

The Directors should see to it that this is considerably reduced during the current year. We congratulate the company on its prosperity the past year and wish it even

ருவிபாவின் தலைகாசில் மறுபடி மறுசீர்காசு கூட்டல்களுக்கெய்ய எத்தனித்தார்க்கெனறும், போர்வீசன் அந்தக் கூட்டத்தைக் கலைத்து விட்டார்க்கெனறும், தெரிவிக்கப்படுகிறது.

THE ROYAL VISIT.

The event of the year thus far is undoubtedly the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. The object of their tour is to see something of the British possessions, and especially to visit the Australian colonies now banded together in one commonwealth. We are glad and proud to have them stop a few days in our island homes and we trust nothing will mar the pleasure of their visit. Ceylon has spared no pains to give the royal pair a hearty and loyal welcome. Tamils and Sinhalese have vied with each other in outward demonstrations of loyalty and Planting and Mercantile interests are making great preparations. Several handsome caskets are to be presented each enclosing an address. The Chamber of Commerce casket is of solid sterling silver, richly chased and of a most elegant design. The native chiefs of the North Western Province have a carved ivory casket ornamented with precious stones. A golden key opens the lid which is hung on golden hinges. The Planters Association are to present the costliest casket of all. It is of carved ivory richly studded with precious stones. The Municipal Council of Colombo have a casket of gold. We give below the

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF THE ROYAL VISIT IN CEYLON.

12th April, FRIDAY.—Land at 1.15 p.m. presentation of address by Legislative Council, Municipal Council and Chamber of Commerce, at "Pandal" erected in front of Jetty. Drive in procession to Fort Railway station and leave 2 p.m. for Kandy. Stop for 10 minutes at Belcalawa station where address will be presented on Platform by chiefs of North Western Province.

Arrive Kandy at 5.30 p.m. Address by Kandy Municipal Council to be presented at "Pandal" erected near platform. Drive in procession to "Kings Pavilion" 8 p.m. dinner. After dinner, Paraphra or procession of elephants in private grounds of Pavilion.

13 April, SATURDAY.—Morning presentation of address by Planters Association after which the Honble Mr. F. A. Cooper will be invested by H. R. H. with the insignia of a C.M.G. Dinner 8 p.m. and afterwards reception on Kandyan Chiefs in Audience Hall after which there will be illumination and fire works.

14 April, SUNDAY.—Divine service at 11.30 a.m. at which the Bishop of Colombo will preach. In afternoon visit quietly Royal Botanical gardens. Dinner 8.30 p.m.

15 April, MONDAY.—Leave afternoon by special train for Colombo. In the evening drive through principal streets including Native town. Dinner 8 a.m. Reception in evening. Military tattoo in grounds there. See fireworks and illuminations on way back to ship.

The Royal Yacht "Ophir" arrived in Colombo harbour at sun rise on the morning of the 12th a few hours earlier than expected. The battery and the Men of War at once began firing the royal salute and the yacht came to anchor amidst the booming of cannon. At 10 a.m. the Governor with Sir Francis Burrett extra A. D. C. went on board being given a salute and returned after a brief call on the Royal party. Soon after 1, the Duke and Duchess landed at the Jetty and were publicly received. A bouquet of flowers was presented to the Duchess by the little daughter of the Magistrate of Colombo. The Headmen were arranged in two lines, the Royal party walking between and acknowledging their salutations. At the dais the members of the Legislative Council first approached and read their address to which the Duke responded it fitting terms. Each of the members was then introduced as well as two or three ex-members.

Next came the Mayor and members of the Municipal Council with their address to which again the Duke responded. The Chamber of Commerce made the third address which was also most graciously received.

The Maha Mudaliar was then called up and introduced after which the royal party entered the carriages that were in readiness for them and drove off amidst cheers to the Fort station where they took a specially prepared train for Kandy.

DRUNKENNESS.

[Read at the semi annual meeting of the J. A. B. Society.]

It is a sad fact that crime is increasing in Jaffna. A few years ago murder was almost unknown in this peninsula. This is not the case now, for we hear of murders every year and we fear that the number is increasing. What is the cause of this increase in crime. The answer is found in the fact that drunkenness is on the increase. Alcohol is a good friend, but it is also a bad enemy. There is a proverb which says that if nectar be taken to excess it becomes poison. What does God's Word say about the sin of drunkenness. In the olden times there was a law that if a parent could prove his son guilty of drunkenness, that son was to be taken without camp and stoned to death. (Deut 21:18-21.) The Book of Proverbs, which is full of wisdom

gives us solemn warnings against the sin of drunkenness. (Prov. 23: 29-32.)

In that book we read also: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

In the New Testament drunkenness is constantly condemned and we are told that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. (Luke 21: 34-36; Rom. 13: 13; 1 Cor. 6: 9, 10; Gal. 5: 19-21; Eph. 5: 18.)

Three reasons for shunning drunkenness.

1. It injures the body. 2. It impairs the mind. 3. It blunts the moral sensibilities, and so does harm to the soul.

1. Drunkenness injures the body.

We all know that the effect of alcohol is to quicken the action of the heart. If the action of the heart is impaired by being driven too quickly, the whole body suffers—the head becomes dizzy and the walk of the man who has drunk to excess unsteady.

The Bible teaches us that our bodies should be the temples of God. Shall we then give our bodies over to drunkenness and make them the abode of evil tempers?

2. Drunkenness impairs the mind.

As the body and mind are closely connected anything that seriously injures the one affects the other. We have all heard how foolishly the drunkard talks. The Tamils say கரையல் மரத்திற்குப் பூக்காய் செய்து. Many a foolish drunkard has divulged some important secret while under the influence of liquor.

When a man is in a state of intoxication, his mind is so seriously affected that it is impossible to appeal to his intellectual faculties.

3. Drunkenness blunts the moral sensibilities and so does harm to the soul.

From experience we all know that we cannot trust the word of a drunkard, for he will tell ten lies, if by that means he can get the liquor which he craves. Most of the gross sins committed in the world have been committed by drunkards. We all know that in many cases the sin of murder is committed after a man has drunk to excess. Intemperance inflames the passions and leads to various forms of sin. The Tamils say கரையல் மரத்திற்குப் பூக்காய் செய்து. So it is with drunkenness. It so blunts the moral nature, that the man who falls in this snare knows not the greatness of the sin which he is committing.

Drunkenness is indeed an enemy to man. We should therefore be very careful how we allow the enemy to gain the mastery over us. Alcohol must always be regarded as a useful medicine. The apostle Paul exhorts Timothy to take a little wine medicinally (1 Tim. 5: 23). Many have quoted this verse as though the apostle was here encouraging the use of wine as a beverage, but to do so is to put a wrong meaning to the words. The same apostle who urges Timothy to take a little wine as a medicine says in another place that it is good to abstain altogether from drinking wine if we find that by our moderate use of wine some brother is tempted to drink to excess. Rom. 14: 21.

There is a foolish custom which is being introduced into Jaffna which should not be encouraged, namely the drinking of wine at weddings. When a custom is found to be injurious it should be given up. Let all then unite to crush this evil and pernicious custom, for if we regard alcohol as a medicine why should we act so foolishly as to take a dose of medicine, in order to show our good will to the bride and bridegroom on the day of their marriage? As wise men give no encouragement to such a hurtful and foolish custom.

But some may object, "Did not Jesus turn water into wine that the guests might drink at a wedding feast?" This is true, but those who raise this objection must prove that the wine which Jesus made contained intoxicating properties. This they cannot do. All that we know is, that it was good wine and we know also that Jesus would never have worked a miracle in order to encourage drunkenness.

Let all who feel that intemperance is a curse unite together to stamp out this fire of iniquity and let us all strive to keep our bodies from all excess, that so we may be able the better to serve God with our mind and soul.

FRUIT TREES FOR CEYLON.

A Circular from A. J. Pearson, Colombo, dated March 29th says that it is proposed to make an importation for S. W. morosoon planting, of first class named varieties of fruit trees considered to be suitable for cultivation in Ceylon. The trees will be mostly three years old, and are guaranteed to be true to name and des-

cription. Oranges and Lemons are put down at Rs. 2.50 each. Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Figs, Plums and Olives are Rs. 2.00 each, while Grape vines are Re 1.00 each. The only ones suitable for Jaffna are Oranges, Lemons and Grape vines. Years ago some figs were introduced into Jaffna, but if we have been rightly informed, they did not thrive well. They might be given another trial, however, and they might prove more of a success. Of the grapes the "Muscat of Alexandria" is specially recommended for trial. A few years ago there was some talk about introducing several new varieties of grape including the "Black Hamburg" and other dark kinds, but we have heard nothing about it since.

The Lemon advertised is "The Lisbon lemon". It is said that there are several trees of this in the island, three and four years of age, which are bearing heavily. Whether the Lemon would grow in the Jaffna soil and climate can only be known by giving it a trial.

A dozen varieties of Oranges are given, the Washington Navel being most highly recommended. We doubt whether it would thrive in Jaffna. The Mediterranean varieties are much more likely to be successful. Whether the Chinese and Japanese Mandarin oranges could be raised here or not is a question. We hope some of our rich farmers will try a few varieties. Orders should be sent in at once. Delivery is promised in June and with care the trees ought to get a good start before the north-east monsoon sets in.

A POEM FROM THE VATICAN.

Pope Leo XIII in his old age has just written a poem in Latin which has been widely published. While we do not agree with all the sentiments expressed, some of the sentiments are worthy of every faith and we give them for the benefit of our readers. The translation is by Dr. Ward of New York.

"Who when man's law the law of God defies!

What faith can stay, once from God's altar rent?

Then justice faints and falls, and honor dies.

Hear ye the immons rant the rabble speak,

Vain of their empty love? Their only God

In nature blind and dumb and dead they seek.

They scorn to see wrought in the human frame,

Image of God; but craving empty dreams

They make the seed of man and bear the same.

Alas! how wallows in a gulf of shame

Man's shameful pride! Morals altar and bend,

In service bend before God's holy name!

He is the Life, the Truth, the only Way.

To heaven above. He only can restore

The vanished years to mortals gone astray.

Jesus, thou ruler of all times that be,

Bless thou the century's successive years,

Did thou the recent nations turn to thee!

Nourish, I pray, the seeds of kindly peace

To realms of darkness drive the evils of war,

That passions, tumults, cruel wars may cease.

Let kings with eager hearts thy laws obey:

One shepherd and one shepherd let there be,

And let one faith rule all the earth for aye."

FINDING GOD'S WILL.

Many of God's people are seemingly baffled about finding God's will. Yet the Bible tells us plainly that guidance is promised. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way thou shalt go." "In all thy ways acknowledge him; and he shall direct thy path." "The Lord's will shall guide thee continually." These promises are given to us by F. B. Meyer who proceeds to give, in his *Secret of Guidance*, certain practical directions which we must attend to in order that we may be led into the mind of God. These are:—

1. Our motives must be pure.
2. Our wills must be surrendered.
3. We must seek information for our mind.
4. We must be much in prayer for guidance.
5. We must wait the gradual unfolding of God's plan of providence.

Prof. Henry Drummond had the following maxims written in the fly-leaf of his Bible. 1. Pray. 2. Think. 3. Talk to wise people, but do not regard their decision as final. 4. Beware of the bias of your own will, but be not too much afraid of it. 5. Make time do the best thing. 6. When decision and action are necessary, go ahead. 7. Never reconsider the decision when it is finally acted upon. 8. You will probably not find out till afterwards that you have been led at all. Selected.

FOREIGN NEWS.

China. The Manchurian convention, as it is called, is still unsigned though it is likely that China will soon sign it unless the Powers object too strongly. Russia has refused to discuss this agreement with Japan, on the ground that the latter is only a third rate power.

Inter. China has notified Russia that she is unable to sign the Manchurian treaty, owing to the attitude of the Powers. She does not care for the friendship of one Power by alienating all the others.

Russia. The recent disturbances at St Petersburg resulted in the death of 35 men mostly students. Two well-known professors were arrested.

South Africa. There have been 107 deaths from plague at Capetown, 22 being Europeans. The Boers have shot another Peace Envoy who went to them under a flag of truce.

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