

THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 57.

Jaffna, Thursday 23rd of Dec., 1897.

No. 26.

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

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Please remit all dues before the close of the year.

RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR.

'98		
Straits Settlements	Mr. P. K. Ponnampalam	2 25
'97		
Straits Settlements	Mr. K. Muttukumaran	2 25
Haldumulla	Mr. G. V. Sinnatambay	2 00
Karadive	Rev. C. M. Sanders & Messrs. Barnabas and Isaac	3 75
Tellipallai	Rev. S. Veerakatty and Messrs. M. Marugason, Moses Marugason, Kanagasabai Sangarasan Iyar	5 00
Batticootta	Rev. T. A. Elmer and Messrs. A. Edwards, W. Lyman, P. Velupillai, J. Saravanamuttu, S. Tanhu, Gramamuttu, S. Beedie, M. Naranapillai, M. Sinnatambay, V. Eshirversingam, S. Hensman, S. Buell, T. William, J. V. Chelliah, A. Rex, H. Rice 18 20	
Vannarponne	Rev. D. P. Niles '96 & '97 and Mr. A. Sinnatambay	4 50
Jaffna Kachcheri	The Govt. Agent and Messrs. V. Sinnatambay, S. C. Ouzarazaram, J. N. Sankaragaram, E. A. Lebbe ('96) and A. S. Arambalam ('96)	8 50
Matala	Mr. Daniel Joseph ('96 & '97)	4 00
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The Company's Steamer "Lady Havelock" is appointed to sail from Jaffna for Colombo on the following dates:

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W. MATHER & SON
Agents.

NOTICE.

Know all men by these presents that I the undersigned Sinnatambay Tambyuttu of Manipay have been appointed by the Registrar General as an additional Registrar of Marriages of Valikamam West Division from the 6th inst. Place of Office at Elakunatha Mudaliar Valavoo, Manipay.

Manipay
22nd December 1897. | S. TAMBAYUTTO.

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ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary No. 874.
In the matter of the estate of the late Ramanathar Kartikachar of Elalai. Deceased.
Muthalittampi Velupillai of Elalai Petitioner.
1. Chinnachellipillai widow of Kartikachar.
2. Muthalittampi Naganathan.
3. Muthalittampi Chinnachellipillai.
4. Muthalittampi Arappillai.
5. Theyyanai widow of Kantar.
6. Kantar Isaac.
7. Kantar Chinnam all of Elalai.
8. Achechikadai widow of R. David Changarappillai of Uduville.

9. Changarappillai Tampiah of Uduville.
10. Chinnappillai widow of Nanuttampi of Elalai Respondents.
This matter of the petition of Muthalittampi Velupillai of Elalai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Ramanathar Kartikachar of Elalai coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 24th day of November 1897 in the presence of Mr. S. F. G. Carpenter proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 23rd of November 1897 having been read it is declared that the petitioner is an heir and nephew 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 6th day of January 1898 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 24th day of (Sig) SAMUEL HAUGHTON, District Judge.
of November 1897.

ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary No. 877.
Jurisdiction
In the matter of the estate of the late Superannuar Association alias Snell of Tellipallai east. Deceased.
Tangamuttoo widow of Superannuar Association alias Snell of Tellipallai east. Petitioner.
1. Elijan N. Welch of Uduville.
2. Ariyanayampillai widow of Chelliah of Do.
3. Gnanam widow of Saravanamuttu of Tellipallai east.
4. Valanthar Ramalingam and wife.
5. Ponnappillai of Do. Respondents.
This matter of the Petition of Tangamuttoo widow of Superannuar Association alias Snell of Tellipallai east praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Superannuar Association alias Snell of Tellipallai east coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 6th day of December 1897 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 29th day of November 1897 having been read it is declared that the petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 21st day of January 1898 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 6th day of SAMUEL HAUGHTON, District Judge.
of Dec. 1897.

ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary No. 876.
Jurisdiction
In the matter of the estate of the late Kathiraspillai wife of Velupillai of Meesalai. Deceased.
Sithamparipillai Velupillai of Meesalai Petitioner.
1. Suppar Kathirakann of Meesalai.
2. Parupathipillai widow of Suppar of do Respondents.
This matter of the Petition of Sithamparipillai Velupillai of Meesalai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above named deceased Kathiraspillai wife of Velupillai of Meesalai coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 6th day of December 1897 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated the 3rd day of December 1897 having been read it is declared that the petitioner is the husband 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 21st day of January 1898 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 6th day of SAMUEL HAUGHTON, District Judge.
December 1897.

ORDER NISI.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary No. 2034.
Jurisdiction No. 875.
In the matter of the estate of the late Richard Mather of Liddala. Deceased.
Susan Yankam, widow of Richard Mather of Araly Petitioner.
Joseph Mather of Navaly, presently employed at Boston Respondent.
This matter coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esq. District Judge on the 7th day of Dec. 1897 in the presence of Mr. S. T. Arnold, Proctor, on the part of the above named petitioner and the affidavit of the said petitioner dated 20th September 1897, and the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 19th November 1897, transferring this matter from the District Court of Kandy to the Court having been read. It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the late Richard Mather, deceased, be issued to the said petitioner as the widow of the said deceased, unless the above named Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 17th day of January, 1898, show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
The 7th day of Signed SAM HAUGHTON, District Judge.
December 1897.

Fiscal & General.

Weather. We have had good showers the past fortnight and the paddy is greatly benefited. It has rained a little every day, and for three or four consecutive days last week it rained without ceasing. It was evidently a storm. Thursday and Friday night was very cool for Jaffna. We are still behind the average yearly rain fall, and it is hardly possible to make it up now. As last year December has been the wettest month of the year.

The Morning Star. We would like to call the attention of many of our subscribers to the fact that their subscriptions for the year have not been paid yet. The Star is not supported by mission funds; it is dependent wholly upon its friends. This is a good time to settle up all arrears and we hope our friends will take a few moments to look up their indebtedness to the Star and send in the money before the dawn of a new year. We should like to improve the paper and make it a weekly issue, but unless the subscribers will pay up promptly, there is not much encouragement to make any effort to introduce improvements.

The Five cent Lyric book. This is now being bound and will be ready for distribution in a day or two. We hope it will be largely patronized. Its price will, we fear, hardly cover the cost of paper, printing and binding.

Boarding schools. The Vempadi and Nelloru Boarding schools are having the usual Christmas holidays. Uduville also has been closed for a fortnight or so, owing partly to the prevalence of cholera in its immediate vicinity. The disease is likely to be stamped out soon, and by that time the holidays will have passed. Gloriously English Girls school had a gathering on Monday which was greatly enjoyed. The girls have gone to their homes for the holidays.

Eclipse of the Sun. The coming eclipse of the sun next month which is total in parts of India, is being looked forward to by astronomers with great anxiety. Very extensive preparations for its observance have been made by different bands of astronomers, some of whom are already at their stations.

Rev. Daniel W. Poor D. D. In a recent American paper we came across a notice of the death of Dr. Poor on the 11th of October last at his home in Philadelphia. Dr. Poor was the son of one of the four missionaries who started the American Ceylon Mission in Jaffna. This first company of mission workers arrived in our peninsula in October 1816 and were stationed at Batticootta and Tellipallai, Messrs. Richards and Meigs with their wives going to the former place, and Messrs. Poor and Warren with Mrs. Poor to the latter. Rev. and Mrs. Poor remained at Tellipallai until 1823 during which period their three children were born. The second child was born August 21st 1818 and was baptised Daniel on October 11th of the same year. Just 79 years from this latter date he was called up to higher service. Dr. Daniel Poor left Ceylon for America when he was only 12 years of age, yet he retained a very distinct impression of the places of his birth and early boyhood. He graduated from Amherst College when he was only 19 years old, and from the Andover Theological Seminary three years later in 1840. He was ordained in 1843 and for nearly 30 years led a faithful service as a pastor in three different churches, one in Massachusetts, one in California. During this time he was instrumental in founding the German Theological Seminary at Bloomfield New Jersey. He was also one of the American editors of that standard and exhaustive commentary on the Bible by Dr. Lange, which marks him as a scholar of no mean ability. In 1872 he accepted a professorship in a Theological Seminary and in 1876 was elected Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education of the Presbyterian church which position he held until 1889 when he resigned owing to failing health.

Soon after the College was started Dr. Poor's name was mentioned as being a suitable man to become its Principal, but when interviewed on the subject he declined on the ground that a younger man should be appointed to such a responsible position. Yet he has always been a warm friend of the College and his younger sister, Miss St. John has been its most liberal supporter. The writer met Dr. Poor and his sister the Miss St. John at the home of the former in Philadelphia in October 1891. He will never forget his greeting. In good Tamil the venerable Doctor made his salutations, and inquired of Jaffna and its people, during which he quoted two or three stanzas from the Tamil classics. On leaving, the Doctor presented him with a manuscript booklet his father, being a carefully written treatise in some points of Tamil syntax, which will ever be treasured as a valuable possession.

Arrack. The Singapore new renter has arrived to arrange for his trade of two years. A large quantity of arrack was disposed by the Singapore renter when his term ended in June 1896. The said commodity was, in these days, prepared at very low rates, and the drinking population indulged in its purchase in large quantity. The same practice may recur with the present renter, on the last days of his term. The Government has fixed the minimum rate per gallon at Rs. 4.50 so he followed in the future. This however does not bind the now retiring renter, but for the interest of the public to prevent the disposal of the beverage into the country in a fearfully large quantity, it would be prudent for the authorities to keep strict watch and to ensure the quantity and quality of arrack sold, and the removal and possession without permit of such quantity which the law makes illegal to remove and possess.

CHRISTMAS.

"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.'"

Nineteen hundred and one years ago the Lord of Heaven and Earth was born, a little helpless babe, in the manger at Bethlehem. In all probability December 25th was His natal day though it may not be possible to prove it beyond doubt. Perhaps the Divine mind saw that too exact knowledge of times and places connected with our Saviour's life on earth would not have been the best thing for man, and so wisely concealed these facts, while enough has been revealed for us to know within a few days at least, of the time of His birth, and within a few rods, of the place where the manger stood. So very appropriately and fittingly too, we may celebrate the 25th day of this month as the Birthday of the child Jesus.

Christmas should be a day of rejoicing. In Christian countries it is a holiday given up almost wholly to joy and gladness. On that day the business man lays aside his business worries, and the professional man so far as he can his professional duties. The schools and factories are closed, and the streets teem with people, all bent on enjoying the day to its utmost. Nor is Divine worship neglected. Christmas services are held in many of the churches. In some places several sects combining for a Union service. It is the day of days for the children. Their faces fairly shine with happiness and good will, and they are so excited and interested in their gifts, and in the festivities of the day that many a man and woman grow younger by watching them. The joy and excitement is contagious; the busy man becomes a rollicking boy once more, the tired woman a merry laughing girl. No wonder Christmas is a blessed day. No wonder that it is looked forward to for weeks beforehand by young and old.

It would be a grand good thing if our Jaffna Christians would make it more of a holiday than they do. The day is more generally observed now than it was a few years back, but there is room for improvement. Why should not the day be observed as a day when the scattered families come together, and when all unpleasant things are forgotten and forgiven, when all differences are healed? Give your gifts one to another however small and simple they may be, and have some extra courses of a dish of sweets, or both, for dinner. It is not at all necessary to give expensive gifts. It would be folly, yes, sin—to make the day one of carousing and revelling. But the little picture card, and the few sweetmeats of which the child is especially fond, would make it a red letter day in its life for that year. The story is told of a poor woman who earned by her daily toil barely enough for the support of herself and her two children. She managed to save up two or three pennies only for Christmas day, and not being able to make any suitable purchases for that amount, finally went to a shop-keeper and banded him her pennies begging that he would give her some broken toys for her two children, as she could not bear to have them disappointed, and she had no more money. A dirty doll, a broken toy, and two worn-out picture books were given in exchange for the pennies—very poor Christmas presents. But the love that accompanied the poor gifts, made them seem new to the waiting children, and the mother's face grew bright and pretty as she watched the pleasure of her little ones. Happiness and peace came to those who give of their best on Christmas Day.

The giving of gifts in Christian countries is no doubt carried to excess, but in this we need not follow their example. Where the making of presents becomes a burden, it defeats the very object for which the custom was established. Our object should be to lighten care and anxiety, not to increase it. One farmer and teachers and others need to be brightened up a bit, and there is no better way of getting happiness for one's self than by seeking to impart it to others. Let us, therefore, as far as it is practicable, come together as families on that

day, and give our little gifts in loving remembrance of the birth of the Christ child.

But we shall miss much of the spirit of the day, and of the blessed influence its observance is fitted to produce if we forget the words of the Heavenly choirs as they sung on that December night on the plains of Bethlehem. "On earth peace." The day therefore should be a peaceful, and a peace-giving day. The Prince of Peace commenced His reign on earth in that manger 1901 years ago. How fitting therefore that His followers should cultivate pre-eminently this virtue, and be known as children of peace. Many are apt to think that to live in peace is to live a weak, characterless sort of life. But on the other hand it shows strength of character, not to give place to anger and foolish bickerings. It elevates man to the dignity of a true follower of the One who came as the messenger of peace and love.

"Peace hath her victories

No less renowned than war."

The poet never said a truer word. The greatest victories won, are the peaceful victories—the victories that make for peace. It is true among nations; it is true among individuals. The loving spirit that bears and forbears, that is Divine in its forgiveness of injuries is the spirit of the Prince of Peace. Let us then observe this day not only as a day of gladness but also as a day of reconciliation, of peace. Wherever any are living in enmity or estrangement with each other, let them make it their first business to ratify a treaty of peace. There are churches in Jaffna where the members are not all living in loving union with each other. Social distinctions are drawn too narrowly. Jealousies, heart burnings, pride, have hardened hearts. Worldly possessions have thrust themselves between man and his brother. There are sore and bitter hearts, though may be, beneath it all, longings for reconciliation. It is such wish to enjoy the birthday of Christ, let them first of all make their peace with God and with each other. Life is too short to be spent in wrangling and quarrelling. Better to lose some worldly advantage or possession, than by clinging to it lose that joy and peace which comes to a mind at perfect rest. Make your peace at once with that relative, or friend, or brother in Christ with whom you have been on bad terms for so long, and realize for yourself what a difference it makes in the enjoyment of the day.

But more than all on that day should our thoughts turn constantly to the child Jesus, and to His mission on earth. His gift to us was life; eternal life. What shall be our gift to Him? Shall it not be ourselves consecrated to His service? Nothing that we may give will at all compare with His royal gift to us, but we should do what we can. There are many children who will be happy on that day in the receipt of loving remembrances from father, mother, brother, sister, friend. Let us remind them of the Friend above, and seek to lead them to give their hearts to Him.

To one and all of our readers we extend a hearty wish that the approaching holidays may be full of joy and peace to them. A "Merry Christmas" and a very "Happy New Year" to all.

ON THE MORNING OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY.

JOHN MILTON.

But peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of Light
His reign of peace upon the earth began

The shepherds on the lawn,
Or on the point of dawn,
Sat simply chatting in a rustic row:

When such music sweet
Their hearts and ears did greet
As never was by mortal finger struck,
Divinely-warbled voice
Answering the stringed noises

As all their souls in instant rapture took;
The air, such pleasure full to brook,
With thousand echoes still prolonged each heavenly strain.

Such music (as 'tis said)
Before was never made,
But when of old the Son of Morning sang,
While the Creator sat
His constellation set.

And the well-balanced World on hinges hung
And cast the dark foundations deep,
And hid the weltering waves their oozy channel keep.

Ring out, ye crystal spheres!
Once bless our human ears,
If ye have power to touch our senses so;
And let your silver chime
Move in melodious time!
And let the base of heaven's deep organ blow;
And with your manifold harmony
Make up the great consort to the angelic symphony.

But see! the Virgin blest
Hath laid her Babe to rest;
And all about the courtly stable
Bright-harnessed Angels sit in order serviceable.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD.

Peace beginning to be,
Deep as the sleep of the sea
When the stars their faces glass
In its blue tranquillity;
Hearts of men upon Earth,
From the First to the Second Birth,
To rest as the wild waves rest
With the columns of Heaven on their breast.
Love, which is sunlight of peace,
Age by age to increase,
Till Anger and Hate are dead
And Sorrow and Death shall cease;
"Peace on Earth and Goodwill!"
Souls that are gentle and still
Hear the first music of this
Far-off, infinite bliss!

So or in such wise—those rude shepherds heard
The Angels singing clear & when, not one word
Wiser once caught that night—solemn and still—
Of their high errand: "Peace! Goodwill! Goodwill!"

CHRISTMAS IN A ROYAL HOME.

To form a correct estimate of the peculiar sentiment which characterizes the Germans it is essential to see and know them beneath their Christmas trees. The family spirit for which the German race is celebrated is never more clearly emphasized than at the Christmas festival. The most modest little cottage seldom lacks the ornament of a Christmas tree. From far and near sons and daughters, already gone out from home, gather beneath the parental roof to celebrate Christmas, even though they may not come together again for another year. Military discipline relaxes at this season, and as many soldiers as possible receive permission to return to their families for the days preceding and following Christmas. For the homeless ones in the barracks there is also a celebration.

The factories and great industrial establishments do not differ in this from the barracks; the echoes frequently arrange a special festival even before the commencement of the holidays; no club omits a similar preparation, and every citizen's house sees a table with gifts beneath the Christmas tree for the servants.

The Emperor's family present a sublime example of the festive life. They do not spend the holidays in the palace in Berlin, but remain until the beginning of the new year in their charming summer residence at Potsdam. The Imperial family has celebrated Christmas for many years in an immense room called the "Shell Salon," a room of bewildering and dazzling beauty; and the Emperor and Empress enter with characteristic zeal into the preparations for this festival, recognized in Germany since the sixteenth century. The labor of decorating the nine trees is begun several days in advance. First of all a splendid tree is placed under the middle arch of the "Shell Salon," destined for their Majesties; on each side are spread the tables holding the presents for the sovereigns. A second tree, for those persons immediately about the Royal pair, stands near the tables covered with gifts for them at the other end of the room. On one side, on long tables directly under the windows facing the park are placed the presents for the Imperial children. Seven trees, increasing in size from the left to the right wing, and so corresponding to the age of the Princes, spread their branches over the gifts.

The servants having placed the trees in position, the Imperial family energetically takes up their decoration. The ladies of the Court render active assistance, fastening gayly decorated nuts and apples, confectionery and shining stars on the small trees for the little Princes. Chamberlains arrange the ornamental candles from the tall step-ladders, or strew the branches with glittering snow.

On Christmas eve at 5 o'clock the court assembles in one of the apartments north of the Shell Salon. The marshal of the household has already entered the room to direct the lighting of the candles. When every thing is ready he announces the fact and the doors are thrown open. The flooding lights are almost blinding, but after a moment's pause the little Princes is conducted by her brothers to her own table, and then all find their places and examine their gifts. What delight! What rejoicing! Verily, in the most perfect interpretation of the word this constitutes youthful joyfulness.

The Emperor having conducted the ladies and gentlemen of the Court to the tables arranged for them, leads the Empress to their Majesties' tables, and the hearty demonstrations of pleasure which they exchange evince the loving care taken in their mutual selection of gifts. The joy of the children grows more and more lively. The Princes show one another their rare treasures, and exchange thanks for their gifts. A collection has been reserved for which the children find little time for indication. The excitement and the rejoicing produce the natural reaction and at nine o'clock even the elder Princes are asleep.

Selected.