

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

நூத்தாம் தொழுவார் தொழக்கன்று நூத்தாம் உணர்வும் தொழுவனே.

When I see devotees worship Thee (the flower of true knowledge, I too worship Thee similarly.



திருச்சித்தமிழ்பகல்

தமதிவாயலே முன்னாம் கவியம்
தமதிவாயலே நான்றி விட்டையும்
தமதிவாயலே நான்றி சேத்துமே
தமதிவாயலே நான்றெறி காட்டுமே.

திருச்சித்தமிழ்பகல்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1975

CITY CLOCK TOWER

The Northern City known to recorded history by several names, Jaffna to the foreigners and Yarlpanam to the indigenous people, has landmarks natural and artificial that redound to its credit. Temples, Churches and Mosques adorn the Town with the accent on oriental art. The Fort and the moats reveal the hand of the foreigner with the natural esplanade as a background. All these went to make up the historic town. Along with these the Clock Tower has a history of its own which we reproduce elsewhere in this issue of the Hindu Organ written as far back as 1892.

What significance the Clock Tower has for a city can be gauged only by the cultural progress of the place and the people. The Eiffel Tower eminently towering above the City of Paris has a history of several centuries and till recently had enjoyed the distinction of being the tallest in that category in the world. The Tokyo Tower which now is towering above the Eiffel Tower in height belongs to the modern age. Both these Towers serve as spinners of foreign exchange for their respective countries with hundreds of thousands of tourists visiting them as places of interest and entertainment.

The Jaffna Clock Tower in a humble way does not fail to attract the attention of visitors to the City but has nothing else to offer for enjoyment except its simplicity of structure. The Northern City has made vast strides of progress in the matter of facilities such as a fine Library, Stadium, Open Air Theatre besides modernised establishments such as the Post Office and the Railway Station. The City Fathers would do well to make the City Tower more attractive by providing stalls with articles that have a value for tourists. Along with the indication of time, hourly chiming would be a pleasant diversion. An instrument measuring atmospheric pressure and forecasting weather can be advantageously installed. The extract of the account of the Clock Tower that appears elsewhere will, we are confident, create a feeling of pride in us and induce the energetic Mayor who only recently had done splendidly well in getting statues of Thiruvalluvar, Auvayar, Mahatma Gandhi, Sri la Sri Arumuga Navalar, Dr. Ananda Coomarasamy, Sir P. Ramanathan, Sir P. Arunachalam and Sri SomasundaraPulavar erected to take suitable steps to make more use of the historic CLOCK TOWER—as the YARL TOWER.

PAGES FROM PAST RECORDS

(Sent by
Sri S. Sivasubramaniam
Attorney at Law, Colombo)

Notes on Jaffna by
John H. Martyn

The Jaffna Clock Tower

"The Jaffna Clock Tower commemorates the visit in 1875 of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Ceylon and perhaps also Sir James Longden's administration of the Island from 1877 to 1884. The Tower was designed by Mr. Smither, the Government Architect. The cost was met partly by the balance of the Jaffna Prince of Wales' Reception Fund amounting to Rs. 6000/- and partly by further local contribution amounting to Rs. 4000/- The clock was the gift of Sir James Longden".

—J. C. Guardian,
May, 26 1892

Mr. C. W. Kathiravelpillai

"Mr Kathiravelpillai combined in himself qualities which could rarely be found in one individual. He was not only a person of very high social position, but was also a gentleman of unblemished character, spotless integrity and vast erudition. Neither calumny nor jealousy could point to one incident in his private or public life, as a lawyer or a Government Official, which could be considered unworthy of the eminent position which he held among his countrymen. He was one of whom his countrymen were justly and truly proud, and was an ornament to the Tamil Community. He was a man of serene temper, calm judgment and unruffled patience. Nothing could disturb the equanimity of his mind, even on occasions of the sorest trial or the greatest excitement. Although he has died full of years—he was about 80 years of age at the time of his death—and full of honours, yet his death is a great loss to the community."

Having retired a few years ago, he was fully occupied till a few days before his death in the preparation of a Dictionary of the Tamil language. This work, though incomplete, will be a standing monument to his scholarship and persevering industry. The magnitude of the work

About Our Journals

(From the Silver Jubilee Number of the Hindu Organ — 1914)

(Continued from last issue)

(Reproduced on a suggestion of Sri S. Sivasubramaniam of Colombo who has an abiding interest in the affairs of the Sabhai and its Journals)

Among those who founded the "Hindu Organ", and cordially co-operated in establishing it on a firm and successful footing, special mention should be made of Mr. V. Casippillai, the present Crown Proctor of Jaffna and Secretary of the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai and of Mr. S. T. M. Pasupathy Chettiar, Treasurer of the Sabhai.

Mr. A. Cathiravelu took a very prominent and leading part as Joint Editor from the early part of 1891 to July 1892, when Mr. A. Sabapathy became sole Editor; in fact he contributed during this period of joint Editorship more articles to its columns than Mr. Sabapathy. Though Mr. Cathiravelu ceased to be joint Editor between July 1892 to July 1899, yet he very readily acted as Editor more than once during the absence of Sabapathy from Jaffna and did not lose his interest in the "Hindu Organ".

The "Hindu Organ" and Hindu Community are, under a very deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Cathiravelu for coming to the rescue of the paper soon after the death of Mr. Chellappapillai and editing it with great public spirit, conspicuous ability and at considerable self-sacrifice for long periods; in fact his articles were characterised by breadth of view, vastness of information and soundness of judgment, sustaining the

reputation of the paper as a useful and impartial organ of the public.

Lecture on Law

at the South Asian Studies Seminar

At the twelfth meeting of the South Asian Studies Seminar held at the Jaffna Camps on May 24, Dr. H. W. Thambiah read a very interesting paper on Hindu Law (especially the Dharmasastras) the Kandyan law and the Burmese law—A Comparative Analysis.

At the outset, Dr. Thambiah traced the antiquity of the Dravidians and referred to some aspects of the law and the customs, as prevailing among them. He said that in the ancient South India, there prevailed not only the matrilineal but patriarchal and bilineal systems. These had spread to Ceylon too and consequently, one observes these in both the Sinhalese and Tamil social systems. He cited numerous parallels to emphasize his point of view. He also said that the Dharmasastras written in South India mainly reflected the ideas of the Dravidians. He referred to the rights of inheritance, some local ceremonies and other items of a similar nature. He stressed that the Sinhalese and the Tamils had more in common.

A lively discussion followed and many from the audience participated.

Mr. T. Kailasapillai continued to be Manager and Tamil Editor till 25th November, 1896.

Mr. P. Kartigesapillai succeeded Mr. Kailasapillai as Manager and Tamil Editor on a nominal salary. He was, however, relieved of his duties as Manager on 1st June 1903 by Mr. S. Kandiahpillai. The gradual improvement of the "Hindu Organ", and its continued success in the realm of journalism, have been chiefly due to indefatigable labours, organising capacity, business habits and technical skill of Mr. S. Kandiahpillai, the present Manager.

(To be continued)

வான்ஸுகில் வழாது பெய்க் கவிவளர்த்துக்கமன்னால்
கொல்முறை அரசு செய்க குறைவிலா தயிர்கள் வாழ்த்
தான்முறை யறங்க கோஞ்ச நற்றுவம் வெள்ளி மக்க
மேன்மைகளை கைவத்தி விளக்கு உவக மூலமாக;

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF R. N. SIVAPRAKASAM