

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

ஆர்க்கும் இயேன். அவர் இவர் என்னமின், பார்த்திரும் துண்மின், பழும்பொருள் போற்றுமின், வேட்கை உடையீர் விளை ஒல்லை உண்ணமின், காக்கை கருந்துண்ணும் காலம் அறுமினே.

Oh! ye who are (hungry and) anxious to eat, don't be in a hurry, give food to all (who need it). Do not differentiate between friends and strangers. Look out for guests before you eat. Pray note how crows call in others to participate in their meals. Do not eat rotten or decayed food.



Hindu Organ

Friday, 16th September, 1977.

BALANCE OF MIND BACK TO NORMAL?

Aberration of the mind is a serious development which when allowed unnoticed would bring about moral slips that endanger the normal life of a country. Such a straying from the regular path had resulted in the breaking of rules. Morality stood spurned, righteousness was outlawed and reason was bounded out. The events of the last week of August this year in this country had been the outcome of several years of aberration of the mind of the so-called politicians who have a professional interest in politics. Side by side with these sloganists there has been operating on their own a gang of reconvicted criminals keeping a vigilant watch and eagle eye on the developments of political mischief. Hooliganism on the highway robbery scale was the outcome.

It would be clear to any enquiring commission that the only way to prevent a recurrence of this countrywide rowdyism is to initiate a propaganda that can help people keep their balance of mind.

Letter to the Editor

Commission of Inquiry Wanted

Sir,

The "Hindu Organ" in its issue of August 19, has rightly called for investigation into the current unfortunate events in Sri Lanka. The matter requires appointment of a Commission of representative, competent, dispassionate and suitable persons to go fully into all connected circumstances, analyse the situation and express its opinion and make recommendations relating to the past, present, and future. At least seven such persons should be in the Commission, the ideal number would be nine, taking into account, the gravity of the situation and the issues and interests involved. We are well aware that in ordinary Assize Court cases, a Jury of seven functions.

In important cases before the Appeal Court, five to seven Judges are appointed. The circumstances and happenings in the present unhappy crisis warrant very much greater consider-

deration in all respects, legal, moral, and political than the circumstances which require Trial by Jury of seven or hearing by a Full Bench of the Highest Law Court in the country.

Further, the Commission must be empowered with the fullest possible powers, including recording of evidence from all persons whatsoever and to allow lawyers to appear. Even during the Martial Law Days of 1915 in Sri Lanka, lawyers were allowed to appear; and I believe at the inquiry in relation to the Punjab Riots in India, lawyers including Shri Motilal Nehru and Desabaudu C. R. Das appeared.

S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM

P.S During the Martial Law inquiries in Sri Lanka the famous British lawyer Mr. Eardley Norton and our redoubtable countryman Mr. H. A. P. Sankarasegar were among the lawyers who appeared.

SOME ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF THE NALLUR KANDASWAMY TEMPLE

Nallur is a place of great historical, archaeological, cultural and religious significance. It was the capital city of the Tamil Kings who dominated the Northern part of Sri Lanka from the 13th to the 17th Century A.D. As a capital city, it was adorned with palaces and big temples. Unfortunately, due to the vandalism of the Portuguese, almost all the buildings had disappeared. Kokilasandesaya, a Sinhalese literary work of the 15th century describes the beauty of Nallur as follows:

"Yappa patuna (Jaffna) which consists of stately buildings decorated with golden flags and which sheds an extraordinary brilliance on account of its valuable gems and gems glinting everywhere and which in point of splendour and charm can be compared only to the city of Alakamanda of God Vaisravana." Evidently, the original Kandaswamy Temple also is included in this description.

Muruga worship is of great antiquity in India as well as in Sri Lanka. Kataragama in the Southern Sri Lanka is a famous centre of Muruga worship. In Northern Sri Lanka, the two historic temples of the God Muruga at Maviddapuram and Nallur are equally important.

Probably founded by the scions of the Aryasakravarthy family by about the 13th Century A.D. and later enlarged or rebuilt by Sapul Kumara (later Bhuvaneshabahu), this was enjoying royal patronage and was a temple of great significance, when the Portuguese came to Jaffna in 16th century. More than one Portuguese writer has referred to the temples at Nallur. One may cite Fr. Queyroz in particular. He had referred to a big temple which was used by the Portuguese as a huge barrack for some time. Probably, this was the original Kandaswamy Temple which was later razed to the ground.

The Tamil literary sources refer to five important temples built in the former Nallur city. The Kandaswamy temple is one of them. Most of these temples are referred to in the Portuguese sources too. Originally, this Murugan temple was in all probability built near the present day Yamunari at Sankilitoppu. The people of Jaffna were much attached to this temple and a Portuguese writer had said that they were prepared to give anything, if the Portuguese did not demolish it. But it was in vain.

The materials used in various other temples and palaces were also used

Centenary of a Celebrated Ceylonese

Dr. A K Coomaraswamy — Distinguished Scholar and Author

(continued from 9-9-78)

Given his qualities, it was inevitable that he would be lionized by London society—somewhat in the way that his son was to be pursued during his early years in Boston. One can picture him seated at Lord Houghton's table, with perhaps Tennyson or Herbert Spencer or Swinburne present, and diverting the guests with Eastern observations on Western customs and manners, sometimes punctuating his discourse with spontaneous outbursts of song—English or Tamil, folk or religious.

Upon returning to his homeland, Sir Muttu plunged into legislative activity promoting the interests of the Ceylonese Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic communities. It was in appreciation of his services to reconcile conflicting interests in Ceylon and at the same time further a better relationship with the West, as also in recognition of his Oriental scholarship, that the title Knight Bachelor was conferred upon Muttu Coomaraswamy during his second visit to England, in 1874.

Sri Singam has presented us with a biographical collectanea, including not only photographic documents, cuttings from journals, extracts of speeches, and anecdotal memoirs.

WHITALL N PERRY
— Spring 1976,

(To be continued)

Professor Vithianandan is Appointed President of the Jaffna Campus

Professor S. Vithianandan, Senior Professor of Tamil has been appointed President of the Jaffna Campus. He assumed duties on the 29th August, after a special pooja at the Parameswaran Temple, in the Thirunelveli premises and met members of the Academic and non-Academic staff and soliciting their co-operation.

Prof. Vithianandan has been in the University service for over 30 years and has taught a number of students. Besides, he

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