

THE MORNING STAR.

Vol. 59.

Jaffna, Thursday Feb. of 2nd.,

1899.

No. 3

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

RECEIPTS FOR THE MORNING STAR

India	Mr. Ry Ry C. Murgasapilly B. A.	2.00
Balangoda	Mr. L. S. Mootambli	1.50
Lindola	Mr. S. Kolassagampilly	2.00
Straits	Messrs. S. W. Kovindapilly and S. K. Sarcasamman	4.75
India	Mr. G. M. Canagaratnampillai B. A.	2.00
Colombo	Mr. A. Joseph	2.00
Naraly	Dr. K. Muttacumar	2.00
Jaffna Town	Messrs. Homer and Kathiravelly B.A.	3.50
India	Mr. C. P. Anketell (97 and 98)	4.00
Passara	Mr. S. Swaminathan	5.00

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W. MATHER & SON, Agents

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WILLIAM MATHER,

Managing Director

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

The Catinamail mail service between Kankasantara and Point Calimere will cease temporarily from the 10th proximo until further notice owing to the prevalence of plague in India.

Correspondence for India will be forwarded via Colombo, Tuticorin-

F. W. Vane,
Asst. Postmaster General.

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ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No. 943.
Jurisdiction }
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Achchippilla, wife of Arumugam Suppiah of Chittumalai Deceased. Arumugam Suppiah of Chittumalai Petitioner Vs.
1. Kadrasen Thampipillai and
2. Vela Kadrasen of Narali Respondents
This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Achchippilla wife of Arumugam Suppiah coming on for disposal before C. E. Wilmut Esquire, District Judge on the 21st day of December 1898 in the presence of Mr. S. P. Lawton Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 19th day of December 1898 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful 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 16th day of February 1899 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 21st day of Dec. 1898 Signed C. EARDLEY WILMOT District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No. 955.
Jurisdiction }
In the Matter of the Estate of the late Chittampalam Velocipillai of Varany Vadakkukirichy Deceased. Valliammai widow of Chittampalam Velocipillai of Varany Petitioner Vs.
Chittampalam Chittamparapillai of Varany Respondent
This matter of the Petition of Valliammai widow of Chittampalam Velocipillai of Varany praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Chittampalam Velocipillai of Varany Vadakkukirichy coming on for disposal before C. Eardley Wilmut Esquire, J.L. on the 25th day of January 1899 in the presence of Mr. A. Heneman Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 25th day of January 1899 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 Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 24th day of February 1899 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 25th day of January 1899 Signed C. EARDLEY WILMOT District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary } No. 952.
Jurisdiction }
In the matter of the estate and property of Sathupillai wife of Kadhiamby of Mirusuvil Deceased. Valanthar Visuwanathar of Mirusuvil Petitioner Vs.
1. Chinnappillai wife of Visuwanathar of Mirusuvil
2. Arumugam Kadhiamby of do Respondents
This matter of the Petition of Valanthar Visuwanathar of Mirusuvil praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Sathupillai wife of Kadhiamby of Mirusuvil coming on for disposal before C. Eardley Wilmut Esquire District Judge, on the 20th day of January 1899 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 16th day of January 1899 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is the husband of the above-named 1st Respondent who is the only heir 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 9th day of March 1899 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.
Signed this 20th day of January 1899 Signed C. E. Wilmut District Judge.

Local & General.

Weather. The weather has been unusually cool for January. There have been a few slight showers but not enough to injure the paddy crop. Fever still prevails to an alarming extent, and it has really become a question existing for the councils of the Government. Jaffna should have a system of drainage introduced, and more stringent rules about keeping the wells clean.

The harvest has commenced and farmers in the Western and S. T. on parts of the peninsula are busy reaping the crops which are unusually good.

The True News. This little paper published once in two weeks by the Am. Madura mission comes to us in new dress, and with twice the number of pages as formerly. Its pages are given to Tamil and three to English. The subscription for Ceylon including postage is Rs. 1.50 which is very little. It contains in its enlarged form more matter than the "Star". Our best wishes go with our contemporary in its new lease of life.

Jaffna College Miscellany. The December number of this College magazine has put in an appearance and contains some good articles. "The History of Tamil Literature by Mr. Allen Abraham B. A., and God's Fellow Workers by Louis Heib, M. A., are both worth reading.

Y. M. C. A. The annual meeting of the Y. M. C. Associations of the Jaffna Peninsula is to be held tomorrow afternoon at Batticotta. Revs. J. Carter, A. Restarick, C. Solomon and E. P. Holton are the speakers. We hope the report of the past year's work will be full of encouragement and that the new year upon which we have entered may be even more successful.

Post Office for Vannarponne. It is rumoured that a Post office is to be established at Vannarponne. This is such a crowded quarter that the only wonder is that an office was not started there long ago.

S. S. Lady Hayle. This Island steamer has gone to Calcutta to be docked and cleaned. After she returns we shall hope to have the regular service again. The value of this steam service is never more appreciated than when one of the vessels is off for docking purposes.

New Missionaries. Another lady physician expects to join the American mission before the close of the year, to be stationed with Dr. Carr at Jaffna. It is hoped that Mrs. Myers' successor will be in Jaffna by June, to assist Mrs. Howland in her care of the two Boarding schools at Udulvi. No news has been received from Mr. Smith during the past fortnight.

Ceylon Military. The "Loyal North Lancashire"

regiment stationed in the Island will proceed to the Cape on or about the 7th inst, and the "Second Highland Light Infantry" will take its place in the Island arriving from Karachi in India on or about the 9th instant. The question has been raised whether this introduction of troops from Bombay is not fraught with danger to our Island. Com.

The Northern Railway. Mr. Harcourt Skrine appears to be vehement in his attacks against the Jaffna Railway since his arrival in the Colony. Meetings by the planters will be held at his instance to request the Government to reconsider the sanction already granted. The Jaffna Railway Committee are watching the movements of Mr. Skrine and an indignation meeting will be held by them on Saturday the 4th inst. in the District Court House.

Agricultural School. His Excellency the Governor has issued a Commission to inquire into and report on the advisability of establishing a Department of Agriculture. This does not mean the re-opening of the Agricultural School, closed last year. Com.

Obituary. We are sorry to record the death of Mr. G. Coomaraswami of Kantharodai on the 23rd ultimo. The deceased had been unwell for some time and the fever which he contracted at last resulted in his death. Com.

Fire. By some unforeseen accident the house of Mr. S. Cathiravampilai, Notary Public of Mutai, was burnt down on Saturday the 28th ultimo, and the loss is estimated to be over Rs. 2000. Com.

Two Steamboats. The "Active" and "Prompt" two steam boats are on duty, guarding our shores from the importation of plague from India.

Marriage. Mr. William Rajaretnam Morse, son of Rev. S. Morse of Nellore, was married to Miss Helen Gnanamma Muttiah of Jaffna, on Wednesday the 25th ult, at St. Peter's church, Vempadi. Rev. G. J. Trimmer officiated assisted by Rev. D. P. Niles.

Jaffna Library. The annual meeting of the "Jaffna Public Library" was held in the library at 6 p.m. the 30th ultimo.

Day of Prayer. The day of prayer for students has been called for Sunday the 12th inst. We hope it will be observed in all our churches and that much good will follow. We would call the attention of our readers to the article on the fourth page, part of a printed letter from Mr. Mott who visited Jaffna a few years ago and held a Y. M. C. A. Convention at Batticotta.

Surveyors License. Mr. F. W. Selvadurai Assistant superintendent Tanks at Kanaganayan kulam, has obtained his license for surveying. This young man is a son of the late Robert Williams of Batticotta, and a brother of L. C. Williams Esq. B. A. Inspector of schools, India.

Mr. Ananda Comarasamy, the only son of the late Mr. Muttacumarasamy, we are glad to know has recently made a Fellow of the Geological Society of London.

Dr. Leslie. From the Ceylon Observer we learn that Miss. Dr. Leslie is so seriously ill that she has obtained another six months leave, and sails for England in a day or two. Mrs. Dr. Rutnam will continue to act as physician and Dr. Thomas as Surgeon.

GENERAL NOTES.

Kodaikanal Observatory. It has been decided to move Mr. Michie Smith from the Madras observatory to Kodaikanal, where he will take charge of the solar physics observations which are to be carried out in fulfillment of the scheme recently elaborated in consultation with the Royal Astronomical Society. In the meanwhile, the purely astronomical duties of the Madras observatory will be reduced, as these can be conducted in similar institutions in other parts of the world, whereas solar physics more directly concern India and are of practical importance in connection with the forecasting of the weather.

Crete. Crete is 158 miles long, eight to forty miles broad, and has a population of about 300,000. In St. Paul's day the island belonged to the Romans. The people are chiefly Greek. After the fall of the Roman Empire it went into the hands of the Venetians, who held it till the middle of the 17th century, when it was snatched from them by the Turks. Only one third of the inhabitants are Mohammedans.

Glass bells. Glass is now being extensively used for church bells. It can be toughened so that there is no risk of its cracking, and the tone is said to be beyond all others, yet invented, perfect, soft, and sonorous.

Bible study in London. Prof. W. V. White was to have commenced a ten weeks term of Bible study in London last week. He has been for some time engaged in preparation for this work and requests the prayers of all Christians on his behalf.

The Transformation of Palestine. "Whoever wishes to see Palestine in the garb it has worn for unnumbered centuries must visit it soon. The people are adopting European dress and ways. Foreign invasions are coming. The telegraph is dandified, and soon the crooked stick will give way to the plow; the camel stands aside or runs bellowing into the field while the engine rushes on, and the Palestine of Bible days will be no more."

The South Indian Missionary Conference is expected to meet in Madras on the 14th inst. "The Native Church" and the "Indian Ministry" are said to be the two most important subjects that will receive special attention.

N. S. 1899 1 30.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PESSIMISM OF
HINDUISM AND CHRISTIANITY.

(Contributed)

The practical solution of the problem of human life is so difficult that it often inspires either despair or a groundless hope in those who seriously undertake the task. Evil is so formidable that the battles pitched against it often tend to enkindle terror even in a giant spirit, and experiences of failure and defeat and forebodings of disaster cause most men to embrace some religion as an instrument of salvation. It is no more natural for a man to live without religion than it is for him not to breathe. Whether the form of religion which a man embraces affords a satisfactory solution of life's chief problem or not, whether it satisfies the soul's deepest longings and affords it peace and assurance of salvation or not, he will cling to its formulas, its tenets and its ceremonies, even when experience and reason and superior intelligence and enlightenment have destroyed their validity and shown their futility, as a drowning man will cling to the broken pieces of a wrecked ship. The human spirit shaping itself according to the forms which the various religions prescribe feels elated or discouraged not only in proportion to the real but to the magnified efficiency of these religions to bring it to the ideal of its existence. Failure breeds a despair and a pessimism which assume an ascetic form in practical life.

The difference between the pessimism of Hinduism and of Christianity is that the pessimism of Hinduism is radical, far reaching, and inculcated as its final word and ultimate principle, despairing altogether of the salvation of human nature as such, and culminating in the most absolute asceticism, whereas the pessimism of Christianity, if it may be called a pessimism at all, is the discouragement which arises in those whose faith is weak as to its power to save the whole of human nature, or a weariness and suspense which arises from the struggle between the flesh and the spirit in which the victory seems uncertain and the bitter cry is wrung from the weary wrestling spirit: "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" The sentiment expressed by this exclamation extorted from the struggling Christian consciousness has developed into forms of Christian asceticism, the most remarkable of which was the Monasticism of Mediaeval Christianity; but there is a historical reason for this and it does not grow out of any fault or incapacity of the system itself. Pessimism and Asceticism are radically opposed to the Christianity of Christ and the apostles, whereas they are the very sum and substance of Hinduism. Never in the whole course of human history have two so unequal powers stood opposed to each other as ancient Paganism and early Christianity, the Roman state and the Christian church, and for centuries after the decline and fall of the Roman Empire the old ideals and practices of Paganism continued to permeate the whole fabric of human society so thoroughly that Christians were obliged to withdraw into monasteries in order to escape the too strong temptations of a current sensuous life and in order not to lend countenance to the heathen institutions by which they were completely surrounded. Monasticism like the segregation of the Jews from the rest of the world was a providential means of preserving the purity of the true religion that it might remain fit to become universal.

The asceticism of Christianity is not final. Self-sacrifice is the first word in the formula of salvation but it is not the last. Christianity widens the breach between spirit and flesh in order that it may at last be overcome. It does not amputate the sin-sick members of human nature; Hinduism does as it prescribes a cure and preserves the integrity of the human identity and personality. The whole man is redeemed from evil to good-ness, the old becomes new. He attains the goal of his existence, an ideal relation with God. Hinduism on the other hand prescribes a remedy for sin but this remedy is so severe that it is tantamount to the annihilation of the human soul. All human activity whether good or bad is an evil which must be gotten rid of. The world and human nature is an illusion and a snare which must be avoided. The Hindu remedy for sin is like a surgeon's who would recommend decapitation to cure the tooth ache. Verily the tooth ache is cured, but the cure has destroyed the life; and the religion which prunes off the whole of

human nature in order to cure it of sin has reduced it to zero; and has not changed it into the divine as Hinduism claims. Human nature destroyed or cast aside does not equal divinity. It is a mere arbitrary assumption to assert that man is saved from sin by being absorbed into the divine nature, — by realizing in his own life the self-communicating spirit of God. The pre-conditioning elements of such a realization are necessarily pantheistic. The unequivocal testimony of our own conscience and of Jesus Christ is that Divine displeasure in respect of sin can be dismissed without some reparation being made by the sinner or in his stead, only by casting aside the personality of God.

What a contrast there is between the Brahmanical ascetic who journeys on over hill and plain his abode still in one hand, his staff in the other, alone, silent, buried in a thought, and Jesus who "came eating and drinking" sharing man's common life and realizing the divine ideal in it. Jesus showed no tinge of asceticism; the Brahman saint denies the rights of the flesh altogether. This course of life is hard — a very labor of Hercules. Sinful humanity says "if our God is severe in his demands we will make one who is more lenient." Hence the deity is made to assume many ridiculous forms such as a licentious coward or an arch-deceiver who defends his vices even in their sins provided they make him propitious. The incarnation which is the very idea of Christianity is at the same time a splendid and thoroughgoing protest against the ascetic view of the Saiva sects which hold the regeneration of matter to be impossible, and the Vaishnava sects which incarnate the deity in the form of beasts and corruptible men, rather than as sinless and incorruptible man as Christianity does. Christianity is a religion of regeneration and hope; Hinduism is a religion of degeneration and despair. The Kali Yuga advancing plunges the world deeper and deeper into ignorance, vice and misery. The patriot may die for his country — the martyr for his God: but their doings and sufferings are of no avail to stem the tide of evil. "True after aeons of misery, the age of truth comes back; but it does so only to pass away again, and torment us with the memory of lost purity and peace. Progress toward abiding good there is none." The whole conception which Hinduism forms of human life is overwhelming sad. Hope for ourselves and effort for the good of others are rendered impossible. A Jewish tent-maker could stand forth among all the embellishments of a Pagan civilization and confront by his preaching the wisdom of its philosophers and all the skill of its masters of form and style and declare that all that belonged to a past time and that a new era had begun; and offer to make known something before which all that glory fades and all their worship proves futile and all their wisdom is as foolishness. Such language expressed more than human courage; there was in it a joyfulness such as could have sprung only from the certainty of possessing in the Gospel a divine power able to cope with all these earthly forces, an assurance to which the same apostle gives expression when he writes: "The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men".

THE CALL TO THE UNIVERSAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR STUDENTS.

The Universal Day of Prayer for Students, which was instituted a year ago, was observed last year by Christian organizations of students, by professors, and by churches in thirty different countries. The day was ushered in by the early prayer meetings of the students in the Sunrise Kingdom. The volume of prayer was increased as successively the Christian student societies scattered throughout Asia, Africa, Europe and America joined in the union of praise and intercession. The world-encompassing bond of prayer was completed by the Christian students of the islands of the Mid-Pacific. Never before in the history of the Church have so many Christians united in intercession for the progress of Christ's Kingdom among students throughout the world. The result of this worldwide union of prayer have been most encouraging, especially in those places where bands of Christian students earnestly carried out the suggestions about the observance of the day. Without doubt this is one of the chief reasons why the past year has been one of the most remarkable in the spiritual life of universities and colleges of all lands.

In view therefore of the great importance and need of united and intercessory prayer for students the General Committee of the World's Students Christian Federation recommends to all Christian student organizations, to all Christian students, and to the Church of Christ, that Sunday, February 12th, 1899, be observed as a universal day of prayer for students. The committee which has appointed this day includes official representatives of the great student movements of Germany, Scandinavia, Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, the United States, Canada, Australasia, South Africa, Japan, India,

Ceylon, China, and other mission lands, including 1200 Christian student societies with a membership of over 55,000 students and professors. The day has been adopted by the unanimous vote of the representatives of all these movements and is the only day of the year on which they have found it possible to unite.

We would give the following suggestions as to the observance of the day:

By the printed page, by public announcement, by personal work, and by other means bring the matter to the attention of as many Christian students and professors as possible.

Hold one or more meetings for students on Sunday, February 12th, for the purpose of united prayer on behalf of the students of the world. Students who may not be able to attend these meetings should be encouraged to give themselves to prayer in secret. Let it be made previously a day of prayer.

Request pastors to preach special sermons on February 12th, emphasizing the importance of reaching students for Christ and calling forth united and individual prayer for students and the student movement.

In some places the students have found it desirable to devote the Saturday preceding the Day of Prayer to preparatory meetings. If this plan only serves to get students to take time to consider and realize the need of their fellow-students and the transcendent importance of prayer it will greatly increase the fruitfulness of the day.

Let praise and thanksgiving for answered prayer during the past year have a prominent place in all the meetings.

Let us be watchful to take advantage of any special interest which may be awakened on the Day of Prayer and seek to conserve and promote it. The proper observance of this day will surely cause this year as in the past mark the beginning of a real spiritual awakening, in all cases it should be recognized as but the beginning of a year of increased prayerfulness and of more usefulness service.

When we remember that as go the universities and colleges so go the nations; when we note the prevalence and power of the forces of evil which are seeking to ruin students; when we reflect on the many triumphs of prayer for students in past years; when we consider that everything vital to the progress of the Kingdom of Christ hinges on intercessory prayer; when we remember the commands and teachings of Christ calling us to lives of intercession, and that Christ Himself "ever lives to make intercession," and that God is seeking intercessors; shall we not join in this world wide circle of students of all lands and races in making this day of wonderful achievement in things spiritual.

"Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.

On behalf of the General Committee of the
World's Students Christian Federation,
KARL FRIED, chairman
JOHN R. MOFF, General Secretary
January 1, 1899

LORD ELGIN AND THE NORTH-WEST.

Lord Elgin, the retiring Viceroy, being entertained by his friends on his departure from India, made a speech in which he did his best to defend his administration from the indictment brought against it in Parliament and elsewhere. He asserted in the strongest terms that the war on the north-west frontier was none of his seeking and was in fact unavoidable. As to the results he says: "The expeditions were successful and fully achieved the objects for which they were sent out. Peace has now prevailed for six months in all the regions of disturbance, and the Afridi jirgas will meet in a few days to ratify the conclusions of the government on all the questions outstanding with them. I give it as my opinion that these things will, in the end, make for peace. The tribes which know now the length of our arm and have felt our power to punish will more readily understand and sympathize with management, come to recognize that we have no desire to trample on their rights or encroach on the self government which they prize, and will be more careful for sometime to come how they attack us."

It is to be hoped that future expediencies will not make means of demonstrating the absence of any desire to trample on their rights, but the despatch of armies to burn, slay and destroy. "The tribes will be more careful for sometime to come how they attack us." Yes But we also will be more careful, let us hope, for a long time to come how we attack them. The wise thing to do would be to reverse the policy which made the Afridi and Orakzai elans the friends of our foes (the Russians) and the deadly foes of our friends.

Review of Reviews.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Africa Lord Kitchener has been appointed Governor-General of the Sudan. The country has been divided into four first class districts, i. e. Omdurman, Senaar, Fashoda, and Kassala, with a Governor over each. These are all military men. Through the efforts of the Sirr funds have been collected for the establishing of a college to be called the "Gordon Memorial College". The site has been fixed just outside of the town of Khartoum and the foundation stone was to have been laid some time last month.

In Madagascar the plague seems to have a strong foothold. Tananarive is deserted. All commodities are very dear, and there is quite a famine there.

Greece. Incessant earthquakes were felt throughout Greece on the 22nd ult. In the South-west several towns were damaged and the inhabitants fled in panic-stricken.

Pacific Isles. A conference has been proposed between England, Germany and the United States on the Samoan question.

The natives in one of the Islands of the Philippine group have murdered the Spanish Governor and officers. **United States.** The Senate have voted the construction of the Nicaragua canal at a cost not to exceed \$23,000,000 sterling. It is to be finished in 6 years. Five of the seven Directors are citizens of the United States.

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