

Righteousness Exalteth a Nation but Sin is a Reproach to any People.

THE CEYLON STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.



Lady Havelock and Lady Gordon are appointed to leave for Colombo on the undermentioned dates:—

Via Paunben.
S.S. Lady Havelock 13th Oct. 1903 Kankasanturai
28th Oct. " Jaffna
Via Point Pedro.
S.S. Lady Gordon 5th Oct 1903 Kankasanturai
19th " " Jaffna
" 2nd Nov. " " JAFFNA.

W. MATHER & SON, Agents

"ABIDANAKOSAM" PRICE RS 5.

It contains a historical and critical account of Tamil Poets, Rajahs, Hindu Deities, Sages, super-human beings, sacred places, classical works, &c. arranged in alphabetical order.

No such work has hitherto been published nor, indeed, has any comparable to it been yet issued. It will be an invaluable companion to all, as it is very instructive, interesting, amusing and refreshing to the mind.

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A. MOOTOOTAMBIPILLAI,
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NOTICE.

Wanted, at once, a man qualified to act as Inspector of Schools and also as School Catechist. He must have had experience in school work and be well recommended. He must also be a communicant of the church of England. Salary Rs 25 per month and travelling.

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Rev. W. J. HANAN,
Nellore.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1389

In the matter of the estate of the late Pandary Saravani of Chandampokkatty, deceased.

Gunnampati Sittamparapillai of Chandampokkatty, Petitioner.

- 1 Anyanay Vary and wife
- 2 Vally of Chandampokkatty
- 3 Anthoni Chinnampati and wife
- 4 Karuppi of do. and
- 5 Thekky widow of Saravani of do. Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Chinnampati Sittamparapillai of Chandampokkatty praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Pandary Saravani of Chandampokkatty coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 6th day of August 1903 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 5th day of August 1903 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the creditor of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 9th day of Oct. 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 6th day of Aug. 1904 W. R. B. SANDERS District Judge

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1397.

In the matter of the estate of the late Harriet Ratnamamah wife Charles Ratnasasingam Champion of Manipay, deceased.

Cyrus T. Mills of Manipay, Petitioner.

- 1 Paul L. Christian and wife
- 2 Margaret Ponnammah of Manipay
- 3 J. K. Saravananth and wife
- 4 Susan Chelliammal of do.
- 5 K. Modr. A. Curtis and wife
- 6 Emily Ratnamamah of do. Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Cyrus T. Mills of Manipay praying for letters of administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Harriet Ratnamamah wife of Charles R. Champion coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 18th day of August 1903 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 24th day of July 1903 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is the next of kin 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 October 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 18th day of Aug. 1903 W. R. B. SANDERS District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary Jurisdiction NO. 1398.

In the matter of the Estate of the late Chankarapillai Veekattiyar of Katampalukichy deceased Kathirasilpallai widow of Chankarapillai Veerakattiar of Katampalukichy Petitioner

- 1 Arumugam Marudayar of Saracalai
- 2 Arumugam Kantar of Manuvill
- 3 Manjamparant Kathirayar of Katampalukichy
- 4 Mananatar Marudayar of do.
- 5 Mananatar Tambimuttu of do. Respondents

This matter of the Petition Kathirasilpallai widow of

Chankarapillai Veerakattiyar praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Chankarapillai Veerakattiyar coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire District Judge, on the 21st day of August 1903 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 20th day of August 1903 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the 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 9th day of Oct. 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed the 21st day of Aug. 1903 W. R. B. SANDERS District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1403

In the matter of the Estate of the late Maripillai wife of Benmaduttu Kavuriyettipillai of Kaites west, deceased, Savernimutti Bastianpillai of Kaites west, Petitioner.

1. Benmaduttu Kavuriyettipillai of Kaites west. Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Savernimutti Bastianpillai of Kaites west praying for letters of administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Maripillai wife of Benmaduttu Kavuriyettipillai coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 2nd day of September 1903 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 1st day of Sept. 1903 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is the father and next of kin 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 15th day of Oct. 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 2nd day of Sept. 1903 W. R. B. SANDERS District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1405

In the matter of the estate of the late Sittamparapillai wife of Nanittampai Kanapattipillai of Changanai, deceased, Nanittampai Kanapattipillai of Changanai, Petitioner.

1 Kanapattipillai Tiliyampalam.

2 Kanapattipillai Kandiah.

3 Ponnampalam Kanagasalai and wife

4 Valliammal all of Changanai, Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Nanittampai Kanapattipillai of Changanai praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased Sittamparapillai wife of Nanittampai Kanapattipillai coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 3rd day of September 1903 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner dated the 2nd day of September 1903 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is the 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 15th day of Oct. 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 3rd day of Sept. 1903 W. R. B. SANDERS District Judge.

ORDER NISI.

In the District Court of Jaffna.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1407.

In the matter of the estate of the late Enayattulla Abdul Lebbe of Vannarponnai west, deceased.

Assanulla Lebbe Meeru Mohiyeddin Enayattulla of Vannarponnai west, Petitioner.

1 Muhamad Mohiyeddin Fathuma wife of Enayattulla.

2 Enayattulla Muhamad Karim of Vannarponnai west Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Assanulla Lebbe Meeru Mohiyeddin Enayattulla of Vannarponnai west coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire, District Judge, on the 3rd day of September 1903 in the presence of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 14th day of August 1903 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is the son-in-law 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 15th day of Oct. 1903 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 3rd day of Sept. 1903 W. R. B. SANDERS District Judge.

Local and General.

Weather. We are still having frequent showers. At Vaddukoddai over 12 inches of rain were registered for the 24th of September. Many fields are still unharmed. Either we are to have an unusual heavy rainy season, or the latter rains are to prove more or less of a failure.

The Annual Convocation of the churches of the American mission will be held at Manipay on Friday the 16th inst.—two weeks from tomorrow. Rev. J. H. Dierks, presider and an interesting program is promised.

Missionaries. Rev. E. W. Waver in Jaffna conducting a mission in the Wesleyan field. Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Eddy were expected Saturday, to work in connection with all three missions for a month, but had news from America has delayed their coming. Mr. Eddy expects to bring with him one or two Tamils from India. We to bespeak the earnest prayers of all Christians that God's blessing may accompany the labors of these devoted workers. Our churches need the quickening influence of the Spirit of God.

St. Louis Exhibition. The Maniagar and President of Tribunals, Delft, is sending a large and varied collection of religious objects, such as, crosses, mosaic, basket work, ropes of different kinds, coral stones, etc. to the Government Agent N. P. to be sent to the St. Louis Exhibition.

Vaddukoddai Post Office. Mr. Brohier the chief Inspector of Post Offices in Ceylon, visited this

office on 28th Inst. and spent several hours in inspection. He is, we understand, pleased with the business carried on in this office. We congratulate Mr. Backus, the Post Master, on the satisfaction he is giving to the Government and the general public.

A Farewell Entertainment was given in honor of Mr. A. M. Nathaniel N.A. at the Chetty street school of the W. M. S. last Friday. Mr. Nathaniel has been for over three years assistant master in this school and is leaving to join the staff of Trinity College, Kandy. He has every reason to feel gratified at the cordial appreciation of his services shown by the large and enthusiastic gathering that filled the school. We congratulate Mr. Nathaniel on his successful career in Jaffna and wish him Godspeed in his new sphere.

Snake Bite On the 17th inst. a woman of Vadukhail, aged 35, was bitten on the leg by a snake, four teeth marks being in evidence. In an hour she was unconscious, her body gradually became cold and breathing short and difficult. In about three hours after Dr. Thamotharampillai of the Government dispensary began giving his special remedy he had alleviated most of the bad symptoms and now after steady improvement she is completely cured. Dr. Thamotharampillai hopes that he has secured a remedy for snake bite which is in time, and is carefully experimenting with it.

The Govt. Agent. Mr. Lewis, Govt. Agent went on circuit to Mannar on the 28th inst.

Home Mission. The annual meeting of the "Home Mission" Society of the Pettah Wesleyan church was held yesterday in the Pettah church.

S. S. Ilford. This large steamer arrived at Kankasanturai from England on Friday the 25th inst. with 6000 tons of Railway materials. The discharging and landing of the cargo is managed by Messrs. Mather and son on contract. Mr. Slater is holding evangelistic meetings daily with the 5000 copies bagged in unloading the ship—would that we had a hundred consecrated men like Mr. Slater!

Point Pedro. The new Reading Room building was formally opened by Mr. P. P. P. Police Magistrate on the 16th inst. at 4.30 P.M. A large gathering of prominent people filled the building. After numerous speeches the meeting adjourned but immediately took the form of another meeting which decided to authorize Mr. Allegakoon, now of Chilaw, to hand over the funds collected in Pt. Pedro for the Governor's permanent memorial fund, to the Treasurer of the Jaffna committee subject to certain conditions as to the use of the money and the form of the memorial. The meeting then came to a close about 6 P.M.

Kayts. Mr. and Mrs. Wouterz have returned to Kayts after visiting their friends and relatives in Colombo and Kandy. Mr. Sivaprasanna who has been acting as Magistrate for Mr. Wouterz has returned to his practice in Jaffna.

Studies in Ephesus. This is the first of a series that has been prepared by Mr. G. E. Eddy both in Tamil and English for the use of "Mission agents and others who desire to make a thorough study of particular books." The books have been carefully prepared, and are very suggestive. There has long been a demand for just such "Outlines" and we welcome their appearance most heartily. The price of each is one anna per copy. Not a mission helper ought to be without one either in English or Tamil. "Studies in Galatians" is about ready and "Studies in Colossians" is already in the press.

NOTES.

—The oldest newspaper in the world is the Chinese "Lao-Pan," which was first published in 1622. Up to the year 1801 it appeared weekly and the reading matter related to the times 1830 and up to 1876 it was published three times a day; the morning edition was a yellow paper, the afternoon edition on white paper.

—Death from sleeplessness is the punishment for murder in some parts of China. The culprit is kept awake by beating the soles of his feet and this treatment continues until he dies. At the end of nine or ten days the victim breathes his last.

The extent of business relations of America with the Old World may be inferred from the fact that the twelve cables across the Atlantic now carry an average of ten thousand messages a day.

—The London Daily News, one of the most influential Liberal journals in England, has taken decisive attitude from a moral standpoint. It has rejected all advertisements of intoxicating liquors, and excluded articles on horse races and the fluctuations in betting, which appear in all other daily journals.

—The university at Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone, is said to be the smallest in the world. A few years ago it had but two students and five professors.

A collection of models of the crowns worn by all the Sovereigns of the nineteenth century is to be exhibited at the St. Louis exhibition. The Czar's is the largest, Sweden's the smallest, Napoleon's the most magnificent and the Pope's displays the most workmanship. A German inventor, Dr. Arthur Korn, has perfected an apparatus for telegraphing photographs any distance. The process is slow in transmission each photograph taking twenty minutes to send, but it is accurate.

Correspondence.

[We hesitate to admit the following communication to our columns, first because the statement which it concerns, if made as alleged, is so palpably and ridiculously untrue that argument about it seems foolish and, second, because it is not only in order to enter into argumentative discussion of any sort—argument is of little, if any value in advancing truth and invariably leaves those who engage in it further apart in the end. We admit it solely because it is interesting, well written and, unfortunately, contains an argument it is far from putting forward the strongest facts.—Editor.]

To the Editor of the "Morning Star" Jaffna.

I understand that the Editor of the "Hindu Organ," in commenting on the lectures on subjects of Christian (Continued on fourth page)

What do Great Men Think of the Bible

திரு. மெழுகுத்தவணியன்நாயார் என்பதாகக் கூறுகிறார்கள். கி. பி. 75 ம் ஆண்டு வரையில் ஏறாடூலேம்பட்டணம் அழிக்கப்பட்டதாக இவ்வாசனின் கி.தோன்றியதைப்பற்றி யோசிப்போலாம் பூதசரித்திரகாண்டுகிறார்கள். அதன்பின் இவ்வாசனின் 23 குறையாகத்தேரப்பட்டிருக்கின்றது. கடைசியான முதலாயம் 1835 ம் ஆண்டுகர்தோற்றிற்று. இனி 1910 அல்லது 1911 இல் தோத்தும்.

THE MORNING STAR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

1 copy in Jaffna—delivered free	1.50
25 copies—do.	25.00
1 copy by Ceylon and India (inc. postage)	2.00
8 copies—do.	16.00
1 copy to Straits or any other country	2.25

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First insertion, per line,	3.00
One half column	5.00
One column	5.00
Domestic occurrences not exceeding 5 lines	25
Subsequent insertions half above rates.	

Addresses.—Communications to the Editor, Vaddukkottai.
—On business to J. P. Cooke, Esq., Vaddukkottai.
—Notices or advertisements to the Publisher, Telipallai.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAY.

THE JAFFNA—KANKEANANTHUR SECTION.

The Northern Railway is perhaps the greatest benefit the Government of Ceylon has conferred on Jaffna. While we are gratified at the benefit bestowed on us, we cannot help regretting that the Jaffna—Kankesanthurai section is not as useful to the public as one would expect it to be. What are the reasons for this discouraging fact? Besides the inherent tendency of the Jaffna man to walk as far as he can rather than travel the distance in a conveyance he has to pay for it, there are, we think, other and weightier reasons for the unpopularity of the line. We feel strongly that a great and irreparable mistake has been made with regard to the selection of the route the line has been made to take and of the sites on which the Churnakam and Jaffna stations are built. If the line has been purposely made to steer clear of some of the most important parishes of Jaffna, through or near which it could have been made to pass. The station at Churnakam is not near enough to the market to enable people to use the railway conveniently when going to or returning from it. The station at Jaffna is even more inconveniently situated in an out-of-the-way place, about three-quarters of a mile from the Grand Bazaar, and the same distance from the Courts and the Pettah. It is the general opinion that owing to these mistakes, the Jaffna—Kankesanthurai section will not be the success it ought to be even after the removal of the quarantine regulations, unless some effort is made by the authorities to encourage the use of the railway.

We think that the prospect of the Jaffna—Kankesanthurai section would have been entirely different, had it been made to pass near the "Churnakam" and "Jaffna" centers of population as Uddeville and Maneyy had been made accessible by train: if the station at Jaffna had been made to occupy a central position—say somewhere near the clock tower—within easy reach of the Grand Bazaar, the Courts, and the Pettah; if, above all, some important parishes through or near which the line passes had been granted at least wayside stoppages. We are aware that the mistake in the selection of the route and of the sites of existing stations is a defect that cannot be remedied, and crying over that circumstance, will be crying over spilt milk; it cannot be productive of much good, except as showing the Govt. the urgent need of making some amends for the drawbacks of the line in the shape of affording facilities to passengers. We do not think that the Government will be in the month when, with due gratitude to the Government, we venture to point out the utter disregard of the authorities for the convenience of those who wish to avail themselves of the railway between Jaffna and Kankesanthurai. In order to hear our statement, we have simply to draw attention to the strange fact that though nearly a year and a half has passed since the opening of the railway, and though the traffic of the Jaffna—Kankesanthurai section has been found to be decidedly unsatisfactory, the Government has not yet established wayside stoppages to secure an increase in the traffic. The disregard of the Government for the convenience of the people in not allowing wayside stoppages becomes all the more glaring when we consider the fact that the granting of stoppages will cost no extra coal, oil, or wages and that to ensure economy of time and save trouble, the trains may be stopped only when signs are made by intending passengers waiting at the crossings.

We shall give one instance of the disregard we refer to. The most important place on the whole of the Jaffna—Kankesanthurai section next to Jaffna, is Telipallai, about midway between the Jaffna and Kankesanthurai. It is a centre of educational, industrial and commercial activity. Strange to say in the fixing of stations Telipallai was ignored. On representing to the Government, soon after the opening of the railway, the urgent need for a station at Telipallai, only a wayside stoppage was allowed; and, as if taking by one hand what was given by the other, passengers enquiring at Telipallai were asked to pay the full fare from Kankesanthurai, and that too without the privilege of return tickets! In spite of these discouragements, some at least did use the railway, but after only two months' trial, the stoppage was discontinued on the pretext that the department was not satisfied with the number of persons that used the railway. We are sure that the results would have been far more encouraging, had the full fare been charged according to mileage, and the privilege of return tickets been allowed, and instead of a trial, a permanent stoppage been granted irrespective of gain—a concession which would have added to the popularity of the line without costing the authorities a single anna. We could ask in the same way for a wayside stoppage at Kockaville which is another important village by the line and a centre of tobacco trade urgently in need of such a concession. The people of Jaffna, living in a backward state and not used to the facilities of a railway, need to be encouraged to appreciate them; and the duty of a Government intent on the welfare of its people does not begin and end merely with the granting of a great benefit, but it requires making that benefit really useful to the people for whom it is intended. We therefore strongly feel that at a time when the people of Jaffna are just beginning to appreciate the facility for travel afforded by the railway and in consideration of the inconvenient nature of the sites of the Churnakam and Jaffna stations, it would be proper on the part of the Government to encourage the use of the train by making all possible concessions, even at the cost of a little income or trouble. In the interest of the people for whose welfare itself and for the convenience of the Government it will be but just and politic for the Government to make some suitable arrangements immediately, by which at least wayside stoppages may be granted to Telipallai and Kockaville without any further loss of time and

similar concessions extended to other places along the line where the need may be felt. We are confident that in case our suggestion is carried out, the loss of time and the additional trouble involved will be amply justified by the increased tendency of people to use the railway for purposes of travel and of conveying goods and the consequent augmentation, slight though it be, in the income of the section.

REPORT OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCE FOR 1902.

There is much of interest in this report, though our review of it must of necessity be brief. The general health of the people, says Mr. Ievers, was good. In January there were 29 cases of cholera at Kays of which 24 proved fatal, but there was no recurrence of this disease during the year. There were only two cases of small-pox. Fever, which generally prevails at the end of every year, was less violent than usual.

The work on the railway brought in a good deal of money, and wages remained high. The price of food-stuffs did not vary much. The supply of garden produce was satisfactory. Owing to the large export of fowls and eggs to Colombo the price of these articles has gone up. As for the staple food of the country, i.e. rice, it is interesting to know that our province does not raise much over one third of the total amount of grain that is consumed. The figures are as follows:—

Paddy raised 956,993 bushels, varagu and other grains 77,105 bushels. The consumption in the province was, paddy 2,256,821 bushels, and 184,871 bushels of rice, or say about 2,646,563 bushels of paddy as against less than one million bushels raised locally. Other grains consumed amount to 98,535 bushels. The great need of irrigation works is thus seen to be paramount. The Giant's Tank was completed last year, and it will allow of the cultivation of about 20,000 acres of good paddy land. The Karachchi scheme when completed a few years hence should open up another large tract of country for paddy cultivation.

PAIMIRAH.

Though we are justly proud of our palmirah peninsula, strange to say the demand for the fruit of this palm is decreasing. This is no doubt largely due to the fact that as the people become better off they care less for this article of food. In some instances the fruits are allowed to remain on the ground to be eaten by the cattle. There has been a great falling off in the quantity of jaggery exported. In 1901 over 3,350 cwt. were exported while in 1902 only 1,193 cwt. The palmirah fibre industry on the other hand, has grown enormously 1,313 cwt. being exported as against only 62 cwt. the previous year. The export of palmirah timber has fallen off, being not much more than two thirds of the amount exported the previous year.

TONACCO.

We quote from the report, and would add that if we have been correctly informed, the trial made at Pallai for improving the curing has been a failure, so that the fault seems to be not so much in the curing as in the cultivation of this product.

There has been a fall in the price of the leaves grown locally, and it is a matter of great anxiety with the tobacco growers of the Province that the price is on the decline for some years past. The fall in the price is chiefly owing to the markets being glutted, and unless a fresh market is found, for the local product no material improvement can be effected.

A trial was made by Mr. Mac D. Gibson at Pallai in curing the Jaffna tobacco to suit European markets.

I have nothing new to mention as regards this important industry, which will continue to be unsatisfactory to the producer until he begins to realize the necessity for improved methods of curing the product. I can only call attention to my observations in previous Administration Reports.

CRIME.

Turning now to the statistics of crime, Mr. Ievers reports 8 cases of murder and manslaughter of which 3 were convicted, and 80 cases of hurt with knife and 32 convictions. Do these figures prove that crime is on the increase in the Northern Province? We have no statistics given to form a basis of comparison, but the number of assaults where the knife was used seems large. Mr. Ievers does say however, that "a fertile source of crime" are

CASTE AND RELIGIOUS DISPUTES.

No less than twelve cases were reported of unlawful assembly, with modifications as to rioting and grievous hurt, homicide, &c. As I have stated, they are due to Vellalas, resenting the adoptions of customs hitherto peculiar to them only, as of wearing jewellery, riding in carriages, using tom-toms at social functions, &c. by the low caste Nalawas and others, who have become rich and decline to follow the old customs." The most flagrant of these outrages was committed at Neeruali on the King's Coronation day. The firmness with which these cases have been handled, and punishments inflicted, have had a salutary effect, and this year we have had less trouble of this kind.

The troubles in Delft are referred to by the Govt. Agent and his action defended. A village Tribunal has now been established on a salary of Rs. 880 per annum for the combined post.

ARCHAEOLOGY.

Some interesting discoveries were made of Buddhist remains. At Chunnagum and Tannulai two large images of Buddha were found which have been restored and set up in the Park at the Kacheherri. In the Mannar district portions of three statues of Buddha were dug up, and both in Jaffna and Mannar interesting remains of the Dutch and Portuguese periods have been brought to light.

(Concluded from the first page.)

Doctrine which Dr. Cuthbert Hall delivered some months ago in all the leading cities of India, maintained that the teaching of learned Doctor had deliberately "read the Hinduism into Christianity." Before entering into an enquiry as to the reasonableness or otherwise of the above statement of the Hindu Editor, it is well, I think, to call his attention to a fact which he has, apparently, either forgotten, or ignored; namely, that the term "Hinduism" as it is, at present understood, conveys no definite meaning, being, in reality, a convenient name for all the different kinds of religious beliefs, from the most abstruse philosophical systems to the most gross forms of idol worship which prevail in India to-day. As "Hinduism" is such a vague term applied to so many contradictory systems of religious thought, it must be no easy matter, indeed, to ascertain to what particular branch of the complex doctrine of the "Organ" referred to, the Editor of Dr. Cuthbert Hall had "read Hinduism into Christianity."

There are other facts, however, which the Editor of the "Organ" is most probably, not aware of, and which, had he known, he would not have, as he has done, jumped to conclusions, at once ill-supported and unjustified. It is a well-known fact of the history of the introduction of Christianity into South India dates from the time of the very Apostles of Christ. According to tradition, the Apostle St. Thomas is credited with having made converts to the Gospel among the Tamils of the Districts around Madras, in the first century, A.D. that is, when Karikalan was King of Tondaim. Tradition also states that St. Thomas suffered martyrdom at Little Mount, near Madras, owing to a tumult raised by the Hindus of the place, and was buried there by the small band of followers whom he had gained during his short mission. That St. Thomas visited South India is proved by the following unimpeachable evidence, namely,

1. It is supported by the "Acts of Thomas," quoted by "Epiphanius," bishop of Salamis in 368 A.D.
2. The visit of Thomas to the Tamils is referred to in the Teaching of "the Apostles" which existed previous to the Council of Nicaea held in the year 325 A.D.
3. It is supported by the intimate relations which are known to have existed between the early Christians of Malabar and the church of Edessa in Persia, of which, St. Thomas was the founder and overseer.

4. Alfred the Great of England sent Ambassadors with presents to the shrine of St. Thomas in the sixth century A.D.

5. Eusebius and Jerome refer to one Pantænus who visited Malabar in the 2nd century A.D. and found there a Christian community which possessed a Gospel of St. Matthew in the Hebrew language.

6. Cosmas Indicopleustes informs us that there was a Christian bishop in the 6th century at Kalyana, near Udipi. The constant intercourse which prevailed between the Church in Persia and those at Mylapore, to the north of Madras, the birth place of Eusebius, and at Cananur, is borne witness to by numerous Pali and Sanskrit inscriptions found in these places, and attributed to dates not later than the 7th and the 8th centuries.

A significant fact in relation to the evolution and development of the Hindu philosophy of South India, however, is the connection between the Christian settlements of South India and the starting places of the leading philosophical systems of South Indian Hinduism. It is an established fact of history that Sankarachariar, the founder of the Pantheistic school of Vedantism, was a native of the Province of Madras, near the town of Udipi, which became his chief seat, while Ramanujachariar was a native of Sri Perumathur, near Madras. The striking resemblances between the doctrines of Christianity and those of Sankarachariar have long ago been recognized by the Oriental scholars of Europe, and the marked affinities between the latter system and the Hindu philosophy of the 2nd century B.C. formed the subject of an elaborate leading article of the Madras Mail in June last. It is true that Christianity is a system of religion which rests mainly on the "revelation" of facts which do not appeal primarily to the philosophical intellect of man, but it undoubtedly presents to the full, subjects and problems which these who can and will, may speculate and theorise about to their hearts' content, with satisfaction. The great theologians of the primitive and middle ages were men of most acute intellect, and as such, could not but venture to explain, in terms of human knowledge, the intricate mysteries of the Incarnation, the Godhead, the origin of sin, and other mysteries of Christianity. These polemical works of the early church fathers, the Christian bishops of the early church, the Christian philosophers of South India. It seems, therefore, a conclusion at once unwarranted by facts of history, and by the nature of the subject, that the Hindu philosophy of the 2nd century is indebted to the Hindu "ism" of the 7th and 8th centuries. The great theologians of the primitive and middle ages were men of most acute intellect, and as such, could not but venture to explain, in terms of human knowledge, the intricate mysteries of the Incarnation, the Godhead, the origin of sin, and other mysteries of Christianity. These polemical works of the early church fathers, the Christian bishops of the early church, the Christian philosophers of South India. It seems, therefore, a conclusion at once unwarranted by facts of history, and by the nature of the subject, that the Hindu philosophy of the 2nd century is indebted to the Hindu "ism" of the 7th and 8th centuries. The great theologians of the primitive and middle ages were men of most acute intellect, and as such, could not but venture to explain, in terms of human knowledge, the intricate mysteries of the Incarnation, the Godhead, the origin of sin, and other mysteries of Christianity. These polemical works of the early church fathers, the Christian bishops of the early church, the Christian philosophers of South India. It seems, therefore, a conclusion at once unwarranted by facts of history, and by the nature of the subject, that the Hindu philosophy of the 2nd century is indebted to the Hindu "ism" of the 7th and 8th centuries.

Colombo, 7th Sept. '03.

Yours truly,

Thophilas.

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