

THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 51.

Jaffna, Thursday the 24th of Dec. 1891.

No. 25. 26

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

RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR.

1891		
Batticaloa	Mr. J. P. Clarke	2.00
Jaffna	P. W. Conolly Esq.	1.50
	A. Alwis Esq.	1.50
Pungudutive	Rev. F. Anketell	1.25
Batticaloa	Mr. A. Edward	1.25
Manipay	Mr. S. Appapillay	1.25
Oodooville	Messrs. G. H. Lawrence and Daniel	2.50
1890.		
Batticaloa	Mr. J. P. Clarke	1.75

BIRTH.

At Manepay, on the 17th. the wife of Mr. S. W. Ariacutty Lyman, medical practitioner, of a son.

WANTED.

A first class Appu, must be a good cook. Good wages to a first class man. Apply to P. W. Conolly Esq. Jaffna.

An experienced Bugyalow servant and cook high caste. Apply to a really competent man, wages will be given. Apply with testimonials to Vettucardoo, Pallai.

AN OPENING FOR JAFFNA YOUTH WHO AIM FOR THE "STRAITS" AND OTHER FIELDS FOR BETTER PROSPECTS.

The undersigned, who is from the College of Engineering, Madras, Licensed Surveyor and Leveller under Ord. No. 15 of 1889 and also with a good deal of experience in the Public works.

Is prepared to give instructions to students on the science and art of Surveying, Levelling, Drawing, Estimating &c. (if required also Engineering).

And takes up surveys of all descriptions—Land and Engineering, and to reduce or enlarge plans to scales (Topographical and Architectural)

Jaffna, 13-11-91. A. PIREI SUDI.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

In the matter of the Goods and Chattels, Estate and Property of Thankam wife of Arunasalem Sivagurunathar of Batticaloa, deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction. No. 460. Arunasalem Sivagurunathar of Batticaloa west Va. Petitioner. Venasitambay Kandapper of Vannarponne East Respondent.

This matter coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esquire District Judge of Jaffna, on the 7th day of December 1891 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner Arunasalem Sivagurunathar of Batticaloa and the Affidavit of the said Arunasalem Sivagurunathar dated the 3rd day of December 1891 having been read, it is ordered that the said Arunasalem Sivagurunathar be, and he is hereby declared entitled as the lawful husband of the said intestate to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said late Thankam wife of Sivagurunathar issued to him, unless the above named Respondent or any other person shall, on or before the 12th day of January 1892 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court, to the contrary.

Jaffna, 7th day of } P. W. CONOLLY
December, 1891. } District Judge

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

In the matter of the Goods and Chattels, Estate

and property of Retnam wife of Venasitambay Valupillai of Vannarponne East, deceased. Ilanthalaia Singha Ireguratha Modr. Tillainathar of Vannarponnai East. Petitioner. Testamentary Jurisdiction. No. 461.

1. Venasitambay Valoopillai of Vannarponne East now at Straits Settlements.
2. Rungathipillai widow of Thamoatham Pillai of Vannarponnai East. Respondent

This matter coming on for disposal before Patrick William Conolly Esquire District Judge of Jaffna, on the 7th day of December 1891 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner Ilanthalaia Singha Ireguratha Modr. Tillainathar of Vannarponnai East and the Affidavit of the said Ilanthalaia Singha Ireguratha Modr. Tillainathar dated the 5th day of December 1891 having been read, it is ordered that the said Ilanthalaia Singha Ireguratha Modr. Tillainathar be, and he is hereby declared entitled as one of the next of kin of the said intestate to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said late Retnam wife of Venasitambay Valoopillai issued to him unless the above named respondents or any other person shall, on or before the 12th day of January 1892 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court, to the contrary.

Jaffna 7th day of } P. W. CONOLLY
December 1891. } District Judge.

Local and General.

—THE WEATHER. Showery weather still continues. Since the first of October we have had over 63 inches of rain, or nearly twice the amount for the whole of 1890. This brings the total for the year up to considerably over 70 inches which was the record for the cyclone year 1883, which was the largest amount on record for Jaffna we believe before this year. This is only the second year after the minimum for sun spots, yet the spots have been abnormally active this year. During the past week one large separated into two and then three large ones, and white spots also were unusual.

—MR. CHARLES ASBURY. We congratulate this young man on his success in passing the B. A. examination of the Bombay University.

—THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW. At this exhibition, which took place recently in Colombo our Government Agent received a gold medal for the best display of the products of the palmyra, L. S. Strong Modellar received a silver medal for having the next best collection.

—MR. AND MRS. STRONG are now in Colombo making visits to their friends.

—W. A. G. HOOD Esq. is acting for B. Horsburg Esq. as Assistant Government Agent in addition to his own duties, during the absence in Colombo from the 16th inst.

—CHOLERA. We regret to have to record the death by cholera of Miss Clara Bell of the Madura Mission on the 10th inst. She is remembered with pleasure by all those who met her on her visit to Jaffna a little more than a year ago. The pastor of the east-gate church of Madura succumbed to the same fell disease and quite a number of the helpers and native Christians. There has been one fatal case in Colombo harbor.

—SUNDAY WORK. We are very sorry to learn that work has been continued on the Court House, which is undergoing repair. The same on Sunday as other days. Our Government is a Christian government even if it does promise not to interfere with the religion of any one and it is an insult to the Government to do such a thing, when there can be no plea of necessity. A day or two more or less certainly cannot be of so desperate importance. The offence is the more flagrant in that it was done in the very heart of the town, in the most public place.

—PRIZE GIVING. The annual prize giving of the Wesleyan Girls Boarding School took place at Vempadi last Monday evening and that of the Church Mission School at Nellore on Wednesday evening.

—HORRIBLE DEATH. An aeronaut was killed at Bombay on the 10th inst. by a fall of a 1000 feet, from the balloon which unexpectedly burst. A large crowd of people gathered in the Victoria Gardens were spectators of the ascent and fall.

—GENERAL BOOTH arrived in Colombo on the 10th instant, and proceeded the next day to Galle. There a large audience assembled to hear him. He spoke for over an hour especially with regard to the work of the Salvation Army.

General Booth has gone to Madras where he will conduct a series of meetings. From there he will go to Calcutta, thence to Bombay. He will probably leave Bombay for England about the 23rd of January.

—Mr. Charles Sanders was ordained pastor of the church at Casarive on Wednesday the 16th inst. the sermon being by Rev. Wm. Joseph and the ordaining prayer by Rev. T. P. Hunt. At the same time the new chapel which has been building for some years was dedicated, the whole having cost Rs. 1875. Quite a good company of Christians and others were present on the occasion.

—A testimonial consisting of a cheque for some Rs. 460 was presented to Archdeacon Boyd on Monday, the 14th inst. The presentation was made by Major-General Massy.

—The Tea Kiosk at Colombo was opened on the 14th by Lady Havelock in the presence of a large and fashionable gathering.

—THE HON. J. J. GRINLINTON has been chosen by the Planters' Association to represent their interests at the Chicago Exhibition. It is not yet known whether Government will appoint him as commissioner to represent the general interests of the colony or whether another will be appointed to that office.

—In the recent promotions in the Civil Service it is with pleasure that we notice that Judge Connolly gets an increase of Rs. 2,400 with his promotion to the First Class.

—The "Lady Havelock" and the "Lady Gordon" are following one another in going around the island alternately north-about and south-about. The suggestion has been made that it would be more convenient if one of them were to go always north-about and the other south-about. Probably the change will be made after the 1st of January.

—The Cambridge Local Examinations were held in Jaffna last week; also the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ENGLAND. Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, is betrothed to his second cousin, Princess Mary of Teck. The English press comment favorably because she is an English Princess, and also it is a love match.

The British Navy is to be put in a condition to cope with any powers.

It is announced that Lord Dufferin succeeds Lord Lytton as British Ambassador at Rome.

A conference of four hundred rural delegates has assembled in London for the purpose of discussing the reform of the Land and Poor laws, the Magistracy and disestablishment of the Anglican church.

Serious riots have occurred between the Irish factions at Waterford, the Parnellites trying to prevent the entry of Messrs. O'Brien and Davitt, who went there on an electioneering visit.

Terrific gales have been raging on all the coasts of Great Britain, and many wrecks are reported.

FRANCE. The Chamber of Deputies has rejected by a majority of 165 votes a motion for separation of the Church and State. They also passed a vote of confidence in the Government.

BRASIL. A financial panic has arisen at Rio de Janeiro and the banks are guarded by armed men. The Governor of the State was ordered to resign and has finally done so.

CHINA. The rebels have been defeated some 500 being killed. Forty-two who were taken prisoners had been beheaded.

INDIA. Mr. Harrison Blair has been appointed Judge of the High Court, Allahabad.

AUSTRALIA. A financial panic has arisen owing to the suspension of three banks.

PORTUGAL. The funeral of Don Pedro, ex-Emperor of Brazil, took place at Lisbon. Members of the royal family and numerous foreign delegates were present.

FAREWELL.

With this number we bid farewell to 1891, the first year of our second jubilee-period. We have given our readers two extra numbers or 26 in all, with two supplements. The coming year we propose a new departure enlarging our pages, changing from a half sheet of double-crown to a whole sheet of demy. This will increase the reading matter by one third. Yet our charge remains the same as before. We are only enabled to do this by keeping up our subscription list as heretofore, and we trust that our readers will continue their support, and remit regularly.

In the character of our paper we hope to keep on the even tenor of our way. A daily paper necessarily gives much news of only passing importance, which is of very little interest after a week has passed. A fortnightly paper like this properly gives a summary of events in the world, and, with more details of local interest, to our readers do not have to go to magazines, we deem it desirable to give in brief compact form matter which is not properly called news, but is yet interesting and profitable, on a variety of subjects. We are glad to know from various sources that our efforts in this direction the past year have been appreciated, and we trust they will be no less so in the coming year. We have taken great liberty with our correspondents, leaving out large portions of the whole, of their communications because of the lack of room. We shall have to do the same to some extent in the future. We are glad of communications, even if we have often to omit.

CHRISTMAS.

This number bears our Christmas greeting to our readers, and we wish them all a joyous season. We celebrate the day as the one on which peace and goodwill were proclaimed, on the birth of Him who was to manifest the good will and bring peace. Some persons have doubts about the precise date, because the tradition cannot be traced back farther than the 3rd century. But the opinion was then already widely spread, and we think there are many confirmative arguments.

Some say that because it coincides with an ancient heathen festival, the date is doubtful. But because heathen offered sacrifices and purified ceremonially by sprinkling, was no reason why sacrifices should not be ordained in the Mosaic ritual, and baptism in the Christian. There is a natural fitness. So because the idolaters celebrated the return of the sun from its far southern journey does not make that date inappropriate for the coming of the Sun of righteousness. We must believe that he would select some one day and not take it haphazard, and his selection must have a fitness about it. What day could be more fitting, than the shortest and darkest day of the year, for him who came at the darkest period of earth's history to be the light of the world, and whose light is still spreading.

And perhaps it is not accidental that the day when he received the sign of the covenant which counted him as the seed of Abraham in whom all the earth is to be blessed, is the day which we celebrate as the beginning of the New Year. There is confirmation in that it was the day of the feast of dedication of the temple, a festival which Christ himself observed (Jno, 10: 22).

Being a day of glad tidings of great joy it is rightly kept as a joyous day. In some places there are still traces of the old heathen festival, but in general the celebration is Christian. The Carols sung by children

are most appropriate. In fact it is the children's day in memory of the Christ child. The giving of gifts is suggestive of him who came to give gifts unto men. The lighted tapers perhaps came from a Jewish custom in the feast on the same date. The tree with its decoration and brilliance and varied gifts may have had some other origin, but may well suggest the tree of life, to which the Christ-child gives us access.

The nearing close of the year reminds us of accounts to be closed and rendered. But if we have been faithful and can give our account with joy this only adds to the joy of the occasion. The light from the manger cradle of the Christ child shines not only on those who worship him, but others may to a certain extent share in it, and we wish for all a share in the pleasant memories and joyful experiences of the Christmas tide.

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

The joyous day has come! Joy to all, because the greatest gift is for all. Some may have diamonds or other precious stones; some may be, as we say, loaded with gifts; but all gifts, all precious things only mean, only hint at God's great gift for all the race: The gift of His dear Son!

And my Christmas joy this year is not in the gifts I shall receive, or the gifts I make, but my deep joy is that while I can say "Jesus is mine," all my sisters, in every clime, of every shade of color, the rich and the poor, for the rich cannot be truly rich without Him, and the poor cannot be really poor with Him—all have a right to say, "Jesus is mine."

I heard some time ago of a beautiful woman, a Jewess, who said: "I do not think Jesus was the Messiah; but when I heard, after my only little boy died, that Jesus said: 'Suffer the little children to come unto me' I have been interested in Jesus ever since then. I think they are the most beautiful words ever uttered."

O, dear ones, you who say, "How can I have a happy Christmas with my darling gone?" think what Christmas means—Life! Immortality brought to light by His coming. Joy! Joy for ever is the meaning of Christmas.

At this time our attention is called, every time we hear the words, "Happy Christmas!" to God's gift. Now, the question is, whom is the gift to? To what class? Christ said, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Of course, only those who receive the gift can have the joy of it; and the receiving is the believing that Christ meant what he said, and to say, "He is mine." So knowing is conditioned on believing; believing is the only channel through which, in the nature of things, the joy can come. My dear friend, you will never know God is your Father, and that you are the "Daughter of the King," until you believe you are. And you must believe that Christ is your Saviour before you are saved; for in believing is salvation. You have a right to say, "My Father! My Saviour!" as much as the prodigal son had a right to say, "I will arise and go to my father." You know you have a spirit, and God is the Father of spirits. And Tennyson was right when he said,

"Speak to Him, thou, for He hears,
And spirit with spirit can meet;
Closer is He than breathing—
And nearer than hands and feet."
Margaret Bottomo.

THE STORY EVER NEW.

Only a manger lowly,
Wherein the sweet Child lay;
Only a mother holy,
Watching the hours away.
Only a sweet song stealing
Down through the quiet skies;
Only a star's soft beaming,
Points where the Baby lies.
Only some shepherds kneeling,
Paying their homage sweet,
Pouring the richest treasures
Down at those Baby-feet.
Strains of that far-off anthem
Float through the world since then,
Breathing of "Joy in Heaven
On earth good will towards men."

Hark! to the joyous chorus—
"To you a king is born."
Star of the East now lead us,
Lead us, this Christmas morn.
We kneel in homage sweet,
And pour our hearts' best treasures
Down at those sacred feet.

Florena M. York.

THE PASSING YEAR.

Have you given glory to God, in word, in deed and in look? Have you made life about you so joyful that peace and good-will have come down and shed fragrance over all. Has the hasty word, the angry look, the petulant reply been counted as of nothing? How much good-will have you shown to the erring brother or sister? How much and how often have you put out a helping hand and the word that should go with it, the word that says "Be of good cheer, you are among us and you are with us, the little child born so many years ago makes no distinction between the sinners and those who are not, and he came into this world not to save those who had already made a place for themselves, but to show to the sinner the way to joy and happiness, and to make life better and easier for him."

My friend, until you make virtue as attractive as vice you will never lead a sinner in the right way. There will never be sweet, pure, honest good-will until we have fewer Pharisees and more Samaritans. It's a little bit of a sermon this, on Christmas day from me to you; but it comes in with the old, old text, that the bells are chiming out, the hearts are beating forth, that all over the earth makes the mother hold the baby closer to her to hear at once the tone and words sung by the angels so many years ago, listened to by saint and sinner alike today, those same dear old words that mean joy is with us as the carols go out.

"Glory to God on high and on earth peace, good-will to men."
Ruth Ashmore.

CHRISTMAS CHIMES.

The Church-bells of innumerable sects are all chime-bells to day, ringing in sweet accordance throughout many lands and awaking a great joy in the hearts of our common humanity. Chapin.

Rise happy morn! rise holy morn!
Draw forth the cheerful day from night,
O Father, touch the east, and light
The light that shone when hope was born.
Tennyson.

Then pealed the bells more loud, more deep,
God is not dead; nor doth He sleep!
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail. Lowell.
With peace on earth, good-will to men. Longfellow.
The simple shepherds from the star-lit brooks
Brought visionary looks.

As yet in their astonished hearing rung
The strange, sweet angel-tongue
The magi of the East, in sandals worn,
Kneel reverent, sweeping round,
With long pale beards their gifts upon the ground,
The incense myrrh and gold, Browning.
Those baby hands were impatient to hold Mrs.
The heart must ring the Christmas bells,
Thy inward altars raise
Its faith and hope thy carnetes,
And its obedience praise! Whitier.

Christmas is a time in which the memory of every remediable sorrow, wrong and trouble in the world around us should be active with us. Dickens.

We will gather round His manger-cradle with our gifts of golden affection and the frankincense of praise, and join in the 'gloria in excelsis' of the angelic choir. Wonderful Babe! He will be remembered from the rising of the sun over the mountains of Japan to the setting behind the Pacific Islands; for 'people and realms of every tongue' now join in His worship from one end of the earth to the other.

MAKING PROGRESS.

Years ago, before we had odometers, there was a country doctor who was curious to know the number of miles he traveled on his rounds of mercy. So he tied a bright-colored ribbon to one of the spokes of his wheel, and told the little boy—whose great delight it was to ride with his father—to count the number of times the bright ribbon came up from the ground. Then it was easy to tell, with sufficient accuracy for his purpose, how many miles he rode, by multiplying the circumference of the wheel by the number of times the bright ribbon came up.

In this good month of December is placed the bright mark which shows that one year has rolled around again. Happy are we if this blessed Christmas notes progress in the right direction. For movement is not always progress. The mere fact that one glad festival has come again does not assure us that we have made any advance. Some of us, perhaps, have been too merry in the sunshine hour; some have struggled hard in the cloud and fog, but could not climb the steep and stony way. Whatever has been the past—however unsatisfactory—this is a blessed time when we may make a new start. Unto us is come again in this sacred Christmas a Helper, who can not only strengthen us for the days to come, but can take from us the stain and the emptiness of the past. So, with gladness in our hearts, forgetting all that has vexed and hindered us, let us, with His strength take up life with fresh vigor.