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THE HINDU ORGAN.

- CHARAS

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1901

The Provincial Committee Of the North.

We are indebted to the Jaffna Catholic Guardian for an able and exhaustive expose of the ways and methods pursued by the Jaffna Road Committee in the discharge of its public functions. There is little to be added to the remarks of the Guardian, and we take up the subject in order to strengthen the hauds of our contemporary. Last year we pointed out the impolicy of appointing a clerk in the Kachcherri to audit the accounts of the Committee. Our objection at that time was only against the extra expenditure involved in the payment made to the clerk. Our contemporary has since pointed out that the Committee was, by the appointment of an auditor outside that body, not only incurring expenditure which had been avoided for years before that course was adopted, but was acting beyond the powers vested in it by statute.

The granting of pensions to deserving officers is a very laudable object in itself. But the Road Committee being a creature of the law, is bound to follow the law which has brought it into existence. The provisions of the "Road Ordinance, 1861", under which the Committee acts, are entirely silent on the subject of pensions. We are not aware if "pensions" are inserted as a distinct item in the accounts of expenditure submitted to Government. If so, it is a question how the Auditor-General passes them without demur. While on the subject of pensions, we have also to point out that those who enter the service of the Road Committee do so with their eyes open -with full knowledge of the fact that they are not entitled to any pension. Persons in other walks of life-a merchant, planter, trader, proctor, advocate, or notary for instance-get no "pensions" or "retiring allowances". Do not the less well-to-do among them as much deserve "pensions" as the officers of the Road Committee?

Neither the Road Committee is empowered to give pensions nor do its officers expect to be pensioned. Where then lies the injustice in acting within the scope of the law? On what grounds can the Committee justify the granting of pensions? Retiring officers may deserve commiseration, but there are so many human beings, in so many other walks of life, deserving commiseration. Has the Committee moved an inch in the case of the latter? We hope that some member of the Legislative Council will put a query and "draw" the Government on the subject. If the Government thinks that the employees of the Road Committees ought to be pensioned, let the law be amended.

One of the reasons urged for the abolition of the paddy tax was that about half the amount realized by the tax was consumed by the establishments. If this reason is to be applied to the Jaffna Road Committee, an end will have to be put to its existence and its operations. The Guardian has pointed out that as much as 47 per

cent of the receipts of that body goes to cover the cost of its establishments, &c.. We also had to state last year that there was a general belief in the country that the Committee employed too many officers and paid them too high salaries. But our words have been entirely unheeded. No action has been taken by the Committee to reduce its staff. In the case of the Committees in other provinces, the cost of the establishments, &c., ranges between ten and twenty per cent of their receipts. In Jaffna alone it stands at 47 per cent. Does not this show that there is something radically wrong in the mode of procedure of the Jaffna Committee?

Many of the roads in the charge of the Road Committee are in a most neglected state. How can a different state of things be expected in the face of the fact that nearly half the income of the Committee is devoted to the payment of pensions, salaries, and commissions?

According to the Ordinance No. 10 of 1561 meetings of the Provincial Committee should be held for the despatch of business every month. It will be interesting to know how many meetings have been held since the commencement of the year -one, two, three, or the requisite number ten? We cannot acquit the Government of blame for the lethargy of the Committee. The Government has been for several years past re-appointing the same gentlemen as members of the Committee. They have become fossilized and lost all interest in the work. Though the members of the District Road Committee are elected, they being subordinate to the Provincial Committee cannot be expected to act independently of the latter body. It is owing to this reason we have all along spoken of the Jaffna Road Committee meaning the Provincial Committee. Most of the non--Official members of the Provincial Committee are sexagenarians, and old age has already begun to tell on them. The time for appointing members for the year 1902 is fast approaching, and we hope that younger men who will not "say ditto to burke" will be nominated. In the meantime, it is to be hoped that in the interests of the people of the North, some member will take up the subject in the Legislative Council. The present is a most opportune moment for such action, as Mr. Ievers who had five years' experience of the working of the Jaffna Committee is in Council and will suggest reforms and improvements. During Mr. Ievers' tenure of office as Chairman of the Committee, he effected one reform-that of reducing the commission paid to Division-Officers.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE SAIVA SIDDANTAM. BY THE LATE SIR M. COOMARASWAMY, KT.

Of the various systems of Philosophy in which Hindu literature abounds, one of the most important is Saiva Siddantam. Although the doctrines which it propounds are strictly esoteric and calculated for the comprehension and enlightenment only of those who have been initiated into its mysteries, yet it is this system which forms the groundwork whereon the huge fabric of Hindu popular theology is based. It thus becomes the fountain head, whence the religious creed of millions of Hindus in India and Ceylon is derived. As such, it is worthy the attention of the public. The subject, however, is too extensive to be dealt with, in all its ramifications, within the limits of this contribution, and this crude attempt will therefore be confined to a rough pencilling out of the most promin-

ent features of this vast panorama of literary and metaphysical grandeur.

It aspires to a divine origin, and assumes the authority of a direct revelation from God, it being asserted that "Sivan (God), through his chamberlain Nanti, revealed to Sanatkumaran, in consequence of his high devotion, the system of sacred science, called Raurava Agamam." This Agamain is the principal authority on this subject, but the matter contained in it has likewise formed the theses of innumerable treatises of extensive learning and research written by some of the most highly gifted men of genius of both ancient and modern Hindustan. The Tamil literati of Southern India have been particularly active in this department of human knowledge; and the results of their labour have been handed down to posterity in works clothed with the best, but the most difficult, strains of the rich and lofty Shen Tamil. * Amongst these, Siva Gnana Potham, by Meykanda Nayanar; Siva Gnana Sitti, by Arunanti Nayanar; and Sivapprakasam, by Uma-pathi Asaryar, are held in the highest esteem. Our information will be traced chiefly from these sources.

The style of these writings is didatic, and they contain the best examples of Hindu dialectics, which, en passant, are considered by some to be at least an expansion of the syllogism of Aristotle, if not the origin thereof. It is no easy task even for the learned amongst the Tamils, to understand fully, and expound clearly and correctly, these elaborate treatises; and it must be confessed, that the effort to reproduce the ideas and sentiments contained in them. in an English garb, and in a manner acceptable and interesting to all, is not less difficult.

Saiva Siddantam professes to treat of

I. Pathi.......God
II. Pasu.....Soul
III. Pasam.*....

An accurate and complete knowledge of the nature and bearings of these three subjects, denominated otherwise, Tripathartham, is of essential consequence, in the eyes of Hindu Savants, for the attainment of the only true object of this life—the Mutti, or heavenly bliss in the other.

God, Soul, and Pasam are the three eternal and imperishable entities, whence the universe and all its chequered phenomena have sprung forth into existence, and whereinto all and every one of them will be ultimately resolved.

(To be continued.)

*There are two kinds of Tamil - the one High Tamil, called Shen Tamil - the other, Low Tamil called Kodun Tamil.

*Lit. Fetter, chain, that which keeps the soul originally in a state of bondage and ignorance. This will be more fully explained hereafter.

LOCAL & CENERAL

A Proclamation—The Gazette contains a proclamation to the effect that certain nets described in the proclamation should not be used within parts of the sea coast of Jaffina defined in the Proclamation. Those whose occupation is fishing must procure Tamil copies of the Proclamation for their use.

The Governor on the Maniagar of Jaffna—His Excellency the Governor when conferring the rank of Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate on the veteran Maniagar of Jaffna said:—"I have pleasure in conferring the honour of Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate on you, Mr. Marugesar Thambapillai. You count fortyfive years' service and are very highly recommended by the Agent of the Northern Province for the honour."

The Superintendent of Police-Mr Rudd proceeded to Ketpaly last week, a case of grievous hurt having occurred there.

Tobacco Cultivation—A European gentleman by the name of Mr. MacDonnell Gibson is at Jaffna having come to learn the native mode of cultivating tobacco in the Peninsula. It is understood that he means to acquire a piece of land to cultivate it with tobacco.

Matrimonial—The marriage of Mr Ponniahpillai RajaGopalpillai, the only son of the retired Maniagar of Poonakari, with the eldest daughter of Mr. Kartikasar Arumugam of Kantharmadam, was registered on the 16th Instant. The bride is a grand doughter of the late Thamotharar Kartikasar, a leading merchant, and a niece of Mr. Velupillai, the well-known reuter and merchant.

Marriage in High Life—The marriage of Mr. S. S. B. Kumarakulasinghe, Kachcherri Mudaliyar, Trincomalie, with Miss Emily Thangamma, daughter of the Udaiyar of Changanai was solemnized at the American Mission Church at Changanai on the 16th Instant. We congratulate the bride and bridegroom on the happy event.

Mr. A. Naganathar—Mr. Naganathar, Shroff of the National Bank, Nuwara Eliya, is on a visit to his relations and friends in Jaffna.

The Secretary of the Y. M. C. A.—Mr. Heib, R. A., Secretary of the Colombo Young Men's Christian Association, is on a visit to Jaffina.

Obituary—Mr. C. Swanippillai who was a clerk in the Registrar's Office, Jaffos, and retired from that office a few years ago died at Batticaloa on Thursday last.

Alleged Murder at Karavetty—The Police Magistrate of PointPedro beld an inquiry last week into an alleged case of murder at Karaveddy

The Surveyors' Examination—An examination will take place in the Serveyor General's Office, Colombo, on the 6th January 1902 and following days to test the qualifications of caudidates wishing to become surveyors.

Our Next Chief Justice—A correspondent writes to a Colombo paper that Sir Henry Berkely, Chief Justice of Fiji, hopes to succeed the R. Hon'ble Sir Winfield Bosser as Chief Justice of the Island. The latter is not likely to continue as Chief Justice of the Island longer than a year.

Birth Day Honours—Our Chief Justice Sir John Winfield Bonser has been made a Privy Councillor. Mr A. C. Lawrie, the retired Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court, has been created a knight, and Mr. C. E. D. Pennycuck, the late Treasurer, has been made a C. M. G.. We congratulate the recipients on the honours bestowed on them.

The Dominions of the King—No man has ever reigned over an empire so vast as King Edward's. His Majesty rules over one continent, one hundred peninsular, five hundred promontories, one thousand lakes, two thousand rivers, and ten thousand islands.

An Education Commission—His Excellency the Viceroy has decided to appoint a commission to take evidence at all important centres of education before arriving at a final decision on the proposed reform of University education in India.

Theory and Practice—All the world knows what the professions of Europeans and Americans are on the subject of eating and drinking. How hollow they are, may be known from the fact that President Roosvelt is being found fault with for dining with the Rev. Mr. Washington, a Negro clergyman. The Eastern people are more sincere in these matters.

The success of a Hindu Student—Mr. R. P. Paranjpe, who was bracketted Senior Wrangher in 1900, has been elected a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

The New Prince of Wales—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall has been created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester.

The Supreme Court—The Hon: H. L. Wendt has been confirmed as a Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of the Island. Who the third Puisne Justice will be is not yet known. The office has not been occasted as yet.

Our Taiping Correspondence—We invite the attention of our readers to the "Gleanings" sent by our esteemed Taiping correspondent and published elsewhere. The items are most interesting as is everything that proceeds from the pen of our Taiping friend.

A. New J. P.—Mr. R. F. DeSaram, Proctor, Colombo, has been created a Justice of the Peace for the Island.

The Grand Old Man of China—Li Hung Chang to whose statesmanship and political acumen China is indebted for her integrity is dead. He was the most hated Chinese in Europe as his genius stood in the way of China being partitioned by the Powers of Europe. But even his enemies had to admit that he was one of the foremost statesmen of modern times entitled to take his rank with Bismark and Gladstone.

The Fault of being Dark-Complexioned-The Government of Natal (a part of His Majesty's Dominions) having forbidden the landing of a force of labourers from India, the latter proceeded to the Cape, where they effected a landing. But it is said that the Cape Government also is likely to adopt measures to prohibit the landing of Indians. Already Australia has enacted laws not only practically shutting out all coloured races from that country, but also forbidding their employment in Mail steamers calling at the ports of Australia. But Europeans can exploit China, Japan, India, Persia, and other countries. This is Christianity with a vengeance, and it is this Christianity which we Easterns reject. If religion does not influence the practical relations of men with one another, why is religion at all for? Our American friends in Jaffna whose countrymen refuse to admit Chinese into their territory, but compel the Chinese to admit Americans into China, will, we hope explain matters satisfactorily, if they mean their Christianity should be accepted by the Jaffaese.

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.

SOME GLEANINGS PROM THE STRAITS.

There are about 1,400 Ricksha owners with an army of 30,000 Ricksha pullers, especially Chinese, at their command, in Singapore.

Severe drought continues in Singapore and the water in the Reservoir is very much low. The Municipal authorities have stopped the supply of water from 5.30 p. m to 5.30 a.m. A water famine is anticipated.

At Hong Kong it is now found that the "safety" matches made there are not safe. Of late several cases have been reported of persons having had their hands severely burned through these easily inflammable matches kindling on the boxes being opened. Straits Times

A Very Remarkable Clock-To the list of remarkable clocks in the world that just completed by a Bohemian in Chicago, who has been at work on it for 19 years, will have to be added. It is more than 18 feet high and is 15 feet square at the base. A miniature earth circles around the dial and turns on its axis every 24 hours while the Sun, Moon, Venus, Mars, Saturn, and other planets are represented in their proper relative places. When the clock strikes, a door opens and a procession of all the Presidents of the United States issues, followed by figures which symbolize the growth of the Republic. The Inventor has kept his work a secret all these years, and even now refuses to sell or allow it to be exhi-Power & Guardian

The Titles Of Newspapers—The multiplicity of Newspapers has not given rise to many new titles. The old names are used over and over again. There are seven Newspaper Titles each of which has over a hundred adherents in the United Kingdom, "Advertiser" is the favourite; there are 160 Newspapers of that designation; "Times" comes next with 150; "News" with 149; "Gazette" with 128; "Chronicle" with 120;

"Herald" with 119; and "Journal" with 194. The "Expresses," "Guardians" and "Observers' muster over 50 each. There are 48 "Standards' and only 38 "Telegraphs." The new and original fancy names are mostly reserved for weeklies.

Power & Guardian.

One of the latest objects to be improved is the clock. The old-fashioned dial, with its Roman numerals and hands or pointers, is denounced as clumsy and obsolete by an inventor who has designed a clock which records the time minute by minute with figures shown on the face. Thus at twenty-five minutes past twelve, the clock displays the figures "12.25". A minute afterwards the "5" disappears and "6" takes its place and so on. There is certainly a good deal to be said for this method, which enables a mere child to tell the time at a glance.

Malay Mail.

A singular old man has died in Vienna in his seventy third year. He died with the reputation of being the most exact man on record. From his 27th year he kept accurate account of everything he bought, and what he paid for it. In the 27 years of his convivial life he consumed 28,786 glasses of beer. He gave up drinking in his forty-fourth year, but he continued to smoke constantly even during his last illness, raising the number of his cigars to 628,713,or an average of 13,667 a year (i.e. about 37 a day). Of the whole number some 43,500 were given to him; he bought the rest for £2,500 or about a penny each.

Malay Mail.

A Pro-Boer Meeting Breaks Up in Disorder .-Amid scenes of the wildest disorder, an attempt was made to hold an anti-war meeting on Peckham Rye last month. The meeting was organised under the auspices of the National Democratic League, and among the speakers announced were Messrs. E. A. Pickersgill, Hubbard, J. Connell, and others, who are known to be opposed to the war policy of Government. The meeting opened with passing of a vote of condolence to the American nation on the death of President McKinley. An attempt was then made to discuss the war in South Africa, and letters were read from Dr. Clark, Dr. Clifford, and several members of Parliament expressing regret at their inability to be present. The speakers, in trying to get a hearing, were met with hooting and uncomplimentary epithets of "Traitors," "Pro-Boers," "Little Englanders," &c... The audience, which numbered some hundreds, occasionally interrupted the proceedings with the singing of "Rule Britania." In the disorder no one could tell whether it was the resolution or the amendment that was carried. At the close of the meeting, notwithstanding the efforts of the "peace guards", the platform was rushed, and several of the pro-Boers were hustled, and had to seek the protection of the police. One prominent local pro-Boer was in the centre of a crowd of 300 or 400 people. The police escorted him to the road, and he took shelter in a tram car. The crowd broke the windows of the car, and the conductor there-upon turned him off. The man ran for his house in East Dulwich, the mob following him all the way. He was several times struck by sticks and stones. After he had taken refuge in his house the crowd began to throw stones, and in a few minutes every window in the house was shattered, the crowd cheering voci-ferously at each crash of glass. The police hurried up from all directions, and the crowd was gradually dis-Mallay Mail.

(Such Europeaus and unpatriotic Tamil gentlemen who wax elequent on the evil propensities of our cigar-making young men and others will be put to shame if they only study the mischievous doings of those who ought to know better, in Europe. In that continent the people—members of legislatures equally with the "man in the street"—are at times swayed by most unreasoning and violent passions, such that they have never been equalled in the East. Ed. H. O.)

SELECTIONS.

"THE MESSAGE OF INDIA."

It is still the general opinion of the European man "in the street" that the hazy and mysterious East is peopled by a humanity sweltering in primitive barbarism, both in the field of action and of thought. In spite of the growing knowledge of this continent and the increasing intimacy brought about by the political career of the European nations, the old, outworn ideas of

us still prevail, the picture of a country, "dull, faded, without form or comeliness", of a people with strange and meaningless social customs, of a religion marred by debasing superstitions, conserved and crystallised for ages. This is the picture recorded by the early oriental scholars of the West and meekly accepted by the average European from sheer intellectual indolence. Has not this great continent, peopled by races, who are supposed to have used and misused it from time immemorial, a message to the new world? And this is the question which Mr. Charles Johnston seeks to answer in the current number of the Contemporary Review. The European views of Indian people and their religion are due to the radically wrong notion, that Brahmanism as a faith was imposed by the early Aryan conquerors on the Turanian aborigines of this country; and the subsequent religious history and, to a great extent, the social and political sides of it are summed up by fantastic hypotheses of a long and severe struggle between the two races. Mr. Johnston has some very suggestive remarks to offer on the ethnic history of the people of this country. The Indian races, he says, are not of two ethnic stocks, but four; and the genius of these acting and reacting on one another blended into the present day faiths of India. First, there are the black races of Southern India inhabiting the portion of the country from Ceylon to the Southern slopes of the Vynchia mountains. They represent the world's black race, with their kindreds scattered over "Australia, equatorial Africa, forests of New Grinea, the remote fastness of the Philippines and Malay countries." And Mr. Johnston holds the theory that in the dim past, when the Himalayas raised its mighty head and the portion of land south of Ceylon was submerged in the ocean, an event to which the ancient myths refer, the black races of Africa and other parts of the country on the borders of the Indian ocean must have been stranded and cut-off from the mainland. The black races all over have the same characteristics, which in a more enlightened form we find in this country, "the same intense emotional nature, the lurid, over-fervent, pictorial imagination, delighting in passionate outbursts, in highly wrought fervour, in wild outpourings of song, battle-chants and dirges." As a race they are addicted to the rea of powers called by made they are addicted to the use of powers, called by mod-ern investigators, Mesmerism, Hypnotism and Suggestion, all depending on emotion as the chief factor, on the possibility of mastering another mind by the intense fervour of one's own. And to the natural endowments of the black races Mr. Johnston traces the demoniac elements in the beliefs of India. The second great ethnic stock is the yellow race found in the up-lands of Vyndhia hills, in Santal villages and southwards in the Eastern ghats, as the Shavaras of Madras. They are skilful agriculturists and to them is due "the sense and apprehension of the world behind the veil," to that ancestral worship, in the Indian faiths, which is based on the recognition of life beyond the grave, on the assurance that there is no death. The two other races which stand apart from these, widely distinguished in their racial characteristics, are the white Brahmans and the red Raj-puts. It is the intellectuality of these two races that has gone to mould the destinies of this country, while the philosophy of the Rajput has commanded the greatest admiration of all scholars, a philosophy little understood by the Western nations, but which, in time to come, will form the greatest message that India has in store for the rest of the world.

This, in short, is the ethnic history of the Indian races which Mr. Johnston places before the British Public. With the soundness of this theory, which we have met not for the first time, we would not at present concern ourselves. But it might be remarked that there are other accounts of the ethnic stock of the Indian races which demand as much attention. We are, however, sure there is not much that we can differ from, when we proceed to expound the great teachings of our sages and the message which India has to deliver to the rest of the world. To the intellectuality and teachings of the Brahmans are due all the religious ceremonials, social customs and laws which still obtain in this country. "They are," says Mr. Johnston, "a race of intense intellectual energy, but of no large creative force. They are the exponents of the other three Indian races, as they are to-day the intellectual instruments of the race that governs India." To them the world beyond was no hazy idea. But specifically it existed for them as the world of their fathers and grandfathers; and this continuity of life, this idea of immortality, played the most impor-tant part even in every day duties and left on law and society an indelible impression. "To European minds, however, this constant living on the threshold of the other world is inconceivable and Mr. Johnston most aptly explains the European ideas of us, when he says that the fault lies neither with them, nor with our beliefs, but with their "lack of imagination,"
"lack of insight," lack of that vision, that inner fervour which lifts the veil." It is not, however, with
the pure Brahminic faith that the future lies. It is the metaphysics of the Upanishads of the Rajput sages and their great truths that will form India's greatest message. The message of ancient Greece to Europe was "the gospel of personal man." It was "the message of Humanity, of our personal lives, well rounded, gracious, humane; full of urbanity, full of the sense of color, of beauty, of music." There it stopped; and even Plato only just hinted at the impersonal and stood at the threshold of the great unseen world. Mr. Johnston puts it most expressively when he says, that "where the message of Hellas ends, the highest teach-

ings of India begins. Where Plato ends, the Upanishads begin." And what is this teaching which Mr. Johnston thinks is the greatest that the Western nations have yet to learn. The first great teaching is the intuition of the soul within and of each other's souls, "the vivid sense of the invisible man behind the visible human body. This sense of the other self is the tremendous motive power in all human life. The realisation of our neighbour as such another as we are is the inspiring power that broods all over human life." This mere realisation will not help humanity much but for the knowledge that they are all the same; and yet this fact is hidden from man by Avidya or "illusion," as Mr. Johnston would put it, springing from the confusion of understanding and will, a human will and an animal will. A right understanding widens our hearts to include all human hearts, and necessarily leads to the great fact that there is "one Supreme Self of alk beings, which was from the beginning, which shall endure to the end; in which dwell all lives, all selves, all souls," and thus helps to bridge the gulf, otherwise impassable, between souls. In other words the great message of India to Europe will be, "cease your strife, love your neighbour, live in peace, for after all, we are all the same, the one unit, living in many forms." And this is, indeed, a great lesson which -The Hindu. modern Europe most needs.

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