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The Manager, Hindu Organ, Jaffna.

4-9-1901.

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INTHE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1901

"Christianity in Ceylon"

A Mr. J.G. Greenhough has published in the Christian World under the above heading his impressions of Ceylon with reference to its religious condition, which the Ceylon Standard extracts wholesale without a word of dissent or comment as regards the gross libels perpetrated on the home-born Tamils. So many globe-trotters and sight-seers have visited the Island, and some of them have published their "impressions" whether right or wrong, but none of them has excelled Mr. Greenhough in travestying facts, which, we fain believe, Mr. Greenhough is only unwittingly guilty of.

Says Mr. Greenhough that "Ceylon is not merely the home of vice, idolatry, or superstition; like the old Roman Empire it finds a place for them all." If Mr. Greenhough should be just to himself or to the subject, he should tell his readers the nature of the vice or vices rampant in Ceylon. He not only fails to do this, but also conveniently forgets that in Europe there are multi-various and grave vices, and the vices which may be regarded as serious in Ceylon are only those which have been imported from Europe. Drinking which is the prolific source of so many crimes, meat--eating which is the source of cattle stealing and cognate offences, prostitution, &c., are all importations from the West. The pessimistic oriental mind, untainted by the material civilization of the West which is only bent upon procuring "the things of this world in abundance", cannot conceive of crimes of the character, gravity, and variety of those occurring in cities like London, Paris, and New York. And still Mr. Greenhough, either intentionally or through ignorance, tells his readers that in point of vice Ceylon is like the old Roman Empire.

*The above are remarks of Mr.Greenhough applicable to Ceylonese in general, but coming to Tamils. his views are even more extravagant. He says:—

"There are about a million Hindus of the Tamil race with skin almost as black in the negro's. They came centuries ago from the neighbouring continent and spread themselves more or less over the whole Island- They have almost exclusive possession of its Northern and less civilized districts. In the Southern half they are in a small minority and occupied chiefly in the lowest kinds of labour. They are everywhere, intellectually and perhaps morally, inferior to their Singhalese neighbours."

Now, the dregs of the Tamil population of Southern India, imported into Ceylon by Mr. Greenhough's countrymen under special laws and restrictions to work on their estates, can no more be regarded as types and specimens of the Tamil race than the shoe-blacks of London, or for the matter of that the misrepresenting Mr. Greenhough himself, can be regarded as proper types or type of the English people. We who are born and bred in the country find no difference whatever between the conduct, character, and intellectual capacity of a Tamil peasant and a Singhalese peasant, and if any difference is found to exist it is in favour of the Tamil. The statistics of the public departments show that the Tamil peasant is more industrious and more law-abiding than his Singhalese compeer. As regards civilization, let a Jaffna or Trincomalie peasant be compared with the Singhalese peasants of the Central, Uva. North-Western, and North Central Provinces. It is beyond doubt that unbiassed opinion will be in favour of the Tamil peasant. It may serve the purpose of the Editor of the 'Ceylon Standard', who represents a section of the Singhalese, to publish statements extolling the Singhalese at the expense of the Tamils, but if the Government Agents be consulted, they will bear ample testimony to the fact that a Jaffna villager is a much more intelligent being than his Singhalese

compatriot of Anuradhapura. Badulla, or even of Colombo. If the Editor of the Standard does not think it convenient to believe that Mr. Greenhough is right, let him consult Civil Servants of the position of Mr. R. W. Ievers who have worked both in the Singhalese and Tamil districts.

We do not however take a pride in saying that the Tamil peasant superior to the Sighalese villager. It may be that both have the same or similar characteristics. What we affirm, and what is undeniable, is that the Tamil is not inferior to the Singhalese either intellectually or morally. The Southern Indian Coolies who speak the Tamil language, but who are believed by some writers to be the descendants of aboriginal tribes and not of Dravidian origin, may be inferior to the de Silvas. de Mels, Fernandos, and other constituents of the Standard, but are not the latter inferior in mental calibre to the distinguished Tamils of Ceylon and Southern India? Comparisons as to mental and moral capacity can reasonably be instituted only between persons whose training and position in life are similar. Again, it is astounding to hear from Mr. Greenhough that the Ceylon Tamil is as black as the negro. We know that the Southern Indian Coolies are black, but they are not as black as the negroes, and are not a bit blacker than the Singhalese of the wilds. We have already stated that some writers believe the Cooly population to be of a different stock from the Dravidians, but we do not rest our observations on this view. We have proceeded on the assumption that the Estate Coolies are also Tamils.

"Where knowledge comes, it sounds the death-knell of Hinduism" says Mr. Greenhough. This opinion of Mr. Greenhough is entirely out of date. It was an opinion entertained by Europeans and Americans fifty years ago, and the learned among them have now unlearned it. The labours of the Theosophical Society, the researches of Oriental Scholars, and the Chicago Parliament of Religions have brought to the notice of the worldthe grand truths of Hinduism, which have begun to be appreciated all the wide world over. Throughout the Hindu country in India and Ceylon, there have been great revivals, and Christianity makes very little headway among Hindus. Fifty years ago, when knowledge did not "come", there were more conversions than now. It is the coming of knowledge that has sounded the "death-knell" of Christianity among Hindus. Let Mr. Greenhough deny this if be can. We are able to show from the publications of Missionaries themselves that with the advent of 'knowledge' Hindus cling to their religion more tenaciously than ever. Educated Hindus who were indifferent about religion once, do all fervently practise their religion now, and at the present day Hindus do not implicitly take Christian Missionaries at their word as they were wont to do. Hindus have come to understand that the professions of Christendom are utterly at variance with its practice. The religion taught by Christ (vide the Sermon in the Mount and other teachings) has been thrown aside. No nation, no individual, is Christian. It is the Mosaic doctrines preached to a semi-civilized people many hundreds years ago that are even now practised. Let the Editor of the "Standard" and Mr. Greenhough gainsay us if they can. When the teachings of real Christianity can be more than matched by those of our Rishis, is it the nominal Christianity of Mr. Greenhough's country men that is to conquer Hinduism? "Tell it not in Gath and publish it not in the streets of Israel.."!!!

On this subject, let our readers refer to the opinions of Mr. Conway, published elsewhere. He is a descendant of the Washington family and a minister by education.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Weather—Owing to the failure of October rains the paddy plants in several parts of the Peninsula have withered away. There was a pretty good shower last week in some parts of the district, but it was not sufficient to allay the heat. The crops are doomed to failure in many localities.

Railway Materials—A further supply of railway materials was landed at Kangesanturrai last week.

The Vivekananda School—Mr. K. Velupillai the enterprising proprietor of the Vivekananda Press has opened a Tamil school at Vannar-ponnai West under the name of Vivekananda School. The inauguration ceremony is appointed to take place to-day.

Sir William Twynam, K. C. M. G.—From Batticaloa Sir William Twynam has proceeded to Colombo whence he is expected to return to Jaffna in the course of the week.

The Conservator of Frests—Mr. Afred Clarke, Acting Conservator of Forests, was on a visit to Jaffna last week on inspection duty.

A Lecture—Mr. G. Tambynayakam Pillai of Jaffna delivered a lecture on "Boers' at the hall of the Jaffna College two weeks ago. The lecture was interesting and instructive.

A Dentist—Dr. Mr. Wagschal, the well-known dentist, is now at Jaffna. He can be consulted be ween the hours of 7. A. M. and 5. P. M.

A Case of Poisoning—The Police Magistrate of Jaffna enquired into a suspected case of poisoning at Chundicully on the 14th Instant. Certain Vaity Chellan is said to have administered a dose of poison to one KanapathyPillai Chinnaiah who, it is reported, died in consequence of the effects of the dose.

Lectures at the Y. M. C. A.—We hear that Mr. Advocate Tirunavukarasu delivered a lectured on Tamil Literature at a meeting of the Y. M. C. A. held on the 11th Iinstant and that Mr. Advocate Tambyah delivered a lecture on the writings of P. Ramanathan Esqr., C. M. G., Solicitor General, on the 18th Instant. The lectures were well appreciated.

Obituary—Mr. Abraham Sittampalam, a veteran teacher belonging to the Wesleyan Mission died at Jaffna last week. The funeral was largely attended.

Two Acting Appointments—Mr. J. R. Canagaratne, the Crown Proctor of Trincomalie, and Mr. S. Sampanther, Crown Proctor, Anuradhapura have been appointed to act temporarily, the former as District Judge, Commissioner of Requests, and Police Magistrate of Trincomalie, and the latter as District Judge, Commissioner of Requests, and Police Magistrate of Anuradhapura. Though the appointments are for a short period only, they show the confidence reposed by the Government in the gentlemen selected.

An Ordinance Proclaimed—The Ordinance providing for the segregation and treatment of lepers will come into operation as from 1st January 1902.

-Mr. Armitage, the well-known Assistant Conservator of Forests is lying ill in the General Hospital, Colombo.

The King's Birth-day Honours .- We understand that Mr. Tambapillai Mudaliyar, the Maniagar of Jaffna, who is the premier headman of the Province, is to be promoted to the rank of a Mudalyar of the Governor's Gate. Tambapillai Mudaliyar is a most popular headman, and the Government Agent has done well in recommending him for the vacancy caused by the demise of Iragunatha Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate. Mr. Sabaratnam, the second Interpreter of the Kachcherri, has been recommended for a Mudaliyarship, a vacancy having occurred in the ranks of Mudaliyars by the death of Hallock Murugesa Mudaliyar. Mr. Sabaratnam was Kachcherri Mudaliyar at Mullaitivu and Trincomalie before his transfer to Juffna. He has held the second Interpretership of the Jaffua Kachcherri for several years and has also acted with great acceptance in

the capacity of Chief Mudaliyar. His claims to the title are undoubted, and we have not the slightest doubt that His Excellency the Governor will act upon the recommendation of the Government Agent.

A Frize Distribution—The distribution of prizes to the students of the Girls' School at Chuthumalai called "Chinmaya Parathi Kalasalai", which is under the able management of Mr. N. A. Sinnaya Pillai, one of the leading Astrologers of Jaffina, took place about three weeks ago. As a general rule, prizes consist of books, but in Mr. Sinnaya pillai's school, cloths of various description were distributed. Mr. Sinnaya Pillai spares neither money nor pains in his endeavours to bring the school to a state of efficiency. There are so many boye' schools under Hindu management, but very few girls' schools. The example set by Mr. Sinnaya pillai deserves to be followed by other Hindu educationists in the North. Mr. Sinnaya Pillai is the Manager of a boys' school as well which is also ably conducted. He has won his laurels not only as a school manager but as an astrologer. He is not an "astrologer" in the usual acceptation of the word, but is a gentleman deeply versed in Hindu Astrology, Astronomy, Architecture, &...

Expenditure—We understand that the estimates of expenditure for the year 1902 have been considerably cut downowing to an anticipated fall in the revenue.

-Mr. T. Twynam, Assistant Collector of Customs, Galle, has been appointed Master Attendant of that Port.

Two New Proctors—Mr. PerumalPillai and Mr. Chelliah, two Jaffnese gentlemen, who passed the Proctors' Examination about six months ago, have taken their oaths of allegiance and office as Proctors of the District Court of Colombo. We congratulate them on their admission and hope to see them rise to distinction in the Metropolitan Bar where the prucity of Tamil Proctors is to be regretted. Mr. Perumal Pillai and Mr. Chellaiah held an "At Home" last week.

-Wr. Turaisingam, the Jaffnese Gilchrist scholar, who is attending King's College, London, has succeeded in obtaining a temporary appointment in the Dover Harbour Works.

THE DEAF HEAR.—No. 463 of The Illustrated World of 626, Chiswick High Road, London, W. England. contains a description of a Remarkable Cure for Deafness and Head Noises which may be carried out at the patient's home, and which is said to be a certain cure. This number will be sent free to any deaf person sending their address to the Editor

MULLAITIVU NEWS.

Mr. and Mrs. Tampiyappa celebrated the second anniversary of the birth of their son, Master T. Ariya Dhurai, on the 9th Instant, with great colat. Their commodious residence "Ariya Lodge", was tastefully decorated for the occasion and illuminated throughout with Chinese lanterns of various shapes and colours. Erom early morning people began to pour in, to convey their best wishes to the parents, on the happy occasion, who also received a lot of congratulatory telegrams from friends and relations at outstations. Master Ariya Dhurai was the recipient of many valuable presents from the residents of Mullaitivu. An "At Home" was held in the afternoon which was largely attended. After partaking of the light refreshments which were served in abundance, and spending a most enjoyable evening, the company dispersed at 6. p. m. At 8. p. m. Mr. and Mrs. Tampiyappa entertained to dinner a select few of their triends. Justice having been done to the excellent men provided, the usual toasts were proposed, all of which were received and druck with enthusiasm. Music was supplied by the local "Amateur Musical Combination." Dinner over, the party repaired to the sea beach to witness the display of a variety of first class fireworks got down from Colombo and Jaffna specially for the occasion, and broke up at about 1. a. m.

—The Assistant Government Agent Mr. Murty left yesterday for Vavuniya on circuit and will be back here on the 21st Instant.

—Mr. M. Visuvalingam, Shroff of the local Kachenerri, accompanied by Mrs. Visuvalingam, and family has gone to Jaffna on a month's leave to see his aged father, Mr. Mervin, who is said to be in a poor state of health.

-Mr. Kanagasapai, Storekeeper has left for Jaffna en route to Kalutara to assume the duties of his new appointment as Interpreter of the District Court there. Mr. Kanagasapai during the short time he was here has made himself very popular, and his departure is very much recretted

—Mr. Arumugam, Irrigation Engineer's Clerk, Kanukkeni, has been appointed Assistant Provincial Registar's Clerk in succession to Mr. P. J. Rajah, who succeeds Mr. Kanagasapai as

-Mr. Siva Pragasam who was away on five weeks' leave, has returned and resumed duties.

The Weather at present is very bot and unsettled, and, unlike previous years, there has been little or no rain so far, this year. Cossequently the prospects of the cultivators, who have already finished sowing, are not very bright. Most of the wells and ponds in the town are dried up, and both people and cattle suffer alike on account of the unusual scarcity of water.

on account of the unusual scarcity of water.

Thank God the "Mosquitto Plague" which yearly visits us, has taken leave of us sooner than usual this year.

11th October 1901.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR ENGLISH-EDUCATED YOUNG MEN.

To

The Editor of the "Hindn Organ"

Sir,
In continuation of my general observations on the pernicious result of giving high English education indiscriminately to the mass, made in my last letter, which was published in your issue of the 9th instant, let me now respectfully submit for the serious consideration of our Christian authorities the following few suggestions the adoption of which, I am fully persuaded, could never fail to make the province like Canaan of old, flow with milk and honey. To ameliorate then the social and moral condition of the mass, and develop the material resources of the province, let the impoverished ignorant, who form by far the greater portion of the population, be first taught to read and write their own vernacular so well as to become able to understand books calculated to impart that degree of general knowledge which would make them useful to themselves and others. For this purpose let schools separate for boys and girls be established in all the chief villages of our province. Let an efficient School Book Committee be appointed to examine and forward such books for the sanction of Government, as are unobjectionable in every respect, to be used as text books for the different classes or standards. Let those who are able to write books for the use of those vernacular schools be encouraged by sanctioning their books when found acceptable by the Committee. Let paddy and rice be bought from where they can be had cheap and sold in Government godowns at reasonable prices so that the profit might only meet the expenses of importation, and the salaries of sellers appointed by Government. Let crown lands be given on easy terms, after the manner landlords do theirs, on lease, and let every thing necessary to convert them into paddy fields, vegetable gardens, and orchards be supplied with, with means of irrigation which may be broad wells where water cannot be conducted through pipes from rivers or large tanks not close by. The Railway extension again will greatly obviate those difficulties which may prove a barrier for carrying on cultivation and forming settlements where beasts are found to live in herds. Let those who may choose to lead an idle life be denied all those comforts of life without which they must starve. Let the Government Agent from time to time convene meetings to get the help of respectable and elderly educated persons in order to frame rules for the guidance of Government schoolmasters and Government cultivators so that their respective works may be carried on satisfactorily. After doing all these and other things I may have omitted, in order to better the condition of the poor, Government would certainly find that they have scarcely spent half of what they now spend on English education, which brings distress and deaths among the inhabitants for reasons I have already stated in my last communication.

In conclusion let me humbly invite the most serious and sedate attention of the Honorable Members of the Legislative Council through the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, and of His Excellency the Governor through the Director of Phblic Instruction to all what I have stated imperfectly in this and in my former letter and entreat them all to condescend to weigh all my remarks and suggestions and see if they are not worthy of being adopted to save our province from poverty, distress, and premature death.

R. B. M.

Anaikoaddai 15th October 1901.

(Does our correspondent suggest that the Government should assume the role of the merchant? Can he quote any precedent? If Government undertakes the importation and sale of paddy and rice, their price will increase rather than

decrease. Any work undertaken by Government costs more than it does if undertaken by a private individual or company. It cannot be said that the profits earned by the merchant will go to enrich the people, for the Government will have to sell dearer than the merchant in order to recoup the cost of its establishment. The merchant does not reap more than a small margin of prefit. If the profit is large competition reduces it. One of the reasons for the abolition of the paddy tax was that about half the amount realized by the tax was consumed by the machinery engaged in collecting it. Ed. H. O.)

SELECTIONS.

CHINA AND THE MISSIONARIES BY MONCURE D. CONWAY.

(Condensed from the Open Court)

Although political and commercial exigencies have necessitated some modus vivendi between the socalled Christian nations and so-called pagans, it is obvious that Christianity has in its claim to be the only divinely revealed religion a character of enmity to all non-Christian religions. This character it possesses "in itself," and it was as genuinely, however subconsciously, in the missionary besieging the pagan's soul as in the crusader slaving his body. From what were pagan souls to be saved? From their religion. The raison d'etra of the missionary was that other religions systematically bore souls to perdition, and must be supplanted by the only saving faith—the Gospel.

Belief in the inevitable damnation of unconverted heathen carried into the mission fields able and selfsacrificing men like Cary, Heber, Judson, Morrison. Groves, and the notion lasted long enough to enlist the youthful energies of greater men, among them Francis William Newman, Dr. Legge, Dr. Livingston, and Colenso. But mean while the doctrine that a good man must be damned because he was a Buddhist or a Mohametan fell into disrepute. Sixty years ago the clergy began to retreat into phrases about "the un-covenanted mercies of God," and to extort our dimes and dollars by bloodcurdling fictions about mothers casting their babes to crocodiles, devotees crushed under Juggernant (the death-hating deity, near whom no destruction of life is possible), and especially by the immortal falsities of Heber's hymn,—the deudliest being

> 'They call us to de'iver Their land from error's chain."

That the poor heathen call for our missionary and long for him instead of trembling at sight of him and see their chain in his hand, will of course remain the faith of vulgar conventicles, but among educated Christians the old foundations of proselytism have crumbled. The learned men relinquished that field: Legge to introduce Christians to Chinese sages greater than their own, Livingston to devote himself to exploration and science, Colenso and Newman to show Christendom that its religion is untrue and that it needs mussionaries more than the foreign lands. The mission fields are now filled by inferior men. There is no educated Christian who believes that a man will be damned for being a Buddhist or a Confucian. The missionary Boards continue their assemblies, and go on singing Heber's fantasies, such as that about Ceylon-

> "(Where) every prospect pleases And only man is vile."

though every instructed person knows that in any large city in Christendom more crime and immorality occur in one day than Ceylon knows in a year. (A Singhalese in Ceylon told me that it is well-known there that Heber wrote his lines because a Moslem in Colombo sold him a large emerald that turned out to be glass.) The missionaries in Cevlon and India seem to be well aware that they cannot claim any superior moral fruits for the Christian tree, and the only argument I heard from them was the larger prosperity and progress of Christend

And I remark, by the way, that the Rev. William Weber (in The Monist. April 1901) uses a similar argument with regard to modern Christian nations, "that they rank on the scale of progress and civilisation in exact proportion to their more or less thorough acceptance of the yoke and burden of Christ." The rationalist would say that the most thoroughly Christiansed countries are the most backward, and that the progress of the leading has been pari passu with their growth in scientific materialism and skepticism, but my citation of the idea is only to note a certain gesture in contemporary Christianity. At a time when the progress and civilisation of the foremost nations are saliently represented by their exploitation of the weak, by the unrestrained murder of innocent negroes in the United States, the desolation of homes and farms in South Africa, the looting of China, their yoke and burden of Christ appears painfully like that imposed on Europe by the swords of Constantine, Theodosius, and Charlemague.

To recur to the missionaries, their main claim, that the superior progress of Western nations results from their Christianity, is a fallacy: each Western nation is, so to say, a cord of many racial strands, the Asiatic countries being more nearly single races. One need only

contrast the greatness of pagan Greece with the insignificance of Curistianised Greece to find that the finest civilisation is by no means afruit of Christianity. In fact there has never been a real civilisation planted in any nation by a propaganda of Christianity. National prestige once involved, a flag lifted, and the one great necessity is to win; success, at whatever cost, comes to mean 'progress"; all sorts of meanness, trickery, crime, inhumanity, are condoned for the sake of triumph, and the world is thus gained for a religion through the loss of its soul Jesus, prophet of the individual heart and happiness, concerned for no kingdom but that "within," warned his friends against for eign missions, even so near as Samaria, and in trying to reform their own countrymen to withdraw from cuies where they were persecuted. Their ontward victories would be their inward defeats What becomes of would be their inward defeats. What becomes of humility, charity, of sweetness and simplicity, amid the egotism, ambition, and other valuar passions awakened by a competition in pushing, shoving, elbowing others

Dr. Dennys, in his FOLKLORE IN CHINA (1876) states that the sick are supposed to be "possessed," and adds that "in those parts of China to which missionary effort has penetrated a popular belief exists in the pow r of Christian exorcism." Missionaries of all denominations are called on "to cast out the devil" from patients, and, says this English geographer, "it is to be feared that the confidence thus evinced turns on the popular belief that Christian relations with the Satanic hierarchy are uncommonly intimate." (To be continued.)

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