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CULTURE—SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS

WHO IS A "GENTLEMAN"?

TRUE CULTURE HAS ITS ROOTS IN RELIGION

By K. Natarajan

CULTURE has a very wide significance. There is culture of bacilli in medical science. There is culture of plants and vegetables, commonly known as agriculture. There is culture of animals, domestication. And there is human culture. In all these varieties we find a common factor. Culture is the modification of beings which are endowed with life so as to serve man's ends. The endowment of life itself is as yet beyond man's capacity. It is Nature's secret. Every individual or species is to Nature an end in itself. Through culture—cultivation, domestication, education—man tries to make living things serviceable or agreeable to himself. Another feature of culture may be noted. The process of adapting living things to man's use, involves their diversion from the lines which serve their own natural ends. It reduces, for instance, their vigour and vitality, their power of reproduction. Grafted plants are a good instance. They cannot reproduce themselves. Sometimes, as in seedless grapes and oranges, man deliberately destroys the reproductive capacity of the plant for his pleasure. Castration of bulls and stallions is another instance. Many wild animals will not breed in captivity. Those which are long domesticated, produce off-spring which are completely differentiated from the original stock, and cannot be re-assimilated by it.

When we turn to man, the fundamental process remains the same. The child brings with it no culture. European children brought up among Hottentots acquire the behaviour of the Hottentots. There are stories current even of children brought up by wolves acquiring the qualities of their foster parents. We imbibe much of our culture unconsciously from our environment, comprising religious, social, economic and political. Education is meant to be a conscious and deliberate training of youth to ends which transcend the day-to-day uses of society, to leadership. Leadership is the quality which marks out one person as capable of taking his people out of the rut of inherited ways, into higher ways with a broader and more extended outlook. Unfortunately, however, the latter which is the highest end of education is lost sight of and education also tends, consciously

and unconsciously, to aim at producing a dead level of conformity. Indeed, a very high official authority in this country has recently declared this to be the principal object of education. Cardinal Newman's famous description in his "Idea of a University" of a gentleman, may be taken to be an apt description of the cultured man. Newman wrote:—

It is almost a definition of a gentleman, to say he is one who never inflicts pain. This description is both refined and, as far as it goes, accurate. He is mainly occupied in merely removing the obstacles which hinder the free and unembarrassed action of those about him; and he concurs with their movements rather than takes the initiative himself. His benefits may be considered as parallel to what are called comforts or conveniences in arrangements of a personal nature. Like an easy chair or a good fire, which do their part in dispelling cold and fatigue, though nature provides both means of rest and animal heat without them. The true gentleman is like manna, carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast,—all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; his great concern being to make every one at their ease, at home. He has his eyes on all his company; he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant, and merciful towards the absurd; he can recollect to whom he is speaking; he guards against unseasonable allusion, or topics which may irritate; he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never venturesome. He makes light of favours while he does them, and seems to be receiving when he is conferring.

He never speaks of himself except when compelled, never defends himself by a mere retort, he has no ears for slander or gossip, is scrupulous in imputing motives to those who interfere with him, and interprets everything for the best. He is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates evil which he dare not say out. From a long-sighted prudence, he observes the maxim of the ancient sage that we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend. He has too much good sense to be affronted at

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Mr. Corea Returns Confident

INDUSTRIAL QUERIES

HE DISCUSSED TOBACCO DUTIES AT TRAVANCORE

Colombo, Monday.

"WE submitted a full case for Ceylon in which we discharged the discretion in which Ceylon could undertake to utilise her existing factory capacity and also the extent to which increased production could be undertaken by the establishment of new factories," said Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce who returned today to Ceylon after having represented (with Mr. H. J. Huxham) this country at the Eastern Group (War Supplies) conference at Delhi.

Mr. Corea also took the opportunity during his stay in India to examine again the question of the establishment of cement factories in Ceylon. He has brought certain definite proposals with him for the early establishment of such a factory.

On his way to Delhi he met Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Dewan of Travancore, at Trivandrum and discussed with him the question of a joint propaganda scheme for coconut products.

The Dewan expressed himself in favour of a joint propaganda and marketing scheme. His idea was that the present price realised for coconut products was unsatisfactory and that a reasonable price should be assured by the marketing scheme.

Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer has also made Mr. Corea understand that if a suitable joint scheme for coconut is agreed upon there is no reason why the increased duty on tobacco should not be completely removed.

At Quilon Mr. Corea visited Messrs. F. P. Perera's ilmenite factory and there Mr. J. R. E. Perera (brother of Dewan Bahadar I. X. Perera) assured him that the question of the exploitation of Ceylon's mineral resources would soon be considered by him.

At Bangalore, Mr. Corea met Mr. Ogale, the glass expert, who was in Ceylon a few months ago. After discussing the possibilities of the glass industry in Ceylon, Mr. Ogale has submitted to Mr. Corea, a full scheme which will shortly be placed before the State Council.

The prospects of a rubber tyre factory do not seem to be bright, although a rubber technologist has undertaken to submit proposals on this subject.

SETHU AND LANKA

WHY OVERTHROW TRADITION?

DEWAN BAHADUR K. S. RAMASWAMY SASTRI'S VIEW

MR. SARAM Rangachariar's thesis in the Madras Hindu dated 17th November 1940 (extracted in the "Hindu Organ" dated 21st November 1940) raises again an old but unsettled controversy and is very interesting.

The crucial chapter is chapter 41 of the Kishkindha Kanda. Mr. Rangachariar's view that the Vin-dhya mountain referred to in Sarga 53, verse 12 must have been a portion of the Western Ghats does not seem to be correct. It is very likely that the Mahendra hill was and is some hill near Cape Comorin or some other southern point at the edge of the peninsula. Tradition names a hill near Cape Comorin as Mahendra.

But how do Mr. Rangachariar's other conclusions follow? He says that the Sethu (bridge) built by Rama must have been from Cape Comorin and that Lanka must have been different from Ceylon and was at the Equator.

I. The figure 100 yojanas must be taken to be approximate. In Balakanda Chapter V verse 7 Ayodhya is said to be 12 yojanas long, three yojanas wide! A yojana is eight miles rather than ten miles (which is stated by Mr. Rangachariar). A krosa is one-fourth of a yojana and it is two miles. Mr. Rangachariar takes 100 yojanas as being 1,000 miles and says that "the plausible position of Lanka is at 100 yojanas from 15° N. Latitude" and that 15° = 1035 miles and that therefore we reach the Equator, why we should measure 100 yojanas from 15° N. Latitude, we are not able to see. We must measure that distance from the Mahendra mountain. That that measurement will take us even south of the Equator. Taking 100 as merely indicative, we need not search for Lanka very far south of the Mahendra hill at all.

II. Nor do I see why we should discredit the tradition about Nala Sethu being Rameshwaram. Chapter IV of the Yudha Kanda describes Rama as crossing the Sethu and the Mahaya hills and going to the top of Mahendra hill. Verses 97 to 99 seem to show a further march before arriving at the seashore where he went on a fast. What does *Avanahya* (descending) in verse 98 indicate? What is *Yatavaram*? What is *Dhanva Upahata vaha*?

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Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1940.

MR. COREA'S WORK IN INDIA

WHILE THE GOODWILL MISSION that proceeded to India returned with hardly any achievement to its credit, MR. G. C. S. COREA, who represented Ceylon at the Eastern Group Conference at Delhi has come back with a record of efforts he has made to improve Ceylon's trade with India and to the opening of new industries in the country. The establishment of cement, glass and rubber tyre factories has been discussed by him with experts in the respective lines. He has brought certain definite proposals for the establishment of a cement factory and a full scheme for the manufacture of glass which will shortly be placed before the State Council. The prospects of a rubber tyre factory, it is reported, do not seem to be bright, although a rubber technologist has undertaken to submit proposals on this subject. The coconut industry which is of immediate interest to Ceylonese in general and the tobacco trade with Travancore which is of particular interest to the Jaffnese have not escaped attention at the hands of the Minister for Commerce and Industries. The Minister has discussed with Sir C. P. RAMASWAMY IYER, the Dewan of Travancore, both these subjects, and it is reported that the Dewan has expressed himself in favour of a joint propaganda and marketing scheme for coconut products and that, if a suitable scheme for coconut is agreed upon, the Dewan found no reason why the increased duty on tobacco should not be completely removed. The grouse of the Travancoreans is that Ceylon is underselling her coconuts in India to the detriment of their coconut industry. The Dewan also is of the idea that the present price realised for coconut products is unsatisfactory and that a reasonable price should be assured by the marketing scheme. The future of the tobacco trade with Travancore is cleverly made dependent by the Dewan on the marketing scheme which these two countries propose to initiate for the coconut products. If the coconut scheme fails, the increased duty on Jaffna tobacco remains; this seems to be the obvious and only conclusion. The situation is thus made difficult for the Jaffna tobacco industry by

coupling it with the coconut. We would remind MR. COREA of the appeal we made to him on the eve of his departure to India, on behalf of the tobacco industry and hope he will leave no stone unturned to give it the much-needed relief. The country will stand greatly to benefit in many ways if the proposed joint propaganda and marketing scheme for coconut is initiated and worked successfully. We hope it will be taken in hand as early as possible.

Urban Council Elections

We would rather avoid commenting on the Urban Council elections lest we should be misunderstood by a section of the people. But we feel, however, that our silence may be interpreted as an expression of satisfaction at the results of the election. Democracy demands the graceful acceptance of the verdict of the electorate. We heartily congratulate the successful candidates on the confidence reposed in them by the voters. But we cannot at the same time conceal our regret, which is shared by the thinking section of the people, that, due to the unfortunate situation created by the anti-Municipality campaign, two of the sitting members had to contest against two other tried and worthy candidates and lose their seats by a narrow majority. We refer to Messrs. S. Patanjali and Sam A. Sabapathy, both of whom have consistently laboured for the progressive and efficient administration of our Urban Council. Their defeat at the polls is a distinct loss to Jaffna. When the heat and passions generated by the Municipality controversy have subsided their contribution to the progress of Local Government will be increasingly felt by the people. We would in this connexion sound a note of warning to the new members whose candidature was successfully sponsored by the Rate-payers' Association. They would do well to remember that, in the sphere of Local Self-Government, party politics should be deliberately avoided. Only so can they hope to serve the best interests of the town.

The Jaffna College Alumni Association

A Special General Meeting of the Jaffna College Alumni Association, will be held on Saturday, 7th December 1940 at 3.30 p.m. in the Otley Hall, Jaffna College, Vaddukodai, to consider the reply of the Board of Directors to the Association's memorandum regarding representation on the Board, and to consider the proposal for the Joint Management and publication of the Miscellany by the College and the Association.

Ex-Premier Of Madras Gaoled

"I am fulfilling my Moral Responsibility"

Madras, Dec. 3.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, ex-Premier of Madras, was arrested this morning under the Defence Act and subsequently sentenced to one year's simple imprisonment.

Mr. Rajagopalachariar in a statement to Court said: "The British Government has dragged India to war without asking her Legislature. All other parts of the British Commonwealth with much smaller populations and better prepared for defence were allowed the choice of remaining neutral, irrespective of the causes or motives of the war. I as Premier led the Assembly of the Province which in October, 1939, adopted a resolution by 153 votes to 22, claiming the right of India to be neutral, and therefore claiming the right to make such an appeal as I have now made and for which I am being tried at the instance of the present administration.

"Fulfilling Moral Responsibility"

In tendering satyagraha I am fulfilling my moral responsibility as leader of the Assembly whose unequivocal verdict has been ignored. I feel it my duty on behalf of every citizen that it is not only morally right but perfectly lawful to make the appeal that has been made either in the form of slogans that have been uttered in some cases or in the form of letters in others, so long as the warfare in India claimed to be on a voluntary basis. Otherwise the voluntary character claimed would be a mere deception.

SMUGGLER'S RUSE

Customs Benefit Rs. 2000 in Revenue

Yet another haul of Beedies and tobacco was successfully detected by Mr. N. Sivaguru of the Kayts Customs and his assistant Mr. E. A. Devasahayam, on the 26th ultimo. This was just after having brought to book a gang of dope smugglers beyond Valvettiturai on the 20th ultimo. To arrest these smugglers who are all Valvettiturai men, elaborate arrangements were made by Mr. N. Sivaguru and his assistant from the beginning of last month. The dope consisting of opium and ganja, about 70 lbs. worth about Rs.4000, was seized on an Indian raft on the high seas on a stormy night. This dope was in charge of Ramasamy of Valvettiturai who showed fight, and in his desperation to safeguard the stuff in his possession made an attempt to put up a fight with the Customs staff and jumped from his raft into the deep sea. However he was rescued and had to be bound up till he was brought ashore. The raft was manned by an Indian crew. A fine of Rs. 2000 was imposed by the Collector of Jaffna Customs.

Personal

Mr. S. Velupillay, Chief Inspector, F. M. S. Railways, will be leaving Singapore for Jaffna on the 14th instant, on 3 months' leave prior to retirement.

FREE BOOKS FOR POOR PUPILS

Frequent Change of Books Condemned

The debate on the motion of Dr. N. M. Perera to provide poor school children in the villages with free books was continued in the State Council on Tuesday.

Messrs. B. H. Aluwihare, H. R. Freeman and Geo. E. de Silva supported the motion.

Mr. H. E. Newnham (Nominated) suggested that steps should be taken to prevent the frequent change of text books.

Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara (Minister of Education) said that text books were not frequently changed. The rules were that text books should not be changed at least this side of three years. If any instances were brought to his notice where such books were changed before three years, he would have the teachers punished. He and his executive committee had nothing to do with the text book committee.

The policy that was now adopted was to see that all needy children were issued free books.

Mr. E. R. Tambirattu asked how they drew a distinction between children who were needy and who were not. He referred to a case where a child received three cuts every day he attended the school without a book. He asked why the child should be punished if the parent was unwilling to buy the book.

Mr. Kannangara asked the member for the name of the school.

The motion was passed.

Farewell Function at Mallakam

Mr. M. Selvadurai, Additional Deputy Fiscal, Jaffna, was accorded a farewell by the Mallakam Maha Sabha on Sunday November 24, 1940, at the Mallakam English School, on the eve of his transfer to Colombo on promotion. The farewell took the form of a Garden Party. A group photograph was taken and the large gathering that was present treated with refreshments. Oriental music enlivened the proceedings. An address was presented on behalf of the Sabha by the Secretary.

Mr. K. Thamotherampillai, a vice-President, speaking from the chair paid a glowing tribute to the sterling qualities of Mr. Selvadurai.

Messrs. A. Nagendra and R. N. Sivapragasam made eulogistic references to Mr. Selvadurai's unblemished career both as a Government official and as a leading citizen of this fair land of Yalpaadi.

Mr. S. T. Rajaratnam proposed a vote of thanks and the meeting ended at 8.30 p.m. (con.)

Obituary

MR. M. SUBRAMANIAM

We regret to record the death of Mr. Murugesar Subramaniam, retired Technical Subordinate, special grade, Survey Office, F. M. S., at his residence at Mallakam on the 29th ultimo. He was 69 years old and was ailing for a week from an attack of pneumonia. The funeral took place the same day and was largely attended. The deceased was the President of the Mallakam Maha Sabha at the time of his death. He leaves behind two sons and three daughters. His wife predeceased him in November this year. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

TEMPLE AND LANDS HIS PRIVATE PROPERTY?

MAVIDDAPURAM
KANDASWAMY KOVIL

RESPONDENT'S STATEMENT AT INQUIRY

THE Commissioners appointed by the Government Agent, Northern Province, in terms of Trust Ordinance No. 9 of 1917 at the instance of the Hindu Public and worshippers &c. of the above Kovil resumed their sitting at the Jaffna Kachcheri on 1st December, 1940 from 1 p.m. to 5-30 p.m. Some of the Petitioners and the Respondent with his followers were present. The Commissioners recorded the evidence of the Respondent S Subramania Kurukkal alias Retna Kurukkal. He vehemently protested against the publication in the local Newspapers of accounts of the proceedings before the Commissioners as such reports were greatly affecting him and the temple and as the public would not contribute hereafter towards his temple, after reading these reports. He further appealed to the Commissioners to stop the publications of such accounts in the Newspapers. The Commissioners intimated that they cannot interfere in the matter as the inquiry in question is a public one at the instance of the Hindu Public. Then the respondent began to read out his statement. This statement covered several sheets of paper in manuscript in Tamil. As the respondent found it hard to read this statement, his grandson was allowed to read this statement to the Commissioners in his presence.

S. Subramania Kurukkal alias Retna Kurukkal of Maviddapuram explained the motive for Mudaliar S. T. Chittampalam and Mr. C. Rudrapathy giving evidence against him and produced certified copies of proceedings in a Case about their conduct and certain portions of the observations by the Judge were read out. He denied that witness Mr. S. Sinnadurai ever helped him in his collections and that Mr. K. S. Rajaratnam ever delivered to him any Velautham either of gold or silver and that Mr. M. Thidaveerasingam had any interest in the Madam in front of the temple which was pulled down by him. He attributed to Mr. K. S. Kanaga Rayar, proctor who gave evidence against him, the publication of certain notices about the presentation of a gold medal at this temple which was not signed by him. He strongly objected to the description in this notice his office as manager and High priest of this temple and got these notices withdrawn and fresh notices published. He further complimented the evidence of Mr. M. Swaminathan of Myliddy in that he had given evidence under the bona fide belief that this temple and its properties are public charitable Trusts and admitted the donation of electric Bulbs to the temple by this witness. But he stated that the whole of the temple and the lands surrounding it are his private property and that certain members of the public had erected madams on the temple court.

(Continued on Page 5.)

GOVT. SERVANTS AND V. C ELECTIONS

Chief Secretary's Instructions

Colombo, Tuesday.

The circumstances in which Government officers, other than Headmen, should be permitted to stand for election to Village Committees are at present being considered by the Government.

In the meantime the conditions with regard to the participation of Government officers in Village Committee elections have been revised. It has now been decided that in future all salaried full-time Government officers should be prohibited from taking any part in Village Committee elections except for the purpose of recording their votes. The prohibition includes their addressing meetings, canvassing in support of candidates, lending conveyances for the transport of voters and other such activities.

Special Instructions

Special instructions to this effect have been issued by the Chief Secretary to all Government officers. The revised conditions, the Chief Secretary states, apply to Chief and Minor Headmen also but it is not intended, he adds, to prevent them from discharging any official duties in connection with the organisation of elections, which Government Agents might require them to carry out.

Part-time Government officers to whom the Public Service regulations are not ordinarily applicable are excluded from these restrictions.

The object of the Government in revising these rules, it is gathered, is to have, as far as possible the same condition operating in regard to Government officers and Village Committee elections as those that prevail at present in regard to Municipal and Urban Council elections.

BATTICALOA HOSPITAL

Shabby Wards

Batticaloa, Tuesday.

Batticaloa Urban Council, on a motion by Mr. V. Nalliah, decided, at its monthly meeting, to appoint a subcommittee to submit a memorandum to the Health Minister regarding much needed improvements to the hospital.

Mr. Nalliah said that the hospital had 60 beds, but there were invariably more than 100 patients. No improvements appeared to have been made during the last 25 years. The hospital, so far as conveniences were concerned, was worse than the Kalmunai hospital.

The maternity ward, which was probably the only ward of its kind for the whole district, had only four beds, whereas there were always more than 15 patients.

Mr. S. Dixon, a hospital visitor, seconded the motion.

Mr. M. A. L. Kariapper said that he had been a hospital visitor for more than five years. The wards were shabby in the extreme. He had been told that they were converted kitchens and storerooms.

New D.R.Os. Feted

Dinner at Urelu

A dinner was held in honour of the Divisional Revenue Officers, who were touring the Northern Province, on the 27th ultimo at Urelu.

The main hall of "Jayanadukathan" the residence of Mr. S. Pararajasingham, of Urelu, was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. Mr. J. R. Sabaratnam, proprietary planter, presided. Covers were laid for 35.

After the loyal toasts, Mr. Sabaratnam, the Chairman, proposed the toast of the chief guests. He said:—

Although the occasion is a social gathering of co-workers, yet for us it is unique in the annals of the peninsula. There has never been an occasion in the past in which so many young and responsible officers from all parts of mother Lanka, gathered together at a simple social with no thought of creed, colour, race or even politics of fifty-fifty.

The occasion is still greater because you young officers who have to work for the good of the villages have gathered in the village which is in the remotest part of the province, thus signifying your desire to share and enjoy the grief and happiness of the villagers for whose benefit you have to work.

There has been some controversy over your selection in the matter of age, and I consider our legislators have done well in fixing your age at 25, an age in which you could not have acquired the evils of the world, i.e. bribery. Your freshness of mind is such an attraction that the people of the villages will receive you with open arms.

Personally, I am very happy that you are free from that malady which people call swell headedness. In the past officers, old and tired of service and past masters of all arts of social evils, were appointed for duties somewhat similar to yours, as Maniagars, Ratta Mahatmayas and Mudaliars etc. but you are going to be not only Maniagars and Ratta Mahatmayas for collecting revenues but also officers assisting villagers in the proper management of the soil and maintenance of fertility, soil conservation, crops and their culture, paddy cultivation, horticulture, animal husbandry, bee-keeping, pests and diseases of plants and their control, village development, co-operation, agricultural propaganda and agricultural marketing.

Though these subjects are high sounding and your period of training is so limited, yet I hope you mean to master these subjects before you go out into the wide world.

I would also like to mention the fact that our popular G. A. and his lieutenant Mr. Weerasinghe are both sons of the Eastern soil and Mr. Weerasinghe's presence amongst us testifies to the fact that he is going to back you up, for you to fulfil the high hopes entertained of you by the legislators.

I now propose the toast of our principal guests.

Mr. Naranpanawa replied and said that intellectual acuteness and moral stability could not be secured in the same individual, but he and his colleagues would withstand the test and prove in time to come that they had ac-

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE

Income Tax Yields More

There was an excess of Revenue over Expenditure, amounting to Rs. 1,900,243, in October, 1940, according to a Treasury statement issued on Monday.

The Revenue for the month was Rs. 11,193,806; while the Expenditure was Rs. 9,293,557, which includes a sum of Rs. 2,184,769 representing expenditure which in the previous year was accounted for under November, 1939.

Customs Revenue

The main item of Revenue in October, 1940, was, as usual, Customs, which brought in a total of Rs. 4,510,613. This was less than the figure for October, 1939, by over Rs. 900,000.

The revenue from Income Tax, Estate Duty and Stamps, however, increased by Rs. 1,381,390 in October, 1940 as against the revenue under this head in October of last year.

The total under this head was Rs. 3,444,150, as against Rs. 2,062,757 in the corresponding month last year.

Education and Health

On the Expenditure side the largest single item in October, 1940, was Rs. 1,534,530 on Education.

Two other large heads of expenditure were Health (Rs. 1,472,174) and Pensions (Rs. 1,075,968).

The expenditure on Defence was Rs. 496,260.

DR. N. SINNADURAI BACK IN OFFICE

Committee Enquires Into Charges

Colombo, Tuesday.

Dr. N. Sinnadurai, who has been reinstated as Judicial Medical Officer, resumed duties yesterday.

He was interdicted five months ago, following certain charges that had been made against him in connexion with the post-mortem examination of bodies recovered from a submerged lorry during the floods in May.

A committee composed of Mr. W. L. Murphy, Mr. T. D. Perera, and Mr. S. J. C. Schokman, appointed by the Public Services Commission, inquired the charges.

He hoped that their elders would bridge the gulf that was in process of completion between South and North and hand over to them to maintain it in good condition.

Mr. Weerasinghe, C. C. S. attached to the Jaffna Kachcheri, in addressing the D. R. Os said that these young energetic and amiable officers after their wanderings throughout the whole length and breadth of the Island in studying the toils and wants of the masses would take office amongst the peasantry losing sight of the amenities afforded to most of the other officers in the various branches of the service and discharge the duties imposed on them both to the good of the people and the government and thus prove that the innovation was good for posterity and fulfil the high expectations of their advocates.

Mr. S. Pararajasekaram, one of the D. R. Os and a brother of Mr. S. Pararajasingham, thanked them all in his reply. (Cor.)

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Temple and Lands His Private Property?

(Continued from Page 3)

yards after obtaining permission either from him or from his ancestors. Even now he had given permission to the District Road Committee to construct a road along the court-yards of his temple.

About the evidence given by Mr. K. Muttukumar, he admitted that he was leading a non-luxurious life and that he was the fittest person to manage this temple and that the cause of all this trouble was the work of his ill-wishers both in his family and outside.

About the evidence of Mr. P. T. Sampander he admitted that this witness and other members of the late Kurunatha Udaiyar's family had been conducting the 16th day High Festivals of this temple and that these festivals were prolonged on account of the musical entertainments, fireworks &c. This witness had given evidence against him as he had occasion to find fault with him and his cousins in company with his recalcitrant son—Somasundara Sarma—about certain acts which were prejudicial to himself and to the interests of the temple.

About the evidence of his son Chanmuga Ananda Sarma, he denied that he was instrumental in procuring for the temple a gold Velautham set with brilliants and other precious stones and that he received any money from his collections from the public. He stated that this Velautham was presented by Mr. K. Ramanathan, Broker of Wellawatte, and produced six letters received by him on this point. He turned out this son out of his house about ten years ago as this son had violated the rules of the Brahminical caste. He treated him as an outcaste and disowned him as a member of his family. This witness had no right whatever to succeed him in the affairs of the temple and to execute any deed about such rights.

He did not comment on the evidences of the other witnesses nor give any motive for their giving evidence about his conduct against him. In short he admitted the evidence of all other witnesses and other statements even by these witnesses.

In conclusion he stated that the land called Kevil Kadavai and the various shrines attached to it and forming the Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Kovil are his private property. Most of the members of the Hindu Public who made offerings to the deity, desired to remain anonymous. They did not like any publication of such offerings. It is his duty whenever they made such offerings to accept the same with due regard to the shastric principles keeping the matter private according to their wishes. He had procured everything necessary for this temple. There were several other requirements which were still to be attended to. He was making all necessary efforts. But there are several obstructions to his efforts, such as the issue of leaflets, presentation of petitions, the present petition inquiry, publication of accounts and articles in the newspapers. All these matter were dissuading the public from making offerings &c. as in the past. As a result of making renovations to the temple structure he had incurred debts. He had accounts of them. He was

not bound to produce or show to anybody.

The most heinous charge against him by some witnesses and members of the public was that he was engaged in litigations throughout his life, and big sums of moneys were spent on litigation. It was not his desire to engage himself in litigation. He had been drawn into it by his enemies. He had to safeguard his interests and had to answer the summons issued by Courts of law and to give due respect to court proceedings whenever he was drawn into such litigations.

He wished to reiterate and emphasize that the temple, its temporalities and all its belongings were his own private property. It was his duty to safeguard them. Although there were several persons who could support him in his statements, he did not propose to call any witness or produce any accounts although he kept regular books of account, as they were unnecessary. He thanked the commissioners for their patient hearing of evidence.

At this stage, the Commissioners who recorded this evidence read and explained to him all what was recorded and obtained his signature on their record. The Commissioners propose to inspect this temple and other shrines and madams before they make their report to the Government Agent.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 958
In the matter of the Estate of Amirthavally daughter of Thamotheerampillai Chellappah of Vaddukodai West, Jaffna

Deceased.
Muhandiram Arunasalam Visuvalingam of Vaddukodai West
Vs. Petitioner.

1. Chellappah Sabaratnam
2. Chellappah Manickam
3. Chellappah Samugam
4. Vettivelu Marikandu all of Vaddukodai West

The 3rd Respondent is a minor appearing by his Guardian-ad-litem the 4th Respondent.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 22nd day of November, 1940 in the presence of Mr. M. Kathiravelu, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 20th November, 1940 having been read;

It is ordered that the abovenamed

Sethu and Lanka

(Continued from page 1)

I do not see any words which say that the Nala Setu was built from Mahendra hill. Why could it not have been built from Rameswaram?

III. Further, if the description 100 yojanas is only indicative and approximate, what does it matter that Ceylon is only 100 miles from there? Does the fact that there is no Mahendra hill near Rameswaram matter at all?

IV. Lanka is the name of the capital city of the dwipa (island). Valmiki does not give us the name of the island, though he refers to Yavadvvepa (Java) in chapter 40. But we must remember that the inhabitants of Lanka spoke Sanskrit and recited the Vedas and practised the vedic rites. So the island was an Aryanised kingdom. So it could not have been far off from the mainland. Very likely Lanka was the seashore capital of Sinhala (Ceylon). Mr. Pargiter identifies Lanka with Ceylon. Why should we overthrow tradition and search for an imaginary island somewhere in the Indian ocean as being Lanka?

V. Mr. Rangachariar says that it does not appear how Cape Comorin lost its sanctity as the Sethu spot. It never had that sanctity as there was no Sethu there. Cape Comorin was a holy spot (tirtha) by itself.

VI. He refers to Nilakanta's statement in his commentary on Chapter 6 of the Bhishma Parva of the Mahabharata that the Rhoonadhyarekha (the central meridian) ran through Lanka, Cape Comorin, Ujjain, Kurukshetra, etc. Nilakanta was not an astronomer. Here again we must not build much upon such statements.

4th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor the abovenamed 3rd Respondent for the purpose of representing him and for acting on his behalf in the Testamentary proceedings to be had in this case and it is declared the Petitioner as the uncle of the deceased is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased issued to him unless the Respondents appear before this Court on the 13th day of January, 1941 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 22nd day of November 1940
Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge.

(O. 71. 5 & 9-12-40)

Matrimonial

CHELLIAH—RASAMANY

The marriage of Mr. S. Chelliah, of Audit Office, Colombo, and of Kokuvil East, Jaffna, to Miss Rasamany, daughter of the late Mr. A. Veluppillai, of the F. M. S. General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, took place on the 30th November night at "Namagal Vasam," Anairottai, Manipay, the residence of the bride. The ceremony was in orthodox Hindu style. The bride's youngest brother Master Kumareshan Veluppillai was the bestman, while Mrs. Rasiab, sister of the bridegroom, was the bride's maid. Matron of honour was Mrs. C. G. Somasagaram. A largely attended reception was held till a late hour. A reception was held at the bridegroom's on the following two days. (Cor)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Tasty, No. 943

In the matter of the intestate estate of Kandappu Sithamparapillai of Araly Deceased.
Parupathiyar widow of Kandappu Sithamparapillai of Araly Petitioner.

1. Nageswariammah daughter of Sithamparapillai
2. Sithamparapillai Nagaratnam
3. Sivapaokiam daughter of Sithamparapillai
4. Kandappu Nagalingam all of Araly Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire, District Judge of Jaffna, on the 31st day of October 1940 in the presence of Mr. V. Navaratna Rajah Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner dated 20th October 1940 having been read:—

It is ordered that the abovenamed 4th respondent be appointed guardian ad-litem over the 1st to 3rd respondents to represent their interest in this Testamentary proceedings and the petitioner be declared the administratrix of the estate of the late Kandappu Sithamparapillai and Letters of Administration of the said estate be granted to her unless the respondents abovenamed or any other person or persons interested shall appear before this court on or before the 11th day of December 1940 and show sufficient cause to the contrary.

This 31st day of October 1940.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge.

(O. 69. 2 & 5-12-40.)

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 953
In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Thangamuttu wife of M. Othathamby Visuvalingam of "Kaladdy Walavu" Sandilipay North Deceased.
Visuvalingam Thiagarajah of Sandilipay North presently of Colombo. Petitioner.

1. Visuvalingam Nadarajah
2. Visuvalingam Sornam both of Sandilipay North presently of Colombo Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esq., District Judge, Jaffna, on the 12th day of November 1940 in the presence of Mr. S. Canagasabai Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read; it is ordered that the petitioner as son of the deceased be appointed administrator over the estate of the said deceased and that letters of administration be granted to him accordingly unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before the 15th day of December 1940 appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Court to the contrary.

This 21st day of November 1940

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy,
District Judge.

(O. 70. 2 & 5-12-40)

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(Mis 105. 5-9-40—)

(17)

Culture—Secular and Religious

(Continued from page 1)

insults, he is too well employed to remember injuries, and too indolent to bear malice. He is patient forbearing, and resigned, on philosophical principles; he submits to pain, because it is inevitable, to bereavement, because it is irreparable, and to death because it is his destiny. If he engages in controversy of any kind, his disciplined intellect preserves him from the blundering discourtesy of better, perhaps, but less educated minds; who, like blunt weapon, tear and hack, instead of cutting clean, who mistake the point in argument, waste their strength on trifles, misconceive their adversary, and leave the question more involved than they find it. He may be right or wrong in his opinion but he is too clear-headed to be unjust; he is as simple as he is forcible and as brief as he is decisive. Nowhere shall we find greater candour, consideration, indulgence; he throws himself into the minds of his opponents; he accounts for their mistakes. He knows the weakness of human reason as well as its strength, its province and its limits. If he be an unbeliever he will be too profound and large-minded to ridicule religion or to act against it; he is too wise to be a dogmatist or fanatic in his infidelity. He respects piety and devotion; he even supports institutions as venerable, beautiful, or useful to which he does not assent; he honours the ministers of religion, and it contents him to decline its mysteries without assailing or denouncing them. He is a friend of religious toleration, and that, not only because his philosophy has taught him to look on all forms of faith with an impartial eye, but also from the gentleness and effeminacy of feeling, which is the attendant on civilization.

Along with the above let us take Cardinal Newman's definition of the "Safe Man", that is, the gentleman above described in the sphere of religion:

Mistiness is the mother of wisdom. A man who can set down half a dozen general propositions which escape from destroying one another only by being diluted into truisms: who can hold the balance between opposites so skilfully as to do without fulcrum or beam, who never enunciates a truth without guarding himself against being supposed to exclude the contradictory; who holds that scripture is the only authority, yet that the Church is to be deferred to, that faith only justifies, yet that it does not justify without works; that grace does not descend upon sacraments, yet is not given without them; that bishops are a divine ordinance, yet that those who have them are in the same religious conditions as those who have—this is your "safe man" and the hope of the Church; this is what the Church is said to want, not party men, but sensible, temperate, sober, well judging persons, to guide it through the channel of no meaning, between the Scylla and Charybdis of Aye and No.

The two things which are fatal to this type of culture are conviction and character. These are likely to give rise to what are called angarieties and are to be avoided. In a system where this type of culture holds sway, difference of opinion is the mortal sin and dissent is suppressed with the utmost severity. Any variation from routine is "bad form" and "bad form" is worse than positive wickedness. Adultery and drunkenness may be tolerated so long at least as they do not create a public scandal as long as they do not threaten the established order.

But speaking inconvenient truths is a mortal sin. This type of culture is the sure sign of decadence. And the present disastrous plight of civilisation is to a large extent the outcome of the ascendancy which it has gained in society and the State. The culture which we have been speaking of, is what may be called secular culture. It is skin-deep. Often it does not extend below the clothes. It has no reference to character. "A man may smile and smile and yet be a villain". Some of the greatest villains in history were men of high accomplishment. Culture of this sort is important to diplomats whom Disraeli described as gentlemen who are sent to lie abroad for their country's good.

While this spurious and superficial culture should be sternly discouraged in every educational and social system, the true culture which springs from what may be called the fountain-springs of our spiritual being, the soul, should be assiduously cultivated in every manner possible. This culture of the soul will have all the superficial graces of secular culture, but, as it is rooted in the inmost centre of our being, it will never be abused for selfish ends. The truly religious man will be a gentleman as a matter of course. He will never give pain to anyone not because it is good policy but because by giving pain he would be antagonising a kindred soul whom it is his duty to harmonise with his own universal ideals. He would never swerve from truth but his presentation of it in his personal life and conversation will be such as to attract and not to repel people from it. It is a curious fact that, while objective and secular truths can be grasped only by minds trained to do so, moral and religious truths appeal directly to the hearts of all men in every stage of intelligence. Many highly educated men show little trace of culture. Among unlettered people we do not seldom come across men and women of true culture, the culture of the heart. There is a line in Robert Browning's "Death in a Desert" which precisely describes this type. "He could neither read nor write, but only loved." He is the Bactrian boy who kept watch outside the mountain cave where St. John lay dying.

I hold, therefore, that there can be no true culture except that springing out of and having its roots in religion. By religion I mean the awareness of the existence of a Universal Intelligence and of our individual selves as functions of it. On each one of us fulfilling his appointed function faithfully and truthfully depends the harmony of nations and peoples which is the greatest desideratum of the world at all times, and never more than in our own. To regard ourselves as organic parts of the universe with each his particular function assigned to him is the greatest help to man in his struggle to keep himself from temptations to selfish and self-indulgence. Every one of us has a purpose and a great one in life. To quote Browning again:—

Partake my confidence!
No creature's made so mean
But that, some way, it boasts,
could we investigate,
Its supreme worth; fulfils,
by ordinance of fate,
Its momentary task,
gets glory all its own,
Tastes triumph in the world,
pre-eminent, alone.

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