

NOTICE

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Manipay	Dr. C. T. Mills	2.25
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In the District Court of Jaffna.
Testamentary { No. 546.
Jurisdiction {

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Ambalavanth
Sithamparapillai of Vannarimangai East. Deceased.
Sithamparapillai Sivajinagaram of Vannarimangai East.
Versus. Perumal.

1. Perumalpillai Sellayah.
2. Catheravale Chettiar Suppiyah, wife
3. Perintamachy.
4. Catheravale Chettiar Vythlingam, wife
5. Sinnappillai.
6. Suppiyah Chettiar Ambalavanar, wife.
7. Thangam and
8. Muttyach widow of Murugan, all of Vanner
 norcal Respondents

This matter of the Retainer of Sirkhanparagilla Shivaprasad of Vainampooni East, praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Gulabnagar Sirkhanparagilla of Vainampooni East coming in for disposal before H. Nevill Esquire, District Judge, on the 9th day of January 1895 in the presence of Mr. M. Vamboy, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 9th day of January 1895 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the only son and the sole legal heir of the said deceased and is entitled to the said estate of the said deceased, and the Letters of Administration to the estate of the said late intestate issued to him by the Respondents on the other person shall be and will be null and void. The Respondents of January 1895 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

H NEVILL,
Acting District Judge

—Mr. G. W. Woodhouse. Our popular Police Magistrate has been informed by wire to proceed to Gallatin to perform his duties in that station. The duties of the P. M. will be taken up by the District Judge and the Police Magistrate.

ing been communicated with in the subject, the managers are on move to find out public opinion. Some meetings have been hold and signatures have been solicited at the instance of these head men. We wonder to see what

Mohamedans were sentenced to 9 and 6 months rigorous imprisonment.

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி. கடிதம்.

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 strike 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 a bird and a 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 holds 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 physical 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 families 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 *planchette* 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 hypnosis, 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 those 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 *planchette* deals with spirits it is wrong, if it has an element of hypnotism it is dangerous to our intellects, but if it seems most certain it is simply a waste of time, and in any case our attention it has the better, for its deprecating 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.

Saady, 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 Cleon, 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 first place in the world it is said to be that part of Egypt between the two lower falls of the Nile. Rich 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 children 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 mixes with apprehension the elements of a *fatalitatis amara*," and where they do not become lunatics he says they show "intelligibility and pitilessness." Here is a temperance 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 Nallore on Wednesday the 6th inst. The attendance was more satisfactory than the last year. The Rev. J. I. Pickford presided at the meeting. The Rev. G. Dandapani acted as the reader of the book and the Rev. G. Chempamattai as the preacher. The Rev. S. Moran 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 547 are commu-

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 Mullaisvay and Velankulam. The contributions from the native Christians towards the support of the pastors amounted to Rs. 1911.50. The speakers on the occasion viz. Revs. J. Carter, C. C. Hardy, C. T. Williams and Messrs. A. Hensman, T. Fry, Rev. Vahvanam and C. Wadsworth stirred up the people by their impressive addresses. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. S. Dagassagaram and seconded by the Rev. G. Daniel.

—NALLOR GRASS BURNING SOCIETY. Through the efforts of Miss Heaney, a Library has been opened in the Boarding School. The function took place on the same evening the Anniversary was held. The Government Agent was expected to open the Library, but as he was unavoidably detained, Miss Carter took his place.

—KOPAY TRAINING INSTITUTION. The prize distribution at this institution took place on the 7th inst. There was a good attendance. The Rev. 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 Manuel, in his remarks, bore testimony to the good training the boys obtain in this institution and praised the head master, Mr. Chempamattai and his assistants. Miss Paul, the Lady Missionary stationed at Kopay, seems to take much interest in the institution. This lady's work at Kopay is much appreciated, and she has already won the love and esteem of many at Nallore 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 20th. 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 endeavor to be strictly impartial, and would follow in the footsteps of Lord Elphinstone.

Parliament re-assembled on the 5th inst. and the Queen's speech was read by commission. It is proposed to bring forward the following measures during the session: Irish Land Bill, Evicted Tenants Bill, Local Vote Bill, Bill for the abolition of plural voting, the payment of charges of returning officers, measure for the conciliation of labor disputes, amendment of the Factory Acts, continuation 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 Canrobert. 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 His Majesty the Queen, King Humbert, and M. Felix Faure, the President of the Republic. There was also one signifying the respect of the Russian army.

The Japanese captured Wai-hai-wei after two days skirmishing. The Chinese held out when the assault was made. Their loss is said to be fully ten thousand. They still hold the island of Lian-shan, and are keeping up a furious bombardment of the Japanese shore and the forts that were captured by the Japanese. The British, French, and Russian Ministers at Tokio and Peking have been instructed to offer every advice in Japan and China respectively to further an early settlement of peace. The credentials of the Chinese Envoys departed to offer terms of peace, not having been found in respect to 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 Moros retiring beyond range as the French advanced. The Moros attempted a bombardment of Majunga, but their guns were dismounted by the return fire of the French.

The recent attempt at insurrection in Hawaii having been entirely quelled, and martial law has been proclaimed and the 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 lobster 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 Hottentots and Abyssinians, 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 a London company.

Prince Aziz 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 Hiro, general and Chief Director of the General Staff, died on the 24th January.

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