many old boys who have helped us in many ways to organise this day's programme. The Officials of the Philatelic Bureau, the Postal Department and other institutions have all assisted us wholeheartedly. I must make special mention of the co-operation extended to us by Mr. Kulatilleke, the Director of the Philatelic Bureau, who was always available to discuss the arrangements required in this connection and also to take necessary actions at all times.

The Celebrations Committee headed by Dr. J. P. C. Phillips and the Editor Mr. W. J. P. Gnanaratnam have both done splendidly well. If not for their untiring efforts this day would not have the glamour it has today. Our President and Rector St. Patrick's College, Rev. Fr. G. A.

F. Joseph gave us all the encouragement by mobilising the support of the staff and students of the College and also provided the College premises to hold the celebrations. We thank the Rector, staff and the students very sincerely. Our thanks are also due to Mr. A. V. A. J. Wijeyaratnam of the Co-ordinating Committee who handled all the communications work which brought the old boys and well-wishers the world over to join in this celebrations. The Registrar of the Patrician Institute and his staff were available at all times to contribute their share of assistance which we acknowledge with gratitude. Patricians and well-wishers who gave us a helping hand with advertisements in the Souvenir and all others who have helped us in one way or another in organising this event, we thank them all.

In conclusion I wish to exhort the vast number of old boys who are aloof and unconcerned of the activities of the Old Boys' Association or the Alma Mater. You have a duty towards the institution that nurtured you in your boyhood and educated you to attain the position you enjoy in life today. You are duty bound to help the institution to continue the good work and improve its performance for the benefit of the present generation and generations to come. We have been striving hard to strengthen the Association both in number and in resources. However, the absence of purposeful fraternity amongst the vast population of old boys who abundantly benefitted by their career at St. Patrick's has limited our achievements.

The O. B. A. looks forward to a change of heart and an influx of membership so as to strengthen the Association and achieve its objectives to serve and assist St. Patrick's College, in every way to foster its growth, advancement and development.

✠

Hail Alma Mater!

C. R. Rajasingam
Hony. General Secretary

The Jubilee Song

by Cosmas W. D. Alwines

(Composed on the occasion of the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee
of Fr. Long on 25th, June, 1945.)

You heard the Master calling,
"Leave all and follow Me";
As once did Peter, James and John,
By the Sea of Galilee.

Chorus:

Let's praise the Lord for blessings.
These fruitful years have brought ;
Let's thank Him for His mercies,
His mighty hand hath wrought.

II, You gave up all to follow,
Left home, and kith, and kin:

On alien shores you laboured
Our youth for Christ to win.

III. A vow to give her child to God
Was Jewish Hannah's prayer:
Four children offered to the Lord
is Irish Hannah's share.

IV. These years of love and labour,
These five and twenty years
Have been to us a rufuge,
In all our hopes and fears.

V. To keep us in the forefront
You toiled with might and main,
Yet ne'er a noble cause did seek,
Your ready help in vain.

VI. The vain and fleeting pleasures
You taught us to despise,
And made our youthful hearts to yearn
For Heaven's eternal prize.

VII. The gifts we bring are baubles
On this great festive day ;

Your ceaseless toil and endeavour
How can we e'er repay ?

VIII. The light of faith doth teach us,
This lesson grand, sublime ;

That prayer is a priceless gift,
And precious for all time.

IX. We'll pray for you for courage,
To champion right,

For faith that moveth mountains,
And peace of mind and light.

X. We hail the names of Flanagan, Dunne,
And Murphy and the rest,

But Long will be for posterity,
The greatest and the best.



Thanks



We have to thank ever so many who helped us in very many ways in the preparation of this magazine. We regret our inability to thank them individually. However we are duty bound to express our gratitude to the following.

1. The Government of Sri Lanka for acknowledging Fr. Long as a National Hero and issuing a stamp in his honour.
2. Dr. J. P. C. Phillips for taking the entire burden on himself sparing no pains and working round the clock.
3. M^{rs} S. X Gnanmasegaram, A. V. A. J. Wijayarathnam and T. F. W. Balarathnam for typing out the manuscripts in double-quick time
4. The Management and staff of the Commercial Press Jaffna for undertaking and executing so nicely such a gigantic task within a short time.
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8. All our contributors for their numerous articles and messages which staggered us but which was a labour of love and gratitude for each one of them.
9. The management and staff of St. Joseph's Catholic Press for undertaking the Printing of the Cover design and the invitation cards.
10. We gratefully acknowledge receipt of all financial contributions & donations. A full list of all contributors & donors together with the income & expenditure will be published in our next issue in July.

Thank you one and all.

— Ed.

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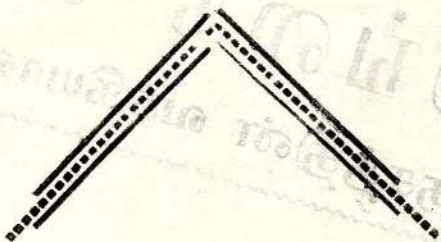
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