

The rumour that another squadron had been shipped off Nova Scotia has not been verified.

DR. LEVI SAMUEL STRONG K.
ARASARKOEN MODR.

The news of the death of Dr. Strong while not wholly unexpected yet came with more or less of a shock to the whole Christian community. Only a few weeks ago he was moving about apparently in usual health. About this time a carbuncle appeared on his arm which gave him some trouble and which made him anxious about himself. He attended to his duties however, as usual, and not until two or three other carbuncles made their appearance did he obtain leave of absence and move over to Manepay to put himself under the care of Dr. Scott, less than two weeks before his death. On Thursday the 26th ult. the annual meeting of the N. E. S. was held at Manepay and many of the Christians called to see him. He conversed freely with all asking that prayer be made that he be given strength to bear his sufferings in a Christian spirit. Though looking very ill no one thought his end was so near. He passed away the next day at midnight—the 27th ult. A few hours before his death Dr. and Mrs. Scott went to see him, and on leaving said "Doctor the Lord is calling you." He replied, "I only know it now, but I am ready." He then very quietly and calmly gave his final messages to his wife and friends standing round his bedside, and passed peacefully away. It was a triumphant Christian death and showed the power of the Christian hope in sustaining one when he walks through the valley of the shadow of death. The funeral was held on Saturday at 5 p. m. and was largely attended by Christians and others. Dr. Scott and Pastor Nathaniel conducted the service at the home, Revs. Mr. Restarick and Walton at the Church, Rev. Mr. Timmer and Pastors Elyatamby and Benjamin at the grave. His remains were laid to rest by the side of his father in the family burying ground.

Dr. Strong was born in Madura March 22nd, 1842, and was a little over 56 years of age when he died. His parents were at the time employed in the Madura mission, but soon after returned to Jaffna. He studied in the Batticotta English High school and then joined Dr. Green's medical class at Manepay. Several of his classmates are still living Drs. Wm. Paul, Mills, Levi Nathaniel, Hicheock, Navaretam and Sivapragasam. After finishing his course he served one year as Dispenser at Manepay under Dr. Green and then removed to Point Pedro in 1865 to take up private practice. About this time he was married to Miss Emily Asbury only daughter of Rev. and Mrs. F. Asbury and who proved indeed a worthy helpmeet especially in connection with his medical work. From 1865 to 1893—33 years—they lived in Pt. Pedro carrying on together the work the Lord had given them to do. About 1867 Dr. Strong was made health officer of the port, and not many years later became the Registrar of Births, Deaths and marriages for Vadamaradeli. Previous to this time he has been identified with the Cholera Commission and did good service in this cause. He was one of the first, if not the first, to suggest that Government build a small hospital at Ptolemy, and was called upon to select the site. He was chosen for service at almost every Pearl Fishery that has been held in the past 25 years. When the Ceylon Steamship Company was formed, he was made the Agent at Pt. Pedro. Soon after, he became actively engaged in the Palmyrah Fibre trade which made such a stir in Jaffna for two or three years.

In Sir Arthur Gordon's time, he was made a Mudaliar in recognition of his many services to Government; and in gratitude to the Governor he called his residence "Gordon Villa." Not many months ago he received a letter from Sir Arthur Gordon (now Lord Stanmore) thanking him for the honor of naming his residence after him, and enclosing his photograph.

It was in 1882 that the first symptoms of his disease showed themselves, and he went immediately to Madras and consulted with the best physicians of the place. By following out carefully the directions he received he was enabled to keep in good health and prolong his life.

Two or three years ago when the Mission asked the firm of Strong and Asbury, Printers, to remove their buildings from the Mission compound as it was needed for other purposes, Dr. Strong built at his own expense the fine new home for the printing establishment near by the Post Office. This remains a fitting monument of his industry and enterprise. He owned the larger share of the Printing Press, and during the last months of his life spent much thought upon the conduct of this business, making improvements and changes looking towards its greater efficiency. In losing

him, the Press has lost its main support.

Dr. Strong was a man highly respected by all classes of the community. He had a large heart, and was generous, never niggardly, in rendering help where help was needed. The poor have cause to lament his loss, for he never turned a deaf ear to their cries. The Christians of Vadamaradeli especially, found in him a warm friend, one ready to help them in any way possible. Scores will testify to the many favors received at his hands.

Dr. Strong was also a public-spirited man. He was forward in every good work. He suggested the Ptolemy Hospital and saw that an accomplished fact, and more than once he was called upon to act as surgeon there when that post was temporarily vacant.

When the church building at Pt. Pedro was being erected he gave substantial help. On the 25th anniversary of their marriage, he founded a scholarship in the Pt. Pedro Girls Boarding School. At Oodooville also he commenced a scholarship, in connection with that school. He was instrumental in founding the "Twynam Scholarship in Jaffna College, and started also a "Strong memorial Fund" in the same institution. He was one of the Directors of the College and ever showed an interest in its affairs.

During the agitation for a Jaffna Railway, Dr. Strong did what he could to further the scheme. He was an enterprising man and believed thoroughly in the advancement of Jaffna.

But above all Dr. Strong was an earnest Christian man. He was a member of the Wesleyan church at Pt. Pedro and at one time a local preacher. He was never absent from service, and always on time. First in every good cause, never shrinking from his share of the burden and helpful to the end. His wife stood by him encouraging and sustaining him in every good work.

Dr. and Mrs. Strong had no children of their own, though they have adopted one or two and cared for them until they were able to care for themselves.

The heartfelt sympathy of a host of friends goes out to Mrs. Strong in her sad bereavement. May she be sustained and comforted, and find in Him a very present help in this time of trouble.

THE N. E. S.

The Native Evangelical Society connected with the American Mission churches held its annual meeting at Manepay last Thursday the 26th ult. The morning session was opened at 10.30 o'clock, Wm. Mather Esq. the Vice President being in the chair in place of the President who was unable to be present. There was a large and representative audience, members from all our churches being present. Nearly all the American Missionaries were there as well as Rev. S. Kinsinger a member of the American Lutheran mission in India. After the usual devotional exercises, the report of the Secretary was read and accepted. It showed that while nothing very striking had taken place during the past 12 months it nevertheless had not been a year devoid of results. More had been received on profession of faith than in the past few years, and the work was better organized. Soon after the beginning of the year the society had secured the services of Rev. J. Paul the former pastor of South Erlaly church, as pastor of the Valany-Pnugadutche church in place of Rev. S. Veerakatty the former pastor. A catechist was also sent to Delft a few months ago. These changes involved some extra expense, and as the year has been a hard one for the churches, the Society was obliged to close its accounts with a debt. This of course is a discouraging feature of the work but one that can and should be remedied. If the churches will only realize that this is their own work, the money will be forthcoming. The Treasurer's report showed that the total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 1347.14 excluding the Jubilee fund while the expenses came to Rs. 1497.83. We are glad to add that this debt has been entirely wiped out by subscriptions received after the accounts were closed. About Rs. 609.07 were raised as a Jubilee Fund. Part of this was used in purchasing a piece of land in Valany for a new house for the catechist and teachers, and the balance is on interest. The old Permanent Fund seems to have completely disappeared. A large part was lost in the failure of the new O. B. C. and the rest was used in settling up the debt of the Society previous to the Jubilee year. However much this is to be regretted, it was unavoidable. The Jubilee Fund is to take its place, and we think the Society is doing a good thing in putting the money thus raised into land and necessary buildings.

After the singing of a hymn the chairman made a few stirring remarks in which he sought to bring the audience to a realization of their privileges as children of God. He then introduced the speakers. Proctor Lawton spoke on the subject,

"Watch, for ye know not the hour when your Lord doth come." The subject is one that is pressing itself more and more on the attention of all Christians, and the speaker was listened to with great interest. The Society will live till Jesus comes and should watch for His appearing.

After prayer, the second speaker Mr. Albert Curtiss spoke on the subject of how best to increase the income of the society. That there is need to increase the ordinary income is apparent from the fact that the Society reports a debt from year to year. He suggested (1) that we should cultivate the habit of giving (2) that it should be regular and systematic giving (3) that all—every child even should take part in this blessed privilege of giving to the Lord (4) that in making out one's will the Society should be remembered (5) that we plead with God for His blessing on the Society.

The next speaker, Rev. T. Elmer spoke, in English on the subject "abound in this grace also" He showed how the condition of the Corinthian church called forth this exhortation from the great apostle, and pointed out that though we may abound in eloquence, in knowledge, and in the performance of many a Christian duty, we may still lack in the grace of giving. After singing a hymn the next speaker Rev. J. Paul, was introduced. He spoke of his call to the work less than a year ago, and of his reluctance at first to accept the leading of Providence. When finally he made his decision to go, he was greatly encouraged by the warm reception he received from the little band of Christians in those islands. He described briefly his work, and urged that the churches pray more and more for the work in the islands.

The last speaker was Mrs. Chelliahpilli who spoke on the subject so dear to every true Christian heart, viz. being filled with the Holy Ghost. She spoke in a clear strong voice that could be heard in any part of the building, and was listened to with close attention. She showed that it was the Christian's privilege to be filled with the Spirit and urged all to seek this blessing.

The chairman then called upon several to make a few remarks. Proctor T. C. Changanipilly, J. P., Rev. T. P. Hunt, Proctor Arnold, Rev. Ed. Fitch, Mr. Samuel Lee B. A. and Rev. S. Elyatamby made brief and appropriate speeches. Several present promised to help girls and boys from the islands to secure an education.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year—

President	C. W. Cathiravalupilly Esq.
Vice President	Wm. Mather Esq.
Secretary	Rev. T. P. Hunt.
Treasurer	Dr. D. Mann
Auditors	Rev. C. M. Sanders and Mr. Albert Curtiss.

The morning service was then brought to a close by the singing of a hymn, and prayer. After a short recess the audience came together for the observance of the Lord's supper. Rev. T. B. Scott M. D. and Rev. H. Hoisington officiated and the service was one of unusual interest.

The Native Evangelical Society now enters upon the 52nd year of its existence. It well deserves the confidence and support of all the churches. The work for the year is well mapped out; it remains for the churches to see that the funds are forthcoming. There should be the closest sympathy between the churches and their work. It is not a work belonging to two or three prominent men, but to all, and every church member should have a personal interest in it. To this end a report of the work should be sent to every church at least once in three months. Another method of keeping up interest is for the delegates appointed by each church to attend the meetings of the Committee regularly and promptly and to take back a faithful report all the proceedings. A third means of awakening interest is to make it a subject for report and prayer at the monthly concert of prayer for missions. Keep the work constantly before the churches, pray for it, work for it, give to it, and one can hardly fail of being interested.

We hope also that the Committee will bear in mind that without the churches to back them they could accomplish but little, and try to interest their constituency consulting with them in matters of importance and following out their wishes. Time should also be given at the annual public meeting for a full and free discussion of plans and methods, without infringing too much on that portion set apart for the appointed speakers. A close Corporation in not in harmony with congregationalism, and the churches themselves should be made to feel that the Society is their very own.