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NO 75

FIRST ARCHITECT OF LANKA'S FREEDOM

SIR PONNAMBALAM ARUNACHALAM

(By ARUL THIAGARAJAH—Co'ombo)

THE Rt. Hon. Col. Josiah C. Wedgwood, P. C., D. S. O., D. L., M. P. wrote that 'Sir P. Arunasalam had India in his blood, Ceylon as his field and workshop; but in his mind he was the perfect cultured liberal minded English gentleman of the 19th century.'

Three brilliant stars were shining in the educational, social, political and religious firmament of Lanka in the second part of the Nineteenth Century. They were Ponnambalam Coomarasamy, Ponnambalam Ramanathan, and Ponnambalam Arunachalam. History alone can assess the contributions made towards the progress and welfare of Ceylon, by these distinguished brothers, each of whom has carved out a remarkable career for himself. The great-great-grandfather of the brothers Ponnambalam, surnamed Dharmavan, the Munificent, a founder of temples, helper of education and philanthropist. Coomarasamy Medaliyar their maternal grand-father was the Tamil member of the Legislative Council. Their mother was a sister of Sir Muttu Coomarasamy, a name which stands in bold relief in the history of the Island. The family is distinguished by names which have reflected distinction upon the Ceylonese Community. The three brothers have won the esteem and regard of their countrymen, and they possessed in an uncommon degree the spirit of independence. If Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan was the most admired, Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam was the most respected man in the Island.

'Of Highest Promise'

Ponnambalam Arunachalam was born on 14th September 1853, at Sea Street, in Colombo; the then Head Quarters of the leading Hindus. Arunachalam had his education at the old Academy like his two elder brothers till he went to Cambridge. Dr. Baake, the principal of the Academy is said to have made the following

observations about the young Arunachalam; "In my forty years experience in the instruction of youth, I have never met with any pupil who gave greater evidence of ability and scarcely one who gave so great. Mr. Arunachalam's conduct has always been most satisfactory and I consider him to be in every way, a youngman of the very highest promise".

In 1851, young Arunachalam joined the Christ's College, Cambridge. Mr. Arunachalam had a special aptitude for both classics and

Broad Cast Talk on Sir P. Arunachalam

Mr. C. Suntharalingam M. P. will broad cast a talk in Tamil about Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, Scholar, Savant, Philosopher and Patriot on 9-1-53 between 9 00—9 15 p. m. from Radio Ceylon. Medium wave metre 326 and short wave 49.38 metre.

and mathematics. He passed his B. A. with honours in 1875 along with a number of distinguished Indians. During this time Sir Muttu Coomarasamy happened to be in England and dragged him to London to enter for the covenanted, colonial Civil Service Examination. Arunachalam sat for that exam without any preparation or reading. He passed that test and received the appointment from the Secretary of State and started life at the Colombo Kachcheri. He continued to serve as Magistrate, Commissioner of requests, and District Judge in almost every part of the Island, till 1885 when as District Judge of Batticaloa his merit was recognised by Sir Arthur Gordon—the then Governor—who promoted him over the heads of a large number of seniors to the office of the Registrar-General and Fiscal of the Western Province. A me-

morial was sent up to the Secretary of State by almost half the Civil Service protesting against the move, but Sir Arthur Gordon's action was upheld.

Sir P. Arunachalam brought to bear his genius for organisation and capacity for administration in his new office of the Registrar-General. His administrative genius reached the high water mark of excellence, when as Superintendent of Census he issued his report in two thick folio Volumes. Distinguished local writer has made the following observation as regards the Census Report of 1901:-

"A Government official report would be the last document the public would care to read for beauty of diction. But in Sir. P. Arunachalam's account of the history and religions of of the Island in his Census Report, would be found the language of Addison, the eloquence of Macaulay, and the historical insight of Mommsen". From the time of his appointment to the date of his retirement as the doyen of the Civil Service, Sir Arunachalam was the personification of zeal, industry and devotion to public duty.

In 1912, Sir Henry Mac Callum appointed Arunachalam to the Executive Council. As an Executive Councillor he showed remarkable courage and independence. When at the close of the debate on the Salaries Scheme, a division was called, quite a sensation was caused when Sir P. Arunachalam was seen rise from his seat and walk up to the Governor who was presiding. After a whispered consultation he returned to his seat and voted with the unofficials against the Government. He retired from public service in 1913, with a record of achievement unsurpassed by any officer of the Crown. Sir Arunachalam was the apotheosis of administrative efficiency and official integrity.

Soon after this retirement from public service the Order of Knighthood was conferred on him amidst universal manifestation of public applause and intense satisfaction. In 1904 he and Lady Arunachalam had the privilege of being received in private audience by Queen Alexandra, who was gracious enough to present Lady Arunachalam with an autographed photograph of Her (Continued on page 4)

SILENCE SPEAKS LOUDER THAN SERMONS

CARRY TRUTH IN LIFE MORE THAN IN LIPS

WE reproduce below an article by Dr. Swami Rajeswarananda, M. A., D. Litt. from the 'Message of the Maharshi' on the occasion of the 73rd Birthday Jayanti of Sri Ramana Maharishi.

One has to learn the lesson of serving without any ulterior motive. Service always bears fruit. It always creates. Every act of our life can be done in such a way as to uplift us or to drag us down. It is not what we do but how we do it that determines the merit of each action. A worthy lover of mankind is like a flower which gives its fragrance whether we place it on our head or trample it under our feet. His nature is to serve (give) without any regard for his own personal gain or loss. It is indeed a rare blessing that we had in our midst our beloved Mahatma Gandhi whose actions spoke louder than words, and our blessed Bhagavan Sri Ramana whose silence spoke louder than actions.

How to Mould Destiny

It is vain glory to say that our Rishis of yore were great and then go to sleep. It is nothing less than foolishness. And we say: "We are proud of our Rishis" But ask yourselves; "Are the Rishis proud of you?" So, you see, it is said that when wealth is lost, nothing is lost when health is lost something is lost, but when character is lost, everything is lost. In other words, when bad instincts are repeated, they grow into an impulse, Impulses repeated form an idea. Ideas repeated become an act. Actions repeated become a habit. Habits repeated become a character. And character repeated moulds the very destiny of man. That is why a man is his own advertisement, well or ill, by his thoughts, words and deeds. As such, on the contrary we should make our spiritual instincts impel, impulses ideate, ideas

actuate, actions habituate, habits characterise and character mould the destiny of man into a perfect Self-realization, the destination in the pilgrimage of life.

Be a Live Wire Personality

Let us refuse to be like a driftwood floating at the mercy of the stream of life but become a live wire personality and lead an electrified spiritual life. Let us not live in the dungeons of our own making and then complain of darkness and gloom, like the butterfly that fails to face the freedom of the sky as better than the shelter of its own cocoon. Let us be thinkers and interpreters in the broad day light of the world and be mere scholars in the school of books. Let us put out the noise of the ego to hear the voice of the divine and thus develop steel in the muscles of our soul to live in endless glory. Let us be like the sandal tree that imparts its own scent and sweetness to the axe that strikes it. Let us make our life a living epistle so as to make the world read its immortal truth in us without its spectacles.

The Need For Religion

The world has not as yet healed itself from the wounds of a terribly destructive and disastrous war. All the cherished human values are threatened and there is only material and moral shock in every way and at every turn. War by war cannot be conquered as hatred. War is unnatural for man. Mere political, social, economic and scientific adjustments and readjust-

(Continued on page 3)



Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, '53

Treasure These Thoughts

Truth is within yourself.
It endures for ever
It exists in the past,
present and future.
There is an innermost
centre within yourself.
Where Truth abides in
fullness.

ARUNACHALAM DAY

IN THESE DAYS OF DIVIDED leadership and diversified political groupings it gives us mental relief to look back across the decades and remember men who commanded the respect of the people by force of merit of service. Though it cannot be gainsaid that the March for Freedom in India was of the perfect order of service and sacrifice yet it cannot be denied that the struggle for self-determination in Sri Lanka also had its highlights. Twenty eight years ago, this day, there passed away an illustrious son of this Island who had laid the foundations for the freedom movement in this country as heroically as any patriot had done in any other country. It was the period of constitutional agitation for reforms and in the best accepted political manner did Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam inaugurate the National Congress to launch a vigorous campaign for making the alien rulers realise the fact that no longer could they mistake the people of this country for mechanised subjects.

It may be that the Father of the Freedom movement did not exhibit the fire of a revolutionary who catered for the sensation-mongering mobs which gather at the Galle Face Green or Price Park. That Sir Arunachalam lacked the technique of the tub thumper who worked ceaselessly for political popularity is equally true. In short he was a plain simple man of high thinking who never knew artful dodge—a trait which has become a requisite for leadership as recognised by disruptionists the world over including this little isle.

The Arunachalam age was a peculiar period in the history of the constitutional development of

The Garb Of Saintliness In Virtue

The Counterfeit Go Disciple Baiting

Introspect and look within. Throw the light of introspection upon your lower nature. The old Samskaras of vanity, cunningness, petty-mindedness, crookedness, arrogance, jealousy, fighting nature, boasting, speaking ill of others, belittling others, may be still lurking. You cannot shine unless you remove them thoroughly. Success in meditation is not possible without the eradication of these qualities of lower nature. Purify yourself. Give up selfishness, pride, egoism, hypocrisy. Regenerate your lower nature, and become a dynamic centre of Peace, Joy and Glory.

Is man going to continue to adore Mammon, or is he desirous of tread-

(Flashes From
SIVANANDA JYOTHI)

ing the Path to God? Answer this question, and you will have answered the question "Whither, humanity?"

Beware of pseudo-gurus. They are knocking about

this country. At a time when flunkies and sycophants were vying with each other to catch the eye of the Crown, the surprise of a Civil Servant in retirement appearing in the political firmament as a hero was no ordinary event. The intelligentsia readily accepted the leadership of this silent reformer as much as the rest. And the freedom movement began to stir the imagination of all including the foreign rulers themselves. The first fruits of the early agitation may not have been spectacular being confined to mere broadening of the then existing legislature on an elected basis but nevertheless they proved to be the corner stone in the architecture of the freedom of later years.

And well and truly we do say that the noble and valuable work of Sir Arunachalam cannot be lost sight of at any time by any generation in this Island.

in abundance in these days. They will exhibit some tricks or feats to attract people. Think that those who are proud, who are roaming about to make disciples and to amass money who talk of worldly matters who speak untruth, who boast of themselves, who are talkative, who keep company with worldly people and women, and who are luxurious are false imposters. Do not be deceived by their sweet talk and lectures.

Karma Yoga prepares the mind for the reception of Light and Knowledge. It expands the heart and breaks all the barriers that stand in the way of oneness or unity. Karma Yoga is an effective Sadhana for Chitta Shuddhi or purity of the mind-stuff and the heart. Therefore do selfless service constantly. Take delight in service.

Any number of zeroes have no intrinsic value unless number 1 (one) is added before them. Even so the wealth of the three worlds is nothing if you do not try to acquire spiritual wealth, if you do not strive for Self-realization. Therefore live in the soul or the Self within. Add the Divine to the Life here. Seek first the Lord within. He is the Fountain-Source of Divine Riches, Power and Beauty.

The beginning of saintliness is killing of egoism. The end of saintliness is Eternal Life. The key to saintliness is Brahmacharya. The light of Saintliness is universal love. The garb of saintliness is virtue. The mark of saintliness is equal vision. The road to saintliness is regular meditation. The foundation of saintliness is Yama-Niyama. May you become a saint.

Japa is the repetition of any Mantra or name of the Lord. Japa must become habitual. It must be done with Satvic or Divine Bhav or feeling purity, Prem and Sradha. There is an indescribable power or Achintya Shakti in the names of God or Mantra. Every name is filled with countless Shaktis or potencies.

In Parliament

Ration Office A 'Mad House'

Malan Method
Visible Says
Former Minister

The first day of the sitting of the House of Representatives in the year 1953 was the occasion of a concentrated attack on the new Rice-Ration policy of the Government by the entire opposition.

The Communist Leader called the Ration Office a 'Mad House' which description was later endorsed by the M. P. for Vavuniya, Mr. Suntheralingam however went further and said that even persons who had been duly enumerated could not obtain the new series of coupons because of the several hurdles placed by the Department of Food Control.

Dr. N. M. Perera carried on the attack and was assisted by Mr. C. Sittampalam, former Minister. The latter was so much touched by the situation created for Indians that he was more virulent than usual in his criticism.

Said he "No other country in the world had resorted to racial discrimination in the distribution of food. Every person should be given his share of food whatever his nationality might be.

"It would be unbecoming to drive them to a point of starvation in order to get them out of this country. Such an act would bring this country into disgrace.

He added not even Dr. Malan's Government would have resorted to such an act. The Government was violating a fundamental principle if on the basis of nationality it deprived a certain section of the population of their food."

The Prime Minister, however, denied any discriminatory act of administration and added illegal immigrants did not have a right to rice ration which provided rice at a subsidised rate only to nationals. The P. M. went on to say that this arrangement could not mean starvation for the illegal immigrants for they had other varieties of food and rice to procure.

Dedicating Everything To Society

Let That Be Ideal
Of Life

It is generally held (quite wrongly of course) that non-possession is only for Sannyasis; the common mass of people cannot do without possession. That is why, though we respect the Sannyasis, we do not follow them; though we accept Sannyasa as the ultimate ideal of life, in our mundane world, possession continues to hold the field.

BY
Acharya Vinoba Bhave

When the truth is thus truncated and accepted only in part, it can yield only partial good. The result has been that to fight an evil, one is led to take recourse to the very evil one wants to drive out. And if we succeed even in such an attempt, we only succeed in destroying it physically, but immortalize its essential spirit. Hence at present greed and possession are the order of the day, the ruling principle the world over. What is more, an imposing legal framework has been raised around it giving it a look of respectability, and therefore it does not strike one as wrong. We consider stealing to be a crime but connive at those who encourage the anti-social activity by amassing heaps of money. In a story in the Upanishad, a king says: "In my kingdom, there is neither a thief nor a miser." As we know, it is the miser who gives rise to the thief. We condemn the thieves to rot in the prison-house, but let their creators roam about in complete freedom. They even occupy seats of honour and respectability in society. Is this justice? The Gita calls them thieves, but then we have to put it away as the book of the Sannyasis with which we are not concerned.

As at the time of putting oblations into the sacrificial fire, we say, "This is for Indra, not for me," so we should say of whatever we produce in fields or factories: "This is for the community, for the nation; it is not for me". We should dedicate all that we have to society. And then, what we receive back from society, according as we need, will be life-giving like nectar.

—HARIJAN

Silence Speaks Louder Than Sermons

(Continued from page 1)

ments will not do. They cannot bring in a better order of things with permanent value amidst the distracting diversities of the present age. Seek the foundation for a better humanity in the education of the religious sense. Rediscover the vitality latent in religion and apply it to the daily round of life. Sensitise the human mind to the supreme and sublime need of a spiritual outlook and expression. Religion is the very soul of civilization and does not lose itself in the arid sands of secularism. Through pure thoughts, words and deeds it lifts man from the level of the brute to that of truly human and ultimately it digs up the human and reveals the divine. It is the highest pursuit in the world, fundamentally being subjective in supreme consciousness. It guides the will and feelings of man and takes him to the highest goal. Thus religion creates heroes of peace and establishes happy brotherhood of nations by creating a spiritual climate that makes the operation of lower forces of strife and discord impossible. So kindle the light of religion, the realization of Divinity ever present in the heart of one and all.

The 'Practice' Method

Humanity in the world is now linked up together by radio, talkie, telegraph, cablegram, wireless, aeroplane, seaplane and so on. Life has become, as it were, a world-broadcast. Yet, withal, all is not well and all these do no hold water. Propaganda and practice have to go hand in hand. Propaganda should issue forth from practice. Practice by itself is a method of propaganda that can gain ground nowadays. Simply carry truth in your life rather than on your lips. Words and efforts fail. Silent example speaks louder than sermons. Bees come of their own accord where there is honey. Simply produce honey in your life. That is real practice and propaganda combined. Such a life expresses a loving tolerance towards all faiths and their forms, in the name of humanity in a universal manner. It recognizes that each one represents the fulfilment of a human need on the way towards the realization of the Absolute Reality.

Our Astrological Feature

WEEKLY FORECASTS

"SRI PATY"

FROM 11-1-53 TO 17-1-53

ARIES Aswini, Barani, Kartikai 1st part [Medha Rasi]

The first three days likely to upset you much. You will find it difficult to make both ends meet. Ill health and indications of minor accidents shown. Rest of the week favourable for business deals.

TAURUS Kartikai 2, 3, 4, Rohini, Mirugasirisha 1, 2 [Idapa Rasi]

The first three days will be favourable for personal affairs. You may fall out with your senior colleagues or employee during the second half of the week. Tuesday afternoon Wednesday and Thursday must be spent with care. Week end will bring in some good news.

GEMINI Mirugasirisha 3, 4, Thiruvathirai, Punarpusam 1, 2, 3 [Muhana Rasi]

You will find it difficult to have any rest this week. Your time will be spent in other people's affairs. The last three days of the week likely to cause you much annoyance. Beware of accidents.

CANCER Punarpoosa 4, Poosa, Ayilya [Kalaka Rasi]

Domestic troubles will upset you much this week. Scandal mongers and old enemies likely to cause you annoyance. But they will not be able to succeed. Take care of health specially eye troubles.

LEO Maha, Pooru, Uttira 1, [Singha Rasi]

You will be able to beat your opponents and competitors hollow this week. Success in litigation also promised. Some longstanding disputes and misunderstandings will be cleared. But all not well on the domestic side.

VIRGO Uttira 2, 3, 4, Atta, Chittirai 1, 2 [Kanni Rasi]

You will find it difficult to arrive at certain decisions this week. Difficulties in dealing with important matters shown but you will be able to steer clear of them. Triumph over competitors promised week end.

LIBRA Chittirai 3, 4, Swati, Visaka 1, 2, 3, [Thula Rasi]

Troubles through maternal relatives or ill health to mother likely this week. Your health too is likely to be affected. All well on the business side.

SCORPION Visaka 4, Anusha, Kettai [Vrischika Rasi]

Vehicles likely to cause you much expenditure this week. You will have no mental peace. Some help promised from strangers. Relatives may cause some scandals to your annoyance week end.

AGITTARIUS Moolam, Pooradam, Uttiradam 1. [Thanu Rasi]

You will be quick to pick up quarrels this week. Health likely to be affected. Eye troubles shown. Your brother and sisters will help you much in your affairs.

CAPRICORNUS Uttiradam 2, 3, 4, Thiruvonam, Avittam 1, 2. [Makara Rasi]

Health will be a problem for some time to come. Mental worries and domestic troubles also shown. Unless you are careful, some stab in the back likely through some friends.

AQUARIUS Avittam 3, 4, Satayam, Pooraddati 1, 2, 3 [Kumbha Rasi]

Some improvements in your financial conditions promised this week. You will be able to clear many problems though with some difficulty. Improvements in your domestic sphere also shown.

PISCES Pooraddati 4, Uttiraddati, Revati. [Meena Rasi]

Your friends will be of immense help to you this week. Success in new undertakings promised only after much labour. You will get the better of people who have been working for your downfall.

'Four Men Whom World Should Honour'

The Australian columnist, Mr. Douglas Wilkie, has listed Prime Minister Nehru among the four men whom "the world should honour" because "they perform the role of moderation, wise restraint and forbearance. They know and understand the deep currents of power politics. But they do not bark or snarl on that account. They seek to wield the maximum of influence with the minimum of noise." Other men listed are Mr. Louis St. Laurent, Mr. Lester Pearson and Mr. Dean Acheson.

Writing about Nehru in his column "As I see it" in the SUN (a news pictorial) of January 2, Mr. Douglas Wilkie says: "He should be honoured for persisting in the belief that there is a middle way to peace and for remaining the most indispensable man in Asia without posturing or ranting. Nehru of course belongs to the front rank of world leaders".

WANTED

Wanted Ceylonese lady graduates to teach English, History, Government and Domestic Science. Special posts and vice principalship to suitable candidates. Apply to Manager Vada: Hindu Ladies College, Point Pedro, (M. 216, 9, 13 & 16).

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA
Testamentary Case No. 1526
In the matter of the estate of the intestate estate of the late C. M. Dharmalingam of Stanley Road, Jaffna

Deceased
Dharmalingam Sivapragasam of Manippay Petitioner
Vs.

1. Ponnampalam Arumugam and wife, 2. Kanmany of Kalpaturu Gardens, Maho, 3. Theivanayagampillai Gumbirajah and wife, 4. Puspavathy of Stanley Road Jaffna Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before K. D. de Silva Esqr. District Judge, Jaffna on the 1st October 1951 in the presence of Mr. E. M. Mathiaparanam Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit and petition of petitioner having been read: It is ordered that letters of administration be issued to the petitioner as lawful son and heir of the abovenamed deceased unless the abovenamed respondents or any other persons shall appear before this court on 2nd November 1952 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary. The 1st day of October 1952
Sgd. K. D. de Silva
District Judge

Time to show cause extended to 19-1-53.

Int'd. G. S.
D. J.
(O 136 9 & 13)

NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF POINT PEDRO

Rajaratnam Sivadas of Thondamanar Plaintiff.

Vs.

Veeragathipillai Rajasegaram of Thondamanar Defendant.

It is hereby notified that action No. 278 has been instituted in the District Court of Point Pedro under the partition act No. 16 of 1951 for the partition/sale of the land/lands called "Sooranpattu" in extent 138 acres 1 Rood and 13 Perches and situated at Soranpattu in Puloppalai Parish in Pachchilaipali Division in Jaffna District Northern Province.

The defendants in the foregoing action are summoned to appear in Court on the 21st day of January 1953 at 10 O'clock of the forenoon.

By order of Court,

S. Velauther.

Drawn by M. Esurapadham, Proctor for Plaintiff. This 17th day of January 1953.

(M. 215, 9)

NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

No. 9146.

Franciscammah widow of Varapiragasam of Palaly. Plaintiff.

1. Saviri Pavilu of Palsly, 2. Pavilu Savirimuttu of do, 3. Velupillai Suppiramaniam of Vasavilan, 4. Varapiragasam Mariyampillai of Palaly, Minor 5. Varapiragasam Mauris of do, Minor 6. Mariyapillai daughter of Varapiragasam of do, 7. Pavilu Lukesu of do, 8. Romannpillai Sansaimuttu and wife, 9. Arvathasthammah of do, 10. Mathias Abraham of do, 11. Mathias James of do 12. Sellathurai and wife 13. Mariammah of do, 14. Ragonathar P. Rasiah of Jaffna. Defendants.

The 5 and 6 are minors by their G. A. L. the 7th deft.

It is hereby notified that action No. 9146 has been instituted in the District Court of Jaffna under the Partition Act No. 16 of 1951 for the partition of the land called Othinrakadu in extent 63 lms V. C. situated in the Village of Palaly in the division of Valikamam North in the district of

NOTICE

JAFFNA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Licences for 1953.

It is hereby notified for general information that all licences for 1953 in respect of:

(i) Trade Premises
(ii) Dangerous & Offensive Trades.

(iii) Vehicles & Animals including registration of Dogs, should be taken out on or before the 31st day of March, 1953.

All defaulters will be prosecuted without further notice.

K. SHANMUGAM
Municipal Commissioner

Municipal Office, Jaffna, 6-1-53.

(G. 55 9)

Jaffna N. P.

The defendants in the above action are summoned to appear in court on the 13th day of January 1953 at 10 O'clock of the forenoon

This 29 day of Dec. 1952.

By order of Court.

T. Sivasubramaniam,
Secy. D. C.

(O. 135, 9.)

FIRST ARCHITECT OF LANKA'S FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 1)

Majesty. Again in 1920 Their Gracious Majesties King and Queen Mary received them in Private Audience.

His Watchword

"Service" has been the watchword of Sir Arunachalam. Now he started another career which was to be still more brilliant than that in the Civil Service. He realised the disabilities under which his countrymen were suffering. He mobilized public opinion and started the Ceylon Reform League. He was also the founder of the Ceylon National Congress and he became its first President. He taught the people the methods of constitutional agitation. In association with the late Mr. F. R. Senanayake he brought into various people's associations and Sabbas which were forming public opinion all over the country. His public lectures were remarkable contributions to political science. Referring to one of these pronouncements the late Sir James Peiris said "Although there were several agitations for political reform in Ceylon from time, the people woke to the necessity of persistent and organised agitation only after Sir. P. Arunachalam delivered his address on our Political Needs..... I would ask specially those young people who are studying politics to read that lecture and cognate publications of Sir. P. Arunachalam and treat them as sort of Political Bible."

Mr. A. G. Ranasingha C.C.S. Secretary to the Treasury and the head of the Public Service in a talk on the 'Ideals of Public Service' broadcast in the Western Service of Radio Ceylon on 7th November 1952, says among other things "..... The spirit of nationalism was abroad. Arunachalam had spoken on "Our Political Needs" at a Reform Conference at which I was proud to usher eminent men and women into their seats, the tempo of political agitation was rising; and the Ceylon National Congress was about to be born. It was at such an atmosphere that I had to make my choice of a career". After a lapse of 35 years, it could be seen, the speech of Sir Arunachalam on "Our Political Needs" is still animating the soul of a devoted, full-fledged public servant whose mind is saturated with the ideals of the public service.

Sir Arunachalam in conjunction with Sir James Peiris inaugurated the Social Service League and established the Ceylon Workers' Federation.

Sir Arunachalam's activities in connection with the establishment of the University of Ceylon entitle him to the lasting gratitude of the Ceylonese nation. When the news of his passing away on 9th January 1924 at Madura

reached Ceylon, Professor R. Marrs in addressing the students of the University College paid graceful tributes to Sir Arunachalam's labours on behalf of the University of Ceylon.

"Gentlemen, I have asked you to assemble here at this hour as a mark of respect to the memory of one who was in a real sense the Father of the University Project in Ceylon. Much has been written already of his varied, distinctions and activities as servant of the Government, Politician, Scholar, Savant, Educationist and Social Reformer. Little or nothing has been said of the side of his activities which to those who were in close touch with him was the inspiration of his latter days, the side which concerns you and me as members of an institution so dear to his heart, the Ceylon University College..... the outward evidence of his interest, we at the College know. There is our first and foremost his great gift the Padmanabha Library whose value has in my opinion not yet been sufficiently realised. There is his bequest of the Sir Coomarasamy Science prize and his generous donation to the Union Hostel. But these are nothing when compared with the gift of time, energy and thought, to the affairs of the College, not only as a member of the College Council and Academic Committee but as was ever ready to extend help and advice to those on whom has fallen the task of guiding the destinies of the College and preparing the Foundations of the University of Ceylon".

His Contribution to Philosophy and Religion

It is said that Gladstone used to pore over the pages of Western Classics, till the small hours of the morning after attending to his arduous parliamentary duties. Sir Arunachalam also in the midst of his heavy official duties never failed to read classics. His literary and scholarly attainments were remarkable. He was the President of the Royal Asiatic Society (Ceylon Branch)—a unique honour which no Ceylonese had at that time in the long history of the institution ever enjoyed. He contributed numerous papers on Tamil Literature and Ceylon History. His writing on Luminous Sleep, Joana Vasistham, Eastern Ideas in Education, The Worship of Lord Muruga or Skanda, Tirukkavaiyar, Dhammapada etc., he speaks his scholarly discernment into both Eastern and Western Classics. In cultured circles in England he was always welcome.

Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar K. C. I. E. Scholar, Philosopher Statesman of great international reputation in writing a forward to Sir Arunachalam's "Studies and

Translation, Philosophical and Religious, pays the following tribute to the author: "The world cannot be sufficiently grateful to Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam for having in his philosophical and Religious 'Studies and Translations' unlocked the treasures of thought and language to those wholly or partially unacquainted with the wonders of Tamil Thought and Tamil Poesy..... It was my privilege to have personally known Sir P. Arunachalam and his equally distinguished brother Sir P. Ramanathan and I account it a piece of good fortune to have the privilege of introducing this volume to a world which will be all the better for the knowledge and assimilation of that varied culture whereof the author was an exponent as well as an embodiment."

Embodiment of Religious Nature

Sir Arunachalam was intensely religious and was proud to call himself a Saivite or a Saiva Siddhantbi. His love of Saivism transcended every thing else. It was while he was on a pilgrimage to the Saiva shrines of S India that he attained the other worldliness at the Holy Madurai. His letters on Gnanam—The Divine knowledge—to his friend Edward Carpenter will inspire confidence and bhakti in the minds of the most sceptical and faint hearted followers of Saivism, in the present day.

Love of Kandapuramam

The Great Sri-Sri Arumuga Navalar, the Champion Reformer of Hinduism brought to light the Tamil epic Kandapuramam by his enterprise, and had boundless love for that. In the article 'The Worship of Lord Muguga or Skanda' Sir Arunachalam says that the Tamil poem Kandapuramam is a work of high literary merit, Wordsworthian in chaste, simplicity of style, but with an elevation and dignity rarely attained by him. During the Skanda Sashti in the month of Appasi (October-November) the Tamil Kandapuramam is read and expounded with solemnity, also at times in private houses such reading being deemed efficacious apart from spiritual benefits in warding off or alleviating disease and danger and bringing good fortune". I quote below a hymn from the courting scene in Kanca puranam and its English translation by Sir Arunachalam.

கோடிவர் செடுவரைக்
குறவர் மாதிக்
சூடிய சினையதாய்
யணியுஞ் சாந்தமய்ச்
சூடிய மலர் கணாய்த்
தோயப் பெற்றிலேன்
வாடின னினிச் செய்யும்
வண்ணம் பாவதே".

(சந்திராணம் வள்ளியம்மை
திருமணம்)

"Highland maid of Kurava clan, could I were the pool in which thou bathest, the perfumed unguents thou usest, the flowers thou wearest".

Family

It would not be inappropriate to mention a word, about his family. His son, Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva has been the President of the Colombo Vivekananda Society, a member of the Legislative Council representing the Tamils of the Western Province and also a member of the State Council representing the Jaffna Constituency. He is being respected by all the nationals of Ceylon. One of his sons-in-law Mr. S. Pararajasingham J. P. has been the president of the Vivekananda Society, a former Chairman of the L. C. P. A., a past Rotarian Governor, and now continuing as the Manager of the Manipay Hindu College. Some of the grandsons of Sir Arunachalam have inherited the brilliance of their illustrious grandfather and are doing well.

His Statue

The Statue of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam was erected by the grateful public in the premises of the Parliament House. The following are inscribed on it.

SIR PONNAMBALAM
ARUNASALAM

Scholar, Statesman, Administrator Patriot

Erected By A Grateful People
in

Testimony of life nobly Spent
In the Service of his

MESSAGE TO CHILDREN

Eat less Drink more.
Study more. Play less.
Sit less. Walk more.
Chat less Learn more.
Sleep less. Pray more.
Take less. Give more.
Speak less. Act more.
Weep not. Laugh more.

country and
In recognition of his Pre-
eminent
And Signal Services as
the Champion
Of a Reformed Legisla-
lature and of
His Matchless Devotion
and Steadfastness
In the Cause of Ceylon
University.

1853—1924

Centenary Celebration

The 101st Birthday of Sir Arunachalam falls on 14th September of the current year. It is in the fitness of things to celebrate His Centenary with due solemnity, worthy of the Ceylonese nation and the Tamil Community. The Vivekananda Society, Colombo, and the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, Colombo, of which Sir Arunachalam has been the Patron and President respectively, should take a leading part and lively interest, in honouring the memory of a great patriot and saint, on this occasion, in grateful recognition of his past services.

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