

# Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

VOL. XV.

JAFFNA: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30TH 1903

NO. 27

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## NOTICE.

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary

No. 1441

Jurisdiction  
Class 4.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late  
Abubakkar Nainappillai Marakair Mohamadu  
Lebbai Marakair of Vannarponnai

Deceased.  
Meerasaibo Abubakkar Nainappillai Marakair of  
Vannarponnai

Petitioner

Vs

1. Meerasaibo Sagul Hameethu of Vannarponnai  
West
2. Meerasaibo Segu Abdulcafer of Vannarponnai  
West

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Meerasaibo Abubakkar Nainappillai Marakair praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Abubakkar Nainappillai Marakair Mohammedu Lebbai coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esquire District Judge, on the 14th day of December 1903 in the presence of Messrs. Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 14th day of December 1903 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the heirs of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 18th day of January 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 14th day of December 1903.

Sgd. W. R. B. SANDERS

District Judge.

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI.

Testamentary

No. 1442

Jurisdiction  
Class II.

In the matter of the estate of the late  
Julia Annamma wife of Cathirittamby Joseph  
Muttukkumaru of Jaffna

Deceased.

Cathirittamby Joseph Muttukkumaru of Jaffna

Petitioner

Vs

Susan Nevins of Jaffna Town

Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Cathirittamby Joseph Muttukkumaru of Jaffna Town praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Julia Annamma wife of Cathirittamby Joseph Muttukkumaru coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esq District Judge, on the 16th day of December 1903, in the presence of Messrs. Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 15th day of December 1903 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or, before the 19th day of January 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 16th day of December 1903

Signed. W. R. B. SANDERS

District Judge.

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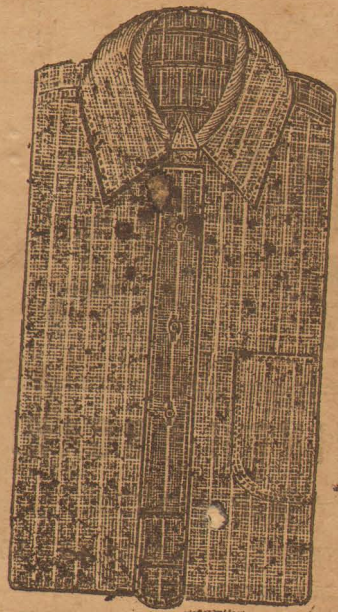
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## THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1903

"THE SS 'JAFFNA' LEAKING  
WHO IS TO BLAME?"

The "Times of Ceylon" of the 18th Instant contains, what appears to be, an inspired article under the above heading. It is from beginning to end special pleading on behalf of those who fitted up the steamer in Colombo, and, to some extent, of the builders of the frame work in England, at the expense of the unfortunate Jaffna Steam Navigation Company which owns her. The article contains several misstatements and misrepresentations, and we are disposed to think that they have been published with the object of shielding those who are really responsible for the present unseaworthy condition of the boat. We are in a position to deny the statement of our contemporary that "the Jaffna Company wanted a cheap steamer." It is with the view of getting a good boat built without regard to cost the Company entrusted the frame work and machinery to a ship-builder of repute in England, Mr. Hayes, and appointed Mr. Black, well-known in Ceylon as the Engineer of Messrs. Walker Sons & Co., to supervise the work there. The builder in England, we understand, was perfectly aware that the steamer was intended, not for Rivers and Lakes, as insinuated in the "Times", but for rough and high seas. As our readers are aware the fitting up of the steamer was given on contract to Messrs. Walker Sons & Co., as the Jaffna Steam Navigation Company found that the cost of bringing the boat to Ceylon from England would be prohibitive, if the fitting up of the wood work also had been done there. This Company completed the work in October last, and no sooner the steamer was brought to Jaffna, than it became unseaworthy, leaking badly within a fortnight of

her arrival here. She is again in Colombo undergoing repairs at the hands of the original fitters, Messrs Walker Sons & Co..

It would thus be clear that the Jaffna Steam Navigation Company is not in any way to blame in this matter. Even if the "native" Company had ignorantly asked the English builders and fitters to give them a cheap steamer within a certain amount, it was the duty of those qualified men who are expected to possess expert knowledge to tell the unqualified and unprofessional "natives" who compose the Jaffna Steam Navigation Company that a steamer could not have been made for that amount, and that, if made, she would not be seaworthy for more than two weeks, as the ss "Jaffna" actually proved to be. But it cannot be pretended that such warning was given either by Mr. Hayes, or by Messrs. Walker Sons & Co.. Instead of which the former wanted a certain amount for constructing the machinery and frame work of the steamer, and the latter offered to fit it up for another specified amount, which were accepted by the Jaffna Company; and the product of the skill and professional knowledge of the English ship-builder and of the eminent English Firm of Engineers established in Colombo is the 'Jaffna', which is the subject of so much adverse comment by the "Times of Ceylon". Evidently, therefore, the present disabled condition of this little steamer is due either to defects in the construction of the frame work, or to bad fitting up, or to both.

It was within a run of fifteen days, as stated above, the vessel became unseaworthy, and this was found out on her way to Jaffna from Trincomalee, and she was obliged to be put back to the latter place, where she was surveyed by two qualified naval officers whose report shows that the leakages were caused through galvanic action which was the result of covering the bottom of the vessel with copper sheathing. The Naval officers referred to in pointing out several defects in the construction or fitting of the boat remarked that "such a procedure is quite contrary to all rules of ship-building." In their opinion no copper sheathing should have been put on any part of the vessel which is subject to the action of sea water. The question now arises who is responsible for the kind of metal sheathing which brought about this unfortunate result.

The Times article is a clear attempt to shield the fitters from all responsibility on this score. Our contemporary says: "Messrs Walker Sons & Co. discovered, much to their surprise, that copper for the inside plating had been also sent out. It is understood that they protested that such a combination of metals would in all probability make the vessel in a short time unseaworthy, but, it was, however, decided that the construction should be proceeded with." We have the best authority for stating that there is not an iota of truth in the statements quoted above. We are informed that the Jaffna Steam Navigation Company did never receive any protest or warning as to the serious consequences that would result from the copper plating over the iron bottom of the vessel. On the contrary they (Messrs Walker Sons & Co.) informed the Jaffna Company that the copper plating sent out by the builder in England was insufficient and obtained their permission to buy more at a cost of about Rs 1000. The Colombo Company cannot and will not deny this, and we are at a loss to know where the Times got its information from.

We also understand that the builder, Mr. Hayes, instructed that there should be no copper sheathing below water line, and that those instructions were communicated to Messrs Walker Sons and Co., who, however, defend themselves by saying that

these instructions were received too late when the vessel was doing her trials outside the harbour. It is, we believe, to explain away this fact the Times writes thus: "It is a remarkable fact that the vessel had hardly been completed when orders arrived post haste from the builders at home, that the copper was to be replaced by galvanized sheathing." As far as we can ascertain the builder did not say anything as to replacing copper with galvanized sheathing, but only instructed, it might have been too late, that copper sheathing should not be placed below a certain line indicated in his drawing. It appears, therefore, that the copper plating sent out from England by Mr. Hayes was intended to cover only certain portions of the boat and not those portions exposed to the action of sea water. We have heard it remarked that every Engineer who builds or fits up steam boats know, or ought to know, full well, that copper sheathing over or near steel plate would produce the galvanized action which has resulted so disastrously in the case of "Jaffna". The question of this responsibility will soon be decided, we understand, in a court of law, or by arbitration. Messrs Walker Sons and Co., have proposed to leave this question to be decided by arbitration, but the Jaffna Steamship Company have asked them to carry on the necessary repairs thoroughly, leaving the question of arbitration open.

We also understand that, if the necessary repairs are effected, the vessel would become quite seaworthy and fit for several years run between Jaffna and South India, or between Jaffna and any other port of Ceylon. It is also worthy of notice, in this connection, that Mr. William Mather who floated the Jaffna Steamship Company and has been its Managing Director has resigned his connection with the Company, having been forced to do so by the Ceylon Steamship Company, of which Messrs Walker Sons and Co., are the Managers. The Ceylon Ceylon Steamship Company seems to have sent an ultimatum to Mr. Mather that, unless he resigned his connection with the Jaffna Steamship Company, he would be dismissed from their Jaffna Agency. Captain Williams of the ss "Jaffna" has also been taken into their service by the Ceylon Steamship Company, although the Directors of the Jaffna Company wished to retain his services for their boat. Mr. Mather's place as Managing Director has been already taken up by Mr. T. S. Cooke, Proctor, and satisfactory arrangements also will be made in the appointment of a Captain as soon as the repairs are completed which will be done within the next fortnight or so.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS,  
PLEASE NOTE.

1. We are very sorry that our earnest appeal calling for prompt payment of arrear subscriptions due to the Hindu Organ has not had the desired effect. The 15th September last, was the date, before which we asked our subscribers to remit the subscription in full, due for Vol. XIV. We tender our thanks to those who responded to our call, but to those who treated our appeal with studied indifference, we mean to give them another date, viz.,

31ST DECEMBER 1903

before which date, we earnestly solicit each and all of our subscribers to remit their dues to this paper in full.

2. Our subscribers in arrears are particularly requested to note that, unless



they pay and settle their dues before the 31st December 1903, their names will be struck off our list of subscribers and in due course steps will be taken to recover them.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**The Weather.**—It rained so heavily and incessantly for nearly 24 hours from 3 p.m. on the 28th to 3 p.m. on the 29th Inst. that a great flood was caused inundating fields and compounds. Jaffna has not seen such a flood for some years past. Most of the water channels having gone out of repairs of late the people suffer great inconvenience and hardships by water remaining in their dwelling compounds without adequate means of outlets. The railway also has blocked some outlets and the consequence is the flooding of gardens and compounds in which water did not stagnate previously. Jaffna is very badly in need of drainage. It is not surprising that, under existing circumstances, sickness prevails to a great extent in Jaffna during winter season.

**The Editor of the Morning Star and the Clerical Examination.**—The *Morning Star* in its issue of the 24th Inst., in noting the result of the last Clerical Examination says that "one from the Central College and three from the Hindu College (including old boys) passed." The parenthetical clause is evidently intended to belittle the enviable success which the Hindu College has achieved in the last Clerical Examination. Our contemporary will be interested to learn that two of those who have passed from the Hindu College, viz., V. Thamby and Velautham are still learning in the College and the other successful candidate, Ratnasingham, severed his connection with the College only a few months back.

**The late Miss Kanagasabai.**—It is with the deepest regret we have to record the death of this young lady, eldest daughter of Mr. Advocate A. Kanagasabai, leader of the Jaffna Bar, which took place last night at Kankesanturai in the Bungalow of her father. She was about 15 years of age and was an amiable and accomplished girl. She succumbed to fever. We tender our heartfelt condolences to her parents and other relations who bemoan her loss.

**The Jaffna District Road Committee.**—The Provincial Road Committee has appointed Mr. Melville Geddes as European Member of the Jaffna District Road Committee in the place of Mr. C. M. Chinniah, who has retired by effluxion of time. While we commend Mr. L. W. policy of appointing a European for the European seat, we cannot but regret that Mr. Chinniah's valuable services should have been lost to the Committee. His keen intelligence and his long connection with the P. W. D. before he became an official of the Jaffna Kachchery were of great use to the Committee in the decision of important questions that came up before that body.

**Deputation From Madras.**—Rev. J. M. Russell of the Madras Christian College and the Registrar Mr. C. A. Patterson who were deputed by the Madras University to inspect the Colleges in Jaffna and to report which of them are fit to be affiliated to the Madras University arrived here last week. As all the Colleges are now closed for Christmas holidays it will be difficult for them to make any inspection at present.

**Obituary.**—We regret to chronicle the death of the daughter of Mr. Advocate Homer Vanniasinghe which took place at the residence of her father last week. She was an amiable young girl of about ten years of age and was much loved by her parents. We tender our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved father and others who bemoan her loss.

**Nervely riot case.**—The prisoners in the Nervely riot case except one Mailvaganam Saravananthia who had some previous convictions were pardoned and released by His Excellency the Governor.

**Seizure of Teak Planks at Keerimalai.**—Some teak planks worth about Rs 600 were secretly landed at Keerimalai by the tindal of a native vessel. They were seized by Mr. Leembruggen Sub-Collector of Kankesanturai Customs and were declared as confiscated to Govt. The planks we understand will be sold by public auction on or about 1st January, 1904 and the proceeds of the sale together with the fine of Rs 100 imposed on the tindal will be equally divided between Mr. Leembruggen and the man who gave the information.

**Cruelty to Animals.**—We invite the special attention of our readers to the letter published elsewhere from Mr. Lewis Walker on the subject of establishing in Jaffna a branch of the Society for the prevention of Cruelty to animals.

## JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

LONDON, DEC. 24.

A "Standard" telegram from Tokio states that after the last conference between Baron Komura and Baron Rosen the Japanese Minister at Petersburg was telegraphically instructed to press for early answer and to point out the danger of delay.

A "Daily Telegraph" despatch from Nagasaki says that the Japanese fleet is unshipping all soft Japanese coal and shipping Welsh. All superfluous woodwork is also being removed from ships.

The "Daily Mail" telegram from Tokio says that after secret conference of Naval officers at Sasebo on 22nd Inst., six battleships sailed.

A "Daily Mail" telegram from Kobe states all best blue jackets on leave have been recalled. At the last conference of the Cabinet and Senior Statesmen, it was decided that Japan would be compelled to appeal to arms if her demands were refused.—The Ceylon Independent.

LONDON, DEC. 22.

There is a more hopeful feeling regarding the Far East prevalent to-night. The best-informed Japanese circles in London have not received any information indicating that war is imminent, though it is undeniable that the situation continues grave, and is affecting trade to some extent.

Nothing is known confirming the reports that Japanese in England had been warned to hold themselves in readiness to return home.

The Shipping Company "Nippou Yusen Kaish" declares that if there was any hint of war, their subsidised steamers would have been requisitioned.

LONDON, DEC. 23.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister in London, announces that offers of service from all parts of Great Britain are so numerous that it is impossible to reply to them individually and he therefore repeats the explanation given on the 19th Inst. through the Press with an expression of his appreciation of the sympathy thus shown to the Japanese nation.

A "Daily Mail" telegram from Shanghai states that the Japanese Government has chartered ten steamers there, aggregating 30,000 tons.

A "Daily Mail" telegram from Kobe states that the Japanese Government has chartered seven steamers most of which are now at Ujina as transports and three others at Sasebo for conveyance of supplies.

Newspapers publish telegrams from Peking which state it is reported that Sire's fleet of twenty-five vessels has been transferred to the Japanese for war purposes.

It is stated at Odessa that the last two of the Volunteer Fleet steamers for the Far East conveyed fifty-two naval guns of various calibers and eighteen quick firers for the Pacific Squadron.

The Berlin "Stageblatt" says it is stated in financial circles at St. Petersburg that the Russian Government is sounding the Berlin market with a view to floating a loan of twenty million sterling. The Ceylon Independent.

MR. DANIEL JOSEPH J. P.

We have great pleasure in giving insertion to the following Address presented to Mr. Daniel Joseph by the residents of Matale on the occasion of his being made a Justice of the Peace of that District:—

To Daniel Joseph Esqr.

Justice of the Peace

Matale.

Dear Sir,

We the residents of Matale approach you on this occasion to offer you our hearty and sincere congratulations on the distinction lately conferred on you by His Excellency the Governor of Justice of the Peace for the Matale District.

We are unanimous in our opinion and we believe it is the opinion of all who know you that no distinction conferred by His Majesty's Government was more worthily bestowed as it was so merited.

Your social position and worth, your wealth and influence, your public spiritedness which makes you always to take the most prominent part in everything which concerns the welfare of the public, and your large hearted philanthropy which has made you the poor man's friend and supporter, and your services to His Majesty's Government should, we think, have been recognised by Government long ago, but it may be that Providence has wished that it should be just at this particular time when your prosperity is at its highest and the means of being

more useful to the public more abundant, and at the same time by a happy co-incidence when you have completed your new residence which is an ornament to the town. This new honour comes to you therefore under the most auspicious circumstances.

We trust that this is only a step to higher and greater distinctions which await you and we earnestly hope that you will have a long life of unmixed happiness in your new house and that Heaven will bestow its choicest blessings on you and your family and enable you to rise higher in the social scale and be more and more useful to the public and to His Majesty's Government and to the cause of Church of which you are a strong tower.

Wishing you every happiness and success in your new career.

We remain

Dear Sir

Yours very Sincerely

Messrs. Arthur Pate

J. E. Jansz

R. Wijayakoon

F. W. Muir

D. A. de S. Ratnayaka Mudir.

D. A. C. Alwis Mudir.

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Rev. A. S. Amerasakara

Rev. W. Weeraratna.

## CLEANINGS FROM THE STRAITS.

**The Kinta Ceylon Association.**—It is a known fact to many that the Jaffna Tamils of Taiping have united themselves under the name of Ceylon Association Taiping; and presumably following the foot-steps of their brethren, the Ipoh Jaffnese have very recently established an Association with the above name, with Mr. Lambert as President and Mr. Arumugam as Secretary. Long live the infant Association.

**The Ceylon Association, Taiping.**—The present financial position of the Association is satisfactory and encouraging and it appears that it has a bright future before it. It is earnestly hoped that the Jaffnese in almost all the different important centres of the Federated Malay States will follow the foot-steps of their brethren in Taiping and Ipoh.

**The Taiping Young Men's Improvement Society.**—Many would be aware that one year has passed since the inauguration of this Society. Its first Anniversary was celebrated with all solemnities on 9th November last. A Dinner was given, in honour of the occasion, by the members and about 60 guests were invited to it. The present strength of the Society is about 30.

**The Senior Clerical Examination.**—Out of 39 candidates who went in for this Examination 17 were Jaffnese. The total number of candidates who passed the examination is 13 out of which 3 are Jaffnese, and they are: Mr. K. Arulampalam, Acting Chief Clerk, District Office, Taiping; Mr. J. S. Ampalam, Clerk, Public Works Department Taiping; and Mr. S. Matthan, Clerk, Public Works Department Taiping.

**Matrimonial.**—The marriage of Mr. S. Vyravanather, Permanent Way Overseer, Federated Malay States Railways took place in high style on Monday the 30th November last. The place was well decorated for the occasion, in Nebong Tebal, and all the friends and well-wishers of this gentlemen were present. We wish the new couple a long and prosperous life.

**Lady Reformers.**—Nineteen Chinese Ladies of California in America have convened a Meeting and decided to establish a "Chinese Female Reform Society". Lectures will be delivered on Female Education and Female Rights. When is the time for Tamils to reform?

**Federated Malay States Railways and Tamils.**—The Federated Malay States employ about 6,697 hands of which

278 are Malays.

2,021 are Tamils (Jaffnese).

1,973 are Chinese.

3,084 are Indians.

84 are Siamese.

98 are Eurasians.

**Bicycle Registration.**—Proposals are afoot for enforcing the system of registering bicycles in Slangor to ensure them from theft. Cor.

## NOTES FROM SELANGOR.

**Federated Malay States Railways.**—According to the latest Selangor Government Gazette the F. M. S. Railways consist a staff of employes numbering in all 6697, of whom 2021 are Ceylon Tamils; 3084 Indians including labourers; 84 Singalese; 98 Eurasians; 1078 Chinese (mostly artisans); 238 Malays and 94 Javanese. Although every effort is made to employ Malays extensively only a very few are available for Clerical service. The Railway is the largest of all Government Departments and its staff in higher branches is mostly manned by Jaffna Tamils. The



General Manager of these Railways is Mr. C. Edwin Spooner, an able and indefatigable Officer. He was once the Provincial Engineer, Central Province, Ceylon, and latterly State Engineer P. W. D. Selangor. His works such as new Government Offices extending over a large area, numerous roads and bridges constructed during his tenure of office in P. W. D. are sufficient to perpetuate his memory in this Country for generations to come. The grand Railway Offices and the Central workshops which are in course of construction are some of his new ventures in the Railway. The Central Work Shops when erected will cover about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile and is expected to find work for about 10,000 workmen and coolies. It is hoped that Mr. C. E. Spooner will be the recipient of the title of C. M. G. soon in recognition of his long and faithful services in this State. We regret to know that he is shortly to proceed to England on long leave.

Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur—This school has an average attendance of 550 boys of various races and religions. It has a staff of 20 teachers of whom seven are Europeans (one of whom is a strict vegetarian); 3 Jaffna Tamils who hold University certificates and the rest Chinese and Malays. About one third of the students are Tamil boys. Great demands for more schools will be supplied by the opening of new schools from next year.

Institute for Medical research—This is an institution with a large laboratory for medical researches. Specialists are daily experimenting with a view to find the origin of Malaria, beri beri, and other complicated diseases so prevalent in these places. Medical students are trained in this Institution before they are being sent for British qualifications at the expense of Government. 2 Jaffna Tamil students are now trained similarly. A very able Chinese young Doctor who is an M. A. and M. D. has recently been specially sent down here by the Secretary of State to trace out the origin of certain diseases that baffle the skill of man.

Bubonic Plague—This dreadful disease broke out amongst the patients of Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Kubu District Hospitals, but fortunately it has been stamped out only with a few fatal cases. Stringent measures were taken to root out it, and passengers by Railway from Selangor to Perak had to undergo medical examination in their transit. It is reported that the plague was imported from Hong Kong by some Chinese immigrants. This is its third advent in this place, but the harm has not been very great, the reason being that the soil of this fell disease.

Senior Clerical Examination—Out of several candidates presented for this examination from Selangor the following are the names of the Ceylon Tamils who were successful, Messrs: Jacobs, Arumugam and Chelliah. Mr. R. Arumugam is a native of Colombaturai, and as reported in my last, continues to take great interest in the cause of religion. Could there be half-a-dozen patriotic gentlemen to lend a helping hand to Mr. Arumugam, Jaffna Tamils here would be able to make wonderful progress, taking the present religious movement as a basis. Unfortunately united and sustained effort is almost an unknown quantity in this place. There are gentlemen who occasionally start things with the best of intentions but their attempts are bound to fail for want of co-operation.

Selangor Ceylon Tamils' Association—Since writing my last notes it has been brought to light that the land acquired for the building of a Temple has not yet been transferred in the name of the trustees appointed for the purpose about 2 years ago, which is said to be due to a small encumbrance on the land. In a place like this where there are hundreds of comparatively well-to-do men in every branch of business, it is not a matter of impossibility to raise sufficient funds for erecting and maintaining a Hindu Temple, more especially when we see occasional visitors from different parts of India and Ceylon very easily succeed in collecting large sums of money under various and sometimes good pretences. National prosperity depends on individual advancement. Therefore if an Association is intended to do good, in my opinion, it would be advisable, to strengthen the new movement started by Mr. Arumugam, Secretary of the Association. This will be the means of reaching the very object for which the Association was established in 1900 and will help us to march in the vanguard of civilisation. This is written in obedience to the dictates of conscience, it is, therefore, expected that every right thinking gentleman would undertake to do his duty and make this tantalising vision a real success.—Cor.

#### THE CEYLON ASSOCIATION, TAIPING.

##### ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

This Association, which was started on the second December, 1901, purely as a means for the mutual improvement of the Jaffnese here, is now two years old; and its second Anniversary was celebrated with all due solemnities on Saturday the 5th December, 1903. Invitations exceeding 60 were sent round, and the proceedings began at about 7 P. M. Early before the appointed time members began to pour in and when the clock indicated 7.10 the Hall was quite full.

Then the President, Mr. Wyramuttoo, addressed the audience in a few well chosen words,

in the course of which he referred to the good work done by the Association in the past. He said that our social status was much higher now than it was before; the respect and regards others cherished towards us much augmented; splendid progress were made in the field of sports, especially cricket; and the existence of the Association Reading Room had contributed not a little towards the results attained by the subordinate clerks in the service. He duly recognised the services done by the Honorary Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary (Mr. K. Arulampalam), and ended by appealing to the audience to warmly support the Association and to exhibit an unmitigated enthusiasm in anything that touched the welfare of their community.

Mr. S. S. Backus then rose to address the Meeting; the subject chosen was "The way to Success" and after an exhaustive speech, he concluded that the present position of the Association cannot be called a "success" and that it should be the endeavour of every individual interested in the welfare of the Association to try to increase its sphere of utility, and thus to place it on a firmer foundation.

This was followed by a conversation between "His Majesty the King of Nottingham" and the "Miller of Mansfield" conducted by Messrs. C. Carthegam and K. Ponnampalam, and Messrs. K. Thillaiampalam and W. Sabaratnam officiated as Courtiers to "His Majesty". Their performances were viewed with pleasure and their utterances were listened to in profound silence.

Then rose Mr. A. K. Backus, Financial Clerk in the State Surgeon's Office, who had much to do with the initial stages towards the organisation of the Association and made a long and interesting speech the subject being "Union". In the course of his speech he said that, although all our people are in better positions here, they have not done anything proportionate to their position, and urged on all present to be united and to work for the salvation of their race in a strange land.

When it was 9.45 Mr. A. C. R. Joseph, son of Mr. Daniel Joseph of Matale, rose to address the assembly. In a short and well-sentimented speech he eulogised the work done by the Association and showered encomiums on the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and the Committee Members.

Mr. E. C. Daniel Joseph followed and impressed upon the audience the importance of physical exercise for mental development and concluded by saying that the members should strive to bring up the Association and make "The Lion" its motto (a picture of which was fixed to the wall).

At about 10 P. M. all present retired to the Dining Room where a sumptuous repast awaited them.

Cor.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### CEYLON SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

The Editor

Hindu Organ

Jaffna

Sir

The Ceylon Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has received a letter signed by a number of distinguished Jaffna residents urging the Society to extend its operations to Jaffna. There is evidently considerable necessity for such work which however cannot be done without funds. Rs 50 per month if subscribed by residents of Jaffna would justify the Society in appointing an Inspector and Peon for work there. An appeal is therefore made for practical help in this direction. Residents of Jaffna and District are earnestly invited to become Life Members or Annual Members of the Society. Rs 100 is a Life Member's subscription and the minimum Annual Subscription of a member is Rs 5. Smaller donations are also thankfully received

Yours faithfully

Lewis Walker

Honry. Secy. and Treasurer.

COL MB 18th Dec. 1903.

#### RAILWAY REFORM.

Mr. Pope, the Traffic Manager of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, has set an example which may worthily be copied by the Traffic Managers of railways throughout India. In deference to the wishes of the public Mr. Pope arranged a Railway Conference, the delegates and visitors to which were very courteously received and entertained. A small Subcommittee was first appointed to discuss the situation and formulate definite proposals in order to enable the Conference at large to deal with the subject matter of its deliberations satisfactorily. The following

were among the recommendations definitely adopted by the Sub-committee which have a chance of being approved by the Conference and of being carried out by the Railway authorities:—1. provision of well lit and well ventilated third class waiting rooms which could be opened to passengers at all times of the day and be used by night train passengers till the next morning; 2. keeping booking offices at railway stations open for at least one hour before the train time; 3. ordering sufficient change in the shape of small coin to be always provided at booking offices; 4. admission to every platform full fifteen minutes before train time; 5. reduction in the minimum number of passengers in reserved compartments; 6. providing upper bunks in all compartments; 7. absolute prohibition of the use of waggons for passenger traffic; 8. attaching dining cars to trains for Hindus and Mahomedans; 9. provision of water-carriers in every train; 10. despatch of official telegrams in cases of accidents and mishaps 11. keeping open regular complaint books, and appointment of visitors; 12. opening experimental refreshment rooms for Native passengers, &c., &c.. We should like to hear of the favourable disposal of these recommendations so that Government may be requested to bring the traffic arrangements on other railways in a line with them.

—The Mahratta.

#### THE SLEEPING WOMAN.

##### REMARKABLE INTERVIEW.

The Special Correspondent of the "Daily Mail" writes:—I arrived this afternoon at the pleasant little village of Grambke, near Bremen, which has now become famous as the home of the "sleeping woman" Gesine Meyer, who has now awakened from her seventeen years' sleep.

Before seeing Gesine Meyer herself I had a long conversation with her father, Johann Meyer, who is mayor of the village, and his son.

In their quaint dialect they told me that Gesine, who is now forty-three years of age, fell from a cart in her seventeenth year. Shortly after this accident she complained of suffering from a severe headache, and then fell into a death-like sleep, which lasted three months.

After recovering consciousness she was perfectly well, attended to her usual household duties and helped in the harvesting as if nothing had happened. For two years all went well. Then she again took to sleeping for considerable periods, interspersed by long intervals of normal habits. At last she went to sleep on December 17, 1886, and from that date until Sunday last has slept without interruption—a period of seventeen years.

On Sunday a fire broke out in the village and the alarm bells were rung. Scarcely had their harsh sounds penetrated the room where Gesine lay, than she suddenly sat up in bed and called her father and brother by name. The surprise and pleasure experienced at her awakening, which resembled more a resurrection from death, may be imagined.

##### HER FIRST QUESTION.

One of her first questions was about her mother who had died many years ago. On the sad news being broken to her she cried bitterly. Seeing her brother, who seventeen years ago had been doing his military service, standing by her side in civilian clothes, she asked him why he was not in uniform. On his answering that he was now a married man and had long ago completed his military service she appeared to be surprised. She was then told that she had been asleep for seventeen years. "Why, I thought I had been asleep only for one night," she replied. Gesine has no recollection of anything that has happened during this long lapse of time.

I was then introduced into the room where Gesine lay on a sofa. With her clear eye she looked with curiosity at the numerous relatives and friends who stood around her congratulating her on her awakening. She recognised them all. Although somewhat pale, she looks perfectly well. Her breathing is irregular, but her voice sounds full and distinct.

She was well nourished during her sleep, and willingly allowed her mouth to be opened, but if the food was not to her taste she closed her teeth. Her sense of smell was especially well developed, and she knew immediately if a stranger entered the room. On the other hand, the sense of hearing and of speech completely disappeared during her unconsciousness. Severe thunderstorms, the noise occasioned in the house consequent upon her brother's marriage all passed unnoticed. She was never ill, and her digestion was unimpaired.

Since awakening, Gesine is in great fear of again going to sleep. High medical authorities are baffled by this remarkable case, and great physicians frequently studied her illness, but failed to discover a remedy. Dr. Pape, the family physician, who had attended Gesine for many years, foretold her awakening and it is believed that she awoke of her own accord and not through the sound of the bells ringing.

The reason for her long sleep is due, some affirm, to some disease of the nervous system, while others state that it is caused by the presence of a parasite called the filaria sanguinis hominis. The case has caused an immense sensation, and thousands have tried to see the "sleeping woman," but only a few have been admitted.