

THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 58.

Jaffna, Thursday 20th of Jan., 1898.

No. 2.

EIGHTEENNESS EXALTS A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

ALMANAC-பஞ்சாங்கம்.

February.—மாசி மீது.

தமிழ்நூல் எடு—மாசி கால்.

திங்கள்	தமிழ்	வருடம்	திங்கள்	தமிழ்வருடம்	திங்கள்	தமிழ்வருடம்
1	செ	மேஷ	11	ஈ செ	21	ஈ திங்
2	ஏ	புதன்	12	உ செனி	22	உ செ
3	ஏ	வியா	13	ஈ சூரிய	23	ஈ சூரி
4	ஏ	கூட	14	ஈ சுரங்க	24	ஈ சுரி
5	ஏ	காரி	15	ஈ செங்க	25	ஈ செ
6	ஏ	குரு	16	ஈ சுபங்க	26	ஈ சுபங்க
7	ஏ	கிரங்	17	ஈ வியா	27	ஈ வியா
8	ஏ	கெங்	18	ஈ செ	28	ஈ செ
9	ஏ	புதன்	19	ஈ செனி		
10	ஏ	வியா	20	ஈ சூரி		

	d	h	m	d	h	m	
Full moon	6	01	44	P. Jupiter rises	10	9	19 P.
New moon	20	1	0 A.	Saturn rises	10	1	23 A.
Venus sets	10	6	4 A.	P. Phaides sets	10	12	17 A.
Mars rises	10	4	57 A.				

SOLAR ECLIPSE.

	January		
Ash Wednesday	Begins	22	11 50 A.
	Midday	22	1 19 P.
February 2nd	Ends	22	2 49 P.
	Magnitude	0.716	

RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR.

Straits Settlements	Mr. G. Simon Peter and John Knight [97]	4.75
Colombo	M. S. R. Srivastava Dookartha [96-97]	4.00
Lingalai	Mr. S. Chellappa [97]	1.25
Aravly	Mr. S. Muttappapillai [97]	2.00
Colombo	P. Perera Esq. [97]	1.25
Colombo	Mr. V. Modu Chellappa [97]	1.25
Katay	Mr. A. David [95]	1.25
Vavuniya	Mr. S. Savanamun (6 Subscribers 96)	7.50
Manipay	Mr. J. Backus [97]	2.00
Rangaswamy	Dr. A. Evans [97]	

Gentlemen.

Please remit all dues for Star as early as possible.

THE JAFFNA COMMERCIAL CORPORATION LIMITED.

In connection with our Store Department we are prepared to undertake and sell by public auction any property, Household furniture, Effects &c &c, which may be entrusted to us. If desired we will advance half the value.

For terms and particulars apply to the Manager

The Jaffna Commercial Corporation, Ltd.
FOR SALE.

Gray shirtings, Mulls, Jacconettes &c. of different kinds imported direct from Manchester.

Chentsz to suit the Jaffna fancy. All fast colors. Sold by pieces and wholesales.

Exceptionally cheap. Cloth superior.

BASEL MISSION CANNANORE GOODS.

Coatings, trouserings of various kinds, sheetings, towels &c.

Waterbury Watches, for Gentlemen and Ladies. Boots, Shoes, Harness &c.

Trial solicited. Prices cheap, monthly supplies from Manchester, England.

At the store department of the Jaffna Commercial Corporation Ltd.

THE CEYLON STEAMSHIP Co. Ltd.

The Company's Steamer "Lady Havelock" is appointed to sail from Jaffna for Colombo on the following date.

Via Point Pedro 10th Jan. 1898.
Faumbaen 25th " "
Pt. Pedro 31st. " "
W. MATHER & SON.
Agents.

NOTICE.

P. CHANDRASEGORE,
Special Licensed,
Surveyor and Leveller.
Fiscal and Court Surveyor.
Office, Anuradhapura or
Manipay, Jaffna.

FIVE CENT LYRIC BOOK.

Ready for sale. Apply at once.

FOR SALE

One five Inch Cradle Theodolite with stand in good order.

Apply to Mr. A. Valoopillai, Surveyor, Batticotta.

NOTICE.

THE JAFFNA TRADING COMPANY LTD.

The Office and Stores of the Jaffna Trading Company Ltd. have been removed from Jayavasa, Chenna Street, to the house adjoining the present Drapery warehouse of the said Company.

1st January 1898 V. AIYARUPILLAI,
Manager.

VICTORIA COLLEGE JAFFNA.

This recognised Institution and a successful Grant-in-Aid one prepares candidates for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University. Students desirous of admission may apply to the Manager before the 15th of February.

It has been declared to be an Institution especially inculcating accurate, modern pronunciation and fluency of speech combined with a scientific knowledge of nature.

T. W. SMALL F. C. S., M. C. B. A. S.
Principal.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary No. 879.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Vettivellopillai Tamppillai of Manipay Deceased. Tamppillai Chinnattamby of Manipay Petitioner V.

Tamppillai Karalapillai of Manipay Respondent. This matter coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton, Esq., District Judge, on the 30th day of December, 1897, in the presence of Mr. S. T. Arnold, Proctor, on behalf of the Petitioner, and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 30th December, 1897, having been read:—It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the late Vettivellopillai Tamppillai, of Manipay, deceased, be issued to the Petitioner, as one of the heirs of the said deceased, unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 9th day of February, 1898, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 30th day of December 1897. SAMUEL HAUGHTON,
District Judge.

Local & General.

Weather. Another fortnight of cloudy weather. There have been frequent showers which though slight will be of great help to the paddy which in some parts of the peninsula is almost ready to be harvested. The wind has been quite strong part of the time, and there have been no dews until within the last three or four days. The health of the peninsula looks fairly good.

Principal Civil Medical Officer. Surgeon-Major Perry who succeeds Sir William Kynsey, arrived in Colombo on the 3rd Inst. May he have a long and successful career in our Colony.

Ceylon Educational Association. A meeting of the Standing Committee was held in Colombo on the 8th inst. add business of more or less importance transacted.

Daily Readings. The India S. S. Union has issued a series of daily readings of the Bible, copies of which may be had, we presume, on application at the Wesleyan mission house, Vempadi, Jaffna.

Diphtheria. This disease to be dreaded disease is hardly known in Jaffna, though quite common in cooler climates. The only child of the Drs. Scott of Manipay came down with an attack which looked very much like this disease a fortnight ago. The little one's life has been almost despaired of, but prompt surgical treatment has resulted in saving life thus far. All will sympathise with

the parents, and pray that the Divine Healer may completely restore the child to health once more.

Deputation from the A. B. C. F. M. A deputation from the American Board, headed by Dr. Smith, one of the Foreign Secretaries, is to visit the missions in China conducted by this Society during this year. India's turn will possibly come next year. We believe that much good can be accomplished by a Deputation visiting the mission stations once in ten or fifteen years, provided that it is composed of sound practical Christian men.

Tea Factory burned. A large tea factory was burned to the ground on the evening of the 19th inst. A thousand full chests of tea, and a thousand rupees were also destroyed.

Prof. Sattianandan M. A. L. L. M. This well known Professor at the Presidency College in Madras has been visiting Colombo and Kandy. He made a few remarks to the students of the City College.

The Eclipse of the Sun. The time of the eclipse has already been given in the Star, and we only hope that the weather will be clear and pleasant. It is not often that we have the chance to see a total eclipse, or even one that is three-fourths total as this will be in Jaffna, and every one should make the most of the opportunity. Sir Noyes Lockyer's party were in Colombo a few days ago, on their way to Western India to take observations. It is said that the British Astronomical Association is sending out a powerful instrument for photographing the sun's corona. It will take five or six photographs in a second.

Court Records. The records of all Criminal cases which came up for trial before the District Court of Jaffna, have been burnt on the 7th inst. at the instance of the District Judge. A list of the cases so destroyed has been made and preserved in Court showing the necessary facts in each case which may be required by the public.

Fire. A few huts adjoining the Small Bazaar were burnt accidentally on the night of the 8th inst. Careless disposal of kerosene oil is reported to be the cause of the accident.

On Circuit. The Govt. Agent, Mr. Levers and his chief Mudiari Mr. Basumalilal left Jaffna on the 10th inst. They sailed straight to the island of Delft where they will inspect the houses. From Delft they will proceed to Mannar, Vavuniya and Matale, extending their tour for three weeks.

Hondyke and Ceylon. It is said that at least half a dozen planters are soon to start for the gold fields of Hondyke in British North America. A steam launch has been ordered out from England which will convey the party by water, after reaching Vancouver, to the gold fields, thus saving the long and tiresome land journey. The gold fever is a dangerous one, and it is to be hoped that these gentlemen are sounding the cost.

Students from India. It is said that six boys from Southern India have come to Jaffna to prepare for the university examinations under Mr. Neviss, B.A. of the Hindu College.

Fire at Piley. A house was set fire to by some persons in Piley. The Magistrate is doing his best to discover the guilty parties.

Personal. Proctor Tampey has gone to Pt. Pedro for a rest of three months. He has been very hard at work the past two years and needs a change. Dr. Wm. Paul has left Pt. Pedro for Kegalle having obtained extension of leave. Dr. Candyah, son-in-law of Doctor Supramaniam and Pt. Pedro, is visiting his friends at that place. He holds a responsible position under Government as Surgeon at the station of Madura, South India.

Principal Collector of Customs. Mr. Lee is starting out on a tour of inspection of the principal Custom Houses of the Island. He comes by this week's steamer to Jaffna.

Cholera. This disease is nearly if not quite stamped out in our peninsula. Great credit is not only due to the Thibbali, but also his immediate subordinate, Drs. Nicholas and Evans, who have been untiring efforts to check the spread of the disease. In total number of cases thus far is 166 of which just one half proved fatal. In the Ceylon Patriot of January 14, Dr. Thornhill writes:—"To the prompt proclaiming of each infected house, to the guarding of such houses by Police till they had been properly disinfected, to the prompt removal to the Cholera Hospital and House of Observation of all cholera patients and of all cholera suspects, to the thorough disinfection of each house &c &c, to the repeated disinfection of all wells by Permanganate, and to the fortunate absence of flies, may I think, be attributed the speedy disappearance of the disease and the comparatively small number of places, houses and persons attacked." We are not quite as sanguine as the Doctor seems to be that cholera has left us for good.

Registration of Churches. Section 19 of the Ordinance 2 of 1895 reads as follows:

"On or before the thirty-first day of January of each year the minister, proprietor, or trustee for the time being of every registered building shall send to the Registrar General's statement in the form C. in the second Schedule hereto, &c. &c." Let all ministers, proprietors and trustees take note.

The Chief Justice. Sir J. W. Bosser, the Chief Justice of the Island, arrived in Colombo on the 14th inst. after an absence in England of about 9 months. He was heartily welcomed.

Odooville Girls' Boarding School. This school opened on the 17th inst. after a month's holiday with a good number back. The Girls' English school commenced also on the same day.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS!!!

The Star is in financial difficulty just now, and needs your help. We do not ask for gifts, but only that you may pay up your dues to the close of 1897. Please see to it that every subscription is paid up within the next two weeks. There would be no difficulty if only the subscribers would pay their dues promptly. Once more then, please pay up your dues.

CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The revenue coming from customs duties collected at the different ports of the island amounts to over seven million rupees an excess over that of 1896 of Rs. 757,922. Of this the heaviest item is from grain imported, over one-third of the total revenue from customs coming from this source. Duty on spirits was collected to the tune of Rs. 628,393, which is not at all creditable from a moral point of view. Kerosene oil brought in no less than Rs. 440,325 which ought to give those opposed to the tax on oil a handle to fight with. The royalty on elephants was only Rs. 1,800, while the amount collected for taking chanks out of the country was over four thousand rupees.

Turning now to the exports we find that tea and the products of the coconut palm are the principal items exported. The former represents nearly half the tonnage sent out from our island, while the latter about two fifths. This leaves about one tenth for all other exports.

With regard to imports besides those mentioned above, we have an increasing influx of cotton manufactures which speaks well for the people. Also a large amount of sugar and oil-man stores.

Take it as a whole the showing is very creditable to the Colony and proves that the year 1897 was one of the most prosperous of recent years. May 1898 prove even more so.

REPORT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

The 59th annual report of the Jaffna Auxiliary Bible Society has reached us, and is interesting reading. This Society works among a people numbering over 470,000. Its area of work is confined to the northern, eastern and north-central provinces. It reports for 1897 a distribution from the depot in town of 481 Tamil Bibles, 170 Testaments and 12,104 portions, in English 30 Bibles and 69 Testaments with 95 portions having been issued.

Financially the Society has had a successful year in spite of the increased price it has had to pay to Madras for Scriptures purchased. The contributions from the native Christians amounted to Rs. 450; that from Europeans to Rs. 331.25. The grants from England amounted to a little less than usual owing to exchange. The expenditures were heavy, and yet a balance remained to its credit. The Society is doing a grand good work, and should have the loyal support of every Christian man and woman in Jaffna.

THE JAFFNA RAILWAY.

Before we went to press, a fortnight ago, the telegraph had brought the welcome news that a railway to the north had been sanctioned. Or to be more exact, the construction of a line, of a light broad gauge, from Kurunegala to Anuradhapura has been authorized, the work to commence at once. The line will be about 70 miles in length, ranging from 60 to 80 according to the route it takes. We presume that it will follow the line marked out by the preliminary survey which will make it between 70 and 75 miles long. It will pass through a sparsely settled country, and one from which little benefit will accrue to the railway. The *Ceylon Observer* says it will be "the largest unremunerative investment ever made in Ceylon."

A protest is to be sent objecting in strong terms to the proposed route but it hardly seems probable that the Home Government will be led to retract their consent, or greatly modify their plans. The subject undoubtedly has been carefully considered, and a decision reached in accordance with the facts in the possession of the Colonial department, and we believe there will be little delay in carrying out the scheme.

We shall not be surprised, however, if the construction of this line puts a stop to further railway extension. The original outlay

in construction and in rolling stock, and the annual expense of keeping it up, will be a serious drawback to further ventures of this kind. True the "unrived cities" will be put in easy communication with Colombo, and the line will be largely patronized by travellers, but we fail to see what traffic it will secure. Had the Kangesantore-Elephant Pass line been sanctioned it would have paid almost from the very outset. And according to those competent to express an opinion in matters like this a coast line from Colombo northwards through Negombo, Chilaw and Puttalam would have proved remunerative, or if not entirely so, would not have been the cost to the Colony that the proposed line is likely to be. Later on it would have been found necessary to connect Anuradhapura and Elephant Pass; and though the cry might be then raised that this part of the railway would not be remunerative, still there would be less force to the objection because of the existence of a paying line from Colombo to Puttalam and of another in the peninsula of Jaffna. The necessity for connecting these two would be very generally acknowledged.

This would have been the wiser policy and would have justified all the claim that has been made the past few years for a line to the north. It looks very much now as if a stupendous blunder had been made in sanctioning this branch of the Northern Railway first. Evidently the principle of disposing of the hardest part of a job first is the one which has been acted upon—a principle which may be carried too far and result in discouragement and demoralization.

The Jaffnese, however, are not likely to make any objection to any line that puts them in closer communication with the capital, and this will reduce the traveling southwards by coach by at least 60 miles. But the dream of hearing the iron horse snorting on the plains of Jaffna, as the school boy is fond of expressing it, is apparently not to be realized in the immediate present. Civilization advances slowly in the East, and Jaffna must be content with what small favors it receives, never slackening for a moment its efforts to secure larger ones. The railway is bound to come all the way to Jaffna at some time or another, but we must possess our souls in patience and not expect too much at once. In the meantime let the work go on, and let us have a railway between Kurunegala and Anuradhapura, if the decision is final, just as soon as it can be properly constructed.

THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL CONGRESS.

We take the following from the *Madras Christian Patriot* of January 8th—

The Thirteenth National Congress was held at Amravati the capital of the Berars, on the 27th December and following days. There were altogether about 621 delegates but the greater majority (481) were from the Berars. The other Provinces of India were represented as follows—Central Provinces 50, Madras 37, Bombay 13, Bengal 25, N.W. Provinces 7, Oudh 3, Panjab 2. This poor representation of other provinces is very unsatisfactory even making allowance for the exceptional circumstances of the year.

There is a stereotyped form of subjects on which resolutions are passed year after year, but this year three new subjects of interest were introduced relating to the law of codition, the frontier policy and the famine. We have not before us the full proceedings of the Congress and are therefore unable to comment on the speeches and the resolutions, which we hope to do later on. The President, Mr. C. Sankara Nair's speech, however, is before us; and we find it to be a very carefully thought out, soberly worded speech. At the very commencement of his address we find him discussing on the loyalty of the Indians. "We are fully aware," he says, "of the disordered state of the country when it passed, with its insecurity of person and property, under British rule, of the enormous difficulties our rulers had to overcome in introducing orderly administration without any help from the then existing agencies. We recognize that the association of the people in the Government of the country, except to a very limited extent was then impossible. We also know that British rule cleared the way for progress and furnished us with one element, English education, which was necessary to rouse us from the torpor of ages and bring about the religious, social and political regeneration which the country stands so much in need of. We are also aware that with the decline of British supremacy we shall have anarchy, war and famine. The Mahomedans will try to recover their lost supremacy. The Hindu races and chiefs will fight amongst themselves. The lower castes who have come under the vivifying influence of Western civilization are scarcely likely to yield without a struggle to the domination of the higher castes. And we have Russia and France waiting for their opportunities. The ignorant masses may possibly not recognize the gravity of the danger attendant on any decline of England's power in the East. But it is ridiculous to suggest that those who have received the benefit of English education are so short-sighted enough not to see and weigh that danger."

The above is a clear statement of the benefits that we derive from British rule and the dangers to which India would be exposed if we cut connection with Great Britain

ces. But Mr. Sankara Nair goes on to say that the real link that binds us indissolubly to England is the hope the well-founded hope and belief that with England's help we shall, and under her guidance alone, we can attain national unity and national freedom." The expression "national freedom" has been misunderstood in certain quarters. We do not think that the President of the Congress meant by that term the severance of connection with the British race. In fact he explains "national freedom" later on as consisting in acquiring the full rights and sharing the responsibilities of British citizenship. We are already in the enjoyment of some of these rights. As Mr. Sankara Nair himself says—"We have been admitted, as it were, into the outer precincts of the temple of freedom. The Press has been enfranchised. Partially elected members sit in our local and Legislative Councils. We can enter the Civil Service through the open door of competition." We ourselves believe that our English rulers are not averse to conferring on us the full rights of British citizenship; but we must remember that in order to exercise these rights and privileges properly a certain training, moral and intellectual, is necessary, and we harbour doubts as to whether the people of India are in a fit condition as yet to take upon themselves all the responsibility of British citizenship. We have the fullest sympathy with the aspirations of our ardent Congress Wallahs but we at the same time think that before claiming for ourselves representative institutions on the model of the English-speaking communities we should see whether the people are fit intellectually and morally for making a proper use of these new institutions which are the outcome of centuries of trial and experiment in the West. And because our rulers are cautious in their introduction of political reforms we should not recklessly condemn them as wishing to keep us in a state of servitude and slavery.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

War. The war in the northwest still continues and bids fair to be one of the most expensive little wars in which England has engaged in recent years, both as to money and lives. "Was it justifiable" is the question that may well be asked both in England and India. The death of Sir Havelock Alian M. P. was a great loss. The Queen is reported to be deeply grieved at the sad news to the afflicted family. It is hard to say just what England has gained unless it be the repression for the time being of the hill tribes. Of course opinions will vary as to the value and permanency of the results secured by all the cost of 100,000 an expenditure of money.

Plague. The reports from Rangoon are not encouraging. Forty, sixty, and even eighty cases of plague daily have occurred and the mortality is frightfully high. On the 8th and 9th there were 159 cases and 125 deaths; on the 14th there were 101 cases and 110 deaths. In December last the attack were fewer and it seemed as if this dread pestilence might soon be stamped out, but the recent telegrams have dispelled this hope. When the end will be no one can tell. It is rumoured that it has entered the Travancore district. From Travancore it would not be very difficult to pass over to Ceylon, and it is no time for the Ceylon government to relax its watchfulness. If a case can be transported all the way to Penang, as the telegraph informs us, the most careful measures are not too stringent to keep it away from our shores.

Lecturer for 1898. The successor to Dr. Barlow in the lectureship founded by a Chicago lady is to be Dr. Fairbairn of Mansfield College, Oxford. He will give a series of lectures on comparative religion some time during the year. An eminent theologian and interesting lecturer, India is most fortunate in having him as a speaker in its principal cities. We wish to thank that Ceylon as well, in the course of his tour.

Educational. In Travancore the English mission is making radical changes in its educational policy. The vernacular is to be encouraged more and English made self-supporting. This is a step in the right direction for a missionary Society to pursue, while the wisdom of closing up an English College which has been in existence for many years, may be fairly questioned.

The Mahattra mission has started a new industrial school for the native Christians at Ahmednagar, under the guidance of Rev. James Smith, the Principal of the English High School, where several of our Jaffna boys have been employed as teachers in the past twelve or fifteen years. The foundations of a new building for this school of industrial arts were laid with appropriate services last month.

FOREIGN NEWS.

China. The relations are still strained between Germany and China. Prince Henry with two cruisers has left Suez for China. Several warships are in Chinese waters, but no serious difficulty is feared.

Hawaii. Owing to President McKinley's recommendation to Congress looking towards the annexation of this island, Japan has manifested protests, and may even resort to extreme measures.

Africa. From the Sudan comes the news of the murder of a missionary. Artillery has been despatched from England to Egypt and troops are being pushed forward. The Dervishes continue raiding, and a conflict is soon expected. From South Africa come news of the treacheries of the Boers which fortunately failed to accomplish much.

India. There has been a severe outbreak at Mysore, the largest province of Bengalistan. A survey party

of over 200 persons was attacked and a number of native guides killed and wounded. Artillery with two guns and three companies of infantry have been ordered to stand at arms to the scene of disturbance.

Malaya Islands. An earthquake on one of the islands belonging to this group destroyed the town killing 50 persons and injuring 200. These islands lie north of Australia and east of Borneo. The population of the town destroyed is put down at 13,000 nearly all of whom are Christians.