

THE MORNING STAR.

Jaffna, Thursday 24th of Dec., 1896.

No. 26

Vol. 56.

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

OUR SUBSCRIBERS
are kindly requested to
remit all dues before the
close of the year.

J. P. Cooke,
Manager.

RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR.

	1896	
Colombo	Mr. P. Martineau	2.00
Masner	Rev. J. Beebe	2.00
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Multatuluw	-- Tambanthathy Suppiah	2.00
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Trincomalee	Mr. S. Swaminathan	2.00
Passara	Mr. S. P. Lawton	1.25
Thampay	Rev. H. Bryant	1.25
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Della	Rev. S. Veerasingam for 93 and 96	2.00
Udumville	Mr. J. Venkateswara	1.00
Batticaloa	Mr. C. Kataras for 93 and 92	2.00
Chenai Street	Dr. R. S. Adams and Mr. T. Williams for 93 and 96	5.00
	J. Perera for 91	1.00

THE CEYLON STEAMSHIP Co. Ltd.
 The Company's Steamer "Lady Havelock" is appointed to sail from Jaffna for Colombo on the following dates.

Via Paumbern 6th. January

" Point Pedro 16th. do

do 27th do

The Steamer "Lady Gordon" is appointed to sail from Jaffna for Colombo on the undermentioned dates.

Via Point Pedro 8th. January

" Paumbern 27th. do

There will be no accommodation for 1st and 2nd Class Passengers in the Lady Havelock appointed to leave Colombo on the 13th January and due at Jaffna on the 15th. Those who intend to travel by this steamer in the above classes are requested to avail themselves of the previous trip.

W. MATHER & SON.

FOR SALE.

GENTLEMEN'S, LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S BOOTS AND SHOES

also Harness, Curry combs, Brushes, Knee Caps, Driving whips, Spare reins, Bits, Horse cloths, Dubbing, Etcetera embrocation &c,

ALL AT COLOMBO PRICES

at the Store department of

The Jaffna Commercial Corporation Ltd.

FOR SALE.

Letts Diary for 1897, Xmas and New year Cards, &c.

M. NALLYAH & Co.

NOTICE.

Wanted an experienced and efficient teacher for an English school at Anacotta, an F. A. preferred. Apply personally to Mr. M. Sinniah, Managing Director, Anacotta, 3rd Dec. 1896.

READY FOR SALE.

Tamil Ceylon Almanacs—Price 5 cents a copy. Postage for 5 copies and under 2 cents. Almanacs are sent free to the out station subscribers of Star who have settled all dues. We shall send to others who will remit all dues before the close of the year.

NOTICE.

The new Map of Asia specially prepared to meet the requirements of Vernacular Students qualifying for Standard V. of the Code, is now ready for sale. It is 4 feet 9 inches by 3 feet 8 inches. The price is Rs. 5.50 mounted on sticks and Rs. 5 unmounted. May be got from

The Manager,

"St. Joseph's Catholic Press", Jaffna.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

From and after 1st January 1897, the present free delivery of Telegrams within a distance of 5 miles from a Telegraph Office will cease. Telegrams will only be delivered free of charge within a radius of 1 mile or charge of 10 cents per mile or portion of a mile, for the 2nd and the 3rd mile will be made, and 3 miles the charge will be 20 cents per mile.

The above charges will be doubled for the delivery of Telegrams during the night.

Night delivery of a message cannot in all cases be guaranteed although endeavour will always be made to effect it.

C. & PENNYCUICK.

Postmaster General's Office
Colombo. 9th Dec. 1896.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary | No. 806

In the matter of the estate of the late Kanagabai Siparamaniam of Chirippiddy. Deceased.

Ramalingam Kantiath of Chirippiddy Petitioner.

Vs.

Parappathipillai widow of Siparamaniam of Chirippiddy Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of Ramalingam Kantiath of Chirippiddy praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Kanagabai Siparamaniam of Chirippiddy coming on for disposal before

H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 2nd day of December 1896 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 30th day of November 1896 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is next of kin of the said Intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 15th day of January 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 2nd day of December 1896 | H. H. CAMERON, District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary | No. 807

In the matter of the Estate of the late Naka Ayer Thampay Ayer of Alavy Deceased.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.
Testamentary | No. 799

In the matter of the estate of the late Iradachinka Mudiyar Chellatampi of Tunukkay Deceased. Vayittilinkam Kanapatipillai of Uylankulam Petitioner.

¶. Iradachinkha Mudiyar Chantirachekara Mudiyar of Uylankulam now at Chitamparam Gnanappa kacha madam in India

2. Chomantha Mudiyar Charavannamtu of Tunukkay

3. Chemantha Mudiyar Ponnampalam of do

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Vayittilinkam Kanapatipillai of Uylankulam praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Iradachinkha Mudiyar Chellatampi coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire District Judge, on the 16th day of November 1896 in the presence of Mr. V. S. Ponnampalam proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 13th day of November 1896 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the heirs of the said Intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 15th day of January 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 16th day of November 1896 | H. H. CAMERON, District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary | No. 807

In the matter of the Estate of the late Naka Ayer Thampay Ayer of Alavy Deceased.

1. Naka Ayer Kumaraswamy Ayer and

2. Naka Ayer Velantha Ayer both of Alavy

This matter of the Petition of Naka Ayer Kumaraswamy Ayer and Naka Ayer Thampay Ayer praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Naka Ayer Thampay Ayer coming on for disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 5th day of December 1896 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 25th day of November 1896 having been read it is declared that the Petitioners are the brothers of the said Intestate and are entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to them unless any one shall on or before the 18th day of January 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 5th day of December 1896 | H. H. CAMERON, District Judge.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

THE PT. PEDRO ENGLISH SCHOOL—has been recognized by the Ceylon University as a High School qualified to send up candidates to the Entrance Examination. Eight students are to be presented at the examination next month.

A new class will be formed early in the new year.

RAILWAY PROBATIONERS' EXAMINATION—The following candidates among the Jaffnae have passed the examination held in June

N. Canapathipillai of Central College.

Muthuvaloo Chelliah of Royal College.

B. J. David.

H. H. CAMERON, District Judge.

CHRISTMAS.

As we said in a previous number, to-morrow may be considered the 1900th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, and therefore a most notable occasion. We propose here to give a few of the arguments for this date. The present reckoning is due to a monk in the sixth century who died A. D. 556. The empire having been Christian for two centuries, it was thought more appropriate to reckon from Christ's birth than from the founding of the city of Rome as they had been doing for some centuries, and more convenient than some other methods they had used. Therefore they adopted the date of Christ's birth as calculated by the monk, to be the point from which to reckon time. In more recent times this has been proved by several methods to be erroneous.

1st. Josephus states that there was a total eclipse of the moon when Herod executed the insurgents. Astronomers have calculated that this eclipse must have taken place March 12th 730 A. U. C. i. e. 4 B. C. But Josephus says that Herod died after a reign of 37 years, and we find that he was declared king in 714. This would bring his death to 750 if we follow the Jewish mode of reckoning, and he died at least seven days before the Passover which came April 12th, for his son mourned the usual 7 days before that feast.

2nd. Again Archelaus is said to have reigned 10 years. But his property was confiscated after his death in the year 760. This again gives us 750 for Herod's death.

3rd. We learn from the Jewish Talmud that the Temple was destroyed 7th Aug. 821 A. U. C. i. e. 70 A. D., and we are told that the first of the 24 classes of priests was on duty then. From this it is easy to calculate back and find that Zechariah, the father of John, was on duty the first week in Oct. 748 and thenceforth John was born about the end of June, and Jesus at the end of Dec. 749.

4th. Again we read (Lu. 3:1) that John began baptizing in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar, and that a few months later Jesus being thirty years old came to him for baptism. Augustus Caesar died Aug. 767, and was succeeded by Tiberius. This would bring the baptism in 782, and Jesus' birth in 752 or 753. Perhaps it was by this calculation that the Roman monk made his mistake. We find however that Tiberius was made king with his father in 764 or 5, and this brings Jesus' birth to 749 or 50 as before, and there is evidence to show that the earlier beginning of the reign was the one felt by the outlying countries like Judea.

5th. The government by Cyrusinus, (Luke 2:2) has been shown to have begun in the autumn of 750, which was after Christ's birth. But it is probable that the census was ordered the year before, and only accomplished as Luke states by Cyrusinus in the following year.

6th. Somewhat that a remarkable conjunction of planets which occurred in 717 was the "star in the East." But this was plainly too early, and besides could not have pointed out the house. It is possible that it might have aroused the interest of the wise men and prepared them for the star which appeared later. The Chinese, however, have a record of a bright star that appeared in the year 750, and it is quite possible that this might be the one.

The baptism must have been not far from the 1st of January, for Jesus went 40 days into the wilderness and then went to Galilee and returned for the Passover in April. Moreover John had been baptizing for some months. But the Jordan is in flood and not clean for baptism, in April, May and June, and John had to leave it for this reason and go to Aenon the following season. So he could not have begun baptizing before June when he was himself 30 years of age. Another indication of the time of year is given by the shepherds. During the summer they drive their flocks towards the wilderness, as Jaffna farmers drive their cattle to the Vanni, but during the winter they keep near home. The early rains fall in Nov. and the heavy rains in February. Between these there is often pleasant weather when the shepherds feed their flocks in the pastures near by, and this they were doing at Christ's birth.

We see from these various calculations that the birth of Jesus must have been several months before A. P. 750, when Herod died, and yet not many months before, as he was thirty years old in 780, and as the census was finished not earlier than 750. Moreover John's baptism and the shepherding of the flocks show that it was winter, and the time of Zechariah's ministry makes it come late in December, 749 A. U. C. For the exact day we have only the

general belief which was prevalent among Christians in the 4th century. Some of the early Christian Fathers say that among the government records at Rome there was a registry of the census under Augustus and that in it there was a record of the birth of Jesus the son of Mary Dec. 25th. This is quite possible, but it is not generally accepted as reliable. Some object to this date because several of the Fathers made it typical. At John's birth the days begin to decrease (June 24th) and at Christ's birth to increase. But this is not a valid objection. Surely the time of Christ's entry into the world was not accidental, but wisely chosen. As he came at the darkest period of history, so it was the darkest day of the year, and at the darkest hour of the day. If we look we shall see many other symbolical things about His life.

Dec. 25th was the festival of dedication, celebrating the purification of the temple in the time of the Maccabees. The temple was a type of Christ's body and it was appropriate that His entrance upon life as well as His dedication in baptism should be on the anniversary of the temple's dedication.

It was at that festival that Jesus made his most definite claim to Deity. It was celebrated by the Jews with great joy and festivity. Josephus says it was called "Lights," and the habit came to be to illuminate their houses in this festival.

For each of us let this potable Christmas be the beginning of a new life in Christ, filled with joy by His presence in our hearts, crowned with peace through union with Him and controlled by love because of the infinite love He showed to us by becoming one of us on this Christmas day 1900 years ago.

THE VICTORIAN ERA.

As we recently remarked the accounts of the changes in the sixty years of Queen Victoria's reign are likely to be numerous as well as interesting. During the coming year the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, eight miles from London, is to be devoted to a commemoration of the event. This is an enormous building of iron and glass erected in 1854 and costing nearly £1 million pounds sterling. There will be an exhibition opening on the Queen's birthday, illustrating the progress of the nation during these sixty years in every department, inventions, industries, arts, sports, commerce, etc. etc. There will also be festivals and lectures.

A preliminary lecture on this subject was recently delivered at this place by a noted Member of Parliament. He said that in this time there had been a greater change in the methods of travelling than in all the centuries and thousands of years which had gone before it. Then the telegraph and the submarine cable had brought the ends of the earth into almost instantaneous communication. Now by the telephone every city of the kingdom is within speaking distance. Among other things he said that immense advance had been made not only in practical science as applied to the common affairs of life, but in practical science as applied medically and surgically in mitigation of most of the pains which attended disease. He thought his hearers would agree with him that the reign of Queen Victoria would be written down "paramount and important" in the whole history of England.

Another lecture on the same subject from an engineering point of view was delivered by their president before the members of the Institution of Civil Engineers. The population of the kingdom [except in Ireland] has nearly doubled. Railways were then just beginning to be built, while now there are in the kingdom 21,000 miles, costing a thousand million pounds. Then the tonnage of the vessels of the Empire was 2½ millions, with no ocean steamers, now it is 10½ millions of which considerably more than half is of steamships. The mining of coal was 65 million tons annually, while now it is 200 millions. The Post Office then delivered 170 millions of letters and papers, and now 3550 millions annually, which indicates that each person writes more than ten times as many letters and postcards as then. Telegrams are now cheaper than letters were then and almost as common. The improvements in sewage of London have reduced the death rate by 5 in 1000, which means the saving of 22,000 lives annually in that one city, while still greater improvements have been made in other places. The rates of wages for laborers have risen in a marked manner, and the scale of comfort for all

classes is higher. The number of paupers is reduced by half, and the number of criminals is only about one eighth.

We shall have from time to time more of these interesting comparisons.

Local & General.

THE BLUE BOOK. We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Ceylon Blue Book for 1895. It contains a great store of information, which we expect to draw upon from time to time. Just for example we notice the Jaffna Bazaar Fund which made so much noise a few years ago. The rents came to over Rs. 4000 in '95, and from this was paid for scavenging Rs. 1200, sweepers and keepers, Rs. 859, and disinfectants Rs. 505, while a balance of nearly 4000 has accumulated. The Return of Publications is interesting, though Jaffna is not fully reported. The *Morning Star* comes second of the five publications in number of copies, but it has since increased its circulation very considerably. The questions and answers regarding prisoners are very instructive. We note that the value of their labor comes to two fifths of the cost of the Jails.

RAINFALL. We seem to be having a very wet rainy season, but the fall of rain has not been equal to that of last year. We had in '95 over 50 inches in the last three months at Batticotta. This year we have had up to the 23 inst. 50 inches for the whole year, of which 44 in. fell after Oct. 1st. The fields are deeply flooded, and fever is prevailing in many places.

THE BATTICOTTA POST OFFICE. This office ranks next in the District to Pt. Pedro, and the Town offices, in point of Receipts for stamps and of Money Orders. It is two years since the Post-office was raised from the 4th class to the 3rd class, and in two years the Money Order sales increased more than threefold. We do not have the figures for the number of letters and papers, but it is a centre for about 25000 people, and a large number of students, and the sale of stamps is greater than even at Point Pedro. There are several telegrams each day, and there must be more of them than at either Kangayam or Valvettiyur, which do not average two a day. If this were made a telegraph station the number would rapidly increase, and it would pay as well as those two stations. But we wish to call attention to the defective accommodations provided for the numerous patrons of the office. A delivery pony would have work enough to do, and a postilion should be more suitable. It is very low both in floor and in roof, and the roof is leaky, so that the verandah is in a wretched state for weeks together, wet and dark like a stable. We trust that the authorities will soon make the needed improvements.

PRISE GIVING.—The annual prize distribution to the girls of the Boasting Seed at Vempadi commenced at 5 p.m. of the 15th instant. The fine hall of the new building was tastefully decorated with natural and artificial flowers. At the end of the hall were seated girls and in front on the platform were Sir Wm. Twynan, Miss Twynam and Rev. A. G. Restwick. The audience were accorded seats in the middle. The brief report of the Lady Principal Miss Jackson was full of proofs of the love and interest the Tamils take to educate their daughters whose number in this school alone is 135. The nature of the education imparted in this institution was sufficiently illustrated in the well rendered English recitations and nicely written and read original essays both in Tamil and English in the charming music both vocal and instrumental, and particularly in the general training of the pupils in sundry other minor details which were manifested in them on that occasion. Sir William Twynam and Rev. T. S. Smith spoke to the girls words of encouragement and advice. They followed this giving away of several prizes by Miss Twynam when the gallery presented quite an刷ato scene. Closed at 8:30 the appointed programme was gone through and the girls dispersed for the Christmas holiday to meet again on 14th inst.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.—The several committees appointed to receive the reception of His Excellency the Governor, who is expected to arrive on or about the 15th January, met together on the 16th inst. at the "Jaffna Library." A sum of Rs. 750 for the pandal, Rs. 550 for fire works and Rs. 250 for illumination, has been voted to the respective committees.

DELL HORSES.—Twelve of these horses which were captured during the last visit of the Government Agent to that island, have been sent to Colombo, to be sold there under the charge of Messrs. Davis & Son, and five were put up for sale in the 17th inst. at the local Kachcheri. **Girls' English High School.**—The first prize distribution of this school was held on the afternoon of the 18th inst. in the Hall of St. John's College. Mrs. Pickford distributed the prizes. Inspectors were made by Sir William Twynam and Rev. J. L. Pickford. Mr. Carter read the report of the school's progress during its first year, which was encouraging, and we trust that the endeavour of the Church Missionary Society in Jaffna, to give to the Tamil girls higher education, will be successful.

Chankavu Burglary.—A large majority of those concerned in the crime has been arrested and kept under guard. Two trunks with two Bibles and a manuscript Tamil hymn book bearing the name of the unfortunate victim, a brass vessel and some other articles of small value have been found out. The inquiry into the case is fixed for the 30th inst.