

# THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 57.

Jaffna, Thursday 21st of Jan., 1897.

No. 2.

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

## Morning Star for 1897.

will be published on alternate Thursdays by  
A. C. Mission and Thambiah Strong Cooke Esq.  
English Editor Rev. S. W. Howland M.A. D.D.  
Tamil Editor Allen Abraham Esq. B.A.,  
Manager J. P. Cooke Esq.  
Address Batticotta, Jaffna.

### THE CEYLON STEAMSHIP Co. Ltd.



The Company's Steamer "Lady Have-  
lock" is appointed to sail from Jaffna  
for Colombo on the following dates.

Via Paumben 6th. January  
" Point Pedro 16th. do  
do do 27th. do

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

Via Point Pedro 8th. January  
" Paumben 27th. do

W. MATHER & SON.

### THE JAFFNA COMMERCIAL CORPORA- TION LIMITED.

OFFICE BANK HALL, SEA STREET, JAFFNA.  
The company opens current accounts with  
sums of not less than Rs 100 and shows interest  
at 2 1/2% per annum on minimum monthly bal-  
ances of Rs. 500, and upwards.

Fixed deposits received on following terms:—  
For 12 months interest at 5% per annum allowed  
" 6 " " 4 " "  
" 3 " " 3 " "

Approved bills discounted. Money advanced  
on pledges.

Remittances can be made to and from Colombo.  
Colombo Bankers, National Bank of India Ltd.  
Cheques and foreign drafts and bills of ex-  
change on the Colombo Banks cashed.

Inland and foreign goods imported on Com-  
mission.

Office hours from 10-30 A.M. to 4 P.M.

WM. MATHER.

Managing Director.

### ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary } No. 807  
Jurisdiction }  
In the matter of the Estate of the late Naka Ayer Tham-  
payal Ayer of Alway Deceased.

1. Naka Ayer Kumaraswamy Ayer and

2. Naka Ayer Velantha Ayer both of Alway

Petitioners

This matter of the Petition of Naka Ayer Kumara-  
swamy Ayer and Naka Ayer Velantha Ayer praying for  
Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed  
deceased Naka Ayer Thampayal 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 Petitioners dated the  
day of December 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.

### ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna,

Testamentary } No. 780  
Jurisdiction }  
In the matter of the Estate of the late Achelpillai  
wife of Vettivelu Chuppiramanial alias Henry Knight of  
Arali East. Deceased.

Vettivelu Chuppiramanial alias Henry Knight of Bar-  
nagalla Vs.  
1. John Katrielcar Tampaiyal and his wife  
2. Chellachchi of Arali East. Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Vettivelu Chuppiramanial  
or alias Henry Knight of Barnagalla praying for Letters  
of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed  
deceased Achelpillai wife of Vettivelu Chuppiramanial  
alias Henry Knight coming on for disposal before H. H.  
Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 9th day of De-  
cember 1896 in the presence of Mr. T. C. Changanap-  
pillai Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the af-  
fidavit of the Petitioner dated the 13th day of December  
1896 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner  
is the widower of the said intestate and as such is en-  
titled 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 25th day of Jan-  
uary 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this  
Court to the contrary.

Signed this 9th day  
of December 1896. H. H. Cameron,  
District Judge.

### ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No. 814  
Jurisdiction }  
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Nanamuttamma  
wife of Ramanagar Kandavaram of Batticotta Deceased.  
Ramanagar Kandavaram of Batticotta Petitioner.  
1. Chellamma widow of William Dudley of Nellore  
2. Vattuvale Mylvaganur of do and  
3. his wife Pennammah of do now at Kandy Respondents.  
This matter of the Petition of Ramanagar Kandavaram  
of Batticotta praying for Letters of Administration to the  
estate of the abovenamed deceased Nanamuttamma wife  
of Ramanagar Kandavaram of Batticotta coming on for  
disposal before H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge,  
on the 31st day of December 1896 in the presence of Mr.  
T. C. Changanapillai Proctor on the part of the Petitioner  
and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 29th day of  
December 1896 having been read it is declared that the  
Petitioner is the widower of the said intestate and as such  
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 12th day of  
February 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of  
this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 31st day  
of December 1896. H. H. CAMERON,  
District Judge.

### ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No.  
Jurisdiction }  
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Mankalam wife  
of Appakkutti Kanapathipillai of Charasalai Deceased.  
Velauther Thampoo of Charasalai Petitioner.  
1. Appakkutti Kanapathipillai  
2. Velauther Saravanamutto and  
3. Velauther Theegarasalai all of Charasalai Respondents.  
This matter of the Petition of Velauther Thampoo of  
Charasalai praying for Letters of Administration to the  
estate of the abovenamed deceased Mankalam wife of  
Appakkutti Kanapathipillai coming on for disposal before  
H. H. Cameron Esquire, District Judge, on the 13th day  
of January 1897 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S.  
Cooke Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit  
of the Petitioner dated the 11th day of January 1897  
having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is the  
brother 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 16th day of February 1897 show suffi-  
cient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 13th day  
of January 1897. H. H. CAMERON,  
District Judge.

### LOCAL AND GENERAL

**Kelani Valley.** We have to welcome back to the  
island after a few months holiday in the old country  
the well known and popular veteran planter of the Kelani  
Valley, Mr. F. G. Wright, who arrived back in cheery  
Ceylon, by the S.S. Yorkshire on the 6th inst. He was  
met on board on arrival by several of his friends and  
other planter. He is looking all the better for the short  
change Mr. F. G. R. who has been his Locum Tenens  
leaves for our country in a day or two.

**Obituary.** We tender our sympathy to the Rev. D.  
Stickney and family on the death of his wife. After a  
lingering illness she passed away near the close of the  
year. Her remains were interred in the Manipay bury-  
ing ground. She held the honored position of pastor's  
wife for nearly forty years. Mrs. Stickney was educated  
in Goddard's Sanitarium, and married in 1844. After  
living in Valany six months, she went with her husband  
to Panditerro for five years then to Valany for 14 years,  
and has lived 32 years in Udappity.

We regret also to record the death of Mr. Asa Lyman  
of Santilapay. He was a student of the Batticotta  
Seminary, and has been known as an educator for many  
years.

**Presentation** At a meeting held at the Nellore  
Station School Bungalow the leading members of the Nellore  
Church presented a purse to the Rev. S. Morse as a  
mark of their love and regards to him on his admission  
to Priest Orders. Mr. T. Fry gave an address in which  
he alluded to the good qualities of Mr. Morse and the  
friendly feelings which exist between him and the con-  
gregation. G. Phillips M.D. was called upon to make  
the presentation. Mr. Morse in a touching speech return-  
ed thanks for their present and their kindly feelings to-  
wards him and family. A short speech was then made  
by Mr. A. Bailey and the meeting closed with prayer by  
Mr. Morse.

**Mrs. Levi Strong.** On January 1st at Gordon  
Villa, Pt. Pedro Mrs. Strong the wife of Dr. Strong M.D.,  
our worthy Port Officer, celebrated her 50th birthday. A  
small party of friends assembled at the house where a  
short service of praise was held. At the close Mrs. Strong  
read a letter in which she expressed the great interest she  
had taken in the education of Tamil girls during the 30  
years she has resided at Pt. Pedro and presented Rs. 100  
to the Manager of the Girls' Boarding School (Rev. Shel-

don Knapp) to found a scholarship to be called the "Mrs  
Strong Scholarship." After cake and tea had been served  
the friends dispersed.

Cy. Obs.

**The Governor in Jaffna.** The "S. S. Lady  
Havelock" which brought to our shores His Excellency  
the Right Honorable Sir Joseph West Ridgeway K. C. B.  
K. C. S. I. and suite, was sighted off Mandaitive at 2 P.M.  
on Friday the 15th inst. In a few minutes the Steamer's  
arrival was reported every where and people began to gath-  
er in large number, and about 6 P.M. the whole of the  
Customs premises was crowded with eager spectators to have  
a sight of their ruler. The Government Agent had previously  
gone to the Steamer to meet the Governor and to  
escort him to the shore. Every boat which left the  
steamer's side aroused some difference of opinion among  
the assembled crowd, until it came nearer to find it to be  
only a cargo boat which brought to the shore several trunks,  
cases, bicycles, guns and a waggone which belonged to  
the gubernatorial party. A party of native musicians  
were waiting in a boat half way from the steamer, and at  
5.30 P.M. the boat which had His Excellency left the  
steamer's side. The long and shallow channel delayed the  
speedy landing. A Salute was fired and musicians played  
lively airs and with hearty cheers from the crowd His Ex-  
cellency was received at the jetty by the leading officials.  
From the jetty he was led through an excellent pandal,  
where a company of the police force presented arms. The  
landau which was in waiting in front of the Customs Office  
took His Excellency to the Queen's House and the continued  
cheers of the people. He was accompanied by his  
suite consisting of Captain Marker A. D. C., Captain Ward  
Jackson A. D. C. and P. S., Sir W. R. Kynsey P. C. M. O.,  
the Hon'ble W. T. Taylor the Auditor General and Cap-  
tain Graeme. In the early morning of the next day His  
Excellency visited the F. I. N. S. Hospital, and enjoyed  
a drive in the Town and the suburbs. At 2 P. M. of the  
same day His Excellency was entertained at lunch in  
the Residency, to which the heads of Departments also were  
invited. The garden party was appointed for 3.30 P. M.  
in the "Old Park" and the invited guests were all on the  
ground in time, and rambled in the beautiful park until  
the party at the lunch made their appearance. Slight  
refreshments were served. All the while native music  
and athletic games enlivened the company. The reception  
at the Pandal on the esplanade was the chief public  
event of the day. The admission to the Pandal was by  
tickets, the police kept order, and the elite of Jaffna  
societies seated under canopy of the beautiful pandal  
erected at great cost. Many ladies both European and  
Tamil including the girls of the Boarding School at Vam-  
pudi were seated on the two sides of the dais which was  
handsomely built for His Excellency at the end of the  
Pandal. The Governor with his A. D. C. in full dress  
arrived at the Pandal at about 6 P.M. and marched to the  
dais with a complete the chief headmen sprinkling rose water.  
The crowd outside was great but order was kept admir-  
ably, and as His Excellency neared the dais the school  
girls sang the National Anthem. Mr. Adv. Kanagasami  
stepped forward and read the address, which was pub-  
lished. Three cheers were proposed for the Governor and  
Lady Ridgeway. The fireworks followed the above proceed-  
ings. The Governor and his party witnessed the display  
from outside the pandal. He was then led under a beautiful  
canopy prepared to take him in a procession to the Queen's  
House, and with music, torch light and loud cheers from  
the crowd without was taken to the Queen's House.

On the 17th inst he visited "Puttoor and Kankesantrai  
starting in the morning from Jaffna and arriving at Kank-  
esantrai at about 9 A.M. At the Puttoor well he spent some  
time and examined its water. Reception parties were  
erected at Puttoor and Kankesantrai by the respective  
Maniagars, and a formal address was read in the pandal  
at Kankesantrai. The party started in the afternoon and  
rode in bicycles to the town from Chunnakam market.  
On the 18th inst. His Excellency visited public offices and  
walked round the Courts at 8 A. M. and at 11 A. M.  
received Headmen of all grades in the Queen's House who  
made their appearance from all quarters in their best attire.  
The Governor was told expressed satisfaction with their  
past services and urged them to further honest work.  
At 11.30 the heads of Departments were received by His  
Excellency and at 3.30 P. M. the levee came on, at which  
a good number paid their respects to the Represen-  
tative of Her Majesty the Queen.

On the 19th inst. the Governor started for Kails accom-  
panied by Capt. Jackson, and the Government Agent. On  
reaching Batticotta at 8 A.M. they alighted at a shanty arch  
erected by the Maniagar at the cross-roads, and walked  
on white cloth to the mission premises, where was another  
arch put up by the College students. After a few minutes  
visit in the mission house the party went over to the Col-  
lege hall where the national hymn was sung, and a Tamil  
chorus composed in honor of His Excellency was rendered.  
The gymnasium was next visited and various exercises  
performed there observed, and then three hearty cheers  
given by the students. The Governor seemed much inter-  
ested in all he saw, and expressed his gratification.  
On leaving he inspected the old Dutch church, and after being  
again garlanded at the cross roads the Vice regal party  
proceeded on its way to Kails.

On the 20th morning he was expected to visit the Central  
College and the Wesleyan Female Boarding School, and to  
start after breakfast to Pallai.

We were very happy to note that His Excellency in all  
his movements endeavored by conversation and otherwise  
to make himself as much as possible with our Peninsula.  
He has on various occasions during this short visit expressed  
great satisfaction with all that he has seen and heard.

[சங்கியை, உ

முதல்நீதிபதி. — Chief Justice. — சுப்பிரீம் கோர்ட்



ஒர்கிஸ்ஸ்தான்.

## SYMBOLIC EVENTS.

In discussing the date of Christ's birth we said that it was to be expected that it would be a significant date. This is confirmed by the many symbolical events connected with his life. For one thing we know that the Jews expected the Messiah in the sixth millennium, because Adam was created on the sixth day, and when he did so come they, as seems to be proved, deliberately altered various figures in their Scriptures so as to reduce the time by about 1500 years and thus defer the expectation. Again in Daniel 9: 24-27 we find the appearance of Messiah was to be after the very significant period of seventy sevens, and that his ministry was to be a half of a seven, which is symbolical. We note also that his life was 33 years and 4 months or one third of a century; also that it was 400 months, and his ministry one tenth of that, or 40 months. His public life began and ended with a 40 day fast. He was 40 hours in the realm of death. The number forty symbolizes world history and in these cases probably meant being in the world though not dependent on it, as in the similar periods of Moses and Elijah. The Jews had 40 years given them for repentance after rejecting him before their ruin. He chose 12 disciples which is the number of the church, and sent out 70 other messengers, which is the number of a historical revelation, but was the number of the nations (Gen. 10) and of Jacob's children who went into Canaan (Gen. 46:27). His birth in Bethlehem, the house of bread, in a cave, his lying in a manger in swaddling clothes, his three gifts from the wise men, his coming from Egypt, his life in Nazareth, his seamless robe, his unbroken bones, his riding on a colt, lying in a new tomb, were all significant. In fact there was scarcely anything about his life that was not full of meaning. Many of these meanings were noticed by the inspired writers. How could it be otherwise, when his life was infinitely more important than that of any other person who was ever on the earth. Every incident or event in it was to reveal God and his will to us, and the whole was most carefully planned and directed, and especially was every circumstance connected with his birth manifestly the result of divine prearrangement and revealing purpose, and can we think that the date alone was of no significance. The tradition for December 25, is quite valid though not conclusive. But we showed that it must have been within a few days of this date, and we can readily believe that this was the exact day.

## THE S. F. GREEN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

This institution at Caradive was formally opened on the 12th inst., and the exercises on the occasion proved to be quite noteworthy. The day selected was a public holiday, being the Tamil *Tai Pongal*, or feast of first fruits. A neat and spacious pandal had been erected in front of the building, and well furnished with settees. Between three and four hundred gathered, including some fifty from outside of Caradive, who were honored with seats on the verandah. There was also quite a company of Tamil ladies. Soon after three thirty P.M. Sir William Tynman K. C. M. G. arrived and taking the chair the exercises were opened by the singing of a lyric, and the reading of Scripture by Rev. C. M. Sanders, the Caradive pastor. The prayer by which the building was dedicated to the service of Christ for the relief of suffering humanity in the Island was offered by Dr. S. W. Howland, who was by request the manager of the enterprise before it was given over to the American Mission. After this came a historical sketch of the undertaking by Mr. K. Visuvanather, through whose efforts chiefly the hospital has been erected. He was a medical student under Dr. Green at Manipay, and in his experience in the Island had become impressed with the importance of introducing the practice of Western medicine on a more permanent basis than his own treatment. Therefore he bought a site and securing donations of palmyrah and other trees and Rs 58.25 in money, he went on with the building, and in '93 had nearly completed the walls. At that time the stone containing the inscription in Tamil and English, in memory of Dr. S. F. Green, was set in a conspicuous place in the front wall with appropriate exercises. Up to this time most of the expense had been met by Mr. Visuvanather himself, but a generous donation from Andrew Green Esq. late Controller of New York city U. S. A. and brother of

Dr. Green and another from Mrs. Green, enabled him to complete the roofing with Calicut tiles in a substantial manner. After this the property was handed over to the American Mission, and from Medical Funds, a considerable amount was spent for supplying doors and windows and furniture, and about Rs. 600 for medicines and instruments. Dr. Dutton who has had a good medical training and some experience was put in charge several months ago, while the formal opening was postponed for a favourable season. The latter part of this history was given on this occasion by Dr. Scott, who directs the work and visits the place every fortnight, and who takes much interest in the enterprise.

Sir William, who was always a warm friend and enthusiastic admirer of Dr. Green, and who also has ever taken great interest in providing proper medical facilities for the people of the Northern Province, spoke at length of Dr. Green as a physician, as a man, and as a friend, told how much he personally owed to him, and related incidents showing his wide-spread influence and especially his genial yet earnest Christian character. This tribute to his friend was an unconscious revelation of the character of the speaker, which could not but impress all who heard it.

He was followed by Rev. T. S. Smith, who is the only member of the mission who was associated with Dr. Green. He also spoke of the influence Dr. Green had had on his own life, and what he had accomplished, and referred to the more recent advance of the American Mission in the medical line, and urged the people of the Island especially to support the work.

The next speaker was Dr. Mills, who was a pupil of Dr. Green and is now assisting Dr. Scott. He told how much he and the people themselves owed to Dr. Green, specifying certain practices that had become practically introduced among the people in general by him, and gave a detailed characterization of his revered instructor. Dr. Paul, of the Friend-in-need Society's Hospital in the Town, and a member of the same class, which was the last class trained in English, gave his testimony as to Dr. Green's kindness, faithfulness and success, and spoke of the importance of sustaining and carrying forward the work. Mr. T. C. Changarapillai Esq., Proctor of the Supreme Court, enforced what had been said by those before him, especially in giving according to our ability.

The hospital was then declared open by Mrs. R. C. Hastings, and the exercises closed by the singing of "God save the Queen," and the pronouncing of the benediction by Pastor Iliatambu of Udulil. The audience were invited to an inspection of the premises and the supplies, and soon after dispersed all pleased with what was pronounced a most successful function. Among others present we noticed the much-esteemed Police Magistrate of Kaitis, C. W. Catheravalupillai Esq. and Mr. Mailangan of Copay, and a good company from Batticotta, Manipay and Udulil.

The building is located on the main road near the centre of the Island, and a little more than a quarter mile from the church. As one of the speakers said it is just such a memorial as Dr. Green would have liked and is a carrying out of one of his favorite ideas. We trust that its usefulness may rapidly increase and that it may be a centre of healing both bodily and spiritual to the more than eight thousand inhabitants of the island of Caradive.

## To His Excellency,

The Right Hon'ble, Sir Joseph West Ridgeway K. C. B., K. C. S. I., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon with the dependencies thereof.

May it please your Excellency.

We the inhabitants of Jaffna, beg to give your Excellency a most hearty welcome not only to Jaffna but to the Northern Province and to express our loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

2. We regret that Lady Ridgeway has been unable to accompany your Excellency on this occasion, but it is our earnest hope that we may have the honour and pleasure of welcoming her here on an early date, and that her Ladyship's visit then will be for the purpose of cutting the first sod of the Jaffna Railway.

3. This is, Sir, your first visit to Jaffna and the North of the Island and while we hope it will be by no means your last, we beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to bring to your Excellency's notice a few of the most important of our wants.

4. Chief and foremost amongst them is the want of a Railroad which will afford to our isolated and congested district quick and regular means of communication with Colombo and the rest of the Island bringing us into close contact with the capital and giving an outlet to our surplus population who will readily avail themselves of the facilities of communication, and transport. The immense wilds of the Wannil will then turn to profitable gardens

and rich paddy fields, and the people gradually settling there will repopulate that historic region. Your Excellency's sympathetic attitude towards us as to this want has been most gratifying and encouraging to us, and we feel almost sure that this visit will convince you deeply of the necessity for a Railway to the North.

5. We believe that the question of gauge is now under discussion. On this subject we do not care to say anything except to assure your Excellency that we shall be satisfied with whatever gauge may be chosen, but we only hope, that the battle of the gauges will not delay the commencement of the work. And we therefore beg that that gauge may be chosen, which will soonest allow of the work being commenced and completed.

6. As regards the commencement we would earnestly ask your Excellency that the section from Kangesantrai as far as Elephant Pass may be begun and completed and trains run thereon as soon as possible. This section will run through a country, densely populated, and highly cultivated. It will also bring the Karachi division, with its 9000 acres under paddy and a further similar extent capable of being brought under cultivation, into close communication with Jaffna.

7. We beg also to ask your Excellency to grant us a telegraph line from Jaffna direct to Madawatchy so as to place Chavagachchery, Palai, Vavunia in telegraphic communication with Jaffna, Colombo and the rest of the Island. This line so often asked for must be made when the Railway comes, but we would ask that it be made at once as its advantages are obvious.

8. We would ask your Excellency's attention to the necessity for a road which should run through the Karachi division to Mullativu. This road will open up a large area suitable for coconuts and paddy.

9. Another pressing want is the absence of easy communication with Valanai and the neighbouring islands. We would therefore ask for a causeway from the peninsula at either Araly or Jaffna (Panai).

10. We commend to your Excellency's consideration the urgent necessity for a forward-frigating policy. The restoration of village tanks has long been recognized as a most important element in the progress of the people.

11. These are, Sir, the more general wants of the whole province and we now have to ask your consideration for the town of Jaffna.

12. We have noted with satisfaction that pumping experiments have been made at Purroo and Uduai, and we trust that the results obtained have been such as to warrant the hope that there will be sufficient water to supply the town of Jaffna. We are here very liable to outbreaks of cholera and fever and a supply of good water from a source not exposed to contamination, which our wells are, would considerably improve the health of the town. We would therefore earnestly beg of your Excellency to kindly have the work urged on.

13. Another work which would greatly improve not only the appearance but the health of the town is the completion of the reclamation ground. This work was commenced some years ago but never completed, and we feel sure if your Excellency inspects it at low tide, your Excellency will see the desirability of completing it.

14. We have one more favor to ask for the town and that is a post office worthy of what is the second largest town in Ceylon in point of numbers. We are confident that when your Excellency sees the building now designated by the name of the Jaffna Post Office, you will direct that a suitable and ornamental building be erected.

15. We beg to ask also that a separate Magistrate be appointed for the Chavagachchery Courts. The new Court of Sessions Ordinance has largely increased the work of the officer who at present has to discharge the duties of the P. Pedro and Chavagachchery Courts. The work is more than what can be efficiently done by one. Therefore we pray that your Excellency will kindly look into the matter and grant our request. It is considered inexpedient to comply with this request of ours we would beg that your Excellency's government may relieve the commissioner of P. Pedro of a major part of the additional work thrown on him by the new ordinance by allowing the District Judge of Jaffna whose status, if he hoped, will not be reduced, to take up the trial of cases where the subject of claim is over Rs. 100.

We have now, Sir, told you our most pressing wants and in assuring you that it has given us great pleasure to see you here in Jaffna making yourself acquainted with the needs of the province, we beg in conclusion to say that we hope before your Excellency retires from the government of this colony, we shall have the pleasure of welcoming you here on many occasions and that one such occasion will be when your Excellency comes to open the first section of the Jaffna Railway.

Wishing yourself and Lady Ridgeway long life and happiness and hoping that your Excellency's rule may be prosperous.

We remain, your Excellency's most loyal servants.

His Excellency in replying thanked the memorialists for their cordial welcome and kind words, and said that he had visited no district which should engage the care of an administrator more than this peninsula. In regard to the Railway he said that as soon as the Commission reports the Government will act promptly, and he hoped the decision will be carried out promptly. As for the telegraph to Vavunia he seemed to think that it would be time enough when the Railway comes but the road to Mullativu was already sanctioned. The matter of irrigation was one of the principal objects for which he came. He said that the Government is already helping this district more than others, and if they wished this liberal policy continued they must help themselves.

In reference to the requests in general Excellency said that he was here to hear and consider them, but he could not give decisive replies to any at present until after further consideration and consultation.

Speaking of those who have been Agents of the Govt. in Jaffna, he said that the name of the first, Mr. Dyke, was still treasured in the affections of the people, as he believed; that, as Sir William Tynman, the next agent, was present, he could not then give him the praise due to his most successful administration, and that they had in Mr. Jeyves a worthy successor of these distinguished men.