

THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 56.

Jaffna, Thursday 8th of Aug., 1896.

No. 16

EIGHTHOUSES EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

NOTICE.

The subscribers of the *Morning Star* who have not yet sent in their dues are hereby reminded to remit the same at their earliest convenience.

RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR.

| | 196 |
|---|-------|
| Jaffna Katcheri Mr. J. N. Sandavasagamam | 1.50 |
| Jaffna Town Sir W. C. Twynam K. C. M. G. | 2.50 |
| Straits Settlements Mr. C. Yesudasan | 2.25 |
| Tellippally Messrs. S. Hamilton, S. Cantler, Ed. Tellippalam, S. Miller, N. Gnanamuthu and Kanagaratnam | 6.00 |
| | 95 |
| Vaikunthamai Mr. N. Selvamuttillai R.A. | 1.50 |
| Jaffna Town Sir W. C. Twynam K. C. M. G. | 1.50 |
| Jaffna Katcheri Mr. A. S. Alavambalam | 1.50 |
| India Mr. W. S. John (92-96) | 10.60 |

NOTICE.

AMERICAN MISSION DISPENSARY, MANIPPAV.

As we have lately received a large consignment of medicines from England, we are prepared to sell to Medical Practitioners in Jaffna, moderate quantities at moderate prices.

T. B. SCOTT, M.D.

FOR SALE.

CALICUT TILES.

Flat, ridge, glass and ventilators,
(First Quality)

WILLIAM MATHER,

THE CEYLON STEAMSHIP Co. Ltd.

The Company's Steamer "Lady Havannah" is appointed to sail from Kengesanthurai for Colombo on the following dates. August 4th.

1st.

The Steamer "Lady Gordon" is appointed to sail from Kengesanthurai for Colombo via Trincomalee on the noon of the following dates.

August 7th

21st.

W. MATHER.

Agent.

BRILLIANTS.

A beautiful pair of Brilliants of the best water. Pure white and faultless. 28 carats Rs 500

WARD & DAVY.

JAROWA CHOORIES.

THESE CHOORIES are specially indented from Germany. Set with imitation Diamonds, Emeralds, Rubies, Pearls and each Chooro opens by a clasp. Can be easily worn. It meets the requirements of females of all nationalities. Choories of the above description set with real Jewels would cost Rs. 3,000 per pair. The brightness and lustre of the Choories are preferable on opening the boxes containing them.

No. 1 Chooro per pair 480

2 Packing Ans 3 Postage extra. 3-0

R. SARKAR & Co.,

252, Mirzapur Street,

Calcutta.

Durai & Co.

DRUGISTS, CHEMISTS & GENERAL MERCHANTS.

VICTORIA HALL, VANNARANTHAL, JAFFNA.

Beg to inform the public and the Medical profession that they have just to hand heavy consignments of chemicals, drugs, Chemists' and Druggists' sundries, Surgical Instruments and appliances, Patent Medicines, Stationery and other general sundries from houses of established reputation both in England and in the continent. Prices moderate and comparatively cheap and special allowances made to well-known classes.

The Dispensary Department is in the charge of an efficient hand. Prescriptions are compounded at very low rates, promptly and accurately.

There is offered to them the premises an Oct-Door Dispensary under the management of an able and experienced Medical Practitioner who can be consulted at all hours of the day free.

For Excellence and cheapness their goods are unrivalled. A Trial order earnestly solicited.

BRILLIANTS.

Selected pairs for earrings,
Price from Rs. 100 to Rs. 250 per pair.

WM. MATHER.

Local & General.

Dust Storm. Jaffna has not had such a dust storm in years as took place on Friday and Saturday the 24th and 25th inst. The wind blew a gale and the dust swept over the peninsula in great clouds. We have had a few showers here and there, but more is needed.

Bible Women. The *Christian Patriot* gives a flattering notice of Miss. Swift's paper on the Training of Zenana Workers which was read at the Kodikkanal missionary conference in June last. It was a very timely and suggestive paper, and we hope that something will be done ere long for the training of our own Bible women. If three Protestant missions could combine and make arrangements for the training of this class of Christian workers, we believe much would be accomplished.

India's Need. A prominent educationalist in India writes as follows—

"A long experience in this land leads me to the conviction that India needs not so much the efforts of a number of imported peripatetic lecturers, however distinguished they may be, as do those the burning appeals of spiritually minded and spirit bearing souls. A dozen such men could do much more good to young India than a hundred profound and eloquent lecturers. India is in danger of being intellectualized to death. What we need is more heat rather than light. I do not wish to deprecate any effort at giving to India western and Christian thought. I only desire to emphasize the supreme fact that the greatest and most urgent need of this land today is not the spirit but life even the direct life of the indwelling spirit of God."

Pump Well. The Government has sent up a pump and engine to experiment with this famous well. Its depth is said to be less than 150 feet. The water up to a certain depth is considered good and if after several days pumping is done, that the supply is practically inexhaustable. The Government will take measures to cover the water to 150 ft where good pure water is greatly needed. It seems an enormous task, but the only plan that seems practical. Several little huts have been erected on the spot for the workmen and a large gang of men are busy preparing a place for the pump and in making a ditch for carrying off the water. The pump will be set to work in a few days as soon as everything is ready. The Govt. Agent, the Provincial and District engineers and others interested will be on hand to watch the progress of the experiment. We hope it will be a success, while not being very sanguine ourselves as to the result. It will at least settle this question once for all as to the use that can be made of this well.

Grammatical Performance. The boys of the Central College have arranged to act select portions of Shakespeare on the night of the 7th inst. The District Court Hall has been allowed for the use of the boys on that occasion. The admission is by tickets.

Gymkhana. In the esplanade on the 7th inst., there will be a variety of sports, and prizes will be awarded for excellent performers. The competition will be among the boys of the Wesleyan Mission schools.

The Inter Collegiate Union. The business meeting of this Association was held on the 25th ult. in the Central College Hall presided over by Mr. Advocate Karangapalam. There were several students of all the Colleges in Jaffna save St. Patrick, and Advocate Mr. Karangapalam made a brilliant speech on the occasion.

Accident. On the 24th ultime while the Maniagar of Wallikannam North was driving to the town a little this side of the Chonpakan market, a palmvare tree fell on the cart, and fortunately for the occupants, the driver and the bullocks, the tree struck the cart just between the driver and the occupants. The cart was damaged, but there was no injury to persons or to the bullocks. On Thursday last, it was reported that a coconut tree came down at Kadikkam upon a bullock which with its mate was feeding by the side of the road. The bullock died on the spot. The owner was on his way home from the Wanniya.

The "At Home" of the 24th ultime. The "Old Park" was a scene of gaiety on the appointed day and the select of the Jaffna public was represented there in all variety of dress. The refreshments were ample and the distinguished host and hostess are to be congratulated on the grand success which accompanied their entertainments.

Obituary. On Sunday the 25th ultime, Mrs. Simen family died at her residence in the Main Street. She was the mother of Mr. S. Nadarajah, the Chief Minister of the local Kachchera, and sister of Mr. J. N. Samadacharan Saum of Minn Road. The funeral which took place the next day, was numerously attended, and the remains were buried in the Catholic burial ground. We tender our condolences to the relations and friends of the deceased lady.

The Govt. Agent. Mr. Iversen with Mrs. Iversen left for Colombo on Monday the 3rd inst., by coach. Mr. Iversen is to be present at the annual Durbar of the Govt. Agents which comes on the 10th inst.

The Medicinal and P. W. D. The Heads of these Departments in Jaffna have gone to Mannar on leave.

Land Acquisition Minute. The minute circulated by the Government dated the 15th May 1895, preventing Government servants from possessing and acquir-

ing lands, entering into any commercial pursuits &c. &c., has been replaced by the minute of the 15th July 1896. The provisions by the latter minute which are of a reasonable character are published in the Govt. Gazette of the 24th ult. and the reason of such a change by the Govt. was stated by the Colonial Secretary in the last meeting of the Council.

Personal. A Correspondent from Calcutta informs us that Mr. Vilayat Ratnam A., a son of Rev. J.S. Christmas of Tellicherry has resigned his post as professor of Mathematics and Science in the Laxmibhawan College, Calcutta, and that he is about to proceed to Colombo with a view to enter the legal profession as an Advocate.

Meeting of Managers. A meeting of Managers (and other who are members of the Ceylon Educational Association, in Jaffna) has been called to meet in St. Paul's school room in the Pettah on the 15th inst. at 4.30. Questions of importance connected with the educational policy of the Department are to be brought up for discussion, and if thought best steps will then be taken for forming a branch of the Ceylon Educational Association. It is hoped that all members of this Association, of whatever creed, will be present on the occasion.

Festival of the Wesleyan Church. The programme of the festival for the 5th inst. will be as follows—Various sports from 5.30 to 8 a. m. and a gain from 4 to 6 p. m. Singing competitions from 9.30 to 11 at the College Hall. Prize of 50s from 3 to 4 p. m. at St. Peter's church. Prize giving and entertainment at the Court house from 6.30 to 8 p. m. Rev. J. West will take the chair, and Miss Twynam will distribute the prizes.

Customs Changes. Consequently on the recommendation of Mr. Hallak Murugan Moorthy Head Clerk Jaffna Customs, the following changes have been effected on the recommendations of the Government Agent.

Mr. J. A. Thiyasvarasinghe, Sub Collector Mannar to be Head Clerk, Jaffna Customs on Rs. 1,100/-, Mr. Liveras, 2nd Clerk Jaffna Customs, to succeed Mr. Thiyasvarasinghe, as Sub Collector Mannar on Rs. 100/- Mr. Samanandran Senior Landing Waiter, Jaffna, to be second clerk on Rs. 770/- Mr. Panamalaiam Salam, Jaffna, to be senior Landing Waiter, on Rs. 600/- Mr. John Karavasighe, Landing Waiter, Kackcherry, to succeed Mr. Perumalal as Sheriff, Jaffna on Rs. 550/- Mr. G. Alagappa, Landing Waiter, Pt. Pedro to be Landing Waiter, Kumbakonam, on Rs. 350 and Mr. Thiyasvarasinghe Hallak, younger son of the retired Head Clerk has been given the late vacancy at Pt. Pedro in consideration of his father's long and faithful service.

Rev. J. and Mrs. West. arrived at Pt. Pedro by Lady Havannah on Tuesday morning the 4th inst. They were accorded a very hearty welcome by the Christians of the Wesleyan mission. In the afternoon Mr. West re-opened the church at Kadavatty at 4 o'clock, and presided over a large public meeting in the evening. The cost of the restoration is Rs. 2,200. Mr. West and family will remain in Jaffna for a fortnight.

Ceylon Steamship Company. The Government has increased the subsidy paid to this steamship company by £ 1000 on the ground that the company was now giving the public a weekly service whereas when the subsidy was first granted the steamer was running but once a fortnight. The increase was well deserved, and we wish the company all prosperity in the future.

The Bhabu Strike. After a long and stubborn fight the Bhabus have yielded to the demand of the Miners, and are pressing forward. In great numbers for registration. It might be a good idea to frame a few simple rules for the guidance of this body of servants.

Railway. We are pleased to hear that Mr. H. R. Solomon, eldest son of the late Mr. S. Solomon Notary public of Eruvadi, Jaffna, and grand son of the late Rev. N. Niles, has been promoted as station master Malabarion near Kandy. We are glad to see that the Jaffna young men are also coming up in that department.

Jaffna College Prize Giving. The annual prize speaking and prize giving took place on Wednesday evening the 5th inst. Sir William Twynam, President of the Board of Directors, took the Chair. Oley Hall was filled with an attentive audience of educated and representative men. After the Principal's report was read, giving the general results of the past year's work, the prima speaking was listened to. All the speakers acquitted themselves creditably. The judges of award were, Rev. T. B. Scott M. A., James W. Small Esq., and S. T. Arundale Esq. The first prize in the Entrance class was taken by G. C. Barthel, the second by Edwin Hemman, in the Junior F. A. Class D. S. Velupillai carried off the first prize and P. Jeendan the second. Then followed the reading of "Ashbury Prize" Essay by J. H. R. Joseph, and "Howlands Prize" Oration by Ephraim Joseph. The other awards distributed by the winners by Sir William were as follows. The "Habut prize" for Psychology in the B. A. Class, M. T. Karangapalam, the Drieberg Prize for English in the Senior F. A. Class, J. H. R. Joseph, the "Sherman Prize" for Trigonometry in the same class, D. S. Nielakki, in the Junior F. A. Class, for gaining a first class in the Calcutta Entrance, H. Homington and S. Samanandran; the "Wyllingdon Model" Prize for English and the Doctor's Prize for Law were both taken by H. Homington in the Entrance class. The Hastings Prize for Scripture, S. S. Poniam, second prize, T. S. Nagaratnam, second; G. C. Barthel for Tamil Declamation, V. Kannan, second; A. Thilak Rajah in the Protagorean Class, the "Breckinridge Prize" for Scripture, first S. Chellatay, second S. Ramaswamy, for Arithmetic first V. Marugao, second A. B. Boddamam,

PLANCHETTE.

This game is of French origin. As the name indicates it is a "little board," generally heart shaped, seven or eight inches long and about as wide in its broadest part. It is supported on two little wheels and a peg with a piece of pencil attached at the third point. As played in America and England Planchette is placed upon a sheet of paper on a table. Two or three persons place their hands upon it and then questions are asked by those standing around, to which Planchette with more or less difficulty gives replies. Twenty or thirty years ago when the writer of this article was a boy, it was a very common form of amusement for young people to have a Planchette board at an evening entertainment and to ask simple questions such as, "Shall I ever visit a foreign country?" "Will it rain tomorrow?" "Shall I ever become a rich man?" &c. &c.

Sometimes the questions would be of a more serious nature, revealing the innate desire of every son and daughter of Adam to penetrate into hidden mysteries. Often the questions would take a sentimental turn, and "Shall I ever marry?" "Will my wife be pretty?" &c. &c. would be asked. All of these questions, it will be seen, can be answered by a "yes" or a "no." Even when Planchette was bold enough to attempt any longer answer, it rarely indulged in more than two or three words, the deciphering of which was a work of time and was generally unsatisfactory. Its answers were often like the Delphic oracles, of double meaning. Very frequently Planchette would not write at all, and then it was said that the persons manipulating the board, were not the *right* persons—they were too skeptical, for example, or lacked magnetism. Others would take their places. Experiments would be made with various combinations, such as a dark person with a person of lighter color, or a quick tempered man with one who was seldom ruffled &c. &c.

Planchette ran a quick course in America. Persons soon got tired of it, and threw it aside. The Spiritualists maintained that the board was worked by the spirits of the unseen world but whether they still have recourse to it or not, is unknown to the writer. While the rage lasted, it was a good deal of amusement, but it soon had to give way to other more novel toys and games.

Planchette has at last come to India. Here it has met with a very different reception. It is quite characteristic of a people so bound in ignorance and superstition as the masses of the Hindus are, that they should jump to the conclusion that the mysteriously moving board was controlled by the spirits of the other world. And it is just as characteristic of slow-moving, conservative India that it should take up a thing years after it was discarded by a civilized country and when its very existence was almost forgotten. The learned Swami discoursing in America and England on the acentesis and subtlety of the average Hindu mind, would do well to avoid all reference to this French invention of 30 years ago, which is claiming for recognition as a deity in the land of the occult science.

How do you explain the working of Planchette? It is due partly to animal magnetism, and partly to the recognized, but only partially explained, influence of one mind over another. It goes without dispute that we are surrounded by mystery on every side. Life itself is a mystery. There is that in mind which the most learned scientist has failed as yet to satisfactorily explain. Mind has an influence over mind which it is hard to understand. Thought reading (of which an exhibition was given some months ago in Colombo) is wonderful. Our thoughts cannot be bound, but travel unstrained by time or space over lands and seas the world over. But in this our hard and practical age, science is making wonderful discoveries. With rude hand it is tearing aside the veil of mystery shrouding so much of what we know, and laying bare to vulgar gaze hidden secrets. It is claimed that the working of mind can be actually seen, and ere long much of what has always seemed wonderful and unearthly, will be explained. In the meantime it is well for us to acknowledge the existence of what we fail to understand, while avoiding the mistake of the superstitious mind of attributing every thing not easily understood to supernatural agencies. But as to worshipping Planchette, it is simply absurd and can be only the part of a very ignorant and superstitious mind. God alone is to be worshipped and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth,

HIGHER EDUCATION IN TAMIL.

At the examination of the Tellicherry Training school last week the Principal made the remark that parents were not willing to send their cleverest boys to study Tamil. If a boy was stupid and could not do well in English, or if he was poor and unable to get help from others, he might be sent to the Training and kindred schools though even then a little English was desirable. In other words English instruction was demanded for both boys and girls and very often to the utter neglect of the vernacular. What does it all mean?

When Dr. Hastings was Principal of the Jaffna College he encouraged the study of the vernacular believing that no student receiving an education in English should neglect his own mother tongue. At one time it was proposed to introduce Sanscrit into the curriculum of the 'College, in order that it might act as an incentive to those who were studying Tamil, to carry on their studies in the vernacular still higher. Last year at the Prizes giving at Batticotta Sir William in distributing the prizes took special pains to congratulate the student who had taken the Tamil prize commanding him for having acquired a knowledge of his own language.

We have here then an approval of the study of the vernacular, by Europeans well fitted to express an opinion; and a dislike on the part of the people themselves to allow their children to get a purely vernacular instruction. Why is this so? Perhaps the money question has more to do with it than any other. Lads who have a smattering of English are much more likely to get a lucrative position than those who have no knowledge of the foreigner's tongue. This undoubtedly is a very strong motive for neglecting the vernaculars and there is some reason too for the plea that one must make a living. But it seems a pity that parents can not see what an immense advantage it gives a boy to be well grounded in the vernacular as well as to have a fair knowledge of English. We have no word to say against English education. It is to be commended and encouraged and made much of; but the lad who first of all gets a good knowledge of his own tongue and then gets a working knowledge of English is bound to make a success of his education. He has a broader foundation; a better command over the people, and is looked up to and respected more, other things being equal, than the man who has only a knowledge of English.

Again, Tamil in itself is a language worthy of cultivation. It is an ancient language, well constructed and an expressive language, and one that will bear study. But the masters of Tamil are very few. Here then is a field for the ambitious Jaffna student—if he wishes to make himself a name to be handed down to posterity.

But to go back to the subject of Training schools—why should not a lad take a thorough education in the vernacular at a Training school, including three or four stages in English, and then go on to a higher English school, when he is more mature and when his mind has been more or less disciplined and trained to study? What is the serious objection to this plan? Why is it not feasible?

It may be said in reply that the earlier a child commences his English study, the better it will be for him as an English student. This of course is true at least to a certain extent. And if the aim of the boy is to repudiate his own native tongue and to become practically an Englishman in dress and customs as well, the sooner he commences English study the better for his purpose. But this is a practical acknowledgment that his own language and his own country are not worthy of consideration. Ceylon will never become a second England in language and customs, and it is foolish to work for this end. Rather let the aim of every patriotic son and daughter of Ceylon be to purify and enrich the vernacular languages and to make such improvements in dress and customs as will be suited to a country lying in the tropics. Ceylon for the Ceylonese should be their watchword and when the time comes, as it will some day, our island will be self-governed and take its place among the nations of Asia.

REPORT OF POST AND TELEGRAPH.

A copy of this report, written by Mr. F. W. Vane Acting Post Master General, has reached us from which we call the following facts which we think will be of interest to our readers.

The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 318,177.76 which includes the cost of a new cable between Mannar and Paamben. As the Post Master General says this should

not be included in the annual expenditure. Deducting therefore the cost of the new, and repairs of the old, cables we have for total expenditures Rs. 753,475.35, which is Rs. 33,155.82 above the receipts. With the abolishment of the Franking minute it is expected that the receipts will be nearly, if not quite, meet the expenditures.

The number of Post Office has increased to 138. Of these 11 are in the Jaffna peninsula. The number of miles travelled daily by the various coaches in conveying the mails is 1524. Much has been done to improve this branch of the postal business. The event of the year has been the completion of the new Post Office at Colombo. The preparation of plans and the control of the work of construction were entrusted to Mr. H. F. Tomalin F. R. I. B. A. of the Public Works Department of this Colony and reflect the greatest credit on that talented officer. The building which is lighted throughout by electricity, and is furnished with all the most modern appliances, is the most imposing edifice in Colombo, and is, I believe, equal to any other General Post office in the Far East in respect both of accommodation and architectural appearance. The total cost of the building, including expenditure on account of electric light apparatus was Rs. 372,961.65."

The amount of foreign mail sent out may be gathered by the following figures. Nearly 8,600 lbs of letters and postal cards were sent to London by the different lines of steamers and between 23 and 24 thousand lbs of other articles. A little over half of this was taken by the P. & O. steamers and more than a quarter of the whole by the Orient line of steamers. The balance was taken by other lines.

Ceylon now prints all its post cards, letter cards, newspaper wrappers and stamped envelopes, thus gaining a good round sum to the department.

On the reply letter cards which were introduced in 1894 the Post Master General says, "they have not come into use generally as was anticipated, but their utility may be more fully appreciated when the public become more accustomed to them." A new post card has been issued in the past few weeks for beauty of design and finish will compare favourably with any post card of any country on the face of the globe. Another and smaller size of the local stamped envelope would be very greatly appreciated by a stamp and a foreign stamped envelope would be a boon to those who have much correspondence to carry on with the countries of Europe and America.

Turning now to the Post Office in the Jaffna peninsula we note that as far as amount of revenue goes, and we presume amount of postage also, Jaffna town stands first, with Pt. Pedro second and Jaffna Katchevili third. Then follows in order of importance Batticaloa, Mannar and Kangeratnam. These six offices report an excess of receipts over expenditures of about Rs. 12,727. The other five post offices in the peninsula are all small and the expenditures exceed the receipts by about Rs. 12,128. This makes a net gain for the peninsula of over Rs. 11,500 which goes to the support of Post Offices in other parts of the island. This, we think, is a reasonable payment in view of the creation of a new and valuable Post Office in Jaffna town.

Correspondence.

The Editor, "Morning Star," Jaffna.

Dear Sir,

The difficulties of the Jaffna young men in the Native States of the Straits Settlements in securing finding what brought them to places at a distance of 1,500 miles from their homes are indeed innumerable. The average salary is \$25 per month, out of which \$1 goes to engage a house, \$2 a servant, \$12 for his daily food & \$2 for his clothing, \$3 for the Dhobi and Barber, and \$2 meets very scarcely the contingent expenses leaving but only one dollar. This one mighty dollar is the only solace to the man and it is this god-like little thing which brings him foes and friends and which accompanies him in all his speculations.

The wages of the men besides meeting the above necessities of life has to undergo various other distributions such as charity, subscriptions to the different societies and clubs and charity to satisfy the endless incomes from Jaffna under different heads. This does not go under the head of charity, for charity is something done out of the willingness of the mind.

Every steamer from Colombo and Nagapattinam brings dozens almost all of whom go to the poor man for financial aid. One asks him for pecuniary help under the pretense of being a friend to his father or grandfather, another with the pretense of living close by to his house, a third, of being a relative, a fourth, pleads that he is struck with poverty, a fifth, wants to build a Madrasam, a sixth, is collecting funds for a school, a seventh, wishes to erect a church &c. &c.

Every day the man in these distant regions comes across with at least one of them, and once I had a dozen of them who by chance had come to me at one time.

What would be left for the poor man for his subsistence and for the support of these depending directly on him?

A. Sutfer.

NEWS FROM THE WIDE WORLD.

Greece. The revolt is extending in Eastern Crete, and Greek sympathizers are constantly landing arms and munitions for the rebels. Complications between Greece and Turkey are much feared.

Africa. The rebellion in Matabeleland and Mashonaland has not been repressed as yet and the feeling prevails that the force is inadequate.

Macedonia. Troubles have broken out in this little country, and the situation is considered grave.

England. The Jameson trial has been concluded. The jury returned a verdict of guilty and Dr. Jameson was sentenced to 15 months without hard labor. Four others received somewhat lighter sentences.

Lord Wolsey in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Indian Civil and Military Expenditure made some disparaging remarks concerning the Indian troops which have caused great indignation in military circles in India.