

Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)

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NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1483
Class I.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Katharupillai Sakaputheen Umaru of Vannarponnai West

Deceased.
Sulaimalevvai Marakair Segu Sultan Sikkanthar
of Vannarponnai West

Petitioner

Vs

1. Mohamedu Meeranachchia widow of Sakaputheen Umaru
2. Vappukkandu Pakkeerutampi
3. Vappukkandu Muhamedu Meydeen
4. Vappukkandu Muhamedu Meerappillai
5. Vappukkandu Sinnattampy aud
6. Vappukkandu Katharupillai all of Vannarponnai West

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Sulaimalevvai Marakair Seku Sultan Sikkanthar of Vannarponnai West praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Katharupillai Sakaputheen Umaru of Vannarponnai West coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell Esquire District Judge, on the 7th day of March 1904 in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 7th day of March 1904 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 30th day of March 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 7th day of March 1904.

Sigd. T. B. RUSSELL

District Judge

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1480

In the matter of the estate of the late
Aiyampillai Kumaru of Karadive West

Deceased.

1. Ramanatar Sivaguru and
2. wife Paruppillai of Karadive West

Petitioners

Vs

1. Ponnachoppillai widow of Aiyampillai Kumaru
2. Aiyampillai Paramu aud
3. Aiyampillai Ramanatar all of Karadive West

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Ramanatar Sivaguru and wife Paruppillai of Karadive West praying for letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Aiyampillai Kumaru of Karadive West coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell Esqr District Judge, on the 1st day of March 1904, in the presence of Mr. S. Kandayya Proctor on the part of the Petitioners and the affidavit of the 2nd Petitioner dated the 29th day of February 1904 having been read, it is declared that the 2nd Petitioner is the sole heir of the said intestate and as such is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 14th day of April 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 1st day of March 1904

Signed. T. B. RUSSELL

District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
Jurisdiction } No. 1474
Class I.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late

Sanmugam Ilayatampy of Chankanaï
Deceased.
Thangamma widow of Ilayatampy of Chankanaï
Petitioner

Vs.

1. Sanmugam Veluppillai of Chankanaï
2. Sanmugam Sapapathy of do

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Thangamma widow of Ilayatampy of Chankanaï praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Sanmugam Ilayatampy coming on for disposal before W. R. B. Sanders Esqr. District Judge, on the 22nd day of February 1904 in the presence of Messrs. Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 20th day of February 1904 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 24th day of March 1904 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 22nd day of February 1904

Sigd. W. R. B. SANDERS

District Judge

FOR SALE.

The undersigned is instructed to sell by Public auction at 2. o'clock on Saturday the 26th March 1904 the following property *Viz.*

All that piece of land called Thaianthanai in extent 86½ Lachams P. C and Manakkai and Kelakkumanakkai in extent 75 Lachams P. C both forming a total extent of one hundred and sixty one and a quarter Lachams of Paddy culture situated at Navaly in Manipay parish. The said land may be sold in one lot or in two lots according to convenience of purchaser.

Private offers will also be entertained before the date of sale by Mr. V. Casipillai Proctor and Notary Public Jaffna from whom other particulars can also be known.

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Chapel Street Jaffna.

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K. Murugesu	Kurunegala	5-50



THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1904.

THE WAR.

Six weeks have elapsed since hostilities broke out between Japan and Russia and during all this time success has been almost entirely on the

side of Japan. The Port Arthur fleet has been crushed, and the Vladivostock fleet has not been found in spite of diligent search. There are only a few battleships still left at Port Arthur, and they are apparently eluding the vigilant eyes of the Japanese. The fall of Port Arthur seems to be close at hand, if it has not already fallen, and the same fate is likely to overtake Talienwan (Dalny). The bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese on the 10th Instant was terribly severe, and there are talks of the port having been evacuated by the Russians. Vladivostock was bombarded previously from a distance of five miles, and though the blow was not effective, there are signs of consternation having been caused in the public mind. The people are fleeing from the port with all their belongings, and food stuffs have risen to fabulous prices, so that there are evident indications of Russian unpreparedness even at Vladivostock. Korea has been evacuated by the Russians, and the Japanese have occupied Antung and its harbour in Southern Manchuria. Wiju has been deserted by the Russians, who, it is said, destroyed it before quitting. The Japanese have already undisputed command of the China Sea and the Gulf of Pechili, and, in all likelihood, they will be in possession of Port Arthur and Vladivostock ere long. They are at present supreme masters in Korea, and a treaty has been entered into between Korea and Japan whereby the former annuls the Concessions which Russia wrung from her, and consents to carry on her Government under Japanese direction and control. Russia has not yet given battle to Japan on land and seems to evade any encounter with her. Of course, there is no end of the usual tall talk on the part of Russia. But she has not yet converted her words or threats into action. So far from doing so, she seems to recede before Japan. The valour and behaviour of the Japanese are on the lips of every nation, friendly or unfriendly. And the *Times* of London, a great friend of Japan, counsels her to be content with the taking of Port Arthur, Vladivostock, and Korea, and not to proceed to Kharbin where the Russians are said to be concentrating. The *Times* is of opinion that the Russian Far Eastern dominion will come to an end with the loss of Vladivostock and Port Arthur and the cancellation of the Concessions in Korea.

THE CHRISTIAN REVIEW.

The *Christian Review*, a quarterly magazine, edited by Mr. Isaac Tambyah, Advocate, with the Rev. Messrs. Thompson, Bicknell, and Weaver as associate editors, is the first of its kind published in Ceylon. The second number printed at the *Young Men of Jaffna* Press has been sent for our perusal, for which we express our thanks. Seeing that printing facilities in Jaffna are not as they ought to be, in spite of the progress Jaffna has made in other respects, the get-up of the *Review* leaves nothing to be desired.

The *Review*, as the editors aptly term it, is a magazine of religious thought, of contemporary thought for the most part. The views of different Christian theologians and savants are culled and commented on ably and lucidly. And, particularly, it is a matter of no small gratification to us that our own countryman, Mr. Isaac Tambyah, who was once a student of Divinity, and who, it is well known, wields a facile pen, is learned, to a remarkable degree, in Christian theological literature past and present. The *Review* also affords a glimpse into the study of Comparative Religion, which the Chicago Parliament of Religions has done so much to foster.

As Christians, the Editors cannot certainly be expected to accord to the teachings of Hinduism the same respect as to those

of Christianity, which they believe to be the only road open to man for attaining salvation, or, in the language of Hinduism, liberation from the bondage of sin—the fetters of *Pasam*. But in this liberal age, in which Hindus and Buddhists, Christians and Muhammadans, owe allegiance to the same Sovereign and are subject to the same laws, and in which, moreover, there is a growing tendency to recognize the truths contained in one another's religion, Hindus will naturally expect the editors of the *Review* to form a correct and proper estimate of Hinduism, as far as it lies in their power as believers in the Gospel of Jesus; and some of the greatest Christian workers in the East have done this, whereby not only the interests of Christianity have been furthered, but also social well-being and harmony. The mode and manner of expressing an opinion are as important as is the matter of that opinion, and a harsh word or an unkind expression has never been known to beget sympathy, especially in matters of religion. A prolific source of misunderstanding between the Hindu and the Christian Missionary is what we may be permitted to call "colour prejudice" on the part of the latter. The Missionary looks askance not only at the Hindu's religion, which is perhaps necessitated by his profession, but also at his manners, at his habits, at his customs, and what not. It is the colour-feeling that predominates in the West, and it is that feeling that dominates the Missionaries. A century of Christianity in Ceylon (confining ourselves to the British period), has not begotten in the missionary mind any confidence in the ability or capacity of Tamil Christians to manage their own concerns or look after their own affairs. The credit of having broken the spell belongs to Mr. Isaac Tambyah, whose abilities have been recognized, and with whom the missionary bodies have condescended to co-operate.

As far as the contents of the number before us go, it is free from prejudice or narrow-mindedness of any kind as regards Hindus or their religion, and if the future numbers come up to its standard and breathe the spirit of toleration which it does, we have not the least doubt that the *Christian Review* has a great future before it. The *Review* gives the pith of the Christian theological literature of the day, spread over so many magazines and reviews, with occasional glimpses into the teachings of other religions and the views of other religionists on analogous or allied subjects. It affords interesting and instructive reading both to the Christian and the Hindu. The usefulness of the *Review* to the Christian goes without saying. To the Hindu also it is useful in more than one sense. It gives him an insight into the teachings of Christianity, and keeps him informed of religious thought in general in the English-speaking world. We wish the *Christian Review* success.

THE CEYLON LAW REVIEW.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Nos. 4 and 5 of the *Ceylon Law Review* edited by Mr. Isaac Tambyah, Advocate, who is one of the most active and enterprising of our countrymen. Just after passing as an Advocate, Mr. Tambyah wrote a compendium on the Law of Contracts, which was well spoken of at the time. Subsequently he began the publication of what is known as "Tambyah's Reports of Cases" which appears to have been now amalgamated with the *Ceylon Law Review*. The *Ceylon Law Review* is a law magazine and reporter. While the cases are well selected and well reported, in which it does not yield the palm to any other "Reports", the character-sketches of distinguished lawyers, the comments on a variety of legal subjects,

and the cullings from contemporary reports, are features peculiar to it. To Mr. Tambyah is due the credit of having started the first and, at present, the only Law Review in Ceylon—a distinction which has been well earned and well maintained as the pages of the *Review* show beyond all doubt. The *Review* published amidst great difficulties and drawbacks—Jaffna being 250 miles distant from the seat of law and learning in Ceylon—bears ample testimony to Mr. Tambyah's patience and perseverance, qualities which always lead to success in life.

THE LACK OF EFFICIENT TREATMENT FOR MALARIAL FEVER

(communicated.)

As in all evils and disasters, so in all diseases the dread caused depends entirely on their rareness. When once they begin to visit us frequently, they cease to appear formidable and the dread and terror they spread wear away gradually. Just so it is with malarial fever. Its name is very familiar in every hearth and home in this Peninsula and its familiarity has made it to be treated with the usual contempt, but the slaughter it has made in our ranks is terrible.

There is not a single village in Jaffna which can claim to be free from its death grip nor a single officer who can boast of having contributed something to arrest its progress. To our knowledge, there is not a single medical officer who even in his snug retreat has tried to solve its mysterious presence and its vigorous attack. In fact our local medical experts are satisfied with the two well known theories, viz. the mosquito and the stagnant festering pool, which are not applicable in this instance.

If anybody is anxious to test the truth of my statement, let him go to a village like Uduppiddy where he will not come across even one stagnant pool or a solitary shrub where mosquitoes could take shelter. This village is almost devoid of luxuriant greenery, and he could scarcely find an occasion to please his aesthetic taste. Uduppiddy is situated on a high level, much higher than the towns. So the rain water runs out very easily into the adjoining fields and the inlet of the sea without doing any harm to the fever-stricken people.

While the number of fever cases is so appalling, the desire for European treatment, considering that the patents require immediate relief, is very little. The medical officer in charge of a station, however experienced he may be, will find it difficult to explain how he has failed to remove the averseness of the people to European treatment, in spite of many a trial of his, and how he has failed to enlighten them about its benefits. Even taking for granted that, in a place where native treatment is in vogue, which, to say the least, can be procured cheaply, and to which a little coaxing can induce the people to resort, the chances for European treatment are as one to ten, it is surprising that no headway has been made against the prejudice which seems to be deeply rooted. We are well acquainted with the nature of the prejudice against the treatment for malarial fever. The people have good reason for the opinion they have formed about it. They see that day by day the very same medicines are prescribed—the tasteless white powder called phenacetin and the bitter white powder quinine are given indiscriminately. Add to this, the doses are in most cases not sufficient to stop the fever. Consequently there are a great many longstanding cases which stand in need of efficient treatment. An ordinary person with a grain of common sense looking at these anaemic patients can form a fair estimate of the treatment they have been subjected to. What a miserable sight it must be to look at their anaemic faces and eruptive skins called scabs in technical language.

In this respect the Federated Malay States is far superior to Ceylon; although comparatively speaking, the former were only very recently

brought under settled government. During the last twenty years the Medical Department of the States has made rapid strides in gaining the confidence of the races which cling to their customs and institutions with a feeling almost akin to reverence. There the authorities consider it a slur on their system if a patient is kept waiting in the dispensary for more than ten minutes. The Malays and the Chinese have their competent native physicians; yet they are fond of European treatment because it is so conducted that it inspires confidence in the mind of the people. In making malarial fever one of the diseases of special study, Dr. W. J. Wright, the eminent and energetic state surgeon of Perak, has worked unceasingly and with such signal success that the natives, who by nature are obstinate, have taken to European treatment with a zest they have never displayed before. When a person dies of malarial fever the doctors will not be able to give a satisfactory reason to the Government, as it is admitted that no patient will die of malarial fever, unless it be through the carelessness of the officer in charge, but in Ceylon it is amusing to hear that malarial fever has done exactly the work of an epidemic like cholera in spite of the efforts of the medical officers. The result of this state of things is neither encouraging nor creditable. There is a strong belief among the people that European medicines cannot root out malarial fever. The fault lies in the fact that the best medicines are not prescribed to any one; and taking advantage of this circumstance the native physicians for their own benefit work upon the imagination of the ignorant. At present this is all what we can say. We hope that due regard will be paid to the opinion of persons who are interested in and solicitous of the welfare of their countrymen.

(Malarial fever rages to a great extent in villages surrounded by paddy fields. The fact that rain water does not stagnate in the dwelling lands at Udupiddy but finds its way into the paddy fields in their neighbourhood cannot combat the theory that one of the causes of malaria is stagnant water. Does not water stagnate in the paddy fields at Udupiddy? Even if there are no stagnant pools of water there, other causes may be present which give rise to malaria. Ed. H. O.)

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Weather—The heat is very intense during day. The nights are still dewy.

Public Health—Measles and chicken-pox prevail in some places. Fever is now beginning to abate.

A woman falling into a well with her child—A woman at Chiviatheru who had a quarrel with her husband last week fell into a well with her child in her arms. She was taken out from the well in a safe condition but the child was found to be dead.

Personal—Mr. S. Sangarapillai of Karaitivu, who is a Railway Guard at Taiping, has returned to Jaffna on leave.

Obituary—We regret to chronicle the death of Mrs. Kartikesar the wife of Mr. V. Kartikesar which took place at the residence of her husband at Kockivil some days back. She was the sister of Mrs. M. Thampapillai, the wife of Mr. Thampapillai Mudaliar, Maniagar of Jaffna, and was a quiet and good woman. We tender our heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved husband and others who bemoan her loss.

An "At Home."—Mr. A. Rajakariar, Irrigation Inspector at Kanagarayankulam, will hold an At Home on Saturday the 26th Instant in anticipation of his forthcoming marriage.

The Notaries' Examination—The Notaries' final Examination will, we hear, be held on the 29th Inst..

The Medical Department, Jaffna—Dr. M. Kylasapillai is attending to the duties of the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Jaffna, Dr. A. B. Santiago having gone on circuit.

The late Mr. M. B. Philippupillai—We regret to record the death, on the 14th Instant, of Mr. M. B. Philippupillai, the brother of Mr. M. B. Swampillai, a leading merchant and landed proprietor of Jaffna.

The Governor's pay—The pay of His Excellency the Governor has been increased from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 96,000 and that of his Private Secretary from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4500.

The Pearl Fishery—If the monsoon will not soon change, we hope that this year's fishery will prove very successful. There is already a large number of merchants at Marichikaddy and oysters are fetching good prices. His Excellency the Governor intended to pay a visit to Marichikaddy, but he has not been able to do so owing to indisposition.

The Law Examinations—The names of the following candidates were submitted to the meeting of the Board of Legal Education as having passed the respective examinations:—

Advocates' Preliminary—A. B. Ooray, D. P. Fernando, R. Mailvaganam, S. Sellaitorrai.

Proctors' Preliminary—A. H. Van Langenberg, C. R. de Silva, E. H. Wijenayake, B. de Zylva,

M. Somasundram, R. W. Fernando, J. T. Bartlett, C. E. Bartholomeuz, C. Sevapiragasam, T. E. Ginige, W. S. P. Samarasinghe, B. S. V. Comes, T. Ponnajiah, C. K. Joakhim, A. F. P. Ranasingha, W. J. Wanigesoria.

Intermediate—T. B. Panabokke, Daniel E. Jayetilleke, Henry A. Jayetilleke, C. V. Siriwardena, Arthur F. Goonewardena, Albert G. Sirimana, G. Vincent, E. Perera, Wilfred A. de Silva, Hallock Rajanathan, Eloy C. Misso, R. A. Perera, C. W. Palinana, A. C. Mohamadu, J. K. de Silva, D. E. Cornellis, F. A. O. Tirimana, George Ranasuriya, H. E. Dias Wanigesekera, A. Arumugam, T. Rajaratnam, G. E. G. Weerasinghe.

Final—M. S. Kandayah, G. P. Kenneman, M. E. Munasinghe, W. H. W. Perera, G. F. Gooneratne, J. L. C. Perera, V. M. Sarawanamuttu, F. Danton Perera, Z. H. Mantara, J. L. Amarasinghe, S. J. Sextopillai, C. J. Kandyah, P. B. Pallipana, P. C. F. Goonewardene, J. Kadiramar, T. Kumaraswamy, A. E. Abeykoon, E. J. Koelman, H. E. Dias, D. H. Wickramasinghe, B. L. Jaywardene, W. E. de Silva, Lloyd Pleris, E. M. Dharmaratne, J. A. Gomes, and J. Corea.

Messrs. T. B. Panabokke and Daniel Jayetilleka win the Board's scholarships, awarded on the results of the Proctors' Intermediate, of R30 and 20 respectively, tenable for 18 months. They both obtained over 66 per cent. of the marks.

Jaffna Tamils in the Straits—Over 40 Jaffna Tamils were present for the first recruits' drill at Kuala Lumpur, Straits Settlements, on the 1st Instant, which was conducted by Serjeant Fish and supervised by the Divisional Commander personally. —Penang Gazette.

—The Jaffna Tamils of this state are seriously thinking of establishing a Hindu library in commemoration of the Great Hindu monk Swami Vivikananda who gained a great distinction as an orator and preacher of Hinduism and who represented that Religion at the Parliament of religions held at Chicago in America. There will be a public meeting on Saturday next to consider the movement. —Penang Gazette.

Hindu Religions Library:—A representative meeting of the Ceylon Hindus of Kuala Lumpur was held on Saturday last at the quarters of Mr. Arumugam, of the Sanitary Board, to discuss the formation of a religious library among them. Mr. Saravanamuttu Pillai, Pandit, a Tamil Scholar of repute and Preacher of Hinduism, was voted to the Chair. A well-prepared address explaining the object was read by Mr. R. Chellaturai who was followed by Mr. S. R. Sathasivam. The latter dwelt at great length on the necessity of such an organization as that proposed for the Hindus, and moved that a Hindu library to be styled, "Vivikananda Reading Hall" be formed and established in Kuala Lumpur. He also referred to the good work done by Swami Vivikananda in the cause of religion in America and Europe, and said that the Swami's fame as a patriotic sage in the Chicago Parliament of Religions was too well-known to need recapitulation. He impressed on the members to set aside their prejudices if they had any, and to work for one common cause. The motion was seconded by Mr. T. Arumugam and carried. The Chairman then delivered a very interesting speech and eulogised the efforts of the Society in promoting a laudable cause in a foreign land. A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close. —Penang Gazette.

NOTES FROM SELANGOR.

Pursuant to a notice issued by Mr. R. Arumugam of the Sanitary Board, a large number of Hindus (both of Ceylon and India) attended last week's religious meeting of the 21st Instant, and the hall was packed to its utmost capacity before the appointed time. Pandit Saravanamuttu Pillai was as usual elected to the Chair. A well-prepared essay on the subject of "Union" was read at the commencement.

Then M. R. Ry. Nagalingam Pillai of Sidampar delivered a very instructive lecture on Hinduism as expounded in the *Upanishads*. He dwelt at great length on the attributes of the invisible Brahman by quoting several Sutras in Sanskrit from the *Upanishads*. He also pointed out the misunderstanding that exists among many that the *Upanishads* are opposed to *Siddhantic* views, and clearly proved that the *Upanishads* are quite in accordance with *Siddhantam*. He adverted to the materialistic tendencies of the age we live in and condemned them *in toto*.

The next speaker was Mr. Ampalavanapillai, who agreed with what the previous speaker stated, cited the Saint Tirugana Sanpantha Moorthy Nayanar's following Devaram:—

சாரமுத் தவொன்றாயிருபெண்ணைக் குணமுன்றாய்
மாறமுறைநான்காய் வருகுடி தயிவையைந் தாய்
ஆறாச்சுவையேழோசையொடெட்டுத்திசைதாராய்
வேறுபுடனின்றனிடமவீழிமிழிலையே.

and commented upon it exhaustively. He further told the audience of the golden opportunity afforded by this gathering for devoting a couple of hours once a week in praise of the Almighty, and said that it is one's good actions which follow him after death. He appealed earnestly to all present to encourage such

meetings.

Again Srimat Nadaraja Ayer of the Mari Amman Kovil rose up and blessed the meeting. He briefly referred to the Sen Tamil which, when compared with India, prevails in Jaffna as the result of the labours of the late renowned and lamented Sri La Sri Arumuga Navalar Avergal.

Mr. Saravanamuttu Pillai concluded with a short impressive speech, and the meeting came to a close with the singing of Devaram. The violin was played by Mr. Ampalavanapillai.

Mr. Arumugam thanked the gentlemen present for their kind presence and desired their co-operation in this work of religious research.

Dr. Lim Boon Keng, the well-known editor of the Chinese Magazine, and an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Singapore, delivered a lecture at the garden house of Captain China on the Chinese New Year's day, the subject being "Measures proposed for the advancement of the Chinese." Dr. Gnoh Lean Tuck M. A. occupied the chair. He stated that though the Chinese have amassed great wealth, they require great reforms adapted to the altered conditions of society. Mr. H. C. Ridges, M. A., the Protector of Chinese, followed in a few well-chosen words.

Joaquin Brothers—Three brothers, all of whom were Barristers-at-law, died in the Federated Malay States and in the Colony within the short space of eighteen months. —Cor.

Kuala Lumpur,
25th February 1904.

PLANETARY CONJUNCTIONS IN 1904.

This year, says the *Daily Graphic*, will be specially rich in planetary conjunctions, and astrologists will no doubt draw conclusions from the fact that Mars, the god of war, will play a very prominent part in them. Mars and Jupiter will be in conjunction on February 15th, when both planets will set close together nearly due west at 7-50 P. M. In March, Venus and Saturn are in conjunction on the 8th. Both planets are morning stars at that time, and are not well-placed for observation. Still the two may be seen rising together in the morning twilight at six o'clock. In April, Venus and Jupiter will be in conjunction, though neither planet can be seen, both being near the sun. The conjunction of Venus and Jupiter is, we believe, what the astrologers call "fortunate." Still another conjunction takes place in April. Mars and Mercury appear together as evening stars on the 8th. They both set a little after 8 P. M., so that it should be possible to see the conjunction.

On the 19th of June, Venus and Mars are in conjunction. Both planets are morning stars, but both are so near the sun that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to see them. On the 2nd of July, Mars is in conjunction with Mercury—the second conjunction between them this year—and it may be possible to see the conjunction to advantage, as both planets are morning stars, rising some time before the sun. A week later Mars has another conjunction, this time with Neptune, the nearest and farthest of the planets being thus brought into close connection with each other through the medium of Mars.

Towards the end of the year planetary conjunctions are not so numerous, but Venus will be in conjunction with Uranus on November 17th. Both planets are at that time low down in the south-west, but it will be possible to see them as they do not set till 5-30 P. M. Venus is in conjunction with Saturn on December 28th. This, the last planetary conjunction of the year, should be well observed as Venus at that time will be conspicuous as an evening star and Saturn is still a considerable distance to the east of the sun. Both planets will set about 7-30 P. M. The abundance of planetary conjunctions this year will, to some extent, make amends for the want of eclipses of the sun or moon, for there are no lunar eclipses and the two solar eclipses are both invisible in the United Kingdom. Next year, however, there will be a total eclipse of the sun to be seen at the cost of a pleasant holiday trip in August.

A STRANGE COUNTRY.

Although Tibet is commonly spoken of as the forbidden and unknown land on account of the jealous seclusion of its priestly head, known as the Dalai Lama, and the exclusion of foreigners from the country, its inner secrets are not unknown to the Governments of the three countries—England, France, and Russia—that dominate Asia. The life and social conditions of the Tibetans have been described by travellers, some of whom went in disguise as merchants or pilgrims visiting the shrine of Buddha at the capital, Lhasa. We are all familiar with the stories of those time-saving devices, the prayer-wheels that are just where they can be turned by the swift current of a stream, each revolution of the wheel, with its case containing a written invocation attached, being equivalent to the reci-

lation of the prayer by the owner who, meanwhile, is attending to his ordinary affairs. The social customs of the people in regard to marriage, the practice of polyandry, and the laws of inheritance arising out of it, are all interesting as showing influence of environment on social evolution.

The life of the Tibetan people is, from all accounts, simple. Their occupations are those of a pastoral and agricultural people, existing under conditions of climate and soil that have produced a hardy race. Owing to their religion they have none of the fierceness that generally characterizes mountaineers, but they are suspicious to a degree of strangers, their suspicions heightened no doubt by the stories coming from China of the doings of the foreigners in that country. Until the present time they have succeeded in preserving their independence, which the Chinese Government to which they were nominally subject, respected. Now, however, that the Chinese Empire itself is convulsed by agitation and the sentiment of coming changes, Tibet is looked on by the British in India as a "direct province," and they are preparing to enter and take possession. A pretext only was wanting and that has been found. The Russian bogey has been conjured up, and to save the Tibetans from the Russian Bear, the British Lion has started on the war-path.

The Government of Tibet is really a kind of triple directorate, consisting of three Lamas. The first or Dalai Lama, resides at Lhasa, the capital; the second, or Teshoo Lama, resides at Saigatse on the San-po just north of the Himalayas, and rules over that portion of Tibet adjacent to Sikkim and Nepal; and the third, or Taranath Lama, resides at Urga in northern Mongolia, which is still part of China, just south of the Siberian frontier and controls the affairs of the Mongolian Buddhists. A brother of the Taranath Lama is an official in the Russian diplomatic service, and it is to counteract his supposed influence that the British have initiated their present policy towards Tibet.

At the bottom of the business there are other motives however. In Western Tibet there are numerous and productive gold fields that are exploited only in a very primitive manner. The temptation to acquire them and the territory in which they are situated has proved too strong, and there is the additional motive in the fact that the possession of Tibet will give the British control of the head-waters of all the great rivers of south-eastern Asia from the Yangtse-Kiang of central China, to the Brahmaputra that flows into the Bay of Bengal after its junction with the Ganges.

The last Englishman who has been in Lhasa was one Thomas Manning, who was there in 1809, and no European is known for certain to have been there at all since 1846. There was reported to have been a Russian missionary to the Dalai Lama two years ago, but the envoy was the Mongol in Russian employ, already alluded to, and not a Russian European. A Hindu, of the name of Chandra Das, appears to have recently penetrated the country in the service of the British Government, and it is on his reports that the expedition has been planned.

What resistance, if any, the Tibetans will offer is not yet known. On the last occasion when they encountered the British, which was in 1885-86 their opposition was of the feeblest. Being faithful devotees of the Buddhist religion, which forbids killing, they have not been trained to arms, and when in that year they attempted to resist the British advance, and built a loose stone entrenchment behind which they awaited attack, they were shelled out of their position by the British artillery with the loss of some two thousand men, the British not losing one man. The pretence for the raid, for that is what it amounts to is that the Tibetans have not observed treaties and that they have returned the letters of Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, unopened. They are also blamed because that have not sent envoys to treat with the British Mission that marched into and encamped and fortified itself thirty miles inside their territory. A parallel case to such provocative action would be an American expedition marching into Winnipeg in Canada and summoning the Canadian Government to send envoys to make a reciprocity treaty with us. Tibet is in a similar relation to China that Canada is to England. The Treaty, the alleged non-observance of which, has brought on this attack, was made with China much in the same way that the Maine boundary, Alaskan frontier, and other questions affecting Canada have been settled with the British Government. Tibetans cannot legally, under their relations with

China, make a treaty separately. Their refusal to treat, therefore, had legitimate grounds, and it is with China, and not Tibet, England should remonstrate.

It is stated that the reason given by the Grand Lama for his aversion to foreigners is that "first they send the missionary, then they send intoxicating drinks, and then the soldiers." It is given as a cause of the unwillingness of any Tibetan to act as envoy to a British mission, that in 1892 at the time of the last negotiations that took place on British Indian territory, one of the Tibetan Commissioners was pulled out of his sedan chair by Englishmen and dragged by his heels along the road to the station. The memory of this insult is still fresh, it seems, in Tibetan memories. An apology was afterwards given, but the incident has not been forgotten.

It is regrettable, from every point of view to see nations pretending to spread civilization, adopting such methods of dealing with the weaker and less advanced communities with which they come in contact. Other ways certainly could be found if it were not that the world is dominated by the craze of militarism, but until some great catastrophe overtakes what we are pleased to call civilization, through the absorption of wealth in maintaining millions of men armed for destruction instead of devoting it to the service of humanity and peaceful co-operation among peoples, such action as is now going on the heart of far away Asia will continue to stain the annals of the world's history.—*The International Economist*. (New York.)—*The Hindu*.

AN INTERVIEW WITH A CHINESE REFORMER.

Chang Ching Ching is a Chinese reformer of the most pronounced type. Ambitious, enthusiastic and patriotic, he would make his mark any where. A man of striking personality and learned in Confucian lore and the arts and sciences of the West, he stands head and shoulders above his fellows, both in physique and intellect. There is a peculiar charm and magnetism about him which exacts esteem and admiration from others. One evening, last autumn, I happened to pass by his house and wishing to have a quiet chat with him, sent in my card. He met me at the door, and conducted me to his library. He had been busy writing an article for a Shanghai magazine, and asked me whether I had not heard of the rumours of war between Russia and Japan. I replied in the affirmative, and added that the Japanese appeared to have made up their minds one way or the other. He said: "It is rather strange that I have come to the same conclusion. But I earnestly hope that war will not break out after all. China very badly wants peace for carrying out her reforms. We had two opium wars, followed closely by the Taiping rebellion, which almost shattered our country from end to end. Had it not been for Gordon, Li Hung Chang, and Tse Tsung Tang, China would have been broken up. Then in 1894, we had our war with Japan; and, in 1900, we had the Boxer rising. I wish we could secure uninterrupted peace for at least thirty years."

I rejoined: "sometimes war is a necessary evil, and is a precursor of good times. Washington in America, Cromwell in England, Napoleon in France, Mahomet in Arabia, Baber in India, and Chin Shih Huang in China, all achieved greatness and secured peace and prosperity for their respective countries by means of war which enabled them to reform existing institutions. I am essentially a man of peace; but between bloodshed and slow decadence, I would choose the former, provided that by such means a fresh lease of life is vouchsafed to a nation."

My friend chimed in with a slow "Yes," and added: "If war breaks out between Russia and Japan, there will be a conflict of opinion between the Chinese nation and the Manchu Government at Peking. The Chinese never cared for the Russians. They are imperious, brutal and boorish. They came out in their true colours during the Boxer rising. They put to death the entire population of a Chinese town in Manchuria. Innocent men, women and children were ordered to cross over to the other side of a river, and the whole of them were massacred in cold blood. Besides, the Russian soldiers were guilty of nameless atrocities, on the other hand the Manchu Government is hand in glove with Russia. The Russians are looked upon by the Manchus as their saviours against the Japanese invasion, and were appointed by them to be the warden of the marches in Manchuria, the home land of the Manchu race."

I enquired whether the Manchus were so fatuous as to enter upon such a suicidal policy, which was fraught with evil consequences to the integrity and independence of China. My friend wildly answered, "I do not blame the Manchus. It is a matter of self preservation to them. Amid a Chinese population of 400 millions, they do not number more than twenty millions. They are decidedly in a minority, as far as numbers go. You must remember that the Manchus came into China by invitation, and not by conquest. They have a presentiment that they will be turned out some day. Their dynasty has been established upon the Dragon Throne for about 260 years, and many Chinamen consider that the time has arrived for the appearance of a native dynasty. Further, the

Japanese were, at one time credited with the ambition to conquer China and drive out the ruling race. The Manchus were thus between the devil and the deep sea. Any support, even if it be a broken reed, was welcome to them. At that particular juncture, Russia was indeed a friend in need, and she favoured the Empress-Dowager with counsels of perfection. Count Cassini, the Russian Minister at Peking, was a great diplomat. He it was who negotiated the Convention relating to the Russian occupation of Manchuria. For this great service he was promoted to be Russian Ambassador at Washington. In 1897, Prince Ukhtomsky, who is a personal friend of the Tsar, visited Peking. He brought valuable presents for the Empress-Dowager and was instrumental in strengthening the bonds of affection between the Russian and Chinese Courts.

"Are the Chinese, then, disaffected towards the Manchu dynasty?" I asked, "and are they prepared to see a new dynasty on the Dragon Throne?"

Chang answered both questions with a "yes" but added a rider that, as a change of dynasties would entail great bloodshed and set back the dial of national progress, the Chinese of the Reform Party would prefer to continue their loyal support to the Manchus, provided that the latter would identify their interests with those of their subjects and undertake to carry out salutary reforms on the lines indicated by the most eminent Chinese statesmen of the day.

I said "If then, the Manchus are assured of Chinese loyalty and of Japanese friendship, the Russians have no 'locus standi' any longer. Their assurances and their promises of help and protection do not count for much. If war breaks out, I may perhaps, take it for granted that China will side with her quondam enemy, Japan, rather than with her 'soi-disant' protector, Russia."

"Decidedly," said my friend with a distinct emphasis. "But" he went on to say, "China has a long land frontier, which it will be very difficult to safeguard against Russian aggression. Besides, if China became a belligerent in the war, matters, would be very much complicated. Other nations like England and the United States could not afford to look on with folded arms. Foreign commerce would be prejudicially affected."

I said: "Your sympathies are then with the Japanese. What do you think will be the upshot of the war, if it breaks out?"

"May Heaven forbid," ejaculated Chang. "I am sure I cannot answer your questions satisfactorily. The chances are that our Secret Societies may give trouble. The rebellion in Kuangsi is still smouldering, and the Boxer propaganda has not yet been forgotten. The Kolao Hui and Triad Societies have ramifications all over the Empire. It is only to be hoped that, for the sake of China herself, these discordant elements will be kept well under control. On the whole, it seems to me that Japan may win momentary success at the outset. But the resources and latent powers of Russia are unknown and cannot be gauged. She has enjoyed peace since the war with Turkey in 1877, and has made great strides in commerce and armaments. There may be startling developments in store for us. I am, however, interested in the coming war, only in so far as it affects China. It would indeed, be a great object-lesson to her. No nation can sustain her greatness in commerce and in the arts and sciences without being also great in war. If that lesson is once driven into the heads of the Chinese people, the majority of whom now pass their time over counters and ledger books, the dry bones of Oriental conservatism will begin to rattle, and there will be a revival of militarism in the Far East, and China will claim her proper place in the family of nations."

My friend had a particularly sanguine temperament: he could project his mind forward into aeons and centuries, and could manage to live in the atmosphere of his dreams, before there was any prospect of their realization. I did not share his views, but it would have been the height of rudeness for me to say so. I tried to smile benignantly, shook him by the hand and bade him good bye, and left him rapt in his political dreams and prognostications.—*Rangoon Gazette*. —*The Hindu*.