

THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 55.

Jaffna, Thursday the 14th of February. 1895.

No. 4

BRIGHTNESS EXALTS TH. A NATION: BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

NOTICE.

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ORDER NISL.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary No. 646.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Ambalavane Sri Sambapillai Varadarajah of Vannarangam East—Deceased. Sri Sambapillai Varadarajah of Vannarangam East—Peninsula, Viz.,

1. Perimpuval Salaiyah.

2. Caturavathi Chettiar Sappiah, wife.

3. Periyasathy.

4. Caturavathi Chettiar Vykingam, wife.

5. Sappiah daughter Ambalavane, wife.

6. Thangare and

8. Mutchay widow of Murnaga, all of Vannarangam Peninsula.

Respondents.

This mother of the Petition of Sambapillai Varadarajah of Vannarangam East, praying for letters of administration to the estate of the abovementioned deceased Ambalavane Sri Sambapillai Varadarajah of Vannarangam East, for disposal before H. Neill Fauvel, District Judge, on the 9th day of January 1895 in the presence of Mr. T. M. Pandion, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioners dated the 9th day of January 1895 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the only son and heir of the said Intestate and as such he is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him to the best of the Respondents or any other person shall or can before the 18th day of February 1895 show sufficient cause in the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

H. NEILL,
Acting District Judge.

9th January 1895.

Local & General.

Mr. G. W. Wickramasinghe. Our popular Police Magistrate has been informed by wire to proceed to Galle on similar duty in that station. The duties of the P. M. will be taken up by the District Judge and the Police Magis-

trate of Kalki, until a permanent officer is appointed. He is expected to leave on or about the 19th inst.

—Marine Survey. The "S.S. Investigator" is now engaged to our Northern sea in what is called, the survey of the sea. Flags have been posted for the purpose, in the sea and in several places along the northern coast.

—A New Schooner. A large schooner with a cargo of 150 gares of paddy, has been constructed and launched last week in the port of Point Pedro. Northam Pithamurai is her owner, and the builders are the mechanics of Point Pedro.

—D. C. SECRETARY. Mr. F. Siruys, the Secretary of the District Court, has returned and resumed duties on the 11th inst.

—IMPORT OF PADDY. A large quantity of paddy is imported here from Arakkal, and other places which supply paddy to the traders. The Customs shed in the town is overstocked with paddy. The price of paddy is falling.

—THE POSTMASTER GENERAL. Mr. Skinner was here last week inspecting the several postal and telegraphic stations. The extension of the electric wire to Kankesanturai and Point Pedro, Mr. Skinner will rejoice to see, serves the public well and pays the Government better still. Further extension of this machinery to other centres of population and traffic in Jaffna will, we believe, be soon found indispensable. The stations which require and will afford to have the electric communication, are Batticaloa and Kalki. The traffic done in Kalki and the importance of the situation of Batticaloa, as will appear from the returns of its Post Office, will not fail to inform the experienced mind of Mr. Skinner as to the desirability of connecting these stations with the electric wire. An application on that behalf, we are sure, all things considered, will be favourably considered by the authorities.

—MR. JAMES HENSMAN, B. A. For the benefit of his own health and that of his family, Mr. Hensman and his family has come home on a well-earned leave of absence for a year.

—HARVEST AND TOBACCO. The cultivators are now reaping and threshing having a very busy and happy time. The crop on an average is good though a very few localities complain of failure. Plants of tobacco are extensively planted and the long continuous array of these gardens particularly in the northern portion of Jaffna speaks well for the energy and perseverance of the Jaffna cultivator. The cultivation of papaya, chilli, tapioca and other summer products is also extensively.

—EXEMPTION. The Agent has been having exemption meetings in the various parts of the Manamangai divisions. In these meetings together with a large number of people collected together from the different parts of the district.

—FOR SYSTEMS. The sessions here will begin on the 26th Inst. At present, Withers will preside and Mr. Greener will act as Vice-Chairman and Crown Counsel. This is expected to continue. The "Hindu Organ" and "Guardian" defamation case will be tried in Jaffna by a special Jury, the application for a transfer to Colombo by the accused having been rejected. The List of Jaffna special English-speaking and Tamil is published for the information of the public in the Gazette of the 8th Inst. It appears that there are no other cases in the roll except the one referred to, which is expected to be a very sensational one.

—NORTHERN RAILWAY MOVEMENT. His Excellency the Governor has now appointed a fresh commission to report upon the Northern railway. The subject had been so very thoroughly discussed and every available argument had been strenuously urged in the first session, by means of vast experience and knowledge that it seemed to us a misfortune that at the time, no final conclusion was reached. The promotion of the movement, did they could, but apparently without much effect. We do not see that meetings and memorials were the motive power that carried the train down to Galle. The people of Galle did not do much in that direction, but much rested with the Government. The Jaffna public is making what we may call, a second endeavour, to approach Her Majesty's Government with a prayer for a railway. A meeting was called on the 11th inst. in the District Court House and Mr. Nevill the District Judge, was elected as the Chairman of the Committee. A sub-committee was appointed to decide upon the plan to be followed, and after not very long time a public meeting will be called, which will be followed by a memorial to His Excellency the Governor. With Mr. Nevill as its head, we are confident the committee need not doubt of success.

—DR. AND MRS. HOWLAND. Dr. Howland the principal of the Jaffna College and resident missionary at Batticaloa, starts for America with Mrs. Howland on the 2nd proximo. They hope to return after a year's absence. Miss Susan Howland, principal of the Oodoville Female Seminary is also going with them. They have booked their passage per "S. S. Shoreline" which leaves Colombo on the 6th proximo.

—ARREST OF A. P. W. D. OFFICER. Mr. H. B. Harvey who was for some time the Provincial Engineer in Jaffna, and is now in England on vacation, was charged, it is said, with embezzlement and treason. Mr. Inspector Trevena of Colombo left for England with a warrant to conduct Mr. Harvey to London to stand his trial.

—REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES. The Ordinance for the registration of marriages, births and deaths is now before the Council. The question of compulsory or optional registration of marriage is being in issue, the opinion of the public is sought for. The Government Agent, we believe, having been communicated with on the subject, the Manamangai are on move to find out public opinion. Some meetings have been held and signatures have been collected at the instance of these head men. We wonder to see what

weight and importance the Hon'ble members of the Legislative Council, who are persons of intelligence and vast experience and independent thought, acting upon some principles of morality, will attach to them. It seems to us that enforcing registration at the only and conclusive evidence of marriage and legitimacy, is a less evil than leaving the law open to create in the course of time confusion and contentious.

—CALCUTTA ENTRANCE EXAMINATION. Seven candidates presented themselves for this examination of this year and 48 of these are from the "Jaffna College". The Examination is held in St. John's College half commencing from the 11th inst.

—KOPAY TRAINING SCHOOL. The prize giving and graduation exercises came off on Thursday the 7th inst. Many friends and well-wishers of the institution graced the occasion, which was enlivened by the reading of essays, declamations and music by the students of the school. The audience including Mr. L. Manuel, Inspector of schools were highly impressed with the progress of the school and the training the boys receive there. COM.

—INSPECTION OF PEAK BANKS. Captain Domanc expects to leave Colombo on the 23rd inst. on an inspection of the pearl banks on the north-west coast. The inspection will last for about three months.

—MR. R. CUILLIER of the Post and Telegraph Department at Ipoh has been promoted to Taiping, the Head quarters, on the 3rd inst. He is very much liked by his superiors for hard working and integrity. He is a nephew of Dr. M. Kalaisappillai of Mannar and brother of K. Vathsavay of the Jaffna Post Office. May God bless him in his new sphere.

—THE Wesleyan Mission. There are two grades of scholarships, Senior and Junior. The students of no English school but the Central College competed for the Senior scholarship.

The Jaffna, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Point Pedro English Schools competed for the Junior scholarship, One K. Vairamuthu of Pt. Pedro English School carried off the first prize, A. Muttamaru of Trincomalee the second and the Central College the 3rd.

Rev. Joseph Benjamin of Colombo goes to Trincomalee, Rev. S. Niles to Colombo, Rev. James Benjamin to Jaffna and Rev. C. Parimpanayager to Puttuvil.

—PERSONAL. We have to welcome back to Jaffna the following gentlemen: Messrs. G. Mather, —— and P. Chandrasegarapillai from the Straits Settlement.

—EVANGELISTO. The year 1895 ushered in an era of evangelistic work in this district of Kinta. Mr. T. W. Stagg, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was sent here about the middle of November last to open an Anglo-Chinese school, and it was not till the 3rd of January the school was opened. The school building is used also as church at present. The Xmas and Watch Night Services were held in the same place for the first time in this district if not in the whole of Perak. Sunday School Morning Service in Tamil by the Catechist, and Evening Service in English by Mr. Stagg are regularly conducted and tolerably well attended. The catechist is supported from local collections, and before long the way will be opened for a Chinese Catechist also. A girls school is started by the perseverance of Mrs. Stagg, who with her long experience of Xmas work at Home, in India and Bangkok, takes the lead in her favourite work for the Master. In addition to this, the several thousands of Bible portions sold to the Chinese last year by Mr. Irving of the Bible Tract Society at an average of 500 copies daily for a fortnight will surely bring many souls to Christ. With much gratitude for the Editor of the "Morning Star" the handful of Xmas here had the great privilege of joining in the week of prayer with the Lord's army all over Christendom.

—TIGER GUNS. Very often the native and others in these parts succeed in killing tigers with these trap guns so arranged that when the tiger pulls away the carcass used as bait the contents of the gun are immediately discharged in his direction. Thus two full grown tigresses were recently recorded as victims in Matang a place near Taiping and brought for the usual reward.

—EXHIBITION. There has not come for Perak to wile come a circus or an opera company of world-wide fame into the heart of its country till the iron horse runs from one end to the other, but we have had lately 3 exhibitions on a small scale. One was a small boy of 4 years of age without the forearm. The arms are round and tapering. The legs are very short and the feet taper into one toe. He takes to the mouth a piece of orange or anything eatable laid on his arm with the assistance of his cheeks. The other is a Siamese woman without hands. She is said to do all kinds of work with her feet as silching her cloths and combing her hair with perfect ease. The third is a Bengal woman with beard and mustaches. They are about an inch long but not very bushy the sufficient to call her a freak of nature. She is married, and has children and is about 45 years old. Only some seven years ago, she began to be called a bearded woman and earn an easy living for her family. In each case the show proved profitable.

—PALOCK CASE. A very interesting case came off for hearing in one of the Courts at the expense of a Chetty and two Molesadans. The Chetty went to a neighbouring house where the two men followed him and locked the door. A big lock was then brought and locked in the Chetty's ear and they demanded a promissory note for \$ 50 to release him. He did so in the most legal manner and the case was heard the next morning. And the Molesadans were sentenced to 9 and 6 months rigorous imprisonment.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Government of South Australia has prepared a book of 446 pages descriptive of the province, and copies have been sent to all the newspapers of Ceylon, and we presume, of other places also. Evidently it is intended as a sort of guide to intending settlers, or rather as an inducement for immigration. Yet the descriptions are not such as we sometimes see when such is the purpose, glowing descriptions putting everything in a rose-colored light, but they seem quite sober and true one as carefully impartial. We read that the hills "are full of mineral riches," "the climate . . . is unquestionably one of the most agreeable and most healthy in the world." "In fertility of soil it is not inferior to that of the most favored districts in those sunny lands," i.e. Spain, Italy etc. After giving various statistics it says, "From the foregoing South Australia may be regarded as one of the most healthy countries in the world." The population is estimated as 331,721, on a territory 900,000 square miles, giving nearly fifteen square miles to every family of five members. Evidently settlers are needed to develop the country. Yet the population has increased nineteen fold in forty-six years. Australia is noted for peculiar flora and fauna. The marsupials, especially the kangaroo, are notorious, as well as the curious duck-billed platypus, which when first seen by the scientists of Europe was thought to be a mixture of bird and beast. In the flora we find the casuarina or whip tree, which has been introduced from there in Ceylon. The so-called "Australian trees" acacias with leaves like flattened stems and the eucalyptus, with its valuable oil, and other similar trees are very useful and abundant. The whole book teems with facts and figures, and interesting comparisons, but we must content ourselves with only a taste. Evidently the Government makes a more practical use of its meteorological records than does the Ceylon Government. They record the rainfall in 368 stations, and complete barometric and other weather observations at various places, telegraphing them daily to the central station, and "the Government Astronomer is able to publish weather forecasts, which being generally reliable, are alike interesting and useful to the public, and are eagerly looked for in the columns of the daily journals." It is quite refreshing to read the discussion of the weather and the causes that lead to the changes. The Post Master General is "the Astronomer to the Colony." Mr. C. Todd, C. M. G. F. R. S. etc. He says: Comparing our records with those of India, I find a close correspondence or similarity of seasons with regard to the prevalence of drought, and there can be little or no doubt that severe droughts occur, as a rule, simultaneously over the two countries." Referring to Mr. Blanford the Government Meteorologist of India he says, "With regard to the periodical recurrence of droughts, Mr. Blanford finds that, eliminating those which have occurred in some part or other of the peninsula, it appears that they have recurred with remarkable regularity at intervals of from nine to twelve years—or, taking an entire century, a mean interval of ten and one-third years. Mr. Meldrum—who included in his investigations the pluvial statistics of Mauritius, Cape of Good Hope, Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney—arrived at the conclusion that years of maximum and minimum rainfall closely coincided with Wolff's years of maximum and minimum sunspots." After giving some figures he adds: "It curiously happens that two years preceding each of the years of minimum sunspots were characterized by very small rainfall."

Some few Tamils have found their way to this southern land, but not many. In the future we may perhaps see them there in as large numbers as they go now to the nearer Straits Settlements,

PLANCHETTE.

This little instrument has been attracting some attention and perhaps requires a little notice. It is a small board of a heart shape supported on two wheels and a pencil point in such a way as to move very easily. It is placed on a sheet of paper and one or two persons rest their fingers lightly on the board. A question is asked as if *planchettes* were a person, and after a little time the board begins to move and writes some kind of answer. A little book accompanies the instrument and is evidently intended to help the sale of it, as it gives various opinions which have been held concerning it, without deciding as to which is the most probable, leaving

the reader to select whichever opinion suits him best. One of these theories is of animal magnetism, but it can easily be shown there is nothing of the nature of magnetism about it. It is simply a term used to cover up ignorance of certain forms of control of mind over the body, in abnormal states. The subject is being scientifically studied in modern times under the head of hypnotism, which is an interesting subject but a dangerous one, and should be only carried on by competent scientists and physicians. In fact in some countries it is forbidden by law, except with special permit. Hypnotism or the trance sleep, or similar states, are very liable to injure the health both of the operator and of the subject. They are all abnormal states, and may be studied like diseases by physicians, but are best left alone by others. But we much doubt whether the working of the planchette can be brought into this class. It seems to be simply a writing by the person who puts his hand on it. He may not intend to write, and he may think that he is not doing it, but we have yet to learn of an answer given which was not in such a person's mind. It seems very certain that it does not write anything not known to the operator. When it attempts such an answer, it is either a shrewd guess or a wrong answer. And there is great danger of the operator's becoming a conscious deceiver. The theory of spirits' control is held by spiritualists, but it need not be considered a moment. Spiritualists are constantly giving so-called communications from departed spirits, which if real would show that these spirits have terribly deteriorated in sense and knowledge since they left this life. And all the phenomena relied upon by Spiritualists can be duplicated by tricks, and have been repeatedly publicly exposed. The Bible forbade seeking to communicate with the dead, not, as we may suppose, implying that such communication was possible under ordinary circumstances, but because the belief and the attempt are demoralizing, as experience has abundantly shown. The only object in such communication, if possible, would be to find out things which God has thought best not to reveal to us, or to attempt to learn the future, which God has wisely hid from our eyes, except in its general outlines. Thus our conclusion is that if *planchettes* deals with spirits it is wrong, if it has an element of hypnotism it is dangerous to over-estimate, but if it seems most certain it is surely a waste of time, and in any case it is a waste of attention it has the better, for its delicate balancing and easy movement have a fascinating effect and lead to what our sober judgment would not approve.

HERE AND THERE

There is not gold enough in the world to make a discontented man rich.

Saad, the Persian poet, whose words breathe a wisdom and kindness not unlike those of inspiration, informs us that he never complained of his condition, but once when his feet were bare and he had no money to buy shoes; but meeting with a man *without feet*, he instantly became contented with his lot and thankful for his mercies.

One of the most valuable bits of history recorded by Plutarch is that when Cicero, in his youth consulted the oracle at Delphi it told him to live for himself and not take the opinions of others for his guide.

The driest place in the world is said to be that part of Egypt between the two falls of the Nile. Rain has never been known to fall there, and the natives do not believe travellers when told that water falls from the sky.

There is an ancient saying that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children for several generations. Science lends its support to this declaration and presents many sad facts in corroboration of it. Thus Dr. Paul Garnier of Paris, who has been making a special study of the habits of habitual drunkards, comes to this conclusion: "There is a flaw in the very nature of these young wretches that the Psychologist sees clearly and notes with apprehension the absence of affectionate emotions," and where they do not become lunatics he says they "show insensibility and pitilessness." Here is a temporary lesson of startling power.

Men must know that in this theatre of man's life it is reserved only for God and angels to be lookers on.

A dying despairing man said to his minister "I have never heard a single sermon." The astonished minister knew the man as a regular attendant. "I attended church" he said "but my habit was, so soon as you began the sermon, to review last week's trade and arrange next week's business."

CHURCH MISSION.

—JAFFNA C. M. S. CHURCHES. The Anniversary of the Tamil churches was held at Nallur on Wednesday the 8th inst. The attendance was more satisfactory than the last year. The Rev. J. I. Pickford conducted the meeting. The Rev. G. Daniel read the 3rd chapter of Malachi and the Rev. G. Champion offered prayer. The Rev. S. Morse read a very interesting report for the Secretary. From the Report which was an abstract of the reports of the five pastors, we gathered that the number of Christians in the five pastorates is 1215 of whom 517 are communi-

cants. During the year 51 were added to the church including children, and there are 26 candidates for baptism. These numbers do not include the two small congregations of Mullaitivu and Velakulam. The contributions from the native Christians towards the support of the pastors amounted to Rs. 1911.50. The speaker on the occasion was Revd. J. Carter, G. C. Handby, C. T. Williams and Messrs. A. Hemsman, T. Fry, Revd. Vathavanam and G. Wadsworth stirred up the people by their impressive addresses. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman proposed by Mr. S. Otagasagaram and seconded by the Rev. G. Daniel.

—NATIVE GIRLS' BAPTISMAL SCHOOL. Through the efforts of Miss Heaney, a Library has been opened in the Boarding School. The function took place on the same evening as the Anniversary was held. The Government agent was expected to open the Library, but as he was unavoidably detained, Mrs. Carter took his place.

—KOFAT TRAINING INSTITUTION. The prize distribution at this institution took place on the 7th inst. There was a good attendance. The Revd. J. I. Pickford presided and distributed the prizes. The athletic sports, the recitations and other exercises of the boys testified that the Institution is well kept up and is progressing. Inspector Manager, in his remarks, bore testimony to the good training the boys obtain in the Institution and praised the head master of Thampapilly and his assistants. Miss Paul, the Lady Missionary stationed at Kupay, seems to take much interest in the Institution. This Lady's work at Kupay is much appreciated, and she has already won the love and esteem of many at Nallur and Kopay.

FOREIGN NEWS.

—TELEGRAPHIC. A banquet in honor of Lord Sandhurst, the new Governor of Bombay, was given at the Imperial Institute, London, on January 2nd. The Secretary of State for India, in proposing the toast of the evening, stated that he was confident that India would surmount the silver difficulty. Mr. Fowler said that Lord Sandhurst was charged to continue the policy of developing the resources of the country, upholding the liberties of the subject, of administering impartial justice, and of defending India from foreign aggression and civil war. Lord Sandhurst, in reply, said he would endeavour to be strictly impartial, and would follow in the footsteps of Lord Elphinstone.

Parliament re-assembled on the 1st inst., and the Queen's speech was read by commission. It is proposed to bring forward the following measures during the session: Free Land Bill, Evicted Tenants Bill, Local Rate Bill, Bill for the abolition of plural voting, the payment of charges of reforming officers, measure for the conciliation of labor disputes, amendment of the Factory Acts, compilation of the Scotch County Government, and further legislation on the crofter question.

The French Chamber of Deputies voted a special credit for the expenses of a state funeral for the late Marshal Carrobert. The motion was opposed by the Radical and Socialist Deputies. The funeral was a most imposing spectacle. The streets *en route* were lined with troops and crowded with people. Wreaths were sent by Her Majesty the Queen, King Humbert, and M. Peltz Faure, the President of the Republic. There was also an escorting the respect of the Russian army.

The Japanese captured Wei-hai-wei after two days' skirmishing. The Chinese lost when the assault was delivered. Their loss is said to be fully two thousand. They still hold the island of Lantung-kuang and are keeping up a furious bombardment of the Japanese ships and the forts that were captured by the Japanese. The British, French, and Russian Ministers at Pekin and Tientsin have been instructed to offer every assistance to Japan and China respectively to further an early settlement of peace. The credentials of the Chinese Envoy departed to the terms of peace not having been found in tact to order the Japanese Ministers have refused to enter into any negotiations with them, and they have been told to leave Japan immediately.

The French have occupied Majunga, the chief port on the northwest of Madagascar. No opposition was encountered. The Uroses retiring beyond range as the French advanced. The Howas attempted a bombardment of Tamatave, but their guns were demolished by the return fire of the French.

The recent attempt at insurrection in Hawaii has not been entirely quelled, and martial law has been proclaimed and the ex-Queen arrested. On her house being searched a quantity of arms, dynamite, and bombs were discovered.

The North German Lloyd steamer "Elbe," bound from Bremen to New York collided with a collier in the North Sea and sank almost immediately. Three hundred and seventy-four persons were drowned.

A new treaty between America and Japan has been ratified by the Senate at Washington.

As an outcome of the conflict between the Hakkas and Abystimans, King Menelik has declared war against Italy.

The Fiji Islands were visited by a terrible hurricane on the 6th and 7th of January. The hurricane passed near Suva and the town was wrecked. The banana plantations are ruined.

It is reported from Western Australia that gold in payable quantities has been discovered on the Nickel river. The properties have been taken up on behalf of the London company.

Prince Asis Khan, of the Egyptian Khedivial family, has come to India for a course of instruction with a British cavalry regiment. He will be treated in every respect as a British officer, but will receive no pay.

DEATH OF THE JAPANESE CHIEF OF STAFF. Prince Taro Hidé, general and Chief Director of the General Staff, died on the 24th January.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT. M. Félix Faure, the newly elected President, is the first Protestant head of the state.