

ஸ்திரீகள் சபை.—Women's Congress.—இவ்வழி
பத்திரிகை வந்தோர்ப்படிந்துள்ள ஸ்திரீகளின் மகாசபை
யொன்று கூடலிருக்கின்றது அச்சபைக்குத் தோழியிருக்க
யில்லை. கி. என். மீன், வான் என்னும் இரண்டு ஸ்திரீ
கள் பாராப்படிக்கின்றனர்.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

United States and Hawaii. President Mc Kibbey has recommended to Congress the annexation of this island though Congress may not sustain him if it has not already taken action. There are two opinions in the United States as to the wisdom of such a policy. There are those who contend that it should not be the policy of the United States to annex territory so far away from its shores. Yet Alaska is almost as distant from the nearest point of the Republic as Hawaii. Again it is said that the true policy would be to let the little island (or group of islands) maintain a separate republican form of government, while the United States might constitute itself a guardian to watch over the interests of its little sister.

But on the other side many are anxious for annexation on the ground that since the principal men of Hawaii are demanding it, and since the United States has greater interests there than any other nation, it is no more than right that the United States should take possession before any other power forestalls it.

Cuba. There should be on some accounts, more reason for annexing Cuba than Hawaii, for it is not only nearer to the mainland but has the closest commercial relations with the great Republic. Nearly all the sugar manufactured in the island goes to the United States and a good share of the other products. The financial status of the island is anything but satisfactory, and the great rebellion of '96 and '97 (which is still going on) seems likely to be productive of very serious results as to the prosperity of the island. President McKinley's attitude towards the "Queen of the Antilles" is one of neutrality more than anything else. Much Spanish money has been spent, and thousands of lives sacrificed in the vain attempt to subdue the uprising, and the end is not yet, though hopes are entertained that Spain may soon grant it autonomy.

Strikes. The telegraphic tale is of a serious strike among the workers on the cotton fields. Owing to the reduction of wages 25,000 men, women and children have left work, and the dissatisfaction rapidly spreading. The prosperity which seemed about to return to the country with the abnormal rise in the price of wheat, has received a check. Prices of food stuffs are higher than a year ago, while wages have not materially increased. The masses of the working people, outside of the agricultural classes are worse off than in 1896. In 1896 in spite of the changes of administration and the revision of the tariff. The farmers are getting better prices for their produce. Wheat still keeps a very high, potatoes and fruit are 50 per cent dearer than in 1896. On the other hand cotton goods have shown a tendency to downward rates in price which accounts for reduction of wages, and the general strikes resulting therefrom.

Personal. Many readers of the Star will be interested in learning of the whereabouts of those who have been in Jaffna at one time or another as missionaries and educators. Mr. F. K. Sanders Ph. D. is still professor in Yale University and retains a warm attachment for Jaffna. It was he who started the Y. M. C. A. work in Jaffna which now takes such a prominent position in Christian work carried on in our peninsula. It would be eminently fitting for him to complete his labors for our young men by raising funds for the erection of a suitable central Y. M. C. A. building in Jaffna. Prof. and Mrs. Wood (nee Miss K. E. Hastings) are at Smith's College for young ladies, and show their interest in Jaffna by their frequent inquiries after the welfare of their many friends here. Mr. Wood is an ordained man and preaches occasionally as opportunity occurs. The Star has already printed an article from his pen and hopes to hear again from him. Mr. Wood has returned to India after completing his studies in America, and is engaged in mission work in connection with the Madura English High School. We regret that he could not have returned to his former field of labor while we congratulate the Madura mission on having secured his services. Mr. Silver who was connected with the Jaffna College for two years has married and settled down as a professor in some institution in the north-west. The Y. M. C. A. has a little church in New York State. Mr. Chanin is reporter for some prominent newspaper in New England. Mr. Lowe is Dean of the faculty in Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. I. L. Best who left as a year ago is pursuing his studies in Hamilton College. The Misses Leitch and their brother are still on "silverdollars" bent having raised a large amount for the Armenian Relief fund, they took up with their customary zeal, the case of the famine-stricken sufferers in India. Just now they are busy in helping several good causes and with every hope of success. They write that a visit to Ceylon during the year is not beyond the reach of probability.

Dr. and Mrs. Howland are comfortably settled in a flat in New York City. They are situated only three or four minutes walk from the little chapel where Dr. Howland expected to commence work with January 1st of this year. His written order dated December 21st at 11 am to preach Sunday nights, have a Bible class in Sunday school Sunday morning, conduct Friday night meetings, and help or supervise in all else that is going on. There is a boys' club, and a men's club, a girls' club, and a Junior girls' club, several of them at a time and something every evening, a Y. P. S. C. E. Sunday evenings before service, Helping Hand Friday p. m., Sewing school Saturday a. m., a daily Kindergarten, an industrial school of the Home for the Blind, a Gymnasium in use every evening etc. etc. There are over 600 in the Sunday school and 200 in church. It is one of the most densely populated parts of the city, and almost of the world. I can tell you more about it when we get into it.

Dr. Grieco is living near here with her mother and sister. We have got her to take a class in the Helping Hand.

Dr. Howland speaks of having a call from Miss Julia Green, eldest daughter of Dr. S. F. Green. Dr. J. Sanders, eldest son of Rev. M. D. Sanders who died in the harness at Batticaloa in 1871, is in attendance on Mrs. Howland as for physician, and pronounces her very much better. "We have not had much cold weather yet," he continues, "Monday night rain had fallen and frozen, and as I went out, I no sooner stopped on the edge of the upper air than I found myself on the sidewalk five steps below than I found myself on the sidewalk except a little bruised. The snow was very gay with Christmas goods and decorations and electric attractions, and crowds of sight-seers as well as buyers. The often, about every thing, for we do not

lose our love for Jaffna." The Doctor seems likely to keep up his reputation as a very hard working man, but all the same we shall hold him to his promise to write again and tell us more about it." Many in Jaffna and in Ceylon as well are interested in him, and we feel sure that he will gratify their desire to hear of the welfare of himself and Mrs. Howland.

The Ceylon Observer of the 21st ult. gives an article from the New York Tribune which gives a résumé of an interview with Mrs. Howland. The reporter, like many in his class, has not been very accurate in reporting the results of his interview, but has nevertheless given a very interesting article.

THE MISSION TO THE VEDDAHS.

From Mr. E. O. Walker, Superintendent of Telegraphs, a representative of the Observer has obtained some particulars regarding the laudable endeavours which are being made by the Rev. J. West, Wesleyan Missionary in Batticaloa, on behalf of the Veddahs. It was in October last, that Mr. West undertook the establishment of the Evangelical Mission to the Veddahs, with a promise of 500 rupees of yearly subscription. Mr. West, with the assistance of a native catechist, established his mission station in the settlement of Kalodol, a village about fifty miles off Batticaloa. At the very start, however, he found two difficulties, one the almost chronic distress of the people, whom failure of crops, disease, hunger and exposure are thinning down by year, and the other their rambling habits. In the last season of privation, Mr. West relieved the needs of the people by having two cart loads of provisions conveyed to the sufferers. He has matured a scheme by which he proposes to teach the villagers the rudiments of commerce; at the same time indirectly bringing them more in touch with civilization. His idea is to barter rice and other food stuffs for bees wax, wild honey, chillies, dried deer flesh and the like which the Veddah can easily procure. This year the unforeseen distress has resulted in a larger expenditure, and though some little money has been collected for relief, the funds in hand will fall far from suffice in being the year round. There are a good many invalids whom the Mission purse has to provide for. There is a dispensary at Maia Oya, but disease is widespread and the death rate largely outbalances the birth-rate.

Among other plans of Mr. West, is that of discouraging the roving habits of the people which renders steady missionary work difficult and instruction almost impossible. He proposes to move a large section of the people down to the vicinity of the Lugam tank, where a plentiful supply of water will irrigate their lands and obviate the distress caused by long droughts, dry river beds, &c. But here new land must be purchased and that means large funds. The work so far bears good promise, but it is too premature yet to prophesy anything. A good deal has been done among the children, both in the way of character-building and religious training, and the three years' schooling at Kalanankumbura, 14 miles north of Batticaloa, where the population includes an admixture of Tamils, has benefited them much. It is noticeable how very docile and pliable the children are and how comparatively readily they learn. Among the adults, progress in religious instruction is not so ready but quite as sure. The advantages which the Missionaries possess in dealing with the Veddahs is that there is no religious belief to be eradicated before the seed of the Gospel can be sown. Crude superstitions, of course, prevail regarding the nearness of departed spirits, the dread of malignant spirits, &c. Regarding the disposition of the people, Mr. Walker thinks them timid, readily susceptible to kindness, capable of strong grateful attachment to individuals kindly, peace loving, faithful, and docile. They are never known to be vindictive even in retaliation, and there is a fear even given by the missionaries to the people, at which about 300 men and women were present. Mr. Jordan gave a magic lantern exhibition, which delighted the people. Later on prizes were distributed to the Sunday School children, for there is already a fairly prosperous institution of this sort. Work is being carried on at the village of Kalodol, about 50 miles from Batticaloa but no new reports have been received from here.

Ceylon Observer.

CHOLERA IN JAFFNA.

Jaffna 27th January 1898.

The Editor "Morning Star"

Sir—In continuation of my letter of 10th inst. to the Catholic Guardian no case of Cholera has occurred since the 5th inst. at any place except Chunnagam. The last case at Chunnagam was in the 3rd inst. and no fresh case occurred there till the 17th inst. when a fatal case occurred and was followed on the 17th inst. by another; the surviving patient and all the "Suspects" i. e. the occupants, 29 in number, of the possibly infected houses, were at once removed to the cholera Hospital and house of Observation at Kankasanturai on the 20th inst. another case occurred at Chunnagam and the patient and "suspects" 7 in number, were also at once removed to Kankasanturai. The first of these patients recovered but the second a very old man, died; all the suspects have since been released after thorough disinfection and no fresh case has since occurred i. e. there has been no fresh case since 20th inst. This subsequent outbreak has thus been limited to 3 cases with two deaths.

Seeing the long interval from the 3rd to the 16th inst. those subsequent cases must have contracted the disease from cholera bacilli contained in clothes or other folded articles which were concealed and thus escaped the disinfection which were carefully carried out with Jeyes' Fluid and exposure to sunlight, or from bacilli that were still passed from the intestines of those who had recovered from cholera and which, it is now known, can be so contained in and passed from the intestines for long intervals, and from months and which can thus originate outbreaks of cholera at remote places or after long intervals, as occurred at Hamburg in 1891-92 where the epidemic was originated by immigrants from Russia who of course had left Russia long previous to their arrival at Hamburg.

Yours Faithfully,
HAYMAN JONESHILL,
Senior Medical Officer.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Obituary. We regret to hear of the death of Mr. A. Sinnatamby of Vannarponnai, the Senior Proctor of the Jaffna Bar at his residence on the 27th inst. He lived to a good old age of 82 years. The deceased gentleman was the father of Mr. Advocate Nugalingam and grand father of Mr. Proctor Kandiah. He was also known by the name of A. Brown, which was given him in the famous educational institution, the late Batticaloa Seminary, where he received his education, graduated in or about the year 1838. Shortly after he had graduated, he was employed as a teacher for some years in the Jaffna Central School, which is now called Central College. Having a taste as well as talents for the profession of law, he resigned his teachership in the School and studied law and entered the profession in the year 1844, and practised as a successful lawyer until the year 1895,—for a period over 50 years, and then retired owing to failing health. His colleagues were Messrs. P. Bastiampillai, S. Vaytalingam and P. Sinnakunddi, who formed the first batch of lawyers from among the Tamils. Before these gentlemen became lawyers, the law profession had been confined to the Burgher community at Jaffna. The subject under notice distinguished himself for his honesty and uprightness as well as ability during the career of his professional life. He was grateful to the Missions and especially to the American Mission in whose Seminary he received his education. They were failed in their appeals to him for charitable contribution, whenever there was an occasion. He leaves behind a large circle of relations and friends to lament his loss.

Y. M. C. A. Annual Meeting. The annual public meeting of the North Ceylon Union of Young Men's Christian Association was held at St. John's Cottage Hall on Thursday, the 27th Jan. The hall was well filled, mostly with young men, though a few ladies greeted the occasion with their presence. The report of the Secretary, Mr. W. S. Vinnamiti, showed that there are 20 Associations in the Union with a total membership of about 500. The work carried on varied, the greatest prominence being given to Bible classes and religious meetings, while some Associations have other departments such as literary and athletic and boys departments. Four addresses were given, each of which held the attention and interest of the audience. The Rev. H. Horsley spoke fittingly on our anchors; the Rev. W. M. Walton about the study of the Bible; the Rev. T. A. Elmer on the true end of work by our young men; and the Rev. J. West dwelt on the end which we have in our work.

St. J. A. College. Mr. J. A. Muttiah who is now reading in St. John's College has creditably passed the last Clerical examination. He is a son of Mr. S. Muttiah, ex-church G. M. S.

Council Seat. It is rumoured that Mr. C. Brito Advocate, has been offered the seat in Council by H. E. the Governor, and that he is likely to accept.

The Wesleyan Mission. The Annual District Synod of the ministers of the Northern and Eastern Provinces has been held this year at Jaffna. The stranger of the 25th ultimo, brought to our shores the ministers from the Eastern Provinces. Special services and several meetings have been held for 12 days from the 26th ultimo, according to a programme written and circulated for the information of the churches. The visit of the ministers and the special efforts in these 12 days, we trust, will be attended with special blessing in the deliberations and plans for their work of the year before them. We hope, will be crowned with success.

Personal. Mr. David Tambliah, Govt. Surveyor has retired on pension and returned to Trankebar. He proposes to establish himself as a solicitor at Trankebar. Mr. Paul returned from Colombo on leave owing to the severe illness of his father, Dr. Wm. Paul. Mr. Jordan spent a week in Jaffna and interested us with Magic Lantern entertainments.

Ceylon Educational Association. At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ceylon Educational Association the question of Vaccination was considered, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"We recommend that a Manager, if vaccination has been held within 2 miles of this school since the last examination, should inform the D. P. I. thereof at least one month before the date of examination, and request him to move the Medical Department to appoint a vaccination within that distance."

FOREIGN NEWS.

China. Li Hung Chang, the great Chinese Statesman who made a journey round the world a year or two ago has been called back to power by the Emperor. While declaring that Germany is in the wrong in the recent troubles, he at the same time expresses the wish to see the Chinese ports open to all nations on equal terms. England is insisting upon the opening of the ports, and the United States has agreed to back her.

Nine Japanese warships are about to sail for China, and it looks also as if Russia would ally itself with Japan. France has also sent war galleons to China, to protect its own interests in that Empire.

India. Plague still continues to increase in western India. From a private letter from one who speaks with a careful knowledge of facts we learn that the plague has been awful in Sholapur, bad in Sirion, and increasing in Ahmednagar and Bombay. Out of a population of 37,000 in Ahmednagar it is estimated that only 4,000 remain, so great has been the exodus. More stringent measures are being taken and a fresh supply of doctors and nurses have been called for. Telegrams from Buxar, Sadhol, and Jene report clear weather during the eclipse. The corona and four masses of streamers were plainly visible to the hundreds of thousands of people who came from all over India to witness the sight. Totality lasted about two minutes. Mercury and some stars were seen. A large number of photographs were taken and the astronomers expect to remain on several days in order to develop their plates.

Printed at the Press of Strong and Ashby Manipay, Published by A. C. Mission and Tharayil Strong Cooke.