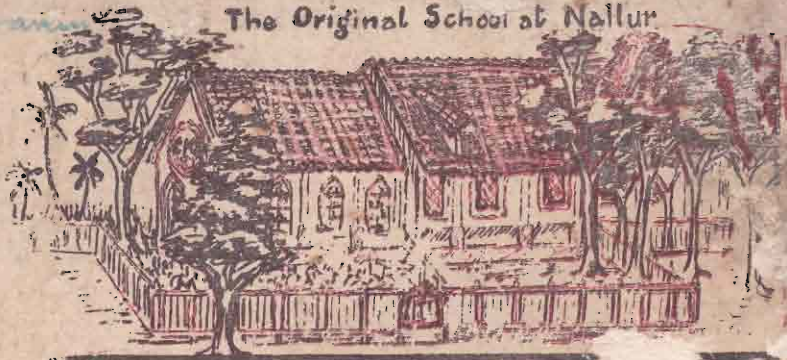


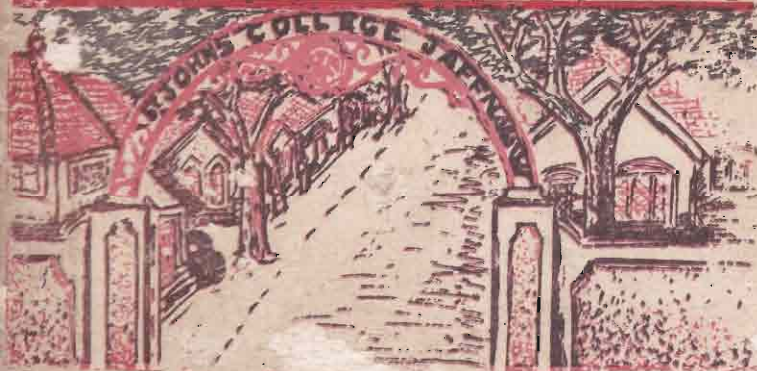
The Original School at Nallur

1823



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
TER JUBILEE  
SOUVENIR

JAFFNA



1973

ST JOHN'S - at Chundikuli.

W.D.



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE JAFFNA

# *Ter-Jubilee Souvenir*

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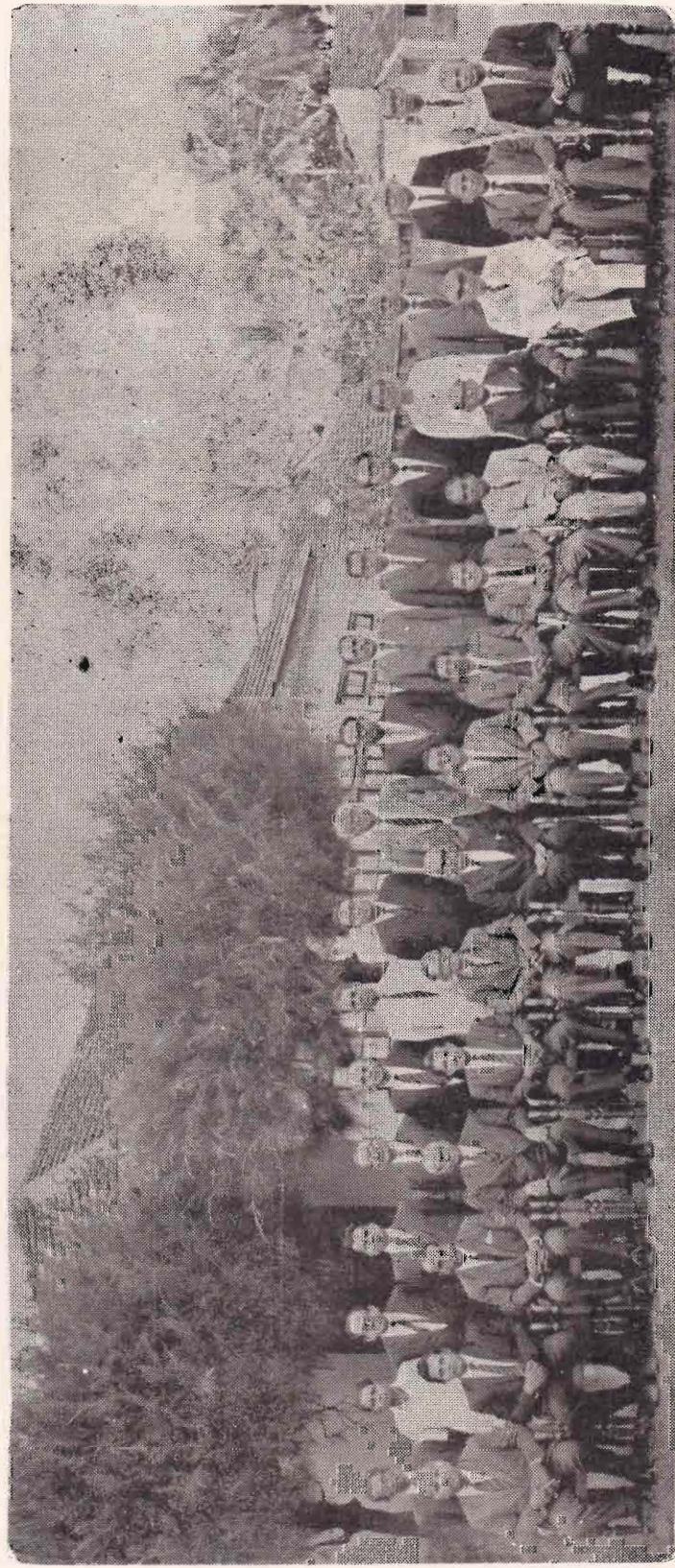
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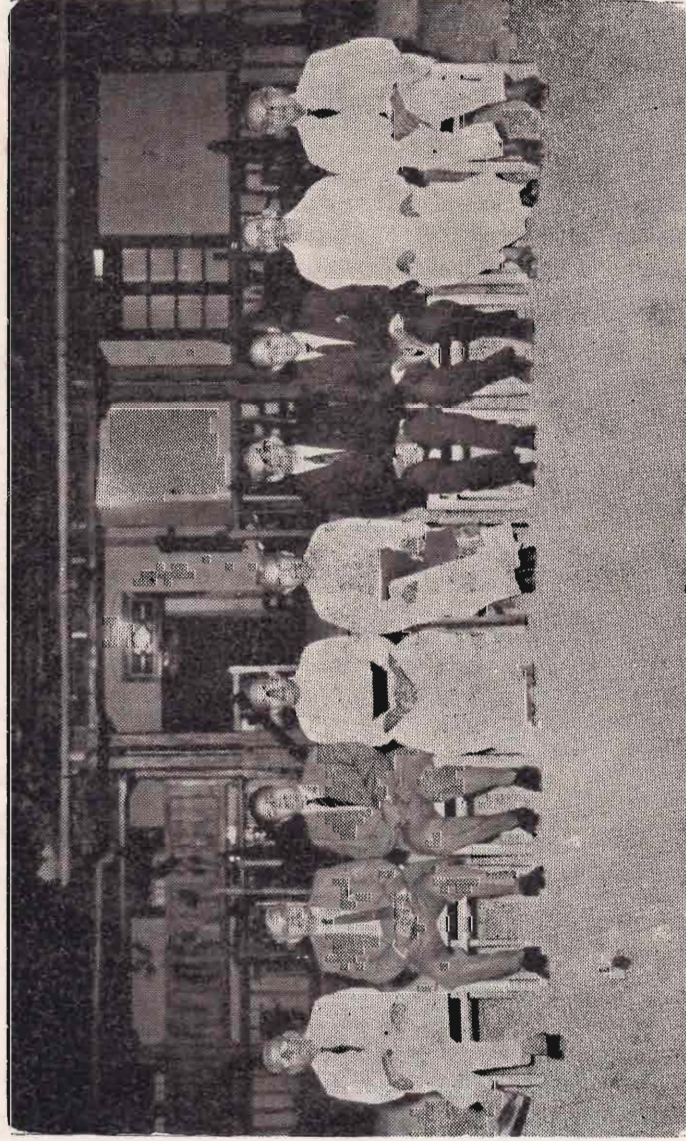
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THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE



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# THE COLLEGE SONG

1. *Decked with shady palms and trees,  
Fringed with rich mahoganies,  
Here beneath a glowing sky,  
St John's uprears her crest on high.*

*Chorus: Praise St. John, your patron saint;  
And lest in deed or word you taint  
Your Alma Mater's ancient name,  
Johnians! Always play the game.*

2. *Christian lore she gives her boys  
Over prizing heavenly joys;  
Her highest pride a noble mind,  
Her greatest joy a heart that's kind.*

*Chorus*

3. *"In the darkness shines the light"  
Johnians! With your torches bright  
Chase the gloom of night away,  
Shed thro' the world eternal day.*

*Chorus*

**S. J. Gunasegaram**





## LUX IN TENEBRIS LUCET

*This motto which appears on the College Crest, designed by Horace Thompson, the eldest son of the Rev. Jacob Thompson in 1908, symbolises the purposes for which the College was established. When the Rev. J. Knight started the Nallur English Seminary in his bungalow with seven students in March 1823, he set alight a beacon which was to bring enlightenment and set in motion social cultural and political changes in the area. The Rev. Robert Pargiter, who may be called the builder of the Seminary, shifted it to the present premises in 1846 and started presenting students for the Matriculation examinations of the Madras University. In 1885 students were prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations and in 1890 for a short time for the Calcutta University Examinations.*

*Although Examinations and preparation for them may have occupied a not inconsiderable part of the student's life at College, it was the development of the whole personality of the student that was the primary concern of successive Principals. The cultural life at College was rich in its variety. The first Literary Association was started in 1890. This was followed over the decades by*

*the founding of various associations and clubs which helped to develop the many facets of a boy's personality. The article on cultural activities in this Souvenir brings into focus how these associations helped to enrich life at College and helped to bring the student into contact with the various problems which he would have to face in the community in later life.*

*Sports activities (Tennis and Hockey having been started in early 1896 and 1906 respectively), the inauguration of the Prefect system in 1909, the Scout movement in 1916 and the Cadet Corps in 1919 developed in the students those qualities of leadership which were to make Johnians leaders in the community. It is these same qualities of leadership and the training which St. John's imparted that made the Old Boys embark on the bold step of keeping St. John's a private non-fee-levying institution.*

*St. John's gave the lead and set the pace which other Schools in the Island followed. The House-system, the Old Boys' Association, various Associations and Clubs in the school, the School Assembly at the beginning of the day's work*

were taken up by various schools in the Island. St. John's was the first school to open its gates to certain sections of the community considered as underprivileged.

*It is the Missionary tradition of dedication to high ideals which has inspired successive Principals and Teachers to set noble examples for their students. It is in*

*the hope of preserving these same ideals and traditions that Old Boys have laboured hard to keep the old flag of St. John's flying, to be a rallying call to the community. St. John's has been a light to eliminate ignorance, poverty and inequality and we hope it will continue to be the same in the years to come.*

**Editor**



*Message from . . .*

*His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo*

**T**HE Ter Jubilee of St. John's College is an occasion for proud thanks-giving; pride in the steady development of the College and thanksgiving to God for past mercies. It is good that on such an occasion we should recall the past and remember with gratitude those who helped to build the College, its life, its heritage and traditions. Our debt in special to the CMS and to its missionaries is indeed great. Others have laboured before us and we have entered into a goodly heritage of polite learning and a liberal education. But if we look backwards to the past it must surely be in order that we may gain new hope, new inspiration for the future, and in that faith and hope give ourselves to the tasks ahead of us.

**Cyril L. Abeynaike**





## *Message from the Chairman, Governing Body*

*AS* Chairman of the Board of Governors of Educational Institutions founded by the C. M. S. in Sri Lanka, it gives me great pleasure to send this message of good wishes on the occasion of your Ter-Jubilee.

Some of the younger readers may live to see the second century completed, but for those like myself who have completed or are to complete the Psalmist's span of life, this must be the last such celebration we may witness with our physical senses.

St. John's has produced a galaxy of great men—many dead, some living, more about to be born.

You have a magnificent Campus which I hope and pray you will be allowed to preserve intact. However, what is important are not buildings and playing fields, but the characters of the men you have produced and will no doubt continue to bring forth in the future.

You have a fine band of teachers headed by a great Principal worthy to be ranked among the most eminent you have had.

With the knowledge explosion that is now occurring, particularly in the World of Science, I believe that in the present and in the future, we must teach our young not so much what to learn but how to learn. I am confident that this reorientation will soon take place in Schools such as yours, if it has not done so already.

Wishing St. John's and all in her and for her—health, happiness and a heaven on earth in the next 150 years and after, God be with you,

**C. C. De Silva**

*Message From :*

*The Deputy Asia Secretary*

Church Missionary Society

"ILLUSTRIOUS names and outstanding public service of past pupils, staff and principals ; loyalty to its academic and national traditions ; these are the impressions of one of the last CMS representatives in Sri Lanka who was closely in touch with St. John's College through the Governing Body for Educational Institutions founded by the Church Missionary Society in Ceylon. I was able to visit Jaffna only on a few occasions, but have among my friends many who were educated at St. John's and at Chundikuli.

"It was in 1933 that a Governing Body was formed to direct, on behalf of the Church Missionary Society, the general concerns of the institutions such as St. John's College in which CMS missionaries had worked for many formative years. On 18th July 1960 by Order of the Minister of Justice the Governing Body was legally incorporated and its 18 members became Trustees for the Church Missionary Society in Ceylon for these educational institutions. Among the 15 Ceylonese and 3 non-Ceylonese Governors were John Thiagarajah Arulanantham, Sarah Matthai and Arulpragasam W. Rajasekeram ; their successors in office continue of course as Governors of the schools founded by the Church Missionary Society in Ceylon. When St. John's College changed its status to that of a non-fee-levying school, the Governing Body—believing this to be in accordance with the terms and spirit of the incorporating Ordinance—sanctioned the setting up of a special Management Committee to help deal with the College's financial matters.

"The academic and general standard of these Governing Body schools—and this applies to St. John's of course—has remained sound and progressive in the face of all the challenges and changes in education in the past two decades. The Governing Body has the unique advantage of having as members the Principals of a number of schools who have up to date knowledge and experience of school administration and policy, and with such a well balanced membership no sectional group can gain control. For many reasons the Church Missionary Society regards this arrangement as one of the most successful ever made in the rightful and timely handing over of the Society's earlier responsibilities in education in Sri Lanka.

"On this occasion of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. John's College we remember with thankfulness to God all that this great institution has meant to many generations who have given of their best of spirit, mind and body, in teaching and in learning, in leading and in companionship, in love and in acceptance."

**OLIVE HITCHCOCK**

157, Waterloo Road,  
London. S. E. I.



*Message from: Mr. Maithripala Senanayake*  
*Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways*

*I*N August 1973, St. John's College Jaffna, the Premier institution of the Church Missionary Society in the North and one of the oldest educational institutions of our country, celebrated her Ter-Jubilee.

For some time, the alumni of St. John's were making contributions for the construction of a hall to mark the Ter-Jubilee celebrations of their alma-mater. During the formal Ter-Jubilee celebrations, contributions from Old Johnians kept pouring in, in fitting tribute to the 'old school' making possible the construction of a hall. This hall, which is to be ceremonially opened in August 1974 symbolises the love and devotion Old Johnians bear towards their alma-mater.

On this occasion I must recall that my father, himself an Old Johnian had me admitted to St. John's when I was just 11 years old. I remember it was in 1927 that I entered St. John's. It was a status symbol then, as it is now, to say that one was studying at St. John's. When I entered St. John's, the well known Cambridge Classics scholar, Rev. Fr. Henry Peto was its principal. Fr. Peto was a scholar-teacher in the grand old tradition.

It is only later in life, that an individual recalls the benefits of his school education. This is when he is face to face with Life's challenges; what may seem to come naturally to him, his sense of fair play and justice, his sense of humour and inner discipline are all part and parcel of the school training. It is with gratitude that I remember St. John's and Nalanda Vidyalaya, Colombo, where I finished up my schooling for having equipped me to meet Life's challenges.

Schools and teachers, the environment and traditions of the school, play as important a role as ones parents and family environment in shaping ones character. An individual has no choice in the matter of his parents or in the choice of his school. These things are predetermined for him. I am grateful to my parents, teachers and the two schools where I was lucky to have received my education for fashioning me out to serve my country.

As a devoted Old Johnian, I salute my alma-mater on her 151st birth anniversary and wish her immortality in the cause of education.

**MAITHRIPALA SENANAYEKE**

August 14, 1974.

## PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

March

- 1823 : Rev. Joseph Knight — Inaugurated the Nallur English Seminary with Seven students with classes held in his Bungalow. The Bible was made the most prominent subject of study along with a good secular Education.
- 1824 : The number of students increased to 13. Rev. William Adley arrived in Ceylon and joined Rev. Knight in the Teaching.
- 1825 : Rev. Adley took charge of the Seminary.
- 1826 : Rev. Adley baptised four of his pupils. There were 30 students in the Seminary.
- 1828 : Rev. Adley attended the Annual Conference of the Church Missionary Society with three of his pupils. Rev. John Hensman admitted as a student.
- 1831 : The Bishop of Calcutta visited the Seminary and examined some of the classes of the Seminary with which he appeared to be well pleased.
- 1834 : Mr. Adley comments — "A vast change has lately taken place in the native mind generally on the subject of education. The advantages of which are so evident that establishments on the principle of the seminary might be filled to almost any extent to which our means may enable us to open them".
- 1839 : Mrs. Adley died and Rev. Adley left for England. He returned in 1841 but was not attached to the School. Rev. F. W. Taylor took over from Rev. Adley and was in charge of the Seminary.
- 1845 : The English Seminary was transferred to Chundikuli and School was carried on in rented premises. The School was now named The Chundikuli Seminary. Rev. J. T. Johnstone was appointed Principal and Mr. John Hensman as Headmaster. The old Portuguese Church of St. John the Baptist at Chundikuli was handed over to the C. M. S. and services were held in the Church by Rev. Johnstone and the students of the Seminary attended these services.

1846 : Rev. Johnstone went to U. K. on furlough due to ill health and Rev. Robert Pargiter was appointed Principal. Rev. Pargiter shifted the school from the rented building and temporary buildings put up by Rev. Johnstone, to a large hall adjoining the east end of the old church.

1848 — 1853 : Mr. John Philips was Headmaster.

1851 : The Seminary was divided into six classes.

1853 : Mr. Robert Williams was Headmaster. He continued as Headmaster till 1866.

1859 : The old church was demolished and the present put up.

1861 : A new school building was put up by Rev. Pargiter. Part of the land was given by Mr. P. A. Dyke the Government Agent.

1862 : Government Grant in aid was relinquished by the C.M.S. as restrictions were placed upon Scriptural instruction. For the next 10 years school was maintained by fees, grant from the C. M. S. and private support. The school continued to maintain its high standards. The Principal requested the Government Inspector to inspect the school who was of opinion that School was maintained on the proper lines and that good work was being done.

1863 : School presented for first time students for the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University. Those who sat were Mr. Jeremiah Evarts who later became Headmaster, Mr. Arumugam who later became Secretary of the Jaffna Kachcheri and Mr. Annamalai who became a Government Surveyor in the Straits Settlements. Other students during this period were Mr. J. M. Hensman B. A., an educationalist in South India and who retired as Principal of Kumbaconan College, Mr. Casipillai who later functioned as Crown Proctor. During this period the School gained a proud position in the life of the community.

1866 : Robert Williams died of Cholera. Mr. Pargiter retired. He later became Association Secretary of the C. M. S. and for the next 20 years Vicar of a Parish near Oxford from which he retired in 1906. He died in 1914 in his 99th year.



- 1867 : The School was in charge of Mr. Jeremiah Evarts. Rev. Thomas Good who arrived in February 1867 had general superintendence of the school.  
The only two candidates who passed the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University from Jaffna were from this school.
- 1874 : Rev. David Wood was appointed Principal.
- 1876 : Rev. D. Wood bought an additional piece of land on which in 1883, Evarts House was erected.
- 1878 : Rev. D. Wood was transferred to Colombo and was succeeded by Rev. E. Blackmore who died on 24th October 1878.  
Rev. G. T. Fleming took charge. Work was started to prepare pupils for the Cambridge University Examination.
- 1885 : First time Seminary presented candidates for the Cambridge Junior — C. S. Aseervatham, K. Subramaniam, Isaac Tambyah and M. Seudder passed the Cambridge Junior Exam.
- 1886 : Headmaster Jeremiah Evarts died.
- 1889 : Permanent Boarding House was constructed with funds from old Boys to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Evarts.
- 1889 : Mr. Charles Handy B. A. was appointed Headmaster.  
Mr. Fleming was transferred to Colombo.  
Mr. Handy was appointed Acting Principal.
- 1890 : The Seminary was made a centre for the Calcutta University Examination — six sat for the Matriculation Exam and three passed in 1891.  
First School Library Association was formed.
- 1890 : Mr. Handy was ordained Deacon and later ordained Priest in 1893.
- 1891 : The School celebrated the Jubilee of its work at Chundikuli and to mark the occasion was given the name "ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE", The number on roll was 250.  
First time a Prize Giving is mentioned.
- 1892 : Rev. J. W. Fall was appointed Principal.
- 1893 : The school was affiliated to Calcutta University as a Second Grade College.



- 1893 : The College presented two boys for F. A. Exam of the Calcutta University — Mr. G. Philipiah passed and later joined the Staff.
- 1893 : Prize Giving Report refers to Cricket and Athletic sports as forming part of the educational life of the school.
- 1894 : Rev. Fall was transferred for work in the Tamil Cooly Mission and was succeeded by Rev. J. Carter M. A. (Trinity College Cambridge).
- 1896 : Mrs. Carter the wife of the Principal started a school for English girls in Jaffna with eight pupils — five were boarders lodged in the Principal's Bungalow.
- 1896 : First person to graduate from the College — Mr. William Wadsworth
- 1899 : The C. M. S. handed over Management of Kopay English School to the Principal.
- 1899 : Death of Mrs. Carter and departure of Rev. Carter — succeeded by Mr. Ryde. October 13th roof of the Main building collapsed. Repairs were effected with assistance from Parents of the Students. In August 1890, Mr. Ryde was appointed Principal of Trinity College.
- 1900 : Rev. Jacob Thompson M. A. (Corpus Christie College, Cambridge) appointed Principal. Rev. Thompson took steps to appeal for funds for rebuilding the school.
- FEBRUARY 1901 : A new Hall with four Classrooms was formally opened by the Bishop of Colombo, Dr. Copleston.
- MAY 1901 : The Primary School was completed.
- OCTOBER 1901 : Three wings of the Boarding House was ready for occupation. A major portion of the funds required were collected from Old Boys and Friends and Rev. C. C. Handy raised a large sum from old Boys in Malaya. The courses at the College were extended to the Cambridge Senior. In December one student, Mr. Subramaniam passed the Cambridge Senior.
- 18th APRIL 1904 : The Old Boys Association was formed.
- SEPTEMBER 1904 : Mr Thompson went on furlough and handed over temporary charge to Rev. W. J. Hanan. The Boarding House with Mr. G. Philipiah as Boarding Master was fully established. Number of Boarders was 60.

An Athletic Club and a Tennis Committee were formed. In order to raise the standard of class work in the school and to assist poor boys Scholarships were founded in 1904. The College Magazine was published in July. Mr. Isaac Tambyah being the first Editor.

- 1906 : The Library Association and the College Y. M. C. A were re-organised. Hockey was introduced by Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam who joined the Staff after graduating from Calcutta University.
- 1908 : Botany was introduced as a subject with Mr. A. M. Nathaniel as Teacher.
- 1908 : The College Crest introduced — with the Eagle of St. John representing the College — a Shield carried in its talons to represent the Christian shield of Faith, a Palmyrah to represent Jaffna and a torch to represent the diffusion of light through knowledge of Christ. Beneath words used by St. John. — The design was drawn by Horace Thompson son of the Principal.
- MAY 1908 : The Headmaster Rev. C. C. Handy died and was succeeded by Rev. T. H. Crossette, M. A., F. R. Hist, Calcutta and Allahabad Universities.
- 1909 : Introduction of the Prefect System into College life. First time college students acted a play of Shakespeare with Mr. W. A. Walton as the Producer. The old Boys raised funds to extend the playground to commemorate Mr. Handy's memory.  
Principal's Bungalow — foundation laid.  
The grounds of St. Johns were extended in memory of the Late Rev. C. C. Handy, Headmaster from 1889 to 1908  
The Handy Memorial Library was later built on this land.
- MARCH 1910 : Principal went on furlough handing over the Management to the Headmaster, Mr. T. H. Crossette.  
The Teaching of Chemistry, Physics introduced along with the setting up of a Laboratory.
- 1911 : Mr. T. H. Crossette the Headmaster was appointed Vice Principal. Urumparai C. M. S. school was opened with the Principal, as Manager.
- 1912 : Year marked by splendid results at Public Examinations — Cambridge Junior — 21 passed out of 25 — R. R. Crossette Tambyah obtaining 2nd Class Honours with distinction in History and English. Cambridge Senior — 15 out

- of 20 — A. M. K. Kumaraswamy obtained 1st Class honours with distinction in Mathematics.
- 1913: The Handy Memorial Library was built and donated to the College by Dr. J. M. Handy.
- 1914: Mr. T. H. Crossette, Vice Principal went to Strait Settlements and F. M. S. on a Collection tour which helped in building the Robert Williams Hall.
- JULY 1914: Robert Williams Hall was completed.  
The Prefects Guild was formed.
- 1915: Formation of the Social Service Union.
- 1916: St. John's College forms the first Scout Troop in Jaffna. Five old boys of the College — Horace and Denton Thompson (sons of the Principal), Richard Aiyadurai, J. C. Elia-thamby and Rev. Leembruggen enlisted in the Army in 1st World War against Germany.
- 1917: T. H. Crossette left St. John's to become Principal of Manipay Hindu College.  
Rev. Thompson went to the St. Settlements and received generous contributions towards the College Extension Fund  
A New Dormitory in memory of Rev. G. T. Fleming was built on his return.  
Twynam Museum Collection handed over to the College.
- 1919: Mr. Thompson relinquished his duties due to poor health and returned to U. K. and later was appointed Rector of Grafton Regis, Stony Stratford. Rev. K. C. McPherson M. A. (Kelele College Oxford) was appointed Acting Principal.  
The Play, Manohora was staged to collect funds for Social Service Work.  
The Introduction of the Cadet Corps. Drill made compulsory for all students.  
Old Boys Association was revised.  
The Fleming House was built in memory of the late Rev. G. T. Fleming, Principal 1880 — 1887, with funds supplied by Dr. J. M. Handy.  
Mr. McPherson was transferred in October 1919 as Chapline to the Bishop of Madras and Mr. A. M. Nathaniel was appointed Act. Principal.
- 28th MAY 1920: Rev. Henry Peto M. A. arrived at St. John's and assumed the Principalship.  
Inaugurated the College Assembly in the Hall.  
In addition to punctuality a higher standard of conduct,



class work, attendance and fee payment was required.

Prefect Body was re-organised.

A Literature Club and a Historical Society were formed.

The Y. M. C. A was re-organised and called the St. John's College Christian Union.

Old Boys Association re-organised.

Through the generosity of Mr. W. H. Figg, the compound was enlarged and a new playing field added.

1921 : Mr. T. H. Crossette returned to St. John's as Vice Principal.

## JANUARY

1921 : The Upper Third Form was formed by which better boys in the Second Form could pass in one year to the Cambridge Junior.

The Masters Association was revived.

Five new classrooms erected during 1921.

Mr. K. Nesiiah won Second Prize in British Empire Senior Essay Competition.

Inter-House Sports were held for the first time.

The Thompson Boarding House was purchased.

1921 : Was the 80th Anniversary of the College in Chundikuli and an Extension Fund was opened.

Mr. A. M. Nathaniel left to become Principal of Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda.

Mr. William Wadsworth, a student of the college and who after a brilliant career was appointed District Judge of Colombo, died during this year and College was closed for his funeral.

1921 : The College Blazer came into existence.

The oratorial contest — with the Arulpragasam Gold Medal given by Mr. C. Arulpragasam was inaugurated.

1923 : Donation of Rs. 25,000/— to the College by Rev. W. H. Figg decided to include the Girls College premises with St. John's College compound and transfer the Girls College to Nallur.

The Masters Guild was formed with Principal and Vice Principal as members.

13th & 14th June 1924 : The Centenary Celebrations were held and an appeal was launched to collect Rs. 60,000/— towards the Building Fund. Rev. W. S. Senior, Sir Anton Berbram (Lord Chief Justice) and Rev. W. Meston, M. A., B. D. were present at the Celebrations.

1924 : Mr. T. H. Crossette appointed as Acting Principal during Rev. Peto's furlough.

- 1925: Shakespeare's Play "Twelfth Night" staged by the College
- 1st DECEMBER 1926: Rev. Henry Peto and Mrs. Peto returned from their furlough and were received at the Jaffna Railway Station and conducted in procession to the College.
- 1927: The House System established with 8 School Houses — Knight, Pargiter, Adley, Johnstone, Williams, Evarts, Handy, Thompson.
- 29th NOVEMBER 1928: Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Gandhi visited the College.
- 1929: Rev. J. A. R. Navaratnam appointed Chaplain of the College.
- 18th DECEMBER 1929: Mr. T. H. Crosseeste retires.  
St. John's reverts to the Four House System.
- 1931: Mr. A. M. K. Cumarasamy appointed as Vice Principal.
- 1932: Mr. A. M. K. Cumarasamy appointed Acting Principal and Mr. J. C. Handy, acting Vice Principal and Bursar during the absence of Rev. H. Peto on furlough.
- DECEMBER 1932: Rev. H. Peto returns from furlough.
- 1935: C. M. S. Delegation consisting of Prebendary Cash, the General Secretary of the C. M. S. in London, Sir Cusack Walton and Dr. Cook.  
Rs. 21,000/— was collected for the Thompson Memorial Fund,  
Visits by the Chairman of the Church Schools Commission, the Rev. G. T. Selvyn, Rev. A. G. Frasier of Trinity, Negro Delegation, the Student Christian Movement of America, and Dr. Stanley Jones took place during this year.
- 1936: Rev. J. T. Arulanantham appointed as Vice Principal.
- 2nd NOVEMBER 1936: St. John's takes over the old Chundikuli Girls College grounds. Visits by the Hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, Dr. Saito General Secretary of the Japanese Y. M. C. A. and Student Christian Movement.

( Continued on Page 141 )

# Principals All

## 1823 — 1974

1	The Rev. Joseph Knight	1823 — 1825
2	„ „ W. Adley	1825 — 1839
3	„ „ F. W. Taylor	1839 — 1841
4	„ „ J. T. Johnstone	1841 — 1846
5	„ „ R. Pargiter	1846 — 1866
6	„ „ T. Good	1866 — 1874
7	„ „ D. Wood	1874 — 1878
8	„ „ E. Blackmore	1878 — 1879
9	„ „ G. T. Fleming	1880 — 1889
10	„ „ C. C. Handy (Acting)	1889 — 1892
11	„ „ J. W. Fall	1892 — 1895
12	„ „ J. Carter	1895 — 1899
13	„ „ R. W. Ryde	1899 — 1900
14	„ „ Jacob Thompson	1900 — 1919
15	„ „ K. C. Mc Pherson (Acting)	1919 —
16	„ „ Henry Peto	1920 — 1940
17	„ „ J. T. Arulanantham	1940 — 1957
18	Mr. P. T. Mathai	1957 — 1959
19	Mr. A. W. Rajasekeram	1959 — 1966
20	Mr. K. Pooranampillai	1967 —





REV. W. ADLEY  
1825 - 1839



REV. ROBERT PARGITER  
1846 - 1866



REV. D. WOOD  
1874 -- 1878



REV. G. T. FLEMING  
1879 -- 1889



# *Principals All*

## — THUMBNAILS —

For the early years, the only records available are the letters of the missionaries in the field to the Church Missionary Society's Headquarters in London. It is from these Missionaries' letters that the greater part of the Centenary History of the College was compiled. For the history of the College during this century, the Magazine of the College—started in 1904—is the source of information. Below are given short sketches of the past Principals—for the benefit of those who cannot get at copies of the Centenary History or of the earlier numbers of the College Magazines.

### The Rev. Joseph Knight — the Founder (1823—1825)

(1) The first C. M. S. Missionaries came to Ceylon in 1818, and the Rev. Joseph Knight the founder of the Nallur Seminary (later St. John's College), came over to Jaffna and commenced his work of evangelisation at Nallur .. ..... He held services in his bungalow, and opened free schools in different parts of the District. He was however not satisfied with the meagre education given in these Schools, and was anxious to give a more thorough form of education by keeping some of the bright pupils entirely under his influence .. ..... In March 1823, he succeeded in bringing seven boys to his bungalow. It was in 1823, therefore, that what is today St. John's College was begun. It was then called the Nallur English Seminary. Thoroughness and efficiency seem to have been required from the beginning from the pupils and teachers alike. The following is an extract from a report on the School in 1825. "Mr. Knight strictly examines every scholar monthly, and regulates the

pay of the teachers according to the actual proficiency of the scholars." In 1825, there were thirty boys in the seminary, and to this number the School was for some time limited by the Church Missionary Society." The Rev. Joseph Knight wanted to devote himself to full-time evangelistic work, and in 1825 handed over the School to the Rev. William Adley. Of the Rev. J. Knight, an American Missionary wrote as follows: "He was a warm friend, a diligent student in Tamil, a faithful missionary, an active labourer, and a most devoted servant of the Lord Jesus."

### The Rev. William Adley (1825—1839)

(2) The Rev. William Adley came to Ceylon in 1824, helped Mr. Knight as Assistant, and became Principal in 1825. For fourteen years, he gave of his time and energy to the work of the School. The pupils of the Seminary were selected from the day Schools, and were boarded, clothed and educated free. The standard of instruction was high: three pupils were able to follow the proceedings in English of the Annual Conference of the Church Missionary Society in Colombo in 1828. In 1831, the Bishop of Calcutta examined some of the Classes of the Seminary, with which he appeared to be much pleased. Discipline too was enforced: three pupils were expelled for continuing at home longer than allowable: the effects were salutary. The thirst for higher education among the Tamils of Jaffna was no less then than now, and Mr. Adley reported that institutions like the Seminary might be filled "to almost any extent to which our means may enable us to open them." The following report to the Society in



1839 shows how much the work of the Seminary which after many years' experience, we consider to be one of the most efficient means to establish and continue the Redeemer's Kingdom in India." In 1839, on the death of his wife in England, the Rev. Adley handed the Seminary to the Rev. F. W. Taylor.

#### The Rev. F. W. Taylor (1839—1841)

(3) Was Principal only for two years and he was transferred to Kotte. Nothing worthy of note seems to have occurred during the period.

#### The Rev. J. T. Johnstone (1841—1846)

(4) Was the next Principal. The Boys' Seminary was such a success that the C.M.S. decided to start a boarding school for Girls also. The Nallur Mission House being considered the best place for a Girls Boarding School, the Boys' Seminary was shifted to Chundikuli in 1841, and was thereafter called the 'Chundikuli Seminary'. It had no permanent buildings, and classes were conducted in a rented house, and under the tamarind tree, found even now near the Williams' Hall. Mr. Johnstone had to leave in 1846 for England owing to ill-health.

#### The Rev. Robert Pargiter (1846—1866)

(5) Had come to Ceylon as a Wesleyan Missionary, and joined the Church Missionary Society as deacon in 1816. According to the Centenary History, he was 'both in the metaphorical and literal sense, the builder of the Seminary.' He transferred the School from the rented buildings and the temporary sheds Mr. Johnstone had put up, to a large Hall adjoining the East end of the Church. At the same time, a new School building on the present site was opened in 1851. This is probably the building used now as Library. It was also during Mr. Pargiter's time that the Seminary

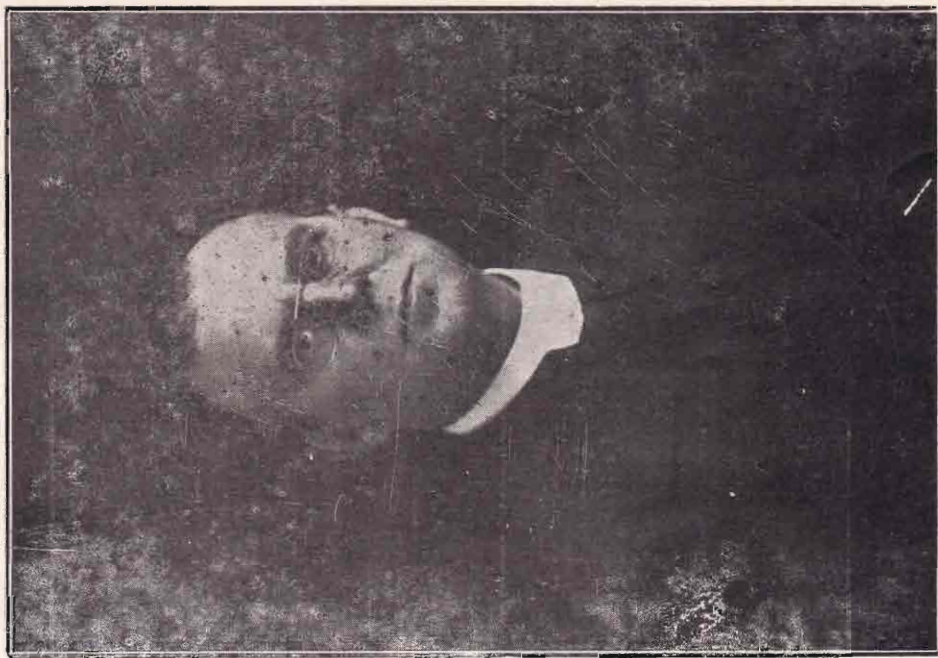
presented the first batch of candidates for the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University. Another notable event was the relinquishment of grant-in-aid, because of the introduction by the Government of rules which the Management felt to be incompatible with its principles. For nearly ten years, the School was maintained by fees, additional help from the C. M. S. and private support. The work of the School was in no way affected, and the report of the Government Inspector was that "the School was maintained on the proper lines, and good work was being done." It was also during this period that Mr. Robert Williams, an Old Boy, became Headmaster and held office from 1853—1866. His memory is perpetuated by the Robert Williams Hall (built in 1914). Mr. Pargiter retired from the office of Principal, but held the office of Association Secretary of the C. M. S. (1886—1906), and for a further period of twenty years (1886—1906) was Vicar of a parish in Oxford. He died in 1914 in his ninety-ninth year.

(6) In 1856, cholera broke out, and the Seminary, along with all other Schools was closed for a period. Work was re-started in 1867.

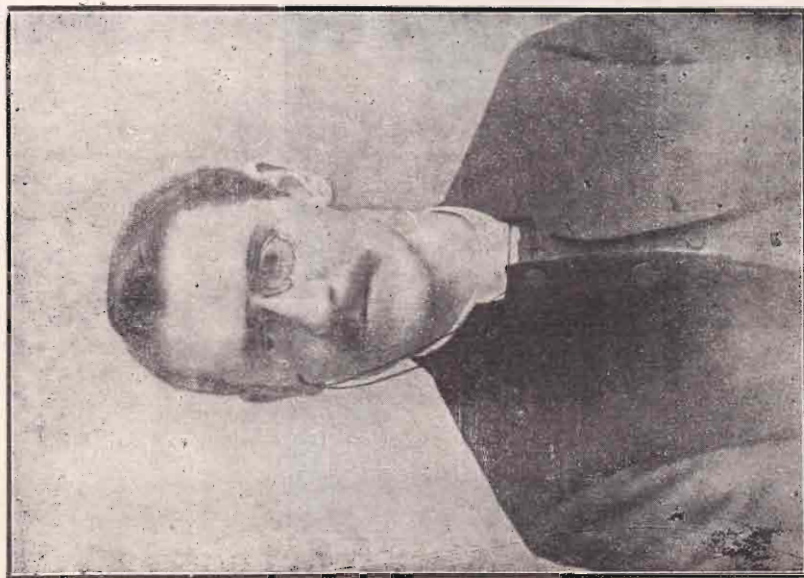
#### Jeremiah Evarts: (Headmaster 1867—1886)

(7) When School was re-started after the Cholera epidemic, there was no Missionary Principal, and the Seminary worked with Mr. J. Evarts as Headmaster in-charge from 1867—1878, but under the general superintendence of the Missionaries, the Revs. Thomas Good, David Wood, and E. Blackmore.

Under Mr. Evarts, the School in no way suffered. Born in 1844 in Alavetty, of educated parents, he had at the Chundikuli Seminary, "a career of conspicuous distinction, winning every conceivable prize and passing all those examinations which



REV. J. W. FALL  
1892 — 1895



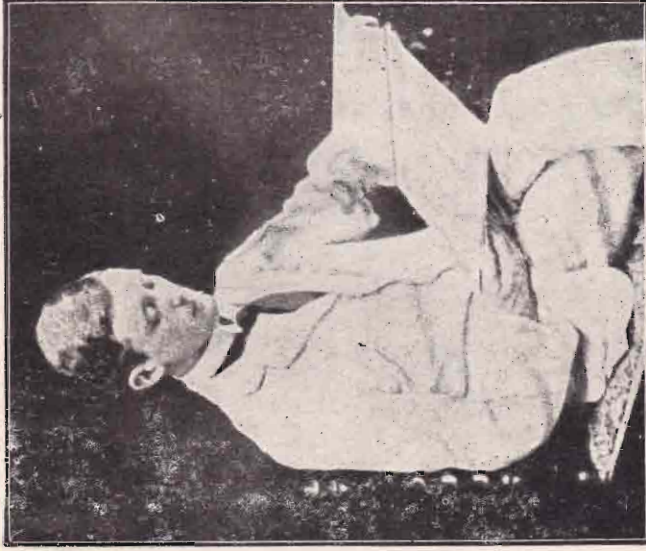
REV. R. W. RYDE  
1899 — 1900



1900 — 1919  
W. A. V. 1919



REV. JACOB THOMPSON  
1900 — 1919



REV. K. C. McPHERSON  
1919



a student at the Seminary could aim at." At the age of 23, he became Headmaster of the School, succeeding Mr. Robert Williams. "He was a born teacher, and ideal Headmaster. He was a strict disciplinarian. For years there was no European Principal and he was in entire charge of the School. Morning and evening, he would be in the School room, forgetful of personal comforts, and working with a tireless energy and cheerful activity." When he died, twenty years later, the Rev G. T. Fleming who had become Principal in 1879, said of him, "I am able to say without reserve that he was a most excellent man and valued helper, and a jewel in the Chaplet of Indian Christianity." In his memory was built in 1889 the Evarts Hostel. (Note: The original Evarts Hostel built in 1889 was built in or about the place now occupied by the Chemistry Laboratory. The building now called the Evarts Hostel was the Hostel of the Girls' College, before the Girls College moved into its present site, and was given the name of Evarts, when the original Hostel was knocked down to put up new buildings)

#### The Rev. G. T. Fleming (1879—1889)

(8) Was the first full-time Missionary Principal. In his time, the Cambridge University Examinations were started, and in 1885, of the first batch of four candidates, all passed the Junior Examination. This period was notable also for producing outstanding men like Bailey Mylvaganam, F.R.C.S., Isaac Tambiah, D. D., and member of the Incorporated Society of Authors, J. M. Handy, M. D., Another notable feature was the work of the Christian Students of the Seminary in organising at their own expense, Evangelistic work, both in Jaffna and in Mandaitivu. Three years after the death of Mr. Evarts in 1889, Mr. (later the Rev.) Charles Handy was appoint-

ed Headmaster of the Seminary. Soon after the arrival of Mr. Handy, the Rev. Fleming was transferred to Colombo, and Mr. Handy was appointed Acting-Principal.

#### The Rev. C. C. Handy

(9) (Headmaster 1889—1908 ; Acting Principal: 1889—1892) became first Headmaster in 1889, and the same year was made Acting-Principal. He took holy orders in 1890, and was ordained Priest in 1893. In 1891, the Calcutta University Examinations were held, and the Seminary presented candidates for the Calcutta Matriculation Examination. Literary Unions were formed, and of those who learned at School the art of public speaking, the most out-standing was William Wardsworth. In 1891, the jubilee of the shift to Chundikuli, the School was renamed St. John's College.

#### The Rev. J. W. Fall (1892—1895)

(10) During this period, the pupils of the School passed the F. A. Examination of Calcutta. Cricket and Athletics were started. In the Athletic Meet in 1893, in Senior Long Jump, the winner of the first place jumped 13' 6", and in Senior Pole Vault, the height was 5' 6"!!

#### The Rev. J. Carter (1895—1899)

(11) The period was one of slow and steady progress, both in numbers, and in the quality of work, academic and religious. At the Cambridge Local Examination 3 out of 3 were successful, and candidates were being prepared for the Calcutta F. A. and B. A. Examinations. In 1898, Mrs. Carter, wife of the Principal, started the Girls' School in the Principal's bungalow, with eight pupils, five of them boarders in the Eungalow. In 1899, Mrs. Carter died, and Mr. Carter left for England.

**The Rev. R. W. Ryde, M. A. (1899)**

(12) Succeeded Mr. Carter, and during the year, the roof of the main building collapsed. Work of rebuilding was begun, but before it could be completed, Mr. Ryde was appointed Principal of Trinity College, Kandy, and left the work to be finished by his successor.

**The Rev. J. Thompson, M. A. (1900—1919)**

(13) Was Principal for a comparatively long period, and his regime is notable both for consolidation and expansion. Besides the restoration of the collapsed building in 1901, new ones were put up. The Primary School (1901), the Lower School (1903), the four winged Boarding House (1904), the Principal's Bungalow (1911), the Handy Library (1913), the Robert Williams Hall (1914) and Fleming House (1917).

In academic performance too, the School came to the fore. Special mention must be made of the School's success in 1912 in the Cambridge Locals. Of the 25 presented for the Junior 21 passed, R. R. Crossette Thambiah getting Second Class Honours and distinctions in English and History; of the 20 for the Senior, 15 passed, A. M. K. Cumaraswamy getting First Class Honours and distinction in Mathematics, and L. R. Danforth Second Class Honours. Mr. A. G. Fraser of Trinity, wrote as follows: "Allow me to congratulate you on your splendid results: you have, I believe secured by far the best percentage, and one of the largest aggregates in the Island." During Mr. Thompson's period, Physics, Chemistry and Botany were added to the Curriculum.

The extra-curricular side too expanded greatly. In 1904, Athletics became an organised activity, and there were started the Old Boys' Association (1904), and the College Magazine. The Crest (the work

of the Principal's son, Horace) was introduced in 1909, and in the same year the Prefect System. The performance of Shakespeare's plays, which later became an annual feature of St. John's was begun with the production of "Julius Caesar" by Mr. W. A. Walton (later known as "Shakespeare Walton"). The Social Service Union ("the biggest thing the College did") was begun in 1915, and the Scout Movement in 1916. Hockey was started in 1908, but given up, as other Schools did not play the game. In Cricket, St. John's was able to beat Jaffna Central, long considered invincible; in Soccer too the School did well. The numbers in College and Hostel also rose.

Mr. Thompson was able to achieve so much because he was a man of faith, vision and drive. He had also the good fortune to have able assistants. The Rev. C. C. Handy who had been Acting Principal earlier, was Headmaster. His connection with St. John's is commemorated by the Handy Library, the Handy House, and the Handy Hostel. Mr. T. H. Crossette, M. A., F. R. H. S. succeeded him as Headmaster and was appointed in 1911 as Vice-Principal. The Crossette Hostel reminds us of his service. Both were great administrators, capable organisers and successful teachers. In the later years of the period, Mr. Thompson had poor health, impaired partly by his worries about his sons, who were in the Front. He left for England in 1919.

**The Rev. K. C. Mc Pherson (1919)**

(14) Was Acting Principal for a year, but during the year he did much to restore vigour to the School. He emphasised social Service and began the Cadet Corps. In October he went as Chaplain to the Bishop of Madras.



### The Rev. Henry Peto M. A. (1920—1940)

(15) Was head of the School for a long period, and he too left a deep impression on the School. His period was marked by consolidation and expansion. The many activities started by Mr. Thompson were maintained, and the standards raised.

Mr. Peto laid emphasis on the development of character. In his first talk at the Assembly and in his first Sermon at Chapel, he spoke of man as a three-fold being—body, mind and spirit, and of man's duty to develop each of the three aspects, and to give of his best to God and Man. Discipline in the broadest sense of the term was the watchword. Punctuality, regularity of attendance, excellence in studies and games, sportsmanship,—all received his personal attention. He used to carry a notebook in which were recorded anything notable, and needing to be dealt with at the Assembly. To Mr. Peto, the Assembly was an important means of education. Soon after he took over, he got pews made for the Hall—the gift of a friend. Pupils were able to sit comfortably and give full attention to the proceedings.

Among the new features he introduced were the House System, Compulsory Games for all, the Cottage System in the Hostel, the College Song, the College Tie, and the practice of teachers visiting the homes of pupils. Education was not merely a matter of imparting knowledge, but a process of influencing the young in the right direction through the teacher's contacts with pupil in School and home, and by the ethos of the School itself. He himself knew his pupils and the majority of the parents. He identified himself with the pupil's activities and often during lemons in a football match, he was found sitting along with the players, talking to them and inspiring them. One of the events that made St. John's widely known

was the winning by K. Nesiah of the second place in the English Essay Competition held on Empire Day. During Mr. Peto's time, St. John's became an educational institution of the best kind.

### The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham B. Sc. Hons. (1940—1957)

(16) With the new Principal, we come to the period specially under review—the last quarter century, and the beginning of the era of National Principals. Mr. Arulanantham was an Old Boy, and one-time teacher of the School. He obtained an Honours degree in Psychology, from King's College, London, did his theological studies at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and worked as a curate in England. On his return to St. John's he was Careers Master, Chaplain and later Vice-Principal.

When Mr. Peto met with his death while swimming in the sea near Thondaimannar, Mr. Arulanantham acted as Principal, and later the Governing Body made the momentous decision of appointing him as the first national Principal, in a permanent capacity. There were the difficulties of the transition from Missionary Principals to a national one, but with great tact and firmness, he overcame them, and in course of time, won the co-operation of Parents, Old Boys and Teachers. To Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, Retired Divisional Inspector of Schools and Manager of St. John's for a number years must be given the credit for helping to ensure that in the transition from Missionary to National, the authority of the Principal was in no way whittled down. The seventeen years of his Principalship were eventful ones.

Speaking in the lighter vein, he once said, "Coveting the property of others adjoining the School is my besetting sin." He was unrepentant, and went on to acquire lands near the School, and to put up buildings—the Centenary Science Block, the Memorial Hostel, both big ventures



and the Rose Walton Sick-Room. He amalgamated the Mission Station Primary School and the St. John's Lower School, and built the new block of class rooms that now house the Primary School.

Many will remember the times when the Mahendra Cinema was begun opposite the Main Street entrance of St. John's College. Appeals about the impropriety of starting a Cinema opposite an educational institution fell on deaf ears. The entrance of the College was then shifted to Old Park Road. What might be called Nemesis overtook the Cinema Venture and the land and building were for sale. It was considered poetic justice that the C.M.S. bought the property and converted it into Peto Hostel. Mr. Peto had the dream of the School compound going right up to the public roads in all directions, but could not realize it for want of funds. Mr. Arulanantham was able to realize the dream, though only in part, but crossed the road.

It is to Mr. Arulanantham's credit that through the many and rapid changes of the period, educational, economic, social and other the School progressed and expanded. The introduction of free education, led to increase of numbers, and the use of the mother tongue as medium of instruction necessitated considerable adjustments. That under him, the School rode the waves of change showed clearly that the first national Principal was equal to the task.

**Mr. P. T. Mathai, M. A. (1957—1959)**

(17) Had joined St. John's in 1921, was assistant master for 31 years, was Vice-Principal for 5 years (1952—1957), and became Principal in 1957. As assistant, he was successful in the teaching of English and Mathematics, and took active interest in the extra-curricular activities of the School. As Vice-Principal, he showed himself a capable administrator and a

tower of strength to the Principal. He found his work as Principal quite easy. Besides maintaining high standards, he put up two blocks of class rooms to meet the influx caused by the Emergency of 1958. He also built tarmacs round the play ground so that cars could pass without raising dust. A stalwart of the S.C.M. and J. I. C. C. F. he was of great help in getting the Camp House built at Casurina Beach, Karainagar. It is by merit that this son of India rose to be Principal.

**Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram (1959—1966)**

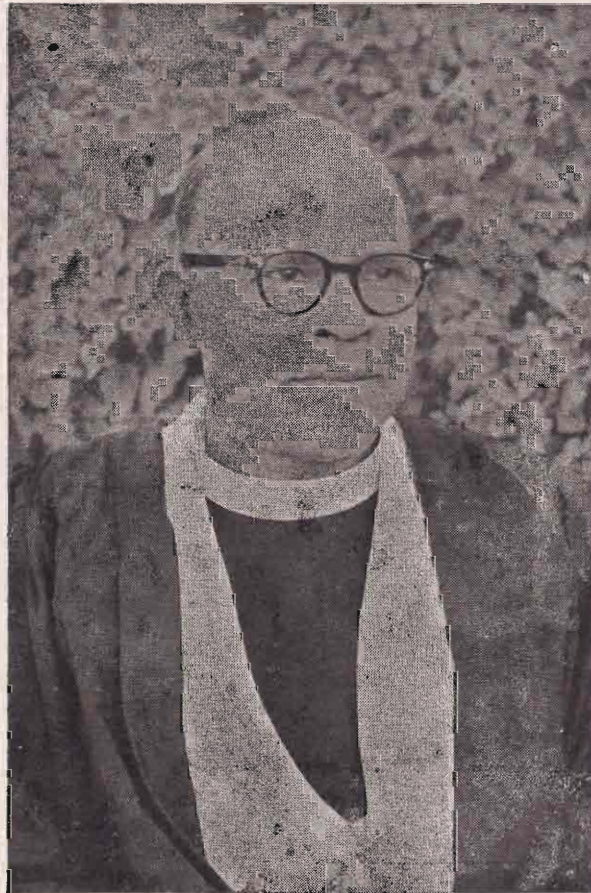
(18) Was like the Rev. J. T. Arulanantham, an Old Boy, a former teacher and Vice-Principal, before he became Principal. As pupil he had a bright career, obtaining distinctions and honours; as assistant teacher he had proved himself a successful teacher of Latin and Mathematics. A graduate in Arts of London, with post-graduate training, and with a diploma in Educational Thought and Practice, he was equipped for the post. He had also had experience of administration as Principal of Christian College, Kopy. But in less than two years of his taking up duties as Principal the school became a private non-fee levying school. The burden of running a large school like St. John's, without fees and without government grant, especially immediately after the take-over by government of other schools, when parents had not realised the value of private schools, would have been too heavy, even for the stout-hearted. His health began to suffer. But the difficulties and burden notwithstanding, the school maintained its standard in studies and in sports. A record number of pupils entered the University, especially to the Faculty of Medicine, and in sports, St. John's was outstanding among outstation schools. Mr. Rajasekaram retired in December 1966.



REV. HENRY PETO  
1920 — 1940



*Rev. J. T. Arulanantham*



REV. J. T. ARULANANTHAM  
1940 — 1957



## THE REV. J. T. ARULANANTHAM

*Principal 1940 — 1957*

A. W. RAJASEKERAM

Fifty one years' close association with one's Alma Mater as student, teacher and Principal breaks all records. That signal honour goes to the Rev. J. T. Arulanantham as he retires from the Principalship of St. John's College, Jaffna. But it is truly a case not of 'retyring'. For he lives and moves and has his being in our midst as Chaplain, Counsellor, and Local Correspondent. We wish the close connection to be maintained "ad multos annos".

I had the good fortune of knowing him first in the year 1924 as an able exponent of the intricacies of Mathematics and the principles of Science. He was an ideal teacher to lay the foundation for beginners. I have very vivid and pleasant memories of the first lessons, which I had from him in Trigonometry and Mechanics. "Slow and steady wins the race" was his motto. His aim was not to rush through the syllabus but to put every student through the examination. The slow student hailed him as their Saviour from the wrath to come, while the faster ones had to put up with repetition and recapitulation, only to be rewarded with distinctions at the end.

As an assistant master he was very much loved and respected by his students and his colleagues alike. He was a Boarding House Master for several years, when he won the esteem and admiration of those in his charge. He earned the reputation "as a firm but kind disciplinarian" to quote the words of the Rev. Henry Peto his Principal. He knew fully well the foibles of youth and showed considerable tact and common sense in

handling juvenile aberrations. Students dare not dodge him for they were sure they would get caught.

In 1931 he went to the United Kingdom for higher studies. He joined King's College, London, from where he secured the B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in Psychology. He entered Ridley Hall, Cambridge, for his theological training. He was ordained Deacon and later Priest in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. He served a period of curacy at St Mary's, Islington, in North London and was also engaged in deputation work for the C. M. S. in Great Britain and Ireland. On his return to Ceylon he was appointed Chaplain, and Careers Master and later Vice-Principal of the College.

In 1940 he succeeded the Rev. Henry Peto as Principal — the first Ceylonese and the first Old Boy to fill this exalted office. When the history of the Second Hundred years of the College is written, he and his predecessor will adorn the bulk of the volume. On the eve of his appointment the College was a shapeless mass of ramshackle huts. Plans for the renovation of Robert Williams Hall and for the building of the Science Block were just blue prints. It was left to Mr. Arulanantham to raise the money and carry out the building programme. Success in these egged him on to annex more lands. "Coveting our neighbour's property" was, as he once jestingly remarked in one of his Prize Day reports, "his besetting sin". Everyone wonders how he managed to acquire the lands adjoining the College on Kandy Road, to convert Mahendra theatre into Henry Peto Hostel, to erec

Memorial Block to perpetuate the memory of four benefactors, to renovate several old class-rooms, and to put up many new ones, all within the brief space of seventeen years! For this architectural transformation of the College, he may well and truly be called the Builder of Modern St. John's.

As an administrator he was an unparalleled success. He believed in team work more than in individual performance. He chose the right leaders for the different branches of work and had the capacity to get things done. While some Principals try to do everything themselves to satisfy their own conscience, Mr. Arulanantham believed in co-operative effort. In and out of school hours he would be busy drawing up schemes. He knew that art to perfection. He would first put his schemes to those whose support he was fairly sure of. After that he had no difficulty of getting the full staff on his side. Thus his schemes always acquired a democratic touch at the end.

Mr. Arulanantham believed in trying experiments, both in the classrooms and outside. One day you will see his office in one room and a month later in another. So is the story of our college gates and walls. To him it was as easy to build as to destroy. His experiments in class tests — the short type and the essay type — the scheme of promotions have very lasting value. He broke the tradition of promoting boys according to rank and laid the emphasis on passing the compulsories and a minimum of optionals. Annual revision of syllabuses, and standardised tests by the different heads of departments have helped to raise the general average of work in the whole school.

Like Edward Thring, the famous Head Master of Uppingham, he felt that every boy could do something well. The school had something to impart even to the less talented boy. It was wrong to ignore the dull boy and cater only to the needs of the bright boy. So Mr. Arulanantham patiently toiled hard to bring up the rear. He tried this principle out once in an Inter-House athletic meet. He introduced a novel Group event where the whole house took part in a mass race—Seniors, Inters, Juniors respectively—and points given for the average time taken by the first and last runner.

He shared other educational ideals with Thring. The Head Master should know every boy in the School. Buildings and environment must be good. The teacher should teach not subjects but students—his first and last subject is the pupil. These are just a few of their common beliefs.

Any assessment of Mr. Arulanantham's work is incomplete, if his contribution to the religious atmosphere of the College is not mentioned. Like Thomas Arnold of Rugby, he believed that a Headmaster's primary responsibility was the pastoral care of his boys. So he availed himself fully of the School assembly, chapel services, the S. C. M., the Brotherhood and Bible Classes for the Staff. The Sunday Fellowship breakfast following the Communion Service and the Boarding House dinner with the resident staff and their families were two good traditions of his own creation. He maintained a certain amount of individual contact with Senior boys and Staff which accounts for his success and popularity. Above all he was a man of prayer and deep faith. No administrator can escape criticism and Mr. Arulanantham is no exception. Perhaps he was



one, who was quite often misunderstood. He always kept his head high above the utterances of his critics, and tried to satisfy his own conscience, ignoring those who maligned him. Time had proved his sincerity of purpose and at the end of his principalship both his friends and critics with one voice acclaimed his regime an unqualified success.

Much more can be said of him. I have strictly confined myself to his main contribution to the college. Mr. Arulantham too generally confined himself to school affairs and kept aloof from politics and public life. It was not lack of interest in the latter but because he was fully absorbed in the former that he could not do justice to both. So he chose

to live for the School and for matters educational. He associated himself early with Teachers' Unions, being in turn President of the N. P. T. A. and A. C. U. T. He was throughout a keen member of the Head Masters Conference. In Church matters he remained a loyal evangelical and was inter-denominational in his outlook. He was for some years President of the Ashram Board and has now for many years been Rural Dean of the Church of Ceylon. The Jaffna Christian Union looks up to him as the coping stone for the edifice of Church Union.

We thank him for what he has meant to St. John's and wish him good health and many years of continued service to his Alma Mater, Country and Church.

*S. J. C. Magazine*  
*November 1957*



## (II) REV. J. R. RATNANAYAGAM

When a man comes to appear before the gates of a graveyard to make his final entry, he might well bring his whole and all his judgements under a searching review. It is not given to us, very fortunately; otherwise life would be intolerable, to foresee to any extent the unfolding course of events. In a particular setting a certain course of action was right; in another, it was wrong. After the passage of a few years, when the perspective of time has lengthened, all stand in a different setting. There is a new proportion with another scale of values. It would be improper to judge a bygone age by today's standards, as it would be improper to judge today's happenings by "the good old days". No his-

torian, however competent he might be, can ever accurately recapture or reconstruct the atmosphere in which past leaders and generations acted. The only guide to a man is his conscience; the rectitude and sincerity of his actions. I would be imprudent to walk through life without the certainty that amidst all the inscrutable mysteries of this world, one did walk in accordance with the dictates of one's own conscience. With this assurance, no matter how the fates play, one always marches in the ranks of honour. Society is notoriously erratic in its judgements. God alone is judge.

It fell to the lot of the late Revd. J. T. Arulanantham to succeed to the



Principalship of St. John's College after a long succession of foreign missionaries. But for two short spells, one at Peradeniya and another in England, his whole life was lived within the college boundaries. First as pupil, then as teacher, later as Chaplain, and then as Vice-Principal and Principal, he was intimately associated with the College for half a century. The College saw him grow up to manhood and he saw her rise to take an important place among the educational institutions of the country.

The beginning of this century saw a marked change in the system of education in our land. The sports field came into its own and the sciences assumed a new importance. It was during Mr. Arulanantham's tenure of office that there began the procession of pupils from our laboratories to the science faculties of the University. There continued, of course, the ever increasing grand procession of old boys and girls who left the portals of the college "to serve God manfully in their various stations in life". They took with them the very spirit of St. John's; the spirit of discipline and hard work; the spirit of integrity and fair play; the very things Mr. Arulanantham and his colleagues had laboured to maintain and build up over two decades.

He was the builder of Modern St. John's and when it came to his turn to lay down office he handed over a St. John's at the height of its fame. He had become an acknowledged educationist of considerable ability and vast experience. He himself told me that with the primary purpose of serving St. John's he took Holy Orders and joined the small company of ordained school masters. Over the years through vast experience he gathered a measure of knowledge on the subject of education, such

that, whenever he spoke on subjects pertaining to education, he was listened to in the councils of the church and country.

In paying a tribute of affection and regard to Mr. Arulanantham I am not obliged to uphold all he did; for I appeared on the scene rather late in his later days, on the eve of his retirement. That a senior priest and his junior colleague should have agreed and disagreed repeatedly was natural. But through it all he made an impression on me, as, I believe, he did on many. He was a very strong man, not aware of his limitations. He was a man of strong convictions and his supreme virtue lay in the fact that he knew his own mind. He knew where he was going and got there. God, in his mercy, gave him life until his work was completed. He passed away on the eve of his "second retirement". For a year before his death he was in charge of the parish at Chundikuli. The work of a parish priest is very different from that of a school master, but he undertook his new duties with tremendous enthusiasm and enjoyed his work. During his short incumbency of the parish he also saw the work of renovation completed in the church in which he had served himself for over thirty years.

He was a sound judge of persons, a better judge of situations. He had a proper grasp of essentials and never dissipated his energies over trivial matters. He always got on with the job. Once he set his heart on a scheme he worked on it. At times he did not hesitate to disregard individuals in the process of executing it. In the day of crisis, and St. John's has seen many, not even the man at the centre can know the whole truth. The currents that cut and cross each other are so many and the pressures that play

from various quarters, so innumerable, that remaining detached and objective in one's judgements becomes virtually impossible. Yet decisions had to be taken, appointments made and the work of the institution go forward.

Mr. Arulanantham did not suffer fools gladly nor was he patient with eccentrics. He did not conceive of a high school as a democracy. He wasted no time petting and pampering "petty politicians". He pressed on and odd numbers fell by the wayside, sometimes to do better elsewhere. He was no popular man in the cheap sense of that term. He knew it, It never bothered him. "Woe unto you if men speak well of you" was all he would say. Appointments and awards were part of a principal's lot. They invariably inspired strong affections and bitter hatreds. For a man who burnt candles at the altar of discipline and order, repeated dismissals were unavoidable. His was no easy assignment. What was evident on that memorable last day was that in spite of it all, there were multitudes of old boys who loved him deeply and saw in his passing away the end of an age.

He generally kept his own counsel and seldom explained himself. That other decisions and other appointments might have made St. John's a greater institution than she is, is debatable, but irrelevant. Even in this degenerate day, when standards have fallen low and discipline is a thing of the past, St. John's still stands supreme. Therein lies his vindication. His name will carry with it suggestions of conflict and controversy for some days to come, but there shall come a time when it will be the last lingering memory of a glorious day.

This I vouch for. He loved his God and served his Church with faithfulness. There is just one "might have been" in

his life. He was offered a bishopric in the Church in South India just after he took ill in 1959. After consulting his old friend Mr. A' J. R. Vethavanam he declined the offer, preferring to remain at his post at St. John's.

He loved the services of the College Chapel, and even after retirement he was always there. Over the years he collected for himself a good library and carefully kept up a good habit of study. A couple of months before the end he began studying the subject of death and its meaning. He was regular in his devotions for they meant much to him. His every sermon was carefully prepared and what was more important than his delivery was their content. He put his best into them.

Ultimately, a priest will only be judged "by the love where-with he hath loved his people". True enough within the context of the school he was impatient of those who obstructed him. But he sincerely cared for many and many turned to him in their distress. I was with him one evening when information came through from the Civil Hospital before the silence of a cold tomb that a mentally deranged man had named him as his "last friend". The dying man must have turned to Mr. Arulanantham again in life, and very naturally in the hour of his death he sought him for a last time. And he did not seek him in vain. I remember the incident moved me deeply and I could not help thinking that similar incidents must have happened many times. This alone will stand him in good stead before the Tribunal of Heaven.

On the first day of a week in mid-June even as he was ready to go to the altar of his God, the God whom he loved and served all his life, the Master called him to his rest. There was something beautiful and even inspiring about



his departure. As he lay in state in the Church, which he had himself helped to restore to its present beauty and dignity, many filed past to pay their last respects. The Archdeacon of Jaffna celebrated at the Requiem in the morning, and the Bishop of Colombo presided over the Funeral Service. As the sun set we committed his mortal remains to its final resting place beside the grave of his for-

mer friend, the late Rev. Henry Peto. We did not realize how much he meant to us until he was no more.

How quickly it was over. To many he had been their teacher and Principal, to more he had been a priest and friend, to not a few he was a man sent from God; and, very strangely, his name too was John.

*S. J. C. Magazine Dec. 1964.*

### (III) C. J. T. THAMOTHERAM

Nineteen hundred and forty was a memorable year in the history of St. John's College. For the first time in its long history of one hundred and seventeen years, an Old Johnian and a Ceylonese was appointed Principal of the College.

The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham had already been Vice-Principal for four years when the sudden death of the Rev. Henry Peto occurred in sorrowful yet sacrificial circumstances, and when the Governing Body of the Church Missionary Society decided to offer the Principalship to Mr. Arulanantham there was great satisfaction among Old Boys and parents; while the staff felt proud that one of their number had been elevated to this high office. During the period of his Vice-Principalship, he had become sufficiently acquainted with all the difficulties and problems of administering an institution with such noble traditions as St. John's that when he himself assumed the office of chief there was no break in the high standard of efficiency and discipline with which the people of Jaffna had begun to associate St. John's

The Past eight years have seen a great transformation in the layout of the College. The building of the Centenary Science Block, the Dining Hall, the Rose Walton Sick Room, the renovation of the Robert Williams Hall, and Thompson House, and the extension of the playgrounds have changed the St. John's that we knew as boys into an institution with noble buildings continuing its great traditions. This 'New Look' of St. John's is due largely if not wholly to the present Head, whose unbounded energy and sound understanding of finances have helped in the realisation of that vision which was long in the heart of his predecessor.

One of the great characteristics of Mr. Arulanantham is his courage to launch on schemes that others less bold than he would hesitate to consider. When he launched on the most ambitious scheme in the history of the College, almost immediately after he took over the reins of office there were several who were genuinely sceptical of the outcome of the whole project. The



War was on and living conditions difficult ; materials and labour were scarce and expensive. Nevertheless the man of faith that Mr. Arulanantham is, he went ahead, winning the support and enthusiasm of old boys and friends, in a manner hitherto un-known in the annals of Jaffna schools—who, for example, has heard of a gift to any school of Rs. 25,000 by an old boy. Though buildings have a place in the assessment of the worth of an institution, there are other factors that go to make it a great institution. The quality of instruction imparted, the emphasis on the formation and building up of character, the training for citizenship, the inculcation of a spirit of service and the acquisition of a sense of proportion and perspective for facing manfully life's manifold problems have been diligently pursued and fostered under the leadership of the present Principal and his able band of teachers.

Even a casual visitor to St. John's will be impressed by certain distinctive features of its school life contributing to its success in character-building. The Principal is in direct charge of the Boarders who are grouped according to their ages in three Houses, under the immediate care of three senior teachers, who are provided with living quarters for themselves and their families. This explains the rise in numbers

of the boarders from 40 in 1940 to 140 in 1948. Coupled with this is the high all round standard maintained in all branches of sport, thereby creating in the St. John's boy that poise and confidence which marks a Johnian.

Another instance of Mr. Arulanantham's boldness to attempt the impossible, was when he decided in 1945 not to enter the Free Education Scheme. It was a long furrow he had to plough as all the other schools in the Town area entered the scheme. But the venture of faith has been amply rewarded and St. John's has often been forced to refuse admission, very reluctantly, as a result of the increase in numbers.

Such boldness and courage to think and plan have been inspired by the prayer life of Mrs. Arulanantham, who by her devotion to the Principal and her readiness to help in all college activities has endeared herself to all.

Building in faith, building for God, may well sum up the contribution of the Principal and we hope that under his leadership St. John's will march on bravely, with unabated zeal and undying faith in her destiny.



## Mr. P. T. Mathai

*Principal 1957 — 1959*

(I) J. G. ASEERVATHAM

In the panel of names of distinguished men who have been Principals of St. John's College, the one most recently added was that of Mr. P. T. Mathai. These names like beacons in the night, shed their glow on the long and sometimes tortuous path along which St. John's has moved over a hundred years, lighting up with their brilliance here some half-forgotten landmark and there a memorable event. The last name shines no less brilliantly than the others and not alone by its newness.

Of the long years Mr. P. T. Mathai had been associated with St. John's College, for 32 years he was teacher, for nearly 5 years Vice-Principal and for nearly two years her Principal. He has given the best years of his life in service to the school. It is remarkable that in a land that produced, particularly in that generation, administrators of outstanding ability to meet the needs of the whole island and elsewhere, an outsider like him could come and work for many years in our midst and on his own merits secure preferment for the top-most position in the institution.

Many would cherish the memory of Mr. Mathai's sojourn here and remember him especially in his role as English teacher. It can be said that he made his students enjoy the experience of learning, be it English or any other subject. Apart from the successes in the classroom, his versatility and adaptability enabled him to organise and guide every kind of extra-curricular activity that had been ever undertaken in the school and to each he brought to bear that thoroughness and efficiency for which he was well-known. He was for many years a much adored Scout Master

and his contribution to the Y. M. C. A. and S. C. M. movements in Jaffna are monumental in themselves.

Mr. Mathai was a towering example of rectitude, devotion to duty, diligence in work and honesty of purpose. He was so near perfection in these that those near him had often of their own become acutely conscious of their own shortcomings by comparison. In whatever station he found himself he performed his functions with such single-mindedness that on occasions some had even felt that he did not give due consideration to human feeling. But such impressions are inevitable in an imperfect world.

It becomes something of a marvel when one considers how much Mr. Mathai was able to do to St. John's College in that short period of time he was her Principal. The excellent roads within the campus, built with an eye to checking erosion and water-logging, the new block of class-rooms behind Figg Hall, and the complete renovation of another block next to the office and so many other useful additions here and there, bear testimony to his industry and his meticulous attention to detail. Besides, he rationalised the work of the school in all departments. One could only wonder how much more he would have done if he served the school a few more years. However he has left behind an unmistakable imprint of his personality deeply embedded in the spirit and traditions of our school which neither time nor tide can erase. He has now gone to his homeland to spend the years of his retirement and we wish him long years of ease and peace.

*S. J. C. Magazine Dec. 1959*





MR. P. T. MATHAI  
1957 — 1959





## (II) M. S. THAMBITHURAI

I Consider it a great privilege and honour to be asked to write about Mr. P. T. Mathai. He was my teacher, Boarding House Master, fellow-teacher, Vice Principal and Principal under whom I had the pleasure of working as teacher and bursar.

Mr. Mathai came to St. John's in May 1921, and continued to work here till April 1959 when he retired as Principal of the College. During these 38 years he had worked in various capacities in addition to his work as teacher. He was Scout Master, Boarding House Master, Vice Principal and finally Principal. It is a good long record of service and achievements of which anybody can be proud.

Mr. Mathai was undoubtedly one of the best teachers we have ever had at St. John's. He made the work easy for the students by having regular tests so that they were not afraid to face the examination at the end of the year. The late Rev. Peto used to tell the teachers that an ideal teacher should correct at least one set of exercise books a week. One of the things that teachers hate I suppose is the correction of exercise books. Mr. Mathai followed his advice and we know that his students passed out very well year after year. He never shirked his work nor would he allow his students to shirk theirs. His advice to the students was 'whatever you do, do it well'. I am sure that whatever Mr. Mathai did, he did well.

Abraham Lincoln once said, 'Die when I may but let it be said of me that I plucked a weed and planted a flower wherever I thought a flower would grow'. Mr. Mathai's ideal was not far different from this.

As Boarding House Master he was 'a friend, philosopher, and guide' to all those who came under his care. He was more a parent than teacher in the Boarding House. It was he who introduced at St. John's for the first time, the Boarder's Day which our present boarders enjoy so much.

There was not a single activity in the college in which he did not take part and which he did not adorn. He was a good Tennis player and was for a long time the Tennis champion. He took a great deal of interest in the S. C. M. and was responsible for putting up the Camp House at Casuarina beach in Karainagar.

He believed firmly in the lines of Lord Tennyson, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." The secret of his success was his prayer-life. He was one of the original members of the Brotherhood started by the late Rev. Arulanantham in 1929. The Brotherhood consisted of a few Christian teachers who were willing to join it. They met once a week for the study of Bible and prayer, chiefly to pray for all the members of the College. Mr. Mathai gave a lot of life to this and was rarely absent from the meetings. He was so regular, systematic and methodical in all his ways that he found time for everything.

His highest contribution to St. John's was perhaps, as Vice-Principal of the College. It may be said that the success of Mr. Arulanantham was largely due to the Vice-Principal, Mr. Mathai. Latterly, Mr. Arulanantham's health was failing and a good part of the burden was borne by the Vice-Principal. He had to do some administrative work as Vice-Principal, and

in the course of doing his duty he did not hesitate to pull up any one if things went wrong. There was perfect discipline and order in the place. The Principal and the Vice-Principal combined so well in discharging their duties the College did very well in every way, in every sphere of activity and became one of the leading institutions in the Island. When Rev. Arulanantham retired the Bishop of Colombo in his sermon said that we were closing a chapter in the history of St. John's. Perhaps, a future historian when he comes to write the History of the College for the next 100 years from 1924—2023 will find it difficult to separate Mr. Arulanantham's regime from Mr. Mathai's.

Mr. Mathai was Principal only for two years, from May 1957 to April 1959. Two years is a fairly short period in the history of a College and it is difficult for anyone to plan anything big and do it. However his enthusiasms did not flag. He worked as if he was going to be Principal for ever. When he became Principal he chose a motto for the school for the year "Leave the place better than you found it." His aesthetic sense was so high that it was difficult for anyone to please him. He wanted the whole place to look neat and tidy. He made it a point to go round the whole College to see that every place was kept clean. The roads inside the College compound, the renovation of the class rooms by the side of the Office and the temporary class rooms by the side of the

Figg Hall are some of the additions and improvements he made during the short time he was Principal. If I can think of one word to describe his work it is efficiency. He did his duty efficiently to the end without fear or favour. According to the motto he gave to the College, it can be truly said that he left St. John's better than he found it.

He left us by the end of April 1959 and went to his homeland to enjoy his well earned rest. Even after he left us he kept in constant touch with the College. He was somewhat sad that his friends did not write to him regularly.

His last letter to me was on 10-6-65. There he writes, 'I am happy to see that St. John's is maintaining her standard in Studies, Games, and Athletics.' He also makes inquiries about some of his friends—A. W. R., Rev. J. R. R. and W. T. G. In referring to the death of Rev. Arulanantham he says, 'Death may come to any one at any time.' Most probably he himself was preparing for death so that Death may not take him unawares. Before I could reply his letter came the sad news of his death in December last year. None of us expected him to die so soon because he was one of those who enjoyed splendid health when he was here. We would like to express our sorrow to Mrs. Mathai and her children and would tell them that our sorrow is as great as theirs.

*S. J. C. Magazine Dec, 1966*



## (III) H. W. CANAGARAJAH

It was the period when teachers from the sub-continent were in great demand in the educational institutions in Sri Lanka particularly in the North. This was primarily due to their indefatigability, devotion to duty and exemplary sense of discipline. The Rev. Henry Peto had assumed duties as Principal just a short while earlier, and he was very much concerned with improving the discipline and tone at St. John's. He was looking around for recruits with whose cooperation he would achieve this and one of his appointees was Mr. P. T. Mathai, who possessed such inestimable qualities in abundant measure. In fact about this time we had three Mathais on the staff of St. John's—P. I., T. M. and P. T. Alas ! all three are no more.

Mr. P. T. Mathai served St. John's most diligently and devotedly for 38 years—32 years as teacher, 5 years as Vice-Principal and nearly 2 years as Principal. As a result of such a tremendously long period of service he had become a tradition and a landmark in the history of St. John's. He was essentially a teacher of English and Mathematics and was one of the most painstaking and efficient teachers St. John's has had. His thoroughness always impressed us and his eye for detail made his work virtually perfect. He was kind and considerate to the backward and weak and did not for a moment believe that private tuition was absolutely necessary for such students. He felt that extra care and special attention in the classroom could help such weak students to fare better, and he proved it in many a case by the extra time and energy he spent on them. Rank or social status mattered not to him, and he treated all his charges alike without partiality.

S.J.C.—5

He was a strict disciplinarian and his stern and rugged appearance gave a false and erroneous impression that he was rather rough and hard on people. But within him was a heart of gold. He was a perfectionist who concerned himself with the tiniest detail of organisation. He would prefer to have a thing not done at all rather than have it done badly and slovenly.

Mr. Mathai identified himself with the various activities of the college. In fact there was hardly any activity which did not come under his guidance even for a brief period and where his influence was not felt. He served the school in different capacities as Boarding House Master, Scout Master, Caterer and Vice-Patron of the S. C. M. This is ample evidence of the keen interest he took in the students, their welfare and their intellectual, spiritual and physical development.

The Jaffna inter-Collegiate Christian Fellowship composed of all Christian Schools in the North had no permanent place to hold their terminal meetings and camps. The J. I. C. C. F. was put to great difficulty and inconvenience year in and year out in trying to arrange a place to hold at least their annual camps. Mr. Mathai, together with other christian teachers, mooted the idea of a camp house at Karainagar. He personally interested himself in the collection of funds and worked indefatigably for this cause, and thanks to his stupendous efforts the camp house today is a reality.

Mr. Mathai's interests were not confined to the students in the school. He was equally interested in the youth outside. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. lacked effective leadership and had ceased to function for

more than a decade. Mr. Mathai realising the yeoman service the "Y" could render to the youth of Jaffna, gathered round him a band of enthusiastic supporters and revived it. At the first Annual General Meeting he was unanimously elected General Secretary and a member of the Board of Directors. Thereafter he set about holding meetings and organising carol parties to make the public of Jaffna aware of the existence of the "Y". He then impressed on the people the need for a permanent building for the Y. M. C. A. and solicited their support and cooperation. The "Y" building which we see today is a testimony to the spade work he carried out for its construction.

If Mr. Mathai's two year period as Principal lacked quantity, it was amply made up by quality. As the late Mr. Rajasekaram stated in his first Principal's report "The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham was a builder of halls. Mr. P. T. Mathai was a builder of walls." Where earlier sections of the college campus were surrounded by

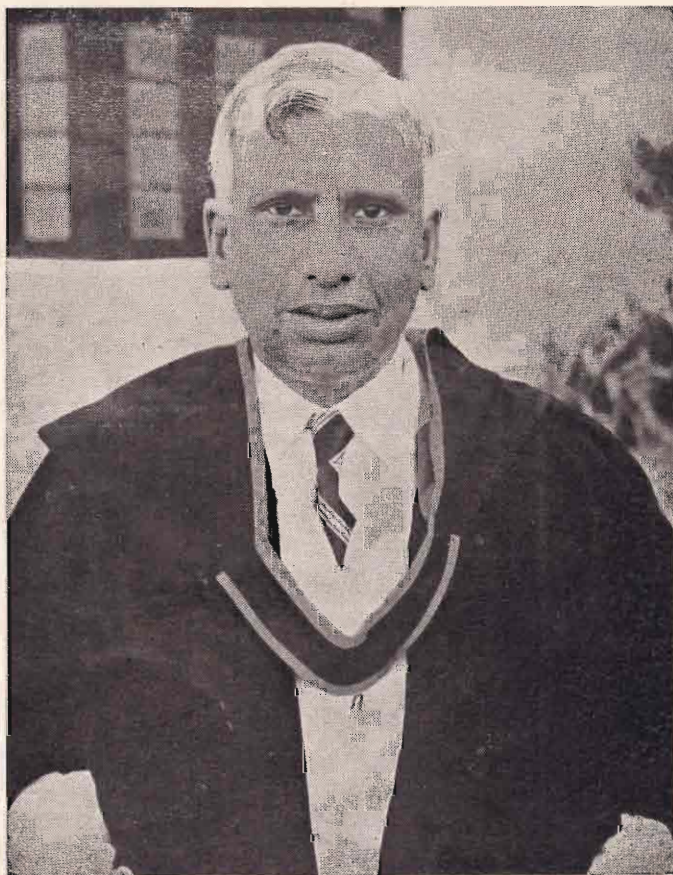
cadjan fences he had them replaced by walls. Two boundary walls along Kandy Road, a set of three class rooms between the tennis court and Figg Hall and a well constructed road by the side of Williams Hall, were some of the improvements he effected during this very short period.

During Mr. Mathai's tenure of office there were brilliant teachers, leading educationists and administrators of outstanding ability in Jaffna, more than sufficient to fill the top posts in any institution. That an 'outsider' like him by sheer hardwork, loyalty and his intrinsic merits was chosen Head of this leading institution is indeed creditable and noteworthy. He always kept himself busily and profitably occupied and hence loathed inaction. Even after his retirement he was actively occupied in his coconut plantation at Travancore. It is sad that he did not live long enough to enjoy his retirement. Within a short time of his relinquishing work, he was called to his Maker.









MR. A. W. RAJASEKERAM

1959 — 1966



## *Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram*

*Principal 1959 — 1966*

(I) J. C. HANDY

I first came to know Mr. Rajasekaram in 1922, when I joined the Staff of St. John's College. He was a student in the Second Form preparing to sit for the Cambridge Junior 2½ years later. I had the privilege of taking this class in Mathematics and I discovered a few boys in that class who I thought could easily take the Cambridge Junior Examination in 1½ years' time. I suggested to the Principal that those boys should be put into a special form and prepared to take the Junior Examination in 1½ years and thus save a year. The Principal readily agreed to my proposal and formed a class called "The Remove Form" and a few boys were selected to be in that form. Among them was Rajasekaram, a bright, quiet, sober and calm student. He justified our selection by obtaining 1st Class honours in the Cambridge Junior with distinction in Mathematics and Latin and repeating this performance in the Cambridge Senior too. He kept up his academic record by obtaining the B. A. degree of the University of London as a private candidate and later the Trained Graduate Teachers' Certificate (Colombo) and the Diploma in Educational Thought and Practice (London).

He joined the Staff of St. John's in July 1929 when I was myself still on the Staff. Though he was a Junior member of the staff, without any exception all members of the staff considered it a great privilege to have him as a colleague. He was an exemplary teacher setting a very high standard of efficiency and doing honest conscientious work both in the class room and outside. What struck most in his life

to both his colleagues and his students was his simplicity and great humility. He never sought after name and fame. He left St. John's for a period of 6 years to become Principal of Christian College, Kopy, a branch school of St. John's, with the Principal of St. John's College as its Manager. From there he proceeded to London for a course in Education and returned to St. John's as Vice-Principal in August 1957 for a period of 1½ years, and this period was marked by his loyalty to and cooperation with his Principal and his tactfulness in dealing with the other members of the staff.

In May 1959, he succeeded the late Mr. P. T. Mathai as Principal of St. John's College and worked hard to maintain the past traditions of the College. In December 1960, when St. John's decided to become a private non-fee-levying school, very courageously he undertook to shoulder the heavy responsibility and arduous task of finding the funds to meet the financial commitments of the school, though the college did not have any reserve funds, this was in addition to his main duty of keeping up the high standard of efficiency which St. John's had reached in the field of education, and the wonderful traditions and noble ideals built over a century by a number of self sacrificing men and women. Mr. Rajasekaram, though he was unfortunate in becoming Principal at a most critical period in the history of the college, faced the situation very boldly—a situation which meant making bricks without straw. He did his very best and one must admire his faith, his patience, his sincerity of purpose and his amiable attitude towards others.

all of which contributed to the success of his life. Of his 60 year life span, he had devoted 50 years of them to build up St. John's as a brilliant student, an exemplary teacher, a loyal and devoted 2nd lieutenant and last but not least as a courageous pioneer in the field of non-fee-levying private schools-as a matter of fact he sacrificed his own health for the institution which nurtured him. There can be no doubt that his premature retirement was the result of excessive strain caused by the difficulties of running a non-fee-levying school.

I had the privilege of working with him for his last 4 years as Manager of St. John's. Much has been said about him as a teacher, his conscientious work, his friendly disposition towards the colleagues and the affection with which he treated his students but what struck me most was his unwavering faith in his religion, his absolute confidence in God and his life of prayer. He set up a high standard of life

which both young and old could unhesitatingly follow and benefit with characteristic humility and tenacity. He did his very best to keep the flag of St. John's flying and we thank God for his life and the contribution he made to St. John's.

"Death only sweeps away the limitations, breaks down the walls, shatters the crust of mortality, washes out the stains, and then life expands into perfect freedom, fulness, joy and power. The translation of a Christian life from earth to heaven is but like the removal of a tender plant from a cold northern garden, where it is stunted and dying, into a tropical field, where it puts out most luxurious growths and covers itself with splendour". Rajasekaram has gone into this tropical field.

May God grant him eternal rest and let his perpetual light shine upon him.

*S. J. C. Magazine*  
*Dec. 1969*



## (II) M. S. THAMBITHURAI

It is a joy to be asked to write about Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram, my friend, colleague, and Principal under whom I had the pleasure of working as teacher and bursar for the last four years of my career at St. John's.

Mr. Rajasekaram whom we fondly call A. W. R. has been associated with St. John's for well-nigh half a century, both as a student and teacher. He had all his education at St. John's except for a short time when he was in the Ceylon University. He is a self-made man in that he passed his London Intermediate and the B. A. privately.

Mr. Rajasekaram never left St. John's from the time he joined as a student except for a short time when he had to accept the Principalship of Kopay Christian College by way of helping the management. He went to London from there to do his Diploma in Educational thought and practice. He returned to St. John's and became the Vice-Principal in May 1957. When the late Mr. P. T. Mathai retired as Principal in April 1959, the staff with one voice wanted Mr. Rajasekaram to be made the Principal. He is the second old boy to be elevated to this high position, the first being the late Rev. J. T. Arulanantham.



Most of us know Mr. Rajasekaram's achievements as a student. He carried away many prizes during his school career. His favourite subject was Latin and the late Rev. Henry Peto, who was in charge of the subject, had a high regard for him as a good Latin student.

Mr. Rajasekaram was a good teacher. He started teaching at St. John's in 1929. He and I were in charge of the first forms that year though I started teaching a little earlier. The late Mr. H. S. Perera who was the first man to do something to improve methods of teaching in schools in Jaffna, gave a test to all 1st forms in the schools in the peninsula and our classes came out first in order of merit. That was his first experience as a teacher. When the Rev. Peto died, Mr. K. Subramaniam and Mr. Rajasekaram were the only two people qualified to teach Latin. Mr. Subramaniam had to concentrate more on Tamil. Therefore Mr. Rajasekaram was put in charge of Latin. He was in very great demand in those days when Latin was an important subject of the curriculum.

He was a brilliant student, a good teacher, an understanding Principal, and above all a just and god-fearing man. What strikes me most in his life is his simplicity and great humility. He never liked pomp and show. He has served the school in various capacities as teacher, Boarding House Master, Caterer, Librarian, Vice-Principal and finally Principal. Never have I seen him lord it over others in any of these offices.

The success of St. John's was to a great extent due to the unity of the staff and the co-operation they gave to the Principal. There was not this unity when the school was taken over. The Government is partly to be blamed for this unhappy situation, for when they took over the schools they should also have taken over the teachers who would not

fit into private schools. The Government did not and would not do this, for they were only interested in destroying the private schools and not so much in the national system of education. The schools were taken over with a stroke of the pen as it were, regardless of what would happen to the beautiful traditions and noble ideals built up over the years by a number of self-sacrificing men and women.

Mr. Rajasekaram was somewhat unfortunate in becoming the Principal at this most difficult period in the history of the institution. The responsibility of a Principal is big enough but it is difficult to imagine the burden of responsibility of a Principal of a private non-fee-levying school. It was impossible for Mr. Rajasekaram to concentrate on the school work. He had to be busy the whole time in finding the salaries of teachers month after month. There was very little support from within or without. He had to be very careful about the school finance. He denied himself all comforts which his predecessors enjoyed. There was no sympathy from any quarter. He was expected to make bricks without straw. However if the success of a principal is to be judged by the results, we can unhesitatingly say that his period stands second to none.

The burden of carrying on the school in this manner was rather too heavy for him and as a result he fell ill during the latter part of 1965. Perhaps God wanted him to rest a little for the rest of his life and serve Him in a different way. Though he seems to lead the life of a 'shut in,' he is not going to be idle. I am sure he spends his time in study and prayer and alone with God, which has been his one desire all through. He told me that he was glad to have built his house near the Jaffna Railway Station because it would be easy for him to go from there to the Ashram at Maruthanamadam. Perhaps,

God now wants him to serve in this way by praying for himself, the community and the whole world. 'They also serve who stand and wait'.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not refer to Mrs. Rajasekaram his inseparable companion in joy as well as in sorrow. His burden which was rather heavy would have been heavier still, if it had not been for the help and comfort he received from his wife. His children are all very nice and I am sure they do not create any problem for him. We wish them all health joy and happiness in their new home.

When I retired in 1962, Mr. Rajasekaram referred to me as one of the last three teachers in school, (the other two being Mr. W. T. Gunaratnam and himself) appointed by the late Rev. Peto, who can rightly be called the founder of Modern St. John's. Now that all three have left we can say that it is the end of an era in the history of St. John's. Let us hope and pray that the new era which has just begun will be better and brighter in every way and St. John's, true to its motto, will ever continue to shine as light in this dark world.

S. J. C. Magazine  
Dec. 1966.



### (III) திரு. S. தம்பித்துரை

நல்ல பிள்ளையாக நடமாடி கிறிஸ்தவ உத்தமனாக எம்மிடையே அறுபது வருட காலம் வாழ்ந்த திரு. அருட்பிரகாசம் வில் சன் இராசசேகரம் அவர்களின் இறுதியாத்திரையில் கலந்து கொள்ளக் குழுமி இருக்கும் உங்கள் அனைவரின் மத்தியில் எம்மைச் சில வார்த்தைகள் கூறும்படி விடுத்த அழைப்பை ஒரு பாக்கியமாகவே கருதுகிறேன்.

சிறுபராயம் தொட்டே இப் பெரியாரின் நட்பு எமக்கு வாய்த்திருந்தது: அவரது அன்னையாரும் அன்பும், பண்பும் நிறைந்த ஒரு சிறந்த குணவதியாக மற்றையோருக்கு ஓர் எடுத்துக் காட்டாக விளங்கினார். பிறர் பிள்ளை தலை தடவி தம் பிள்ளைகளைத் தாமாகவே வளரவைத்த தமிழ்ப் பெரும் பண்புகளைக் கொண்ட பெரும் தாய்.

எங்கள் இராசரும் தாய் எவ்வழி தாரும் அவ்வழியே தன் வாழ்க்கையை ஆடம்பரமற்ற முறையில் எவர்க்கும் தன்

அன்பையும், ஆதரவையும் வழங்கினார்; பிறர்க்கிரங்கிப் பிரார்த்தனை செய்த பெருந்தகை; இன்னல்கள் எது வந்தாலும், கிறிஸ்துநாதரின் நாமத்தைக் கூறித் தெரியத்துடனும், துணிவுடனும் அவற்றை ஏற்றுக் கொள்வார்.

பரி: யோவான் கல்லூரியில் கற்றது மல்லாமல் ஆசிரியராகவும், இறுதியில் அதன் அதிபராகவும் கடமையாற்றினார்: மாணவனாய் இருந்த பொழுது விவேகம் வாய்ந்த மாணவனென்றும் கருதப்பட்டவர்: இலத்தீன் மொழியிலே அவர் ஒரு மேதை: 1960-ம் ஆண்டு அரசாங்கம் சகல பாடசாலைகளையும் தன் அதிகாரத்தைச் செலுத்திக் கைப்பற்றிய பொழுது பரி: யோவான் கல்லூரியின் ஆட்சிப்பீடம், எத்தனையோ ஆண்டுகளாகப் பேணிவந்த பண்பும் பழக்க வழக்கங்களும் தமிழ்ப் பிள்ளைகளுக்குத் தொடர்ந்து அளிக்கும் நோக்குடன், எவ்வித இன்னல் வந்த பொழுதிலும் அப்பணியைச் செவ்வனே



நடாத்தத் தானே தனித்தியங்கத் தீர்மா  
னித்தது? அவ்வேளை எங்கள் இராசசேகர  
னார் தலைவராக இருந்து முழுப் பொறுப்  
பும் ஏற்கவேண்டும் என்று தேவனின்  
கட்டளையாயிற்று. அவர் தயங்க வில்லை.  
எத்தனை எத்தனையோ கஷ்டங்கள் வந்த  
போதிலும் பிரார்த்தனையே தன் துணையா  
கக் கொண்டு பொறுப்பேற்று நடாத்தினார்.  
பிணிவாய்ப்பட்டு இருந்த போதிலும் அய  
ராது தன் பணியைத் திறம்பட நடாத்தி  
னார். எதையும் தாங்கும் இதயம் படைத்  
தவர்.

இன்று இவரது இறுதிச் சடங்கின்  
போது இம் மண்டபத்தில் இவரின் பூத  
வுடல் பொது மக்கள், பழைய மாணவர்

கள், பெற்றோர் முதலியோரின் இறுதி  
வணக்கத்திற்காக வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்  
றது. இன்னும் சொற்பவேளையில் இவரது  
இறுதி யாத்திரை தாம் தினமும் நடமா  
டிய புனித நல்லூர் வீதி வழியாய் அடக்  
கத்திற்கு எடுத்துச் செல்லப்படும்.

இத்தருணம் அவரது வாழ்க்கைத்துணை  
'பின் தூங்கி முன்னெழும் பேதை' அவ  
ரைப் பிணியினின்றும் மீட்டெடுத்துச்  
சமூகத்திற்குச் சேவை செய்ய அர்ப்  
பணித்த அம்மையார் அவவிற்கு எங்கள்  
அனுதாபத்தைக் கூறுகிறேன். அவரது  
மக்கட் செல்வங்கள் தந்தை போல் வாழ  
வேண்டுமென்று இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்  
கின்றேன்.

S. J. C. Magazine

Dec. 1969.

# Our Present Principal

*"Thank You, Captain"—Says the  
Old Boys' Association*

As Secretary of the parent body of the St. John's College Old Boys' Association, it is my privilege during this eventful period of the ter-Jubilee to place on record our warm sentiments and tribute to Mr. K. Pooranampillai who follows the long line of distinguished and devoted principals to hold office in this year of grace one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four, when, with thankful hearts, we of St. John's proudly conduct the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the College by Christian Missionaries. This period and particularly the last 3 years has been a busy and happy one, for us old boys as we were preparing for the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the school we love. In all our preparations Mr. Pooranampillai gave us unstinted support and displayed a warm understanding of the traditions, aims and aspirations of us old boys.

Mr. Pooranampillai joined us, from yet another leading educational institution, Hartley —(founded by the Methodist Missionaries in 1838 and which too will be completing 150 years of service in 1988)—after a distinguished and exemplary record of service as Principal of that institution for twenty-three years. He came to us as a stand-out personality having also been the President of the All Ceylon Headmasters' Association—an indication of the high esteem in which he was held in educational circles throughout the island.

From the word "Go", Mr. Pooranampillai fitted admirably into the life of our college and has made his own distinctive

contribution further to build, strengthen and maintain the glorious traditions of St. John's so that she may continue to serve as a powerful beacon, shedding light to dispel the gloom of darkness—true to the college motto "Light shineth in darkness." In fact he quickly became one of us. We as old boys are therefore really proud and grateful for his contribution to our alma mater.

He exercised discipline unmindful of any personal popularity. This he did solely because he was imbued by a burning desire to see St. John's continue to hold a high and significant place in the island as an institution, and send out young men of character and integrity into different walks of life where they may prove themselves shining lights for God's great glory. The world over, youth show signs of turbulence and unrest and tend to fall easy prey to the devil's machinations. That to-day St. John's stands head and shoulders above many other institutions is due in no small measure to the firm faith in God, the stature, mature wisdom and dynamic leadership and exemplary conduct of her Principal. In this task he won the co-operation and affection of the staff. Fatherly he always was and mingled firmness with kindness.

Not only did Mr. Pooranampillai make his magnificent contribution in the field of education, both secular and spiritual, but he was also inspired by a great ideal—the ideal of seeing that all pupils who pass through the portals of St. John's are also





MR. K. POORANAMPILLAI  
1967—





physically fit and healthy. Believing, as he did, in the well-known maxim "a healthy mind in a healthy body", he went all out to foster sports activities in the College vis-a-vis educational eminence.

We old boys therefore pay this humble tribute to Mr. Pooranampillai—a great Christian gentleman, simple and unassuming in his ways, lovable and companionable and a man of great vision and dynamic leadership. It is in the providence of God that he holds the sacred and honoured trust as our Principal during this ter-Jubilee period.

It is also our pleasant duty to pay tribute to Mrs. Pooranampillai, who true to her name 'Peace' has proved herself an asset to her husband and the college. She played the role of hostess in a most agreeable manner at many a college function. Her musical talent as a violinist also enriches the school, the church and the life of the community around us.

God bless our Principal  
God bless St. John's.

Victor J. J. Newton  
Hony. Secretary,  
St. John's College O.B.A. Jaffna

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God, give us Men! A time like this demands  
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;  
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
Men who possess opinions and a will;  
Men who have honour; men who will not lie;  
Men who can stand before a demagogue,  
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;  
Tall men, sun-crowned who live above the fog  
In public duty and in private thinking.

*Josiah Gilbert Holland (1819—1891.)*

## *Mr. J. C. Handy, Manager 1962—1968*

### TRIBUTES PAID AT HIS FUNERAL

#### (1) K. POORANAMPILLAI

FRIENDS,

Today, I want to repeat a part of what I said on an earlier occasion, the happy one when Mr. Handy laid the foundation stone of the Ter-Jubilee Hall. In his play: "Abraham Lincoln," John Drinkwater makes one of his characters say, "The unaccounted spirit wakes to the birth of unaccounted circumstances," meaning thereby that in his providence, God raises the right person for a situation. This is an old Biblical truth that is illustrated in the story of St. John's. I have no time to refer to earlier events, but in 1962, when after becoming Private the School was in difficulties, Mr. J. C. Handy became Manager. Thanks to his wise economies, his firmness, and his enterprise, the School, by 1969 was able to end the year without deficit. Not only was that position stabilized, but we were able to improve the buildings. We replaced the cadjan roofs of Everts Hostel, and of the Primary School with asbestos, renovated the Science Laboratories and the Chaplain's quarters, and put up at considerable expense, a new two storeyed Workshop, for Woodwork, Leather and Paper Pulp Work. Under Mr. Handy's leadership, St. John's had achieved the impossible running efficiently without fees and without Government grant.

The Handy family has a long-standing connection with the School. The father, the Rev. C. C. Handy was Headmaster of the School, and was the first national to be Principal, though in an acting capacity. His work is commemorated by the Handy Memorial Library, and we have also Handy House, and the Handy Hostel. In the last five years, we have received from the family Rs. 27,000/- for the Library, and over Rs. 10,000/ for the Building Fund. Mr. J. C. Handy himself has been associated for about fifty years, as pupil, as assistant

teacher, and as Manager. During my association with him, I was struck by his dedication to the School: No hour was too early, nor too late to attend the College business. I was also struck by his vigour of body, alertness of mind, and clarity of understanding, that put many younger people to shame. Besides St. John's other institutions made demands on his time. He was Treasurer and a Director of the Y.M. C. A., Manager of the Schools for the Deaf and Blind and President for a number of years of the J.C.U.

His great wish in the last two years was to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the School in a fitting manner. He planned for the Ter-Jubilee Hall, and did not a little for the realization of part at least of these plans. He used to say, "After the Celebrations, I shall resign." Then someone would say, "That is, if we let you." And he would quote a dictum of Rev. Stopford of Trinity, now Bishop of London, "Nobody is indispensable."

Inevitably, one is reminded of Moses, the great leader of the children of Israel. He had led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, led them through the wilderness for forty years, and brought them to the borders of the Promised Land. From the top of Mount Pisgah, he saw the Promised Land. God said, "I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." The ways of God are inscrutable to man.

Mr. Handy is no more, but certain of his qualities abide: his vision, his courage, and his realism. Quoting Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, he advised us on the day he laid the foundation stone for the Ter-Jubilee Hall: Think big, act big, and be big. We thank God for Mr. J. C. Handy's great work for St. John's and pray that He may enable us to do our best.



## (II) DR. A. V. A. VETHANAYAGAM

I am grateful to the Principal for giving me this opportunity to pay, - on behalf of the O. B. A. and the 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee-our tribute to one of our much respected teachers - "Who made us men, who taught us how to live."

For nearly 11 years now Mr. Handy has spent himself selflessly and entirely in an honorary capacity without any remuneration in the cause of our Alma Mater.

Moved by affection for his and our Alma Mater - and convinced by a firm belief that St. John's should continue as the self same St. John's which we have known and loved through the years, he devoted all his energy and time towards so maintaining her.

In 1962 he impressed on the Welfare Association of the College the wisdom of starting an Academy - now called the 'Jaffna Academy' - which looking back now may some day perhaps be known as the "ST. JOHN'S — J. C. HANDY ACADEMY" - to provide financial support to our school.

He was, in fact, the architect as well as the founder Director. Under his wise leadership this Academy has matured through the years into an asset, not only to the school, but also to the Community around, fulfilling not only his original dream of helping the College with financial support, but also providing an avenue through which many boys and girls who had lost confidence in their abilities could regain that confidence.

The Academy has also helped to provide useful and gainful employment for a large number of people.

The Principal has already referred to the strength and support Mr. Handy has been to the College. To us Old Boys, I can truthfully say that the name J. C. Handy has almost become synonymous with our Alma Mater.

He was the life blood that kept our school viable these eleven long years. His tremendous enthusiasm was contagious. His courage in the face of all difficulties-however gigantic the difficulty may be-was admirable and that inspired us.

His sincere belief in the cause infused more support for the cause. These qualities in Mr. Handy not only endeared him to us Old Boys, but pepped up our own enthusiasm, and he was successful in gathering around him a band of loyal and enthusiastic Old Boys-the envy of many a school.

The school is completing 150 years of existence next year. The idea of celebrating this event in a fitting manner by building a hall worthy of the school-a hall sufficiently large to accommodate the growing numbers of over 1000 students was conceived first by him.

The 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee which has been set up is the result of this his dream.

The successful collection already of nearly over Rs. 150,000 in cash within a short period of eight to nine months by our Committee is a tribute to the confidence Old Boys, parents and well-wishers had in his leadership. This sum was raised entirely and solely from people resident in different parts of Ceylon-the bulk coming from the people resident in Jaffna itself.

That it was possible to collect this money during a very economically difficult period in our history is a tribute to Mr. Handy's leadership.

We are happy when we recall that Mr. Handy's last public appearance at any function was at our Old Boys' Re-union day on the 9th of September this year. He came to the function from the hospital bed—an indication of his great interest in all Old Boys' activities. I can still visualise him seated on the platform during our business meeting. He then remained with us for a long time sharing with us in the fun and frolic, at the Sing Song, Games and informal dinner which followed. From the dinner he returned to the hospital bed.

Next to St. John's which was Mr. Handy's chief interest and concern, Church Union was an ideal towards which he worked steadfastly. For several years he was President of the Jaffna Christian Union which is Church Union in miniature. Through the Jaffna Christian Union he, together with people like the late Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles, was responsible for reclaiming and redecorating the beautiful church in the Jaffna Fort which had gone to wreck and ruin. Church Union was a matter dear to his heart and even during his recent illness, from his hospital bed, he had, on many an occasion spoken to me on this subject.

As we look back on the life and labours of Mr. Handy at one time as our revered and versatile teacher and more recently as a fellow worker in the cause of our Alma Mater, I cannot help recalling those well known lines from Longfellow:—

*"Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime  
And departing leave behind us  
Foot prints on the sands of time*

*Foot prints that perhaps another  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother  
Seeing shall take heart again."*

While we realise that no man lives for ever and death is only an event in our life let us remind ourselves that the best tribute we could pay to the love and labour of the dynamic Mr. Handy is to help fulfil his cherished ideals, towards which he laboured unceasingly especially during the last few years of his life. I refer to the construction and completion of the Jubilee Hall which work is already well on its way and Church Union. I, as representing the Old Boys and the 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee, am confident that we shall NOT fail him about the dreams he had about the Jubilee Hall; and that, I repeat, is the best tribute we Old Boys can pay to his memory.

That God may grant him peace and happiness in the new life into which he has now entered is our prayer.

I am sure fellow Old Boys will join me in telling Mr. Handy as he lies in state in this our College Hall—in the Hall where he and we have grown up together and met many a time; and his mortal remains are about to leave for interment in the grave of his father, who was the first Ceylonese to act as Principal of our Alma Mater.

*"God be with you till we meet again  
By His Counsels guide, uphold you  
With His sheep securely fold you  
God be with you till we meet again"*

**Albert Vethanayagam**  
President, O. B. A.  
& Chairman, S. J. C. 150th, A.C.C.

*S. J. C. Magazine  
Dec. 1972.*



## JUBILARIANS

1	Mr. D. H. Chinniah	29 Years	1918—1947
2	Mr. P. T. Mathai	41 Years	1918—1959
3	Mr. P. I. Mathai	27 Years	1921—1948
4	Mr. T. M. Mathai	30 Years	1921—1951
5	Mr. S. L. Jansen	26 Years	1923—1949
6	Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai	37 Years	1923—1960
7	Rev. J. T. Arulanantham	29 Years	1928—1957
8	Mr. K. Subramaniam	31 Years	1929—1960
9	Mr. M. S. Thambithurai	25 Years	1936—1961
10	Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram	29 Years	1937—1966
11	Mr. L. W. D. Nalliah	29 Years	1944—
12	Mr. V. S. Stephen	28 Years	1944—1972
13	Mrs. T. Thangarajah	29 Years	1944—
14	Miss L. G. Thambiah	28 Years	1945—
15	Mrs. N. Yogarajah	28 Years	1945—
16	Mr. V. Thuraisamy	26 Years	1947—
17	Miss L. S. Thambirajah	25 Years	1948—
18	Mr. J. T. Chelliah	25 Years	1949—

## *Jubilarians of the last Quarter Century*

### **Mr. D. H. Chinniah**

**1918—1947**

Mr. Chinniah belonged to the generation of teachers of the 'old school'. He gave St. John's 29 years of faithful and devoted service. He was one of those who believed in the old maxim "spare the rod and spoil the child." He was a conscientious and painstaking teacher and he always aimed at doing his best for the pupils. He infused into his pupils a high sense of honesty and uprightness and enforced discipline stringently. Ignorance he was prepared to tolerate but not laziness. He led an exemplary christain life. Deeply religious he never failed to attend services at church on Sundays. Till the time of retirement he was very active and continued to work hard and give of his best to St. John's.

### **Mr. P. T. Mathai**

**1918—1959**

Mr. P. T. Mathai had the distinction of having been on the staff for the longest period —41 years. It was a period of loyal and devoted service. He was a conscientious and hard working teacher who paid special attention to the backward pupils. His aim was not only to produce clever students but also to make them men of character. The ideals he placed before his students were a high sense of integrity, loyalty and industry. Whatever Mr. Mathai attempted he did with thoroughness. He censured slipshod work and never could tolerate laziness. Mr. Mathai's interests were many and varied—the hostel, sports, S.C.M., Y.M.C.A. etc. He was deeply religious and took a lasting interest in the S.C.M.

and Y.M.C.A. of which he was treasurer for a number of years. It was chiefly due to his efforts that the camp House at Casuarina Beach, Karainagar was completed. This is a lasting memorial to him. Later on as Vice-Principal and Principal he continued to render the same loyal service until he retired in May 1959. St. John's is thankful to God for the services of such a loyal and devoted teacher.

### **P. I. Mathai**

**1921—1948**

Mr. P. I. Mathai was another of the great teachers St. John's had during the last 25 years. He was a good teacher of English and history. His English classes were always made interesting with quotations and humorous anecdotes. It was a treat to listen to him reading Milton's "Paradise Lost" and Lamb's "Essays of Elia". His history classes were equally interesting and inspiring and Mr. Mathai forgot the end of the period when the topic was the struggle for India's freedom. Mr. Mathai's interest was not confined to the classroom only. He took an active interest in the work of the S.C.M., the literary associations and the tennis club. He was cheerful, friendly and helpful. He continued to give his devoted service for 27 years till he retired in 1948.

### **Mr. T. M. Mathai**

**1921—1951**

Mr. T. M. Mathai joined the staff in 1921 at a time when there was a dearth of science teachers. He was an able teacher of science in the upper classes. But Mr. Mathai did not confine his interest to the



science laboratories. He was a verstaile man. He put his hand to many extra-curricular activities in the college. He was House Master, Boarding House master, and was in charge of Athletics, S.C.M., Scouting and Social Service. Our college Scout Troop, one of the first to be started in the schools in the North, owes its beginnings to the enthusiasm and keenness of Mr. Mathai. The Scout camps organised by him were very well attended and so too were Christian Union Camps to Mandaitivu and other places. Mr. Mathai was a deeply religious man and with his powerful voice a leading member of the College choir for a very long time. His genial personality, cheerful disposition and friendly nature made him very popular among both his fellow teachers and pupils. He had built a large circle of friends so much so that Jaffna was a second home to him. Even after his retirement he continued his social service activities in India.

### Mr. S. L. Jansen 1923—1949

Mr. Jansen after finishing his studies at St. John's joined the staff of his alma mater in 1923 where he continued till his retirement in 1949. As a student he had distinguished himself as an outstanding cricketer and soccer player. He was a very methodical and excellent teacher in the middle school. A man of very few words he maintained good discipline in the class. He always aimed at the best and helped every student to produce his best. On the games field he excelled as a coach. It was chiefly due to his keen interest, the untiring efforts and the enthusiasm he infused into his players that St. John's won the soccer championship for three years in succession in 1927, 1928 and 1929. It was the coaching of Mr. Jansen that produced P. Thiagarajah and C. T. E. Mills, a formid-

able combination on the soccer field. When his team was shooting the goals Mr. Jansen would be unobtrusively watching the game from the side lines. He remained a loyal and devoted teacher till the time of his retirement. After his retirement he helped the college as its bursar for a few years and then gave up to enjoy a well deserved period of retired life.

### Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai 1923—1960

Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai had been connected with St. John's College for almost half a century. He had his entire education at St. John's and soon after finishing his Cambridge Senior started teaching here. As a student he excelled in sports and captained the College Football team and was also an outstanding cricketer in his day. He was appointed the Senior Prefect of the College. As a teacher he gave his best to the College. He served as Prefect of Games and maintained his interest in sports both when in service and after retirement. It was during his period that St. John's forged ahead in the sports field. One of his products was R. R. Scott who won distinction both in Ceylon and outside. Mr. Ponnudurai served his alma mater loyally and faithfully for 37 years. To him St. John's was uppermost in his mind always. He was one who was concerned with the welfare of his students and even after they had left College kept in touch with them and acted as a sort of a liaison officer between the old boys and the college. Mr. Ponnudurai had the rare privilege of having been on the staff of the College both when it celebrated the centenary and the 125th anniversary. Mr. Ponnudurai's contribution as Boarding Master was unique and every boarder came under his special care. In this work he was ably assisted by Mrs. Ponnudurai who was a real 'mother' to the

baby boarders. It can truly be said of him "E.M.P. was St. John's and St. John's was E.M.P."

### **Rev. J. T. Arulanantham** 1928—1957

Rev. J. T. Arulanantham, an old boy of the College, served St. John's as Assistant master, Vice-Principal and Principal. After the untimely death of Rev. Henry Peto, Rev. Arulanantham was appointed Principal. He had the distinction of being the first national Principal of the college. The expansion of St. John's started by the Rev. Jacob Thompson and carried forward by the Rev. Peto was continued by Rev. Arulanantham. During his time St. John's made great strides in the field of Education and games. His period saw a number of new buildings being put up—the science block, the Memorial hostel, the dining hall, the Rose Walton Sick Room, the Middle school block, the Primary school block etc. It was during his term that the 125th anniversary of the college and the Golden Jubilee of the Old Boys' Association were celebrated. His ability, foresight and sympathetic understanding of human problems contributed in no small measure to the heights achieved by the college and its old boys. Himself a good churchman he saw to it that the spiritual side of the students was not neglected. We of the present generation are thankful that he carried forward the aim of the founders.

### **Mr. K. Subramaniam** 1929—1960

Mr. K. Subramaniam, an old boy of Jaffna College, joined the staff as a gay young bachelor in 1929. Right from the beginning he threw himself whole heartedly into the work and served St. John's faith-

fully for 31 years. He excelled as a teacher of Latin and Tamil. His classes were interesting and lively. He took a lot of interest in the welfare of his pupils so that he has to-day a host of loyal pupils in all spheres of life. He was interested in the work outside the classroom. His work as House Master, Staff Advisor to the Hindu Students' Union, Literary Union etc. was invaluable. The high standard reached in Tamil was seen in the Tamil orations delivered on Prize Days and the distinctions scored in Tamil in public examinations. His services to St. John's will be always gratefully remembered both by his fellow teachers and pupils. His interest in St. John's still continues and no college function does he miss even after retirement.

### **Mr. M. S. Thambithurai** 1936—1961

Mr. Thambithurai after teaching at the branch schools of St. John's, joined the staff in 1936. He was one of those conscientious and devoted teachers of the good old days. He was genuinely interested in the progress of every single pupil who came under his care and he paid more attention to the backward pupils. In addition to his work in the classroom he was bursar of the college for a number of years. He was sincere and genuine in his dealings both with the students, minor employees and the teachers. A deeply religious person, he always placed before his pupils the ideals of honesty, piety and hard work. He gave St. John's 25 years of loyal and devoted service. He was interested in the S.C.M., the Brotherhood, Teacher's study Circle and the Old Boy's Association. After his retirement, he has taken up church work and is a lay preacher at St. John's Church.



### **Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram** 1937—1966

After a brilliant academic career at St. John's, Mr. Rajasekaram joined his Alma Mater as an assistant teacher in 1937. Except for a short break when he was Principal of Christian College, Kopy, he continued to give unstinted service to his school. In 1957 he was appointed Vice-Principal and succeeded Mr. P. T. Mathai as Principal in May 1959. His period of Principalship was one of the most difficult periods in the history of the college. In December 1960 the authorities decided to run St. John's as a private non-fee levying school and it fell to the lot of Mr. Rajasekaram to run it under the new set-up. His trust in God and the co-operation of the staff and old boys helped him to face the situation with courage. Many who had doubted the wisdom of the decision to run St. John's as a private school became the warmest admirers of the college. He maintained the standard attained by the college during his predecessor's time. During his time St. John's topped the list of University admissions in the island and shone in every field of sports. Mr. Rajasekaram was deeply religious and he prayed over the most difficult problems. His trust in God enabled him to carry on in spite of difficulties. He had to give up his work due to illness. St. John's will ever be grateful for the good work he did.

### **Mr. L. W. D. Nalliah** 1944—

Mr. Nalliah has been on the staff from 1944. He is another of the teachers who has seen the 125th and 150th anniversaries of the college. He has been our popular Arts and Crafts teacher. He is one who could put his hands to anything—Art, carpentry, leather work, clay work, paper work  
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etc. He is able to infuse enthusiasm in his pupils. It was chiefly due to his efforts that the Arts and Craft section in the many exhibitions held by the college turned out to be the biggest draw. His work is not confined to the classroom alone. He has had a hand in every drama produced by the College Dramatic Society. He continues to give loyal and devoted service to the college.

### **Mr. V. S. Stephen** 1944—1972

Mr. Stephen after teaching in the Branch school of St. John's at Kaitadi joined the staff in 1944. He was a conscientious teacher who spared no pains. To him teaching was a vocation. He was always frank and outspoken. He was a good teacher of English and Mathematics in the Middle School. The good results at the J.S.C. Examination year after year is ample proof of the good work done by Mr. Stephen. Every weak student in his class came under his special attention. The students who have passed through his hands will testify to the good work Mr. Stephen has done. He retired in 1972 after 25 years of devoted service.

### **Mrs. T. Thangarajah** 1944—

Mrs. Thangarajah nee Ponniah joined as a teacher in the Middle school in 1944. In the early fifties she was transferred to the primary school where she still continues to teach. She is a keen and hardworking teacher who has given her best to her pupils. She is always ready to take her share in the extra-curricular activities in the school and does it to the best of her ability. Her keenness for work, the care and attention she pays to her pupils and her loyalty to

the school are some of her outstanding qualities. She is one of those jubilarians who has been on the staff of the college at its 125th and 150th anniversaries.

### **Miss L. G. Thambiah** **1945—**

Miss Thambiah joined as a teacher in the Middle School in 1945 and still continues to be there. She is soft-spoken, hardworking and sympathetic towards the students. She is one of those responsible for the good work that is done in the Middle school. She has proved to be a good teacher of English. She helps in the extra-curricular activities of the college. Ungrudgingly and cheerfully she does any work that is entrusted to her. Her help at the many fairs and exhibitions organised by the college has been immense. Her loyalty, high sense of responsibility and unassuming ways have won for her the respect of both parents and students. She has been on the staff at the 125th and the 150th anniversaries of the college.

### **Mrs. N. Yogarajah** **1945—**

Mrs. Yogarajah who was on the staff of the station school continued to teach in the Primary school after its amalgamation. She has become a specialist in the handling of the children in the pre-school stage and Grade I. The love, kindness, patience and sympathy she shows to the kiddies are wonderful. Little ones who are reluctantly brought to school the first day come to school the next day cheerfully. Such is her ability in handling the little ones that every child in her class begins to love and respect her. St. John's is fortunate in having the services of a teacher like Mrs. Yogarajah. She is another teacher who has been on

the staff at the 125th and the 150th anniversaries.

### **Mr. V. Thuraisamy** **1947—**

Mr. Thuraisamy joined the staff in 1947 and continues to render invaluable service. He started work in the Middle school but moved on to the Primary school where he has been teaching for over fifteen years. He has proved himself to be a disciplinarian and a painstaking teacher that parents often want their children to be in his division. Blessed with almost inexhaustible energy he is very active and has whole heartedly thrown himself into every sphere of school activity. He has been a tower of strength to the College Welfare Association. Mr. Thuraisamy too has been on the staff at the 125th and the 150th anniversary of the college.

### **Miss L. S. Thambirajah** **1948—**

Miss Thambirajah joined the staff as a teacher of English in the Middle school. She is one of those responsible for the good standard of English in that section of the College. Her work and interest has not been confined to the classroom only. She has thrown herself whole heartedly into many activities in the college—dramatic performances, fairs and exhibitions, cub pack etc. She has been chiefly responsible for the high standard of the plays produced by the middle school. She is devoted to her work and has the knack of getting the students to listen attentively to her with her inimitable and interesting manner of teaching stories and poems. The students who have passed through her hands will be ever grateful to her for her help and guidance. She continues to be on the staff.

*J. T. Chelliah*



### Mr. J. T. Chelliah

Mr. J. T. Chelliah joined St. John's in 1949 as an experienced teacher of English and History and happens to be the only Vice-Principal in the history of St. John's with the enviable record of having been in that capacity for a remarkably long period of 15 years. He was House Master, Vice-Patron of both the H.S.C. Union and History and Politics Society. He was also the secretary and later President of the Teachers' Guild and Editor of the College magazine for a number of years. As President of the Tennis Club he kept the club active by arranging tournaments and fixtures with other schools and clubs. His

talents and potentialities were recognised outside college and he was elected Asst. Secretary of the N.P.T.A. Exam Committee and was on the executive committee of the J.T.T.A., the N.P.T.A. and the A.C.U.T. He concerned himself greatly with the tone and discipline in the school and it must be candidly admitted that the discipline and behaviour of the students to day is of a very high order due to his untiring efforts. At the same time he is genuinely sympathetic towards both students and teachers in difficulties and will go all out of his way to help them. The regard and respect in which he is held by his former students is amply evident in the large number of them who call at his residence and the volume of correspondence he receives from them.

*H. W. Canagarajah*

### REFLECTION BY PUPILS - TEN SUBJECTS

- i *Have I been friendly to my playmates?*
- ii *Have I been kindly to elderly people?*
- iii *Have I bullied the weak?*
- iv *Have I taken care of all living creatures, flowers and plants?*
- v *Have I kept my promises?*
- vi *Have I observed all traffic regulations?*
- vii *Have I listened to the advice of others such as my parents and teachers?*
- viii *Have I been finicky with my food?*
- ix *Have I been a nuisance to others?*
- x *Have I acted courageously for what I believed to be right?*

—by Tanaka

Premier of Japan

# THESE 150 YEARS

and

## THE YEARS TO BE

The first quarter of the Nineteenth Century was the period when far-reaching changes in our history were indicated in the wake of the British Occupation. The Protestant Christian Missionary Societies arrived on the heels of one another — the Baptists in 1812, the Americans in 1813, the Methodists in 1814 and the Church Mission in 1818. So far as the North is concerned, great significance must be attached to the founding during this period of three educational institutions which played an important role in the life and history of the Tamil people: The Batticotta Seminary, precursor of Jaffna College in 1823, the Uduvil Girls' Boarding School in 1824 and also in 1823, the Church Mission's modest Nallur Seminary, which later became the Chundikuli Seminary and was still later re-named St. John's College, Jaffna. With regard to the two former, we may concede the claim made by Bishop Kulandran: "In case of other Christian Churches and organisations, the schools were merely the overflow of their primary activities. The founders of the American Ceylon Mission, however, being children of the XVIII Century movement in Europe known as the Enlightenment, which considered education the panacea for all human ills, made the Schools the basis of their other activities."

During the two centuries and a half preceding, Portugal and Holland had in turn been active in maritime Ceylon. First, the Portuguese friars, who came in the wake of the Portuguese armies, established three 'Colleges' one in Colombo, one in Jaffna, one in Nawagamuwa; twenty five Parish Schools in the Jaffna Peninsula and over a

hundred in the South. It was the learning of medieval Catholic Europe that was mediated through the higher institutions at any rate. When Holland wrested the maritime provinces from the Portuguese in the middle of the XVII Century, they established a decentralized net work of schools, using the Sinhalese and Tamil media, and a few seminaries where the curriculum was based on the Renaissance tradition. The setting up in 1737 of the first printing-press, with Sinhala and Tamil Types, had also far reaching results.

It was with the coming of the British in the troublous times that followed the French Revolution that the island began to feel the full impact of the West. Britain's was now 'a civilization on the march'; and here in Ceylon the time was ripe for a revolution by which could be substituted secular for sacred learning, lay teachers for monks, and the economic motive to study for the ancient goal of self-realization. In the last analysis, it is the confrontation of one civilization with another that makes history, and makes for progress, and Britain brought with her the seeds of a new growth. The British became 'the unconscious tools of history' when by their Western-oriented governmental and legal systems they started the process of transforming a medieval casteistic society into a freer society. The ideas and values behind the change came from a study of the English language and its literature, British history and institutions, Western classics, and the Christian religion. The schools were indeed a bit of England, with English games played, English music cultivated, English



plays acted and English manners held in esteem. More than anything else, it was a knowledge of English, which with its wide dispersion and depth of writing had become, like Sanskrit in a previous era, the most apt international language of the age; that enabled the new urban elite to catch up with the world of the time. So was it in India: Witness the famous letter of protest which Raja Ram Mohun Roy, one of the promoters of the first English Seminary in Bengal (later Presidency College, Calcutta, wrote to Governor-General Lord Amherst opposing the proposal of the Committee of Public Instruction to promote oriental learning, notably a Sanskrit College. The great Indian reformer said, that it would be a retrograde step to establish a College to impart such knowledge as had been current in India for two thousand years "with the addition of vain and empty subtleties since produced by speculative men." This letter of 1823 sparked off the Oriental-Anglicist controversy, settled a decade later on Ram Mohun's lines.

Cameron in his report on Ceylon (1831) did indeed go further. He wrote: "The peculiar circumstances of Ceylon, both physical and moral, seem to point it out to the British Government, as the fittest spot in our Eastern dominions in which to plant the germ of European civilization." It will be recalled Macaulay too spoke of rearing a Westernised elite in India. But, it is not the swamping of one culture with another that produces a genuine renaissance; that is mere colonisation. Rather, it is the confrontation of one civilization with another. Here, we may well claim that it is in North Ceylon that the synthesis of cultures in Ceylon commenced. Hugh Tinker says that Western education and Calvinism held a special appeal to the Tamils of the North. Bishop Kulandran is perhaps right in giving pride of place to the Batticotta Seminary as the crucible in which the

new learning helped to transform and revitalize the old: "The Seminary created a tremendous intellectual upsurge, the like of which has not been seen in this country before or since. It may be analysed as due to a cross-fertilisation of cultures. The upsurge was many-sided and included among its important products the evolution of Tamil prose as it is written today.— (As the nineteenth century wore on) the people of the country hold the stage and they are the controlling factor in its history." Probably it would be no over-statement to say that without the Seminary there would have been no C. W. Thamotherampillai; just as we may claim that without the Reverend Percival (at Jaffna Central) there may not have been an Arumuga Navalar. To mention but two significant scholars connected with Tamil Renaissance.

The establishment of the Seminary and other educational institutions in the North led to significant results in other areas besides Tamil learning and extending well beyond the North. The country's first Medical School was set up by Dr. Samuel F. Green in 1848 in Manipay, with students hand picked from the Seminary. In passing, we may note that Green studied Tamil and with the assistance of other scholars published some ten books in Medicine and Surgery in Tamil and soon used the Tamil Medium, that a century ago! The graduates of the Mission Medical School were able to help with the collaboration of the FINS, to start the General Hospital in Jaffna (1850) and provide doctors for the medical service in other parts of the country and even in Malaya and India. It is the Mission Medical School that prompted the Government to embark on the Ceylon Medical College in 1870. Meanwhile, those who passed out of the secondary schools in the North began to fill the country's public service and in places like Singapore, Malaya and India. When the Ceylon University

College (later to become the University) was established, an ever increasing number of Tamils from the North graduated from it, or abroad, and are now filling key positions in international agencies and universities the world over. St. John's, Jaffna has probably sent the most substantial number of students for higher education since the University of Ceylon was established in 1942. This school has also had in the past a large enrolment from the plantations.

Most significant of all, while leading sons of the North have always been associated in the political movement, it is under the leadership of teachers from the schools here, more especially Jaffna College, Jaffna Central and St. John's, that during the twenties and afterwards that the youth of this country felt the stirrings of a genuine national awakening, that stood for national independence, social equality, the rightful place for the national languages and culture. Was it not under the banner of the Jaffna Youth

Congress they dared to fly the tricolour flag heralding independence in the Jaffna Esplanade on National Day, the 13th of April 1932? An essential ingredient of this movement was the battle for Sinhala and Tamil as media of education and administration, a battle which according to Professor J. E. Jayasuriya was for many years fought almost solely by Tamil leaders and educationists from the North, helped in some measure by Englishmen like A. G. Fraser.

The fact of the matter is that every great institution is involved in something more than itself: It is part of the nation's history, helping to shape and enrich that history, while deriving its own distinctiveness and inspiration from the existence of the nation. Along with a few other educational institutions, St. John's College, Jaffna, may well claim to that distinctiveness as a School which has contributed significantly to nation building, and to distinction as one of the nation's great schools.



When all is said, it cannot be claimed for these schools today, nor for other schools in the country more or less modelled on them, that they can carry the nation into the 70's and subsequent decades of this rapidly changing era. For one thing, the foreign model on which we based our best Schools is being discarded in its original Western habitat under the insistent demands of a phenomenal Scientific and Technological Revolution and no less radical Social Revolution. For another, while we must adopt a whole package of modernisation ideals and attitudes if we have to cross the threshold from a traditional, pre-technological society, into a modern one, it is the recovery of life-values from our authen-

tic past which will hold the creative power for us. If we are to be true to our ancient genius, Sri Lanka should continue to be a land of villages; not the tradition-bound medieval village, but an agro-industrial organic community using the new intermediate technology, calculated to promote both the development of the community as a political, social and cultural unity and the self-fulfilment of the individual—as man, worker, thinker, and citizen. Education and higher education not for an elite, or for would-be elites who lose their way on the last stages of their journey to elitism, but life-long education for all—to enable both persons and societies to realize their full potential. Education not to enslave, but liberate the spirit of man!



Nor is the school to be looked upon as the main partner in education; neither is a schooled society the end we are after. According to UNESCO's famous report **Learning to Be** (1972) "the School-dominated, class-room centred, full-time, teacher-oriented, eight-hours, eight or ten-month system", will have to be balanced by 'the school-without-walls' of "the village as school". Simultaneously, the work of the school gets relevance by being integrated in the life and work of the community, may be through study-cum-service projects. The Dudley Seers **ILO report on Sri Lanka** (1971) suggests that schools be transformed into centres of rural development, community workshops and centres of craft training. That is, schooling must yield to self-learning. Where new jobs demand new skills and new modes of life call for new modes of thought, many need to train and re-train often. Or it may be, a worker may develop as a part-time scholar or scientist, writer or musician or sportsman. Education in and around the school has to take new forms—for life-long self-education. The challenge to our schools and the educators then is to readjust themselves radically to the new age.

The UNESCO report stresses that

democratising education means not only giving more education for more years to more people, it also means giving the people the right to participate in making policies and managing their institutions.

If the school of the future is the community come to focus, the Governing body of the school must in its composition reflect the organic link between the community and its school. The very nature of the new education calls for such close consultation. What should be envisaged is the process of consultation and participation in decision-making at all levels: so that the Governors of the school are seized of ideas seeping up from teachers guilds, domestic staff, parents, the local community, Old Boys and pupils' organisations. A network of democratically run institutions in and around the school—school council, co-operative school farm, self-service canteen, student newspaper etc—would appropriately enough make the school campus the first plot of ground where the pupils get habituated to participatory democracy. Our schools could, in this wise, yet make a significant contribution to the freedom of society. These schools, once again, the heralds of the Sri Lanka of the years to be!

*By K. Nesiah*



# *St. John's, Through Change and Challenge*

By

THE REV. A. J. C. SELVARATNAM

The History of St. John's College, Jaffna, is the fusing together of the cultures of the East and the West, the assimilation of insights and values from the West, and the creation of a new society in which the best of the East and the West find expression.

Rudyard Kipling's oft quoted lines,

Oh, East is East, and West is West,  
and never the twain shall meet,  
Till Earth and Sky stand presently  
at God's great Judgement seat.

do not reflect accurately the manner in which the whole world has become a neighbourhood. Moreover what is East to one is West to another, and Truth, Beauty, Goodness are universal and not the possession of either the East or the West.

It is against this background we have to trace the story of St. John's through the changes and challenges of a hundred and fifty years — a long span in the life of an individual, but just a beginning when we compare ourselves with other great centres of learning.

## THE BEGINNINGS

No portrait exists of that great pioneer, the Rev. Joseph Knight who came with the Reverends Samuel Lambrick, Benjamin Ward and Robert Mayor to Colombo in 1818, and while his fellow missionaries stationed themselves in the southern parts of the island he came to Jaffna. He must have been a courageous and dauntless man with a very strong personality, for Jaffna had been ravaged by cholera. He studied the language of the people, Tamil and started schools where instruction was given in the Mother Tongue. To the credit of

the missionaries it must not be forgotten that teaching in Tamil and Sinhalese was encouraged in all Mission schools.

Mr. Knight however felt that instruction in the day schools was not sufficient. Something more had to be done if leaders were to be produced. He decided to select seven intelligent pupils from the schools in his area and invited them to live in his bungalow at Nallore so that he might train them to do 'Missionary work.' That was in March 1823, and thus the institution known as the Nallur English Seminary, the future St. John's College, came into being.

The Rev. William Adley joined Mr. Knight in 1824 and by 1826 the number in the Seminary had increased to thirty. Long before free education had been thought of, the pupils in the Seminary were fed and clothed and instructed free. The purpose of the education was to equip young men with knowledge to be Christian teachers, Catechists and pastors. One of the first fruits of this educational programme was the ordination of the Rev. John Hensman, who was the first Ceylonese Tamil Pastor of Jaffna.

But soon a secular emphasis with utilitarian prospects was to give a new attitude to those who sought instruction at the Seminary. The Commission of Inquiry led by the Lt. Col. W. M. G. Colebrooke and the subsequent Report issued in 1831 with special reference to the administration of the Government of Ceylon while making passing reference to the fine contribution made by the missionary societies, recommended that opportunity for educa-



tion be given to "nationals whereby they may in time qualify themselves for holding some of the higher appointments." Here was an opportunity for those who were proficient in English to find employment. A new orientation to education in Ceylon was given and the Seminary became geared to the new demand for English Education.

### THE EXODUS TO CHUNDIKULI

The School Commission of 1834 appointed to implement the Colebrooke recommendations was succeeded in 1841 by the Central School Commission which was more representative in character. While the accepted medium of instruction in Government Schools after 1832 was English, the new Commission felt the necessity for the reintroduction of the vernacular medium into Schools. The mission schools with their emphasis on both Tamil and English flourished.

In 1841, the success the Seminary had achieved, prompted the C.M.S. to start a boarding school for girls at Nallur. The boys therefore had to find other quarters. At first they had to meet in rented premises at Pandiantal. In 1846, the School was moved to the present site. The Rev. J. T. Johnstone was the Principal in charge of the Seminary and the pupils used the hall and rooms adjoining the old Dutch Church, which has since been demolished, as their main school. Mr. J. M. Hensman, one of the distinguished products of the Seminary in his 'Reminiscences' writes, "I do not know what the school house was originally intended by the Dutch builders for. There was besides a number of rooms large and small, one large hall with a gallery, next to the chancel of the Church, with one common wall between ..... Declamations, lectures, prize-givings, examinations all took place in the Hall—the boys being crowded together in that gallery and enjoying themselves in boyish fashion by aiming

paper and other pellets at obnoxious teachers or fellow-students! ..... Boys stepping down for declamations or for receiving prizes occasionally stumbled and fell and caused sometimes merriment and sometimes a general uproar" Boys are boys through the ages and St. John's can be proud that it has produced men with a fine sense of humour. Of the late Dr. Isaac Thambyah it was said that at school he was "the leader of the committee formed for the organisation of all fun, frolic and mischief." Western humour is distinct from that of the East, the conflux of the two cultures has enriched the latter.

### THE PARGITER ERA

With the Rev. Robert Pargiter who succeeded Johnstone as Principal in 1846 a new era in the story of the Seminary begins. For twenty years he gave of his best to the institution. He was a master builder. A new school building was put up and boys were prepared for the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University. Reading, Writing, Composition, History, Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid, Trigonometry, Latin, Tamil and Religious Knowledge were taught. The curriculum, it will be noticed had a secular emphasis. It was in the regime of Pargiter that new rules were introduced by the Government with respect to the grant-in-aid they offered. State-aid meant State control. This, both the C.M.S. and Mr. Pargiter felt was incompatible with their principles. For ten years the school was maintained by fees, additional grants from the parent Society and private support. Mr. F. C. Arndt in a letter to the College Magazine writes "Mr. Pargiter fought like a Trojan. Boarding Schools were enlarged, additional teachers were employed—all paid from the mission fund." The quality of the education at the Seminary did not suffer and as English Education assured many of employment in the Government

and also carried social prestige, not a few sought admission as day boys.

### THE FLEMING ERA

Under various Principals who succeeded the Rev. R. Pargiter the work of educating young men to take their place in society and make their particular contribution to the national life of the country went on. The Rev. G. T. Fleming was appointed the first full-time Principal in 1880. He was ably assisted by Mr. Jeremiah Evarts, the Headmaster who had earlier been in charge of school work under the general superintendence of the Missionary in charge of the District. Of the latter the Centenary History of the College records: "Mr. Evarts was untiring in his efforts to maintain the high standards to which the School had risen and he was very fortunate in getting able men on the Staff to help him." It was during this period that students were prepared for the Cambridge Junior Examination and in 1885 four boys were presented for the examination and were successful. The Seminary was trying to fit itself to the needs of a competitive society and to vie with other educational institutions by maintaining high standards at Public Examinations.

Mr. Evarts died in the midst of his labours and his death was much bemoaned. For two and half years, Mr. Fleming carried on single-handed. In May 1899, Mr. (later the Rev.) C. C. Handy, who was on the staff of Trinity College, Kandy, was transferred as Headmaster of the Seminary. Soon after his arrival, Mr. Fleming was transferred to Colombo.

### THE REV. C. C. HANDY —ACTING PRINCIPAL

It was during the stewardship of Mr. Handy as Acting Principal that the School celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its work

at Chundikuli. The present name "St. John's College" was given by him. Mr. William Wadsworth writes "It was Mr. Handy who in 1891,—the Jubilee year of our College—thought that the old must give way to the new and that it was high time that the name of "Seminary" should be done away with and we gather under the folds of the eagle's wings of St. John's". In 1893 the College was affiliated to the Calcutta University as a second grade college.

### THE THOMPSON ERA

The Rev. Jacob Thompson arrived in 1900 and for nineteen years he guided the destinies of St. John's, ably assisted by the Rev. C. C. Handy who had served as Headmaster under three other Principals who had been in charge of St. John's for varying periods. Fall was here for a short time. Carter stayed longer. It was during his Principalship that our sister school, Chundikuli Girls' College was started by Mrs. Carter on January 15, 1896. Mr. Ryde who succeeded Carter was at St. John's for a short while and went to Trinity College, Kandy, where he made a magnificent contribution to the life of that institution.

When Mr. Thompson became Principal, he found that the great need of the College was buildings. He appealed for funds from Old Boys and friends. New buildings began to appear. The school hall and classrooms (the present Handy Memorial Library Building), the Robert Williams Hall, the Boarding House and the Primary School Classrooms were built. But the money received was not enough. The Rev. C. C. Handy went in March 1904 to Malaysia and was able to realise a good sum. Principal Thompson too on his furlough appealed for funds from friends in England. This helped to clear the debt. The tone of the school was raised, efficiency and



thoroughness were the order of the day. Pupils were prepared for the Cambridge Senior Examination, and emphasis was on scholarship as well as extra-curricular activity. Literary and dramatic activities were encouraged, and the result was that some of the finest men to serve both in Church and State, the legal and medical professions, the University and secondary education were produced during this period.

Mr. Handy died in 1908. He was an outstanding Headmaster. Mr. William Wadsworth, a former pupil of his and later District Judge paid the following tribute to him. "To contribute to the welfare and advancement of the College was his constant pursuit. That was his great aim and ambition. His devotion to duty, his firm and commanding manner, his winning and pleasant ways, above all his noble Christian life, marked him as one of the best sons of Jaffna. In his memory the Old Boys contributed towards the extension of the playing fields. His brother Dr. J. M. Handy put up the Building to house the Library on Old Park Road, and presented books. But as the books were not safe there, these were later transferred to the school buildings in the centre of the college and the latter, named the "Handy Memorial Library."

#### THE INTERREGNUM

After Mr. Handy's death, Mr. T. H. Crossette was appointed Headmaster. On a visit to Malaya he raised money for putting up the Robert Williams Hall. He left in 1911, to return later as the Vice Principal of the College. The Rev. (later Canon) S. S. Somasunderam who was for many years in charge of the Mathematics of the College, was appointed Dean of the College with Mr. F. H. V. Gulasekaram as Headmaster. Both, however, left St. John's more or less at the same time, the former as Superintending Missionary of the Wannai district and Mr. Gulasekaram later became Professor

of Mathematics and Registrar of the University of Ceylon. Mr. A. M. Nathaniel was appointed as Headmaster.

The ill health that dogged the Rev. Jacob Thompson forced him to retire in 1919. The Rev. K. C. Mc Pherson who had come to Trinity College, Kandy, was appointed Acting Principal of St. John's. He set to work with great vigour and keenness. He started Social Service work. He revived the O.B.A., introduced cadeting for boys, and encouraged the production of the Tamil play "Manohara." But he was transferred to Madras to St. Paul's Vepery and later returned to Ceylon, not to St. John's but to St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia as Warden. His was a flash in the pan, a bright but short period.

#### THE PETO ERA

The Rev. Henry Peto of Pembroke College, Cambridge, steeped in the Classics and himself a product of the English public school system, brought to St. John's a richness and tone that made parents from all parts of Ceylon send their children to be educated here. Sinhalese and Tamil boys from South Ceylon came to College. The motto "Mens sana in corpore sano" was his ideal. He made games compulsory for boys within a radius of two miles. The Cadet Corps which Mr. Kenneth Mc Pherson started was registered in 1920. The House System was introduced. Inter-House competitions were held to discover fresh talents and improve the standard in games and athletics.

Into the daily life of the school, he brought punctuality, discipline and fellowship. The day started with corporate worship. A hymn was sung, a talk was given by either the Principal or a member of the staff, prayers followed and then the boys dispersed to their classes. A fine team of teachers were there to give him their unstinted co-operation. There was the

Vice-Principal Mr. T. H. Crossette, an authority in English and History; young Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram and the writer of the College Song; Mr. K. Nesiah, the epitome of national aspirations; Mr. K. Subramaniam, an encyclopaedia on Classical and Tamil Literature; Mr. V. C. Canagaretnam, the purist in English; the Mathais T. M. P. T. P. I. each an authority in the subjects they taught—were some of the teachers that taught us.

When Mr. Crossette retired from the Vice-Principalship, there was a delay in the appointment of a successor and in 1931, Mr. A. M. K. Cumaraswamy formerly of Trinity College, Kandy and later Secretary of the Diocese was appointed Vice-Principal. It was a treat to listen to him whether he taught us Religious Knowledge or Electricity and Magnetism or discoursed on his favourite subject "Why do people laugh?"

Mr. Peto had to go to England on medical advice and Mr. Cumaraswamy became the Acting Principal and Mr. J. C. Handy the Acting Vice-Principal in 1932. They were a happy team, each a complementary to the other. Soon, however, after Mr. Peto's return from furlough, Mr. Cumaraswamy left St. John's to become Inspector of Schools and later Registrar of the University of Ceylon and Mr. J. C. Handy left for educational work in South Ceylon. The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham who had been to Ridley Hall, Cambridge, for theological training and had just returned was appointed Vice Principal in 1936.

The Rev. Henry Peto who had perfected discipline and introduced the College to the fine traditions of the public school where freedom and authority were happily combined, had great plans for the putting up of new buildings—the demolition of Robert Williams Hall and on its foundations raise a superstructure worthy of St. John's. But in the midst of his labours he was

snatched away, while swimming, by the cold hand of Death. Bishop Cecil Douglas Horsley came from Colombo to pay his respects to a great educationist who was able to translate his ideals into real life. And so passed a man whom we loved and revered and who loved us in return.

## THE ARULANANTHAM ERA

The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham was the obvious choice as the successor to Mr. Peto. Thus was fulfilled the hopes of the early missionaries to develop indigenous leadership in the mission field. With little money in hand, Mr. Arulanantham got Samuel & Sons to renovate Robert Williams Hall and lay the foundation for the two storeyed Science Block with its laboratories for Chemistry, Physics and Biology. The Dining Hall, the Rose Walton Sick Room, the walls round the College, the Peto Hostel and Memorial Block to house the increasing numbers of Boarders were planned and effectively executed under his supervision. A. W. R. in his tribute to him in the College Magazine writes: "In and out of school hours he would be busy drawing up schemes. He was a master in pushing his schemes through. He knew the art to perfection."

Tactful, cautious and unperturbed, Mr. Arulanantham dauntlessly carried on his work, inspite of the difficulties he had to experience as the first Ceylonese Principal of the College. The Governing Body for C.M.S. schools in Ceylon gave him all the encouragement and support he needed. But in 1945 when the Free Education Scheme was introduced, he had to make the important decision as to whether the school should enter the scheme or become a private fee-levying institution. Many schools like St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, Trinity College, Kandy, Ladies College, Colombo and Hillwood, Kandy opted not to join the scheme. St John's



was not able to make a definite decision. Fortunately a moratorium of three years was given and Mr. Arulanantham preferred to wait. Some members of the Staff urged the Principal to accept the "pearl of great price"; others cautioned touching the Trojan horse. Finally the College joined the Free Education Scheme.

During the regime of the Rev. J. T. Arulanantham, he was fortunate to have Vice Principals who closely shared his ideals and worked happily with him. The first was Mr. Patrick Gaussen whom the Church Missionary Society sent a year after the death of the Rev. Henry Peto. A graduate in Science, he brought to his office that meticulous care and thoroughness which greatly helped the new Principal in his onerous task.

As there was a possibility of the C.M.S. sending a successor to Mr. Gaussen, the post of Vice Principal was not filled for some time. But as this did not materialise, Mr. S. Sivapragasam who was senior Chemistry master on the Staff was appointed in 1949. Witty, pleasant and tactful, the appointment of the new Vice Principal was welcomed by Old Boys, parents, teachers and pupils. Mr. Sivapragasam however, had to retire early due to ill health and he was succeeded by Mr. P. T. Mathai who had been on the Staff for over 30 years. When Mr. Arulanantham retired in May 1957, Mr. Mathai was appointed Principal. He had only two years to go before reaching retiring age, and during this period he carried on the work that his predecessor had begun. The Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev. A. Rollo Graham-Campbell in a sermon at the farewell to Mr. Arulanantham and the appointment of Mr. Mathai as Principal said that "the future historian of the College would find it difficult to separate Mr. Arulanantham's regime from that of Mr. Mathai." And so it is. The efficiency and clock-work thoroughness that Mr.

Mathai maintained as teacher, House Master and Vice Principal found full expression in his tenure as Principal.

## THE MODERN ERA — THE UNAIDED SCHOOL

The agitation for the takeover of denominational schools had been going on for many years, and in the year 1959 [when Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram took over the Principalship of the College it had gained much momentum. It was a live issue at the General Election of March 1960 and June 1960. A strong contingent of members led by the Minister of Education was for the take-over of denominational schools. The dual system of government and denominational schools had they felt led to a competitive school system resulting in many facilities for some schools and little provision for others. On the other hand some religious denominations, Christians as well as others felt a religious atmosphere was necessary if education in the full sense of the word is to be imparted and that parents should have the freedom to choose the schools where they send their children. A competitive school system, the proponents of the denominational system urged, improved the quality of education, and the ethos and values that the denominational schools possessed could not easily be fostered in a government school. It is in this context that the Assisted Schools and Training Colleges (Special Provisions) Bill was debated and later passed by a large majority on November 17, 1960. St. John's had to make a decision before the end of the year: to hand itself over to the State and become a Director-Managed School or to be a private non-fee levying school. This issue, the private fee-levying schools which had opted not to join the Free Education Scheme under Act No. 5 of 1951 had not to face. It was a very difficult decision to take. Not to become a Director-man-

aged school many felt would be foolish and suicidal; others felt that the rich heritage that had been handed down to us through the dedication of many teachers of the past would be lost for ever. The Old Boys Association both in Jaffna and in the South rose in strong support of St. John's remaining a non-fee levying private school. The decision was made. Mr. Rajasekaram in his Prize Giving Report of 1961 observed: "Had the management in 1951 known the shape of things to be when we together with Jaffna College were the last two Colleges in Jaffna to join the free scheme they would have then preferred St. John's to be an independent school with the right to charge fees, and the present dilemma of a "non fee-levying private school" would never have arisen. Mention must be made of the heroic efforts which Dr. A. V. A. Vethanayagam as President of the Old Boys Association here and Mr. J. T. R. Perinpanayagam, President of the South Ceylon Branch with many other Old Boys made in raising funds for the College. They scoured the countryside approaching old boys and friends for donations, and they were amply rewarded. But it was a long and sustained effort. There were sometimes lean and anxious times and this was a great strain to both the Manager, S J. Gunasegaram and the Principal. Many had hoped that with the passage of time, private schools would be allowed to charge fees. But there was no change of policy. Money had to be found and there was no one more fitted to do this than Mr. J. C. Handy who had the knack to raise funds. He organised the Academy to be a source of income to the College. Classes for the General Certificate of Education, Ordinary and Advanced Level, were started for boys and girls who had not made the grade. He employed experienced teachers and very good results were produced. Numbers increased and the profit from the Academy he passed on to finance the College. There were other

sources he tapped, and before long the finances of the College improved.

Mr. Rajasekaram who carried on his work with much fortitude and great devotion in the most difficult phase of the history of the College, fell ill. He recovered but it was not a complete recovery. He therefore decided to retire pre-maturely, having spent nearly fifty years at College as a brilliant student, a painstaking teacher of Latin and an amiable Principal who won the love and esteem of both staff and students.

On the retirement of Mr. Rajasekaram in December 1966, Mr. J. T. Chelliah, the Vice Principal who had acted as Principal during the illness of Mr. Rajasekaram took charge of the school. Quietly and efficiently he carried on the work of the school till the Principal-designate arrived.

Mr. K. Pooranampillai who had been Principal of Hartley College, Point Pedro, for very many years and had done much to develop that institution was chosen to fill the vacancy. An Arts graduate of the University of London and a Post Graduate Trained of Selly Oak, Birmingham, he brought to his new office the rich experience he had gained as an administrator. There was a close partnership between Mr. J. C. Handy, the Manager and Mr. Pooranampillai, the Principal. The school attracted pupils from other schools.

The good University Entrance results which commenced with Principal Arulanantham and was kept up by his successors have been maintained in Mr. Pooranampillai's time in spite of the adverse effects that "standardisation" has had on Tamil Media candidates. A leading Professor at the University of Ceylon after carefully studying the admission figures for 1970 observes, "We find that the admission mark for one racial group is consistently lower than for the other racial group. The question arises then as to why those many



students of one racial group, who obtained marks between those two levels have been rejected in favour of the other racial group. ....It undermines all confidence in the authorities and even in the sense of worthwhileness in attempting to do well at an examination." While this is an unfortunate and unjust situation St. John's has to accept the challenge and try to maintain high standards if she is to remain among 'the best ten' that year by year send students to the Universities in Ceylon.

But while comment and criticism by educationists and others on the basis of admission of students to academic studies in the University may lead to some revision, it must be remembered that the number admitted will be small compared with the large number from areas like the North, not gaining admission. We should not allow such youth with ability and talent to become frustrated and bitter. A young democracy like Sri Lanka can ill afford to lose them. Something must be done to fit them into the new pattern of job opportunities that our modern agro-technological-commercial society offers. Our Christian schools which in the past found new avenues of service will have to re-structure their educational programme so that youth who pass through their class rooms do not swell the ranks of the unemployed but be gainfully employed in the service of the nation. We hope that St. John's will be in the vanguard of such progressive educational structuring. History alone will judge whether we have proved ourselves equal to this challenge.

Before concluding this section it is fitting that a tribute be paid to Mr. J. C. Handy whose untimely death on the eve of the Jubilee year has been a great loss to the College. Student, teacher, Acting Vice Principal and finally Manager he gave of his best for St. John's. It was fitting that

a few months before his death he laid the foundation stone for the new Hall on July 24, 1972. He lived for St. John's and spent himself for it, living in a lonely room in the Academy premises. His devotion to the College, indefatigable energy and financial wizardry have helped the College to carry on as an Independent school. He may be referred to as one who in the hour of crisis came to the rescue of St. John's and saved it from being taken over. Requiescat in pace.

### NEW HORIZONS -- NEW TASKS

Seven score years and ten have passed since the Rev. Joseph Knight started the Nallur English Seminary and through the years there has been the cross fertilization of the best in the cultures of the West and the East. Christian scientific thought has permeated and enriched our culture, leading often to re-assessment and re-interpretation.

There has also been adaptation to the changing needs of the community. From a purely missionary training Seminary it has adapted itself to fulfill the important role of educating the community and producing leaders of integrity and character to make their peculiar contribution to the life of the nation.

But the task is unfinished. The village, the peninsula and the country has to be educated. "Let the light shine." This is a command to share our knowledge with others. Education that does not condition but liberate men from the age-old inequities of the social order, the shibboleths of language and race, class and creed is needed. Education that liberates men and women from fear and prejudice, suspicion and selfishness. Education that leads to the development not of the narrow national man, but the integrated, international man. This should be our goal. This should be our vision as we move forward into the future.

Where the mind is without fear, and the head is held high  
Where knowledge is free ;  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow  
domestic walls ;  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection ;  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary  
desert sand of dead habit ;  
Where the mind is led by thee into ever widening thought and action —  
Into that haven of freedom, my father, let my country wake.



## THE TEACHERS PRAYER: GABRIEL MISTRAL

Tr. by James H. McLean,

*Give me a single-hearted love for my school,  
So that not even the blazing whirl of beauty  
Could steal from me my tenderness  
At all times.  
Teacher make my fervour everlasting and  
my despondency a passing phase  
Show me how This gospel is possible in this day and age,  
So that I may never renounce the good fight of faith*

*Friend, stand by my side, sustain me,  
Many times I shall have no one but Thee on my side.  
When my doctrine is purer and my truth is glowing,  
I shall be alone, but Thou shalt press me to Thy heart,  
Thou who wert lonely and forsaken  
I shall seek approbation only in Thy look.  
Give me simplicity, give me depth.  
May my hand be light in punishment,  
and smooth in caresses;  
Help me to reprove with pain,*

That I may be sure that while I am correcting,  
I yet love the child.  
Grant that my school may not be built of bricks but of spirit  
May the splendour of my enthusiasm be reflected from the bare walls,  
And fill the class-room.  
Let this be my supreme lesson, inspired by  
the palled beauty of Velasquez Crucifixion  
To teach and love with fervour on this Earth;  
Means to enter, finally with the spear-thrust  
of Longinus, the Roman Centurion,  
Into the throbbing cosmic heart of love.

(From : The Teachers' Treasure Chest)



# THE JOHNIAN MUSE

## CENTENARY HYMN

'Mid the shadows shines the Light;  
 Lift the Torch, the dark will vanish;  
 Night, with all the shames of night,  
 Those the sons of Truth shall banish.  
 Sunward shall their eagle soar,  
 Mounting mightier evermore,  
 Till he see the Golden Rod,  
 See the throne of very God.

Nurslings of the northern plain,  
 Palm-abider, ocean-rover,  
 Gather to your Nurse again;  
 As the circling years roll over.  
 Heavenly Love and earthly lore,  
 Who can well compute the store?  
 Raise your hearts, your voices raise!  
 Praise St. John; Jehovah praise!

Who hath blessed will bless us still,  
 'Heretofore' doth pledge 'Hereafter'  
 Rigid word, and rugged will,  
 Earnest toil, and honest laughter,  
 Limbs, imaginations, pure —  
 These, let these with us endure;  
 So shall Truth's fair flame live on,  
 Fostered still by old St. John.

'Mid the shadows shines the Light;  
 Lift the Torch, the dark will vanish;  
 Night, with all the shames of night,  
 Those the sons of Truth shall banish.  
 Sunward shall their eagle soar,  
 Mounting mightier evermore,  
 Till he see the Golden Rod,  
 See the throne of very God.

Rev. W. S. Senior

*(Composed by the Rev. W. S. Senior for the centenary and sung at the  
 centenary and 125th anniversary celebrations of the College.)*  
 S.J.C.—9

## 125th Anniversary Hymn

1. Through all these many years, O Lord,  
Thy Hand didst bless and guide,  
Our Home and School in weal and woe  
And sustenance provide.
2. Thy shining Light hath led us on,  
In all our work and play;  
We'd face the darkness and the night  
With thee to guide our way.
3. Riches and blessings manifold  
Succeeding years have brought.  
What loving acts and kindnesses  
Thy outstretched Hands have wrought!
4. The minds that planned, the hands that worked  
To build our school and fame,  
Unless possessed and helped by Thee,  
Would have aspired in vain.
5. Thy servants, Lord, have laboured here,  
Of many a clime and race,  
In all their tasks upheld by Thee,  
And strengthened by Thy grace,
6. For these and other gifts, O Lord,  
As touched with living flame,  
With prayers and hymn we lift our hearts  
To glorify Thy name.

V. C. C.

*(Hymn composed by the late V. C. Canagaratnam and sung at the celebrations of the 125th. anniversary of the College.)*



## ST. JOHN'S CENTENARY SONG

### விருத்தம்

தாரணி யெனுமானுக்குத் தயங்குநற் கண்ணெயென்னைச்  
சீரணி பலவினோடும் திகழ்ந்திடும் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின்  
மாரணி பதக்கம் போன்று வருஷ நூற்றென்ன வாழும்  
காரணி முகிலாம் St. John's கழகமே கலைமகள் உருவே.

### பாட்டு

இராகம். சகாஸ்ர

ஆதி தாளம்

### பல்லவி

மங்களம் மங்களமே மாணுறு St. John's கல்லூரிக்கே

### சரணங்கள்

1. இந்த நூறு வருஷங்களாக எங்கட்கறிவு ஒங்கிடவே  
இதயம் தனிலே தேங்கிடவே  
ஒங்கிதம் பாடிட நற்கீர்த்திப் பிரதாபம் ஒங்கிடவே  
துங்கன் யேசுக்கிறிஸ்து ரட்சபெருமானின் நாமம் இலங்கிடவே —மங்
2. பதிற்றுப்பத்து வருஷங்கட்குமுன் பார்புகழ் யாழ்ப்பாண பதிதனிலே  
சார்புறு Church Mission ஸ்தானத்திலே  
கதித்த அன்பொடு நினை ஸ்தாபித்தார் கண்ணிய Joseph Knight ஐயர்  
மதித்து நன்மைக்கு நன்மை செய்வோர் மாபாக்கியத்தோடு சிறந்துய்வர் —மங்
3. பின்பு Adley, Taylor, Johnstone, Pargiter, Good, Wood, E. Blackmore  
Fleming, Handy, Fail Carter.  
அன்பார்ந்த Ride Thompson Mc Pherson ஆனவர் போகத் தற்போது  
சிந்தை யுவந்துணைக் கைக்கொண்டர் மிகச் சிறந்த Peto ஆசிரியர் Crossette  
—மங்
4. தாயைப்போல நேயமதாய் ஞானப்பாலை ஊட்டினையே  
தழைக்கவே வழி காட்டினையே  
சேயைப்போல நாமும் நன்றி சீராய்க் காட்டி ஏற்றிடவே  
சிறந்த உந்தன் நாமத்தை எங்கள் சிந்தையில் வைத்துப் போற்றிடவே —மங்
5. எங்கள் பரன் யேசுநாமம் என்றென்றும் சிறந்து வாழ்க  
இன்புற்றரசர் George வாழ்க  
மங்களமாயிக் கல்லூரியின் மாணவர் ஆசிரியர் ஒங்கி வாழ்க  
இங்கு வந்தெமை யாதரித்த எல்லீரும் நீடுழி வாழ்க —மங்களம்

C. M. Kathiravetpillai

(Song composed for the Centenary celebrations by the late C. M. Kathiravetpillai [then teacher at St. John's] and sung by his son K. G. Rajaratnam)

## ENTERING INTO LIFE

Art thou a Johnian true with Red and black  
 To blazon Thee ? Art thou a Johnian bold  
 With a soaring eagle in thy coat of arms ?  
 What mean these colours bright, this bird of power ?  
 Hear me I pray enriched from travels far.  
 The flame is red, the night is black, then bear  
 Thy flaming torch to lands of blackest night.  
 The blood is red and Hell is black. Then fight  
 In bloody fray the blackest hosts of Hell.  
 Swiftest and strongest and in vision keenest,  
 The Golden Eagle leads the feathered Hosts.  
 Soaring on Fancy, switch thy inward torch  
 Of many a thousand volts and search the depths  
 Of human degradation and the heights  
 Attained by heroes great, deserving the Life  
 Eternal. Wrestling with the horny beak  
 And steady talents, wrest the golden Prize  
 Which many a forbear sought, and sought in vain.  
 The age of heroes and of wandering knights  
 Never shall pass : of Jason and his crew,  
 King Arthur and his Round Table, stalwarts, strong,  
 Ulysses, fighting hard for Helen's Troy,  
 And for Penelopes' irrupted home ;  
 Great Ram who killed strong Ravana for his Queen,  
 And greater Savithiri, who won her Lord,  
 From flinty hearted Yama's lion grip.

*S. G. Arulanantham.*





## JUBILEE HYMN

We praise The Name, O God  
For Thine unfailing care,  
That guided us, O Lord  
Through many a passing year.

For Thy heralds of old  
Who left both kith and kin,  
To teach us and unfold  
The joys of peace within.

They reaped not what they sowed,  
We garner what they wrought;  
The light of life has dawned  
And night of ignorance past.

Pour out Thy loving grace  
On all who have gone forth,  
That they may run their race  
In steadfastness and truth.

Bless those who labour here  
And teach Thy Truth profound;  
Give them Thy presence near  
In whom all power is found.

Dispel all sin and fear  
And may Thy love abound,  
And teach them to revere  
Thy Face in all around.

Guide Thou, the pupils all  
With Thy radiant grace,  
That they may hear Thy call:  
'With Light the darkness chase'

From age to age, Lord guide  
This seat of Christian love  
And may it e'er abide  
To serve Thy children more.

*The Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam*

# Maithripala Senanayake—Citizen Extraordinary

By  
ALBERT VETHANAYAGAM

A hundred and fifty years, and a hundred and fifty thoughts come to mind in the thinking of each and every individual who spent the best years of his life in our great alma-mater. For the generation that thrived in the years 1929—1933, it would have been difficult to single out any of our school mates from the Sri-Lanka scene today, but for the fact that the period mentioned produced Maithripala Senanayake.

What characteristics did he show in those years, attributes that foreshadowed his present role of national leadership. He was humble. He had uncommon commonsense. He was articulate and communicated with naturalness. He was loyal to his friends and to his school. He was generous with what he had and what he was. Above all, he was an excellent mixer.

In those days the heterogeneous nature of this land was not as evident as it became in later times. "All one body be" and Maithripala was very much part of it. When, for the first time, a prize was awarded for Tamil Language open to non-Tamils, amongst several Singhala boys who were with us, Maithripala was an easy winner. It is of as much interest to note, that the donor of the prize was none other than the scholar, academician, educationist, theologian, lay preacher, and Christian, A. M. K. Cumarasamy who was as much loved outside Jaffna as within it.

This bond of fellowship, trust and abiding affection was so clearly evident in young Maithripala, the boarder. He helped make the hostel a microcosm of the wider interests of the all island image.

Education and society have evolved since then; today from the very beginnings of a child's school-life a sense of difference has been implanted and has grown from difference to indifference. The positive tendency to integrate (which leads easily to integrity) is no longer a potential as it used to be. If it were not changed, we would the more easily see, more examples of the calibre of Maithripala Senanayake.

We need more like him. People who share, people who care, people who regardless of their own inheritance get themselves enriched spiritually, by the grace of God, pervading Christian schools in its own peculiar way.

It is in this soil and climate that the seeds of divine and human love germinate and grow into full bloom producing such fruits as Maithripala Senanayake..... Citizen Extraordinary.





# Some Glimpses of Cultural Activities of St. John's College Over the Years.

BY

J. G. ASEERVATHAM  
& E. B. SABAPATHIPILLAI

By and large student life at St. John's College from the earliest times has always been, especially in retrospect, a succession of memorable events; many of them have as their time and locale not so much the hours spent in the classroom or the confines of it as outside both. To one who sets out to gather the historical details of the many-faceted cultural life that flourished within the school the indispensable source of information is naturally the college magazine. Thanks to the far-sighted Old Boys of some seventy years ago the decision to publish a magazine at stated intervals was an event of far-reaching consequences and for which we of the latter day remain much indebted. The fund of information by way of contemporaneous record and remembered history that has come down to us through these numbers throws much light not only on events pertaining to the school but also to the community around it and at times to matters of national importance.

As one reads through the accounts of events and activities at St. John's as published in the successive editions of the college magazine starting from the year 1904 together with the fair number of reminiscences of Old Boys including some that date back to the forties of the last century, backed up as it were by one's own happy student-day memories, one cannot but declare that life at the old school was indeed a many splendoured thing.

*"I remember, I remember  
How my childhood passed by,  
The mirth of its December,  
The warmth of its July."*

In this simple, but elegant quatrain in his Reminiscences that was published in the inaugural issue of the St. John's College Magazine in 1904, one Mr. Wittebron recalls the fullness of life and the richness of his experiences at St. John's in 1845, during which year he was in school.

Cultural activity at school found expression through clubs and associations consisting of teachers and students, the teachers for the most part acting as guides and patrons but exercising the minimum restraint on school-boy initiative and enthusiasm. Among these societies and associations pride of place goes to the College Literary Association. It is on record that a Literary Association was inaugurated in September 1890. At first established as a debating society for senior students the idea spread to lower forms and latterly the lower forms too had their own associations. Having had an unbroken existence since 1890 they carried out year in and year out a programme of debates, declamations, essays, recitations and ex-tempore speeches. The College Library Association provided for itself a written constitution and adopted the principle of electing office-bearers. It published a weekly paper appropriately named "The Eagle." On going through some of the subjects that were taken up

for debate and the persons who had taken part in them, one cannot but reflect that the Literary Association had indeed been a veritable training ground for many who later on in life shone as legal luminaries or preachers or politicians.

In the early twenties these associations were virile bodies committed to specific objectives the pursuit of which provided them a training ground for leadership, initiative and trust. Today, what with the change of social patterns and the widening of scope with the passage of time, St. John's counts among its activities the work of numerous Associations like the Astronomical Association, the Advanced Level Students' Union and clubs such as the Camera Club, the Chess Club, the Interact Club, to name but a few which contribute not a little in giving the students that extra balance in a fast changing world. The Interact Club in particular, has its wavelengths tuned to the needs and welfare of the community around and the nation at large. The awakening of new interests, the widening of one's intellectual horizons, the realisation of one's latent talents and a host of other new and exhilarating experiences arising out of competition as well as co-operation with fellow students comes to the student through participation in the activities of these societies.

Another organisation that had considerable impact on student life was the Literature Club devoted to the study and appreciation of literature. The club which appears to have functioned only seasonally is however credited with having put on the boards many a Shakespearean play in addition to other plays and won in its season the praise of many a knowledgeable and eminent outsider for the high standards attained in theatrical productions in which the main parts have been assigned to the students themselves. Even now the reputation of 'The Tempest' and 'The Merchant

of Venice' staged by this club has not died down and the standards achieved then have been steadily maintained up-to-date by the plays staged at St. John's. The published reviews of such later productions like ('Lord Babs', 'Androcles and the Lion', 'Arms and the Man', 'Lady Windermere's Fan') to name but a few that readily comes to one's mind bear witness to this fact.

Within the kaleidoscopic nature of the cultural life of St. John's Drama has had a pattern all its own. The palmy days of histrionics at St. John's College were those when Mr. W. A. Walton strode the stage like a Colossus and stirred young hearts to a passionate devotion for the Bard of Avon. His renderings of Shakespeare and his stagecraft were illuminating and inimitable. His productions of Shakespeare's plays were of well-nigh professional standard. His annual offering of a Shakespeare play was gratifying fare that the educated of his day eagerly looked forward to.

In the 1920's there was a glorious awakening, urgent as it was sudden, for Tamil Music and Tamil Drama. The upsurge of interest was so intense that stage productions in English were for a brief period supplanted by Tamil Music and Tamil Drama. Musical entertainments under the auspices of the Sangeetha Sabha and stage productions like 'Manohara', 'The Two Sisters' began to draw appreciative audiences. After a short period the pendulum swung back and a happy mean was established, after which appreciation and enthusiasm was shown both for Tamil and English plays. It was in this new tradition that "The Demon's Land" was put on the boards in 1956 but with a difference. This was an essay in drama in Tamil by the Old Boys. Kalai Arasu Chornalingham, getting top billing, stole the thunder. But, despite their unaccustomed situation, the Old Boys gave a good account of themselves.



There were many other associations such as the Historical Association, the Social Service Union, the St. John's Brotherhood and the Y.M.C.A., succeeded by the S.C.M., whose contributions to the cultural and religious development among the students are enormous and cannot be adequately covered in such a short account as this.

A word about the school's Annual Prize Day will not be out of place here. The first recorded reference to Prize-Givings is found in the "Reminiscences of the Chundikuli Seminary during the 1860s" by Mr. J. M. Hensman. Only a few special prizes were awarded then. This tradition has been kept alive and today the Prize Day is a social event in Jaffna. The Prize-Giving, among other objectives has for a long time provided the students an annual platform to display "in miniature" their talents in music, speech and drama. While the Lower School scrupulously maintains this tradition, the Upper School now conducts its Prize Giving more on the lines of a Speech Day. Going back into the past,

we notice that the first speech competition styled as an Oratorical Contest took place in 1922. Seven spirited youths, mostly from Chundikuli, primed to the final sentence from passages from Burke and Asquith, vied graciously for the coveted gold medal which again was awarded for the first time in 1922, donated by Mr. C. Arulpragasam. Thanks to the generosity and good offices of Mr. Arulpragasam, boys of the present day likewise maintain high standards of oratory in making a bid for the gold medal.

Enrichment of life for the student, the creation of a healthier and wider outlook, the development of his personality are some objects which to some extent have been realised by these activities and school societies, immersed as they were in the sound traditions established by their originators and committed to the mission of continuity. But for these societies and associations life at school to the reminiscent Old Boy would not be that which he recalls with untarnished pleasure and feelings of gratitude.



# Seventy Five Years of Games and Athletics In St. John's (1900—1974)

By

ALEX THAMBIRAJAH

## A Brief History of the School Prior to 1900

St. John's was founded by the Church Missionary Society in 1823. It was originally sited at Nallur and was known as the Nallur English Seminary. The first Principal was the Rev. Joseph Knight. He had only seven pupils to begin with. By 1839 the number had increased to 100. Throughout the period the evangelical purpose was predominant.

In 1841 the Seminary was transferred to Chundikuli and came to be known as the Chundikuli Seminary. The name was changed to St. John's College in 1891. The usual games were NONDI, WAR, KILITHADU and PADL ODDAM.

The North should be grateful to Jaffna Central for having introduced the two popular games of cricket and football. Cricket was introduced to the Province in 1881 by the Rev. Webster who was the then Principal of Jaffna Central, and football by the Rev. G. Leese who was at the helm of Central between 1894—1896.

Thus it will be seen that there was no "organised" sports activity during the nineteenth century. Sports began to form an integral part of the educational programme of the school only from the beginning of the twentieth century.

### Cricket:

The beginning of the twentieth century saw a burst of sports activity in Jaffna Central and St. John's. Central gave the lead under the inspiring Principalship of the Rev. W.M.P. Wilkes (1903—1916). The

Rev. Jacob Thompson who held the reins at St. John's took up the challenge with gusto during his period from 1900—1918. The prestige battle between these two principals had its welcome impact on sports in these two schools.

It was during their time that the Central-St. John's clash came to be regarded as the North's premier cricket encounter. From 1904 it became customary to play two rounds of matches per year against Central, a practice that went on till 1922.

One of the earliest recorded cricket seasons is the 1904 season. The team which was led by G. M. Sebastian played five, won four and lost one to Central. But the "greatest victory by the College since cricket was introduced" was that against the Police. To celebrate their victory, the Rev. Jacob Thompson planted a mango tree (behind the Old Evarts House which existed on the western end of the grounds opposite the present Science Laboratory). For a long time the fruits of this tree were eaten only by members of the College Cricket team to celebrate the victory.

Speedster L. R. Alexander of Central was the earliest bowling sensation of the Central—St. John's clash. In his first match against St. John's in 1904 he took 6 wickets for 3 runs, the whole Johnion side collapsing for 12 runs, the lowest in the series. He had also the remarkable figures 6 for 32 (1904), 6 for 0 (1906) and 4 for 7 (1909) against St. John's.



# CRICKET AS "SHE" WAS PLAYED IN ST. JOHN'S

— A flash back to the late 19th Century.



Adapted from a contemporary photograph of a Cricket Match  
published in the College Magazine

1907 CRICKET TEAM [The oldest photograph on record].

"GIANTS OF A BYGONE ERA"



*Back row (L.—R.)* A. Casippillai, S. Ponniah, V. N. Bartlett, N. S. Sanders,  
H. C. Ayaturai, E. J. Rajaretnam.

*Middle row:* Mr. A. G. Charles (*Secretary*), Mr. F. Van Cuylenburg (*Cricket Master*),  
Rev. J. Thompson (*Principal*), K. Chornalingam (*Captain*),  
M. Rodrigo.

*Ground:* S. L. Jansen, A. Thamotharam, O. Jansen.



K. Chornalingam (now Kalai Arasu and the doyen of Tamil Drama in the country) who captained St. John's from 1907—1909 created a record in the big match when he carried his bat right through the innings in 1906. Mr. Chornalingam is the oldest living cricket captain in the North.

We also played against Trinity College on our grounds in 1908. In the 1909 match against Jaffna College, St. John's under Chornalingam registered an all time record when they dismissed them for 7 runs (which included four byes), with opening bowler C. A. Shanmugam emerging as the hero.

Cricket coaching was in the able hands of Mr. Fred Vanculenberg. Besides inter-collegiate and club matches, there were inter class matches and an annual fixture between the boarders and day boys. In those days run getting was not so high as now. A score of 100 runs for the whole team and an individual score of 25 was reckoned as respectable. It was an era when the fast bowlers ruled the roost.

The most outstanding pre First World War cricketer was the left arm fast bowler C. A. Sanmugam. He was the terror of most batsmen of the day. The late Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai, a great player, sports administrator and critic has rated him along with D. C. Rajaratnam who captained from 1924—'26 and R. S. Peter of the mid 40's, as the three great schoolboy bowlers during the first half of the century.

His feats in the Big Match which included 7 for 27 and 5 for 12 (a match bag 12 for 39) in 1909 and 8 for 32 and 5 for 12 (a haul of 13 for 44) in 1910 still rank with the few memorable bowling feats in the battle against Central.

On one occasion, against Jaffna Central, he was reputed to have bowled a batsman out, sending the bail flying to a distance of 46 yards. His fast bowling won for

him a Ceylon Schools' "Cap" when he was included in the All Ceylon Combined College XI to play against an Australian Test team.

The Rev. Jacob Thompson was a great lover of sports. He even allowed the members of the staff to represent the school in games. He literally made the sportsmen the heroes of the day. They were driven to school in a triumphant drive back in the Padre's horse carriage! His ever recurring theme was "Character first, Character last, and Character at all times." He was never tired of dinning into the boys' ears that the three things worth living and striving for were manners, gentlemanliness and character, but the greatest of these was character.

The advent of Rev. Henry Peto as Principal in 1920 saw the beginning of a new era in sports activities of the school. During his period from 1920—'40, the standard of sports zoomed to great heights. His first step was to introduce "compulsory games." He wanted everybody to take part in games and every body was therefore required to play in the evenings. The rigid implementation of this new policy had a profound effect on the standard of sports. The most remarkable impact was seen in cricket.

After the shocking performances in 1920 came the "golden years of Cricket"—between 1921—1926 when St. John's held the Jaffna Schools' Cricket Championship, the symbol of schools' cricket supremacy. The invincible team of 1921 consisted of J. M. Singanayagam (Capt.), E. M. Ponnudurai, D. C. Rajaratnam, D. S. Abraham, C. A. Dissanayake, K. Vaithianathan, Herath Banda, A. P. Selvaratnam, R. Werkmeister, N. Casipathipillai and S. M. Mylvaganam.

The 1922 team which went a step higher had five of them J. M. Singanayagam, E. M. Ponnudurai, C. A. Dissa-

nayake, R. Werkmeister and A. P. Selvaratnam who had scored centuries. C. A. Dissanayake as the dogged opening bat had the distinction of scoring the first century for St. John's when he collected 102 against Jaffna College in 1921. He repeated this feat the same year in the Big Match against Central with a polished 104. Along with A. P. Selvaratnam (101) they have become the first two cricketers to notch the elusive century in the Big Match.

R. Werkmeister took up the challenge in 1922 by making a record breaking 113 against Central, a record which along with the identical score by K. Thirunavukarasu in 1947 stands to this day as the highest individual batting performance in the Big Match.

J. M. Singanayagam played a captain's role with another record performance of 113 against Jaffna College in 1922. His individual record against Jaffna College stood for 45 years until it was broken by C. Sooriyakumar who scored a mammoth 154 in 1967.

The 1922 match against Jaffna College also produced a team record for an innings with J. M. Singanayagam at his best and E. M. Ponnudurai contributing 94. St. John's scored a record breaking 389 for 8 wickets. This has stood the acid test of time. The other centurion of the period was E. M. Ponnudurai who scored a sparkling 112 against Jaffna Hindu. The outstanding bowler for the season was D. C. Rajaratnam who collected 72 wickets at an average of 7.6 runs. This record for a season is still unbroken.

J. M. Singanayagam led the team in their winning debut from 1921-'23 while D. C. Rajaratnam as captain piloted them to Championship honours from 1924-'26. J. M. Singanayagam is now a humble servant of the Lord. He is a priest of the Church

of South India. D. C. Rajaratnam is still an "ace" in motor racing in the country.

Much of the credit of these teams goes to coach Mr. A. S. Abraham. He was fortunate to get valuable assistance from Mr. Richard Aluvihare (later Sir Richard Aluvihare, Inspector General of Police) who was attached to the Jaffna Kachcheri as a Cadet and Captain Brindley, who was in charge of the Police in Jaffna.

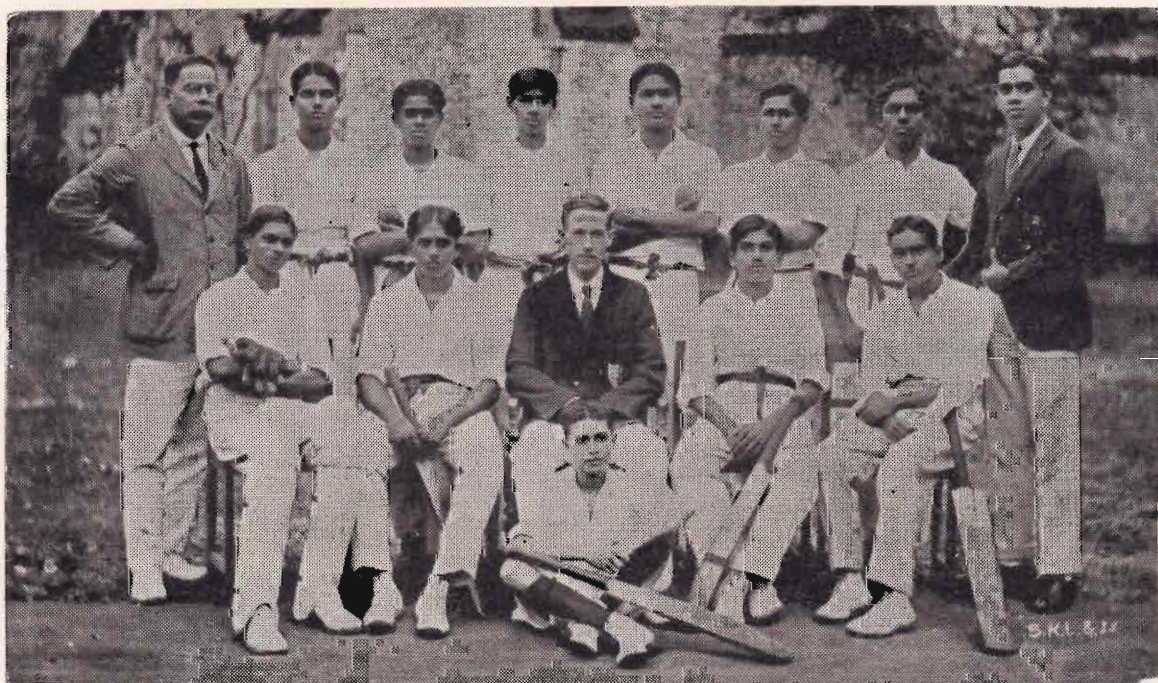
After a three year lapse St. John's bounced back into life by snatching the Schools' Cricket Championship under C. T. E. Mills in 1930 and '31. While nothing notable took place, team wise, during the ensuing period the performance of R. R. Scott (now an Assistant Superintendent of Police) during the period 1937-'40 needs to be mentioned. His four centuries during the period is still a record. His individual batting record of 156 against Jaffna Hindu in 1939 stood till it was erased by C. Sooriyakumar who went on a run spree against Hartley College scoring 181 in 1967.

Prior to 1936 Chundikuli Girls College functioned on the grounds presently occupied by our middle school. The south eastern sector of our grounds was also theirs. The two schools were separated by a cadjan fence six feet in height. Reports have it that there were more holes than cadjan in it. According to information available from some of the super sleuths of the period the holes were made by the girls! The girls, of course, were invited to the Johnian sector on match days.

According to George Karunaratne, a leading sportsman of the 30's and now a noted Engineer "hundreds of Chundikuli Girls often stand in the blazing sun cheering themselves hoarse when we fought our battles with visiting teams. With that hearty inspiration we performed wonders.



JAFFNA INTER SCHOOLS CRICKET CHAMPIONS, 1921  
 "UNBEATABLE RECORDS AND UNFORGETTABLE PERSONALITIES"

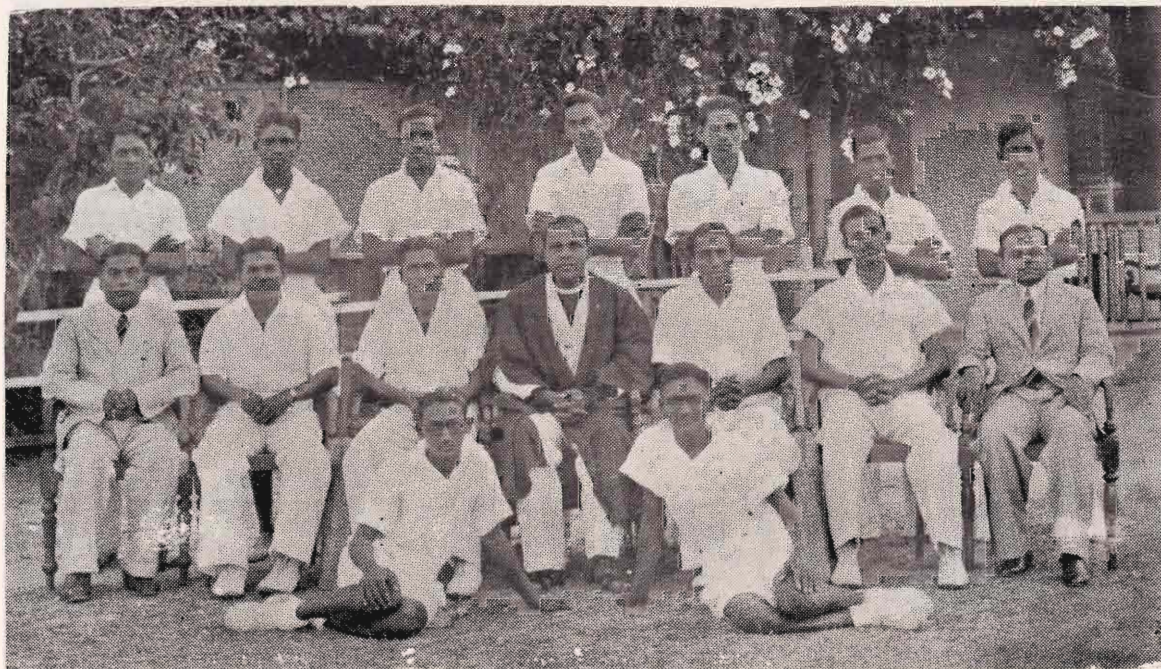


*Standing (L.—R.)* Mr. T. H. Crossette (*Vice-Principal*), S. M. Mylvaganam,  
 D. S. Abraham, K. Vaithianathan, D. C. Rajaratnam,  
 Herath Banda, N. Kasupathypillai, Mr. A. S. Abraham (*Cricket Master*).  
*Seated :* C. A. Dissanayake, J. M. Singanayagam (*Capt.*), Mr. H. Peto  
 (*Principal*), E. M. Ponnudurai (*Vice-Captain*), A. P. Selvaratnam  
*Ground :* R. Werkmeister.



## SCHOOLS' CRICKET CHAMPIONS, 1942

"HERALDING A FIVE YEAR REIGN AS UNBEATEN CHAMPIONS"



*Standing (L -R.)* P. T. Samuel, R. S. Peter, R. S. Samuel, S. R. Thambiah,  
R. Brodie, K. Sathasivam, D. S. Duraiappa.

*Seated :* Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai, A. Kanaganayagam, J. M. Rajaratnam (*Capt.*),  
Rev. J. T. Arulanantham (*Principal*), J. I. Rajaratnam,  
G. G. Vandendriesen, Mr. K. C. Thurairatnam.

*Ground :* J. P. Hensman, A. D. Vethakan.



Thus any team opposing us on our grounds had to contend with a powerful home front. When we became Champions in any branch of sport, we blindly rushed into their school in triumph and the Principal and the girls were waiting to receive us."

At the historic joint dinner of the two institutions held before Chundikuli Girls College shifted to its present site in 1936 Mr. J. T. R. Perinpanayagam, as Secretary of the O. B. A., revealed that "the Trinitians flirted with the girls with whom the Royalists were in love, and the Thomians married them; but the Johnions in Jaffna flirted with the girls in Chundikuli and married them too!"

Even after the shift of Chundikuli Girls' College, Johnion sportsmen continued to derive inspiration from them. Mr. C. Suntharalingam, Mathematics Professor turned politician and one of the distinguished Old Boys of the school, had this to say—"Chundikuli Girl's College is not so close to St. John's as to create considerable distraction, and not so far away as to preclude the forces of attraction." Sports was certainly a great unifying factor between the two schools.

Rev. Henry Peto who was the Principal from 1920—'40 was a "great Christian and a great Englishman". According to Mr. K. Nesiah "the outstanding thing about him was character. He put that character into his Latin teaching, into his administrative actions, into his public utterances". Sportsmen were extolled the virtues of character and on the importance of playing the game in the true spirit in which it should be played.

The tragic death of Rev. Peto in 1940 saw the Rev. J. T. Arulanandam being appointed the first Ceylonese Principal in 1941. He continued till 1957. After a long lay off St. John's registered a high

water mark by winning the Cricket Championships from 1942—'46. J. M. Rajaratnam as Captain set the winning streak in 1942 with J. I. Rajaratnam 1943, A. Ramalingam 1944 and R. S. Peter who was one of the greatest opening bowlers produced by the school captaining in '45 and '46.

It was J. M. Rajaratnam's impregnable 1942 team which broke the trend of ill-luck for the school and laid the foundation for our winning streak till 1945. Old-boys, teachers and well wishers "vied" with each other to honour the 1942 team at complimentary dinners. Incidentally J. M. and J. I. Rajaratnam along with H. K. Vandendriesen (1926) and T. Vandendriesen (1936) S. K. Mahalingam (1954) and K. Paramalingam (1959), M. Theivendra (1964 and '66) and M. Surendra (1969) were the four sets of brothers to captain the school's cricket team.

A. "Theva" Kanaganayagam was the batting star of the 1942 win when as a fresher he got two centuries. The first was a 132 against St. Patricks, the highest individual record against St. Patricks till now. Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai who had made a "suicidal" promise that he would give any batsman one rupee for every run scored after 100 against Patricks, expected the least that fresher "Theva" would be the richer by rupees thirty two. His other knock was a 100 against Hartley. This was about the time when Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, the present Minister for sports and Parliamentary Affairs was the opening bowler for Hartley.

In the words of Mr. Jimmy Rajaratnam "never have I seen a better batsman than "Theva" Kanaganayagam either during my school days as a Cricketer or later as a Coach. He had a faultless footwork and there was that stamp of class in every shot he played".

The pick among the bowlers who dominated the '42-'46 period were the Rajaratnam brothers, Jeyam and Jimmy as opening bowlers, P. T. Samuel and K. Sathasivam, the spinner and the leftarm speedster K. Thirunavukarasu. The period 1946-'50 saw a band of brilliant batsmen. One of the big hitters of the time was Reggie Jeyarajah who scored a scintillating 141 against Kingswood at Randles Hill. In 1947 K. Thirunavukarasu equalled the 1922 record of R. Werkmeister by scoring 113 in the Big Match. In 1948 N. K. Brodie sparked with 129 against Kingswood. Hartley was a happy hunting ground for D. J. Nathaniel and M. Z. Deen who raced to 104 and 107 respectively in 1949. During the period 1944-'49 when Mr. Param Selvarajah was the coach, the best allrounder was K. Thirunavukarasu (now known as Thiru Kadirgamar).

The year 1947 was a watershed in the history of sports in St. John's for at the historic conference of Principals and Vice-Principals of the schools in Jaffna held in 1946, seven member schools took the decision to break away from the J. S. S. A. that had organised competitive sport for the greater part of the first half of the twentieth century.

The decision to break off was communicated to the Jaffna Schools Sports Association by the Rev. J. T. Arulanandam. I was fortunate to get at this document from the past records of the J. S. S. A. The letter dated 19th September 1946 read "From January 1947, the following schools will not take part in Cricket, Athletics and Football competitions organised by the J. S. S. A. :— Jaffna Central, St. Patrick's, St. John's, Jaffna Hindu, Parameshwara, Jaffna College and Hartley. The decision was made at a meeting of the Principals and Vice-Principals of the above Colleges and I was asked to communicate this to

you". Jaffna Hindu and Jaffna Central however decided subsequently to remain in the J. S. S. A. Thus from an era of the rough and tumble of competitive sports we launched on a period of friendly games.

Cricket matches continued to be umpired by the respective schools Prefects of Games and teachers. The high degree of inconsistency in the interpretation of rules by Umpires led to many an unpleasant situation. Not until the formation of an independent body, the Jaffna Cricket Umpires' Association in 1962 did this practice end.

In 1951, the age limit was reduced from 21 to 20 in conjunction with the other schools that broke off from the J. S. S. A. The year 1951 dawned on an optimistic note with St. John's winning the first five matches by innings but sliding to a shock 7 run defeat against Central. Mr. Jimmy Rajaratnam who coached from 1950-'53 and '68-'69 and who had a hand in shaping the destiny of many a Johnion side rates the 1951 team high in his estimation.

The 1951 team was captained by allrounder E. Thevanayagam. He along with A. W. Yogarajah, one of the most graceful opening bowlers formed the nucleus of bowling. D. 'Baby' Canaganayagam was the most exciting find as batsman. Along with skipper, A. J. Segararajasinge, K. Selvarajah, T. D. Ganesh, S. Kasinathan who excelled as the cover fieldman, they formed a dogged set of batsmen.

The success of Thevanayagam as a spinner was due to the brilliant wicket keeping of M. Sebaratnam who had a record harvest of 22 victims behind the stumps. Canaganayagam was of course the talk of the town. He justified his reputation as the best bat with a flawless 128 against Jaffna Hindu and a stunning



CRICKET TEAM, 1953  
"WINGS CLIPPED AT THE BIG MATCH"



*Standing (L.—R.)* S. Nadian, R. Varenthiran, P. Kulendran, S. Sivasubramaniam,  
M. Y. Maurice, A. Ariyanayagam, K. Yathukulasingam,  
V. Balasubramaniam, T. Alexander.

*Seated :* M. A. Nagendra, S. K. Mahalingam, D. Canaganayagam (Capt.),  
Rev. J. T. Arulanandam (*Principal*), T. Brodie, T. D. Ganesh,  
Mr. E. A. Champion (*Secy. of Games*).



## 1909 FOOTBALL TEAM

"ERA WHEN THE SET OF RULES LED TO CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS"





148 against Kingswood in 1951. His performance of 148 which broke R. R. Jeyarajah's 1946 record of 141 also against Kingswood stands to this day as the highest individual batting effort against an outstation school.

Much of the credit for "finding" Canaganayagam should go to St. John's best known talent scout, Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai. He had gone to Canaganayagam's class in the middle school to act for a teacher who was on leave that day. As was his practice, he had tried to familiarise himself with the boys. In the last row sat a "frail looking boy in shorts" who got up and gave his name as Canaganayagam who played softball cricket behind the Kandasamy Temple and whose father was a retired station master.

Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai's eyes sparkled as he delved deeper and found to his amazement that he was the famous batsman "Theva" Kanaganayagam's brother. He was ordered to report for practice that evening and coach Jimmy Rajaratnam took good care of him. "Baby" Canaganayagam, as he was nicknamed because of his tender age, entered the team in 1950 and rose to peak form in 1951.

The 1952 team led by D. Canaganayagam, redeemed the lost prestige by remaining unbeaten. S. K. Mahalingam's swashbuckling 104 against Jaffna College and our dramatic two wicket win over Central were the highlights of the season. The year 1955 could by all standards go down as the lowest watermark in the history of the game in the 50's when we played six, winning only one and losing three.

But fortune flirted with alarming rapidity when we remained unbeaten under R. Navaratnam in 1956. Navaratnam, one of our excellent line of wicket keepers and

J. Tissanayagam represented Jaffna schools against the visiting Australian School boys' Team.

The Rev. J. T. Arulanandam retired in 1957 and Mr. P. T. Mathai took over and held the post till May 1959. In 1957, Mr. S. K. Mahalingam came in as coach. Except for a brief period between '68 and '69 he was solely responsible for shaping the destiny of King Cricket in St. John's. An outstanding cricket and football captain and athlete of repute, winner of the Thuraisamy Scott Challenge Cup for the Best allround Sportsman in 1953 and '54, he was the ideal sportsman of mid 50's. The Rev. J. T. Arulanandam, who had handpicked him for a course in the Y. M. C. A. School of Physical Education in Saidapet in '55, couldn't have given a better "gift" to sports in St. John's.

"Maha's" coaching produced startling results. We remained unbeaten in 1957 under M. B. J. Tissanayagam and maintained the record in 1958 including a runaway innings win over Central with the match being over about two hours before lunch on the second day! In the words of Coach Mahalingam "the 1958 team which scaled the heights of magnificence was the best team we have had during the third quarter of the twentieth century."

The team consisted of M. B. J. Tissanayagam (capt), S. K. Paramalingam, A. Karuniyarajan, M. Rajaratnam, V. Sivanathan, R. K. Thuraisingam, S. S. Shanmugarajah, K. Kumaradevan, T. Jeganathan, A. I. Somanader, G. Yogacumaran, C. Balakrishnan and S. Jegathasan.

Tissanayagam was one of the best captains produced by the school. He had an unruffled temperament as a bat with a 142 against Kotte-Christian College as the highest. He was also a smart slip field. He led the field as a bat with Paramalingam,

a powerful hitter and stylish bat, M. Rajaratnam forming the batting trio.

Bowling was of course the trump card. Another "find" of talent scout Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai, "typhoon" Shanmugarajah who terrorised the Jaffna batsman and Paramalingam opened bowling with leg spin specialist A. I. Somanader, the best of his type in the North then, all reaping a glorious harvest of wickets without much expense. V. Sivananthan, the keeper par excellence, who accounted for much of the fame of Somanader as a spinner, was "the pearl of great price." Four members of the team Paramalingam, Rajaratnam, Sivananthan with Tissanayagam as captain represented the Jaffna Schools against the All India School boys XI.

Four of them, Tissanayagam, Karuniyarajan, Balakrishnan and Jegathasan are Doctors and Sivananthan, a Veterinary Surgeon. C. Balakrishnan later captained the Peradeniya University in 1963 and brought honour to the school by representing Sri Lanka against Australia in the Unofficial "Test" in Colombo in 1969.

V. Sivananthan, who was in the 1962 All Varsity team that won the "Sara Trophy", the symbol of supremacy in First Class cricket in the country, later toured Malaysia with the Undergraduates winning encomiums as a keeper in that land, too. As a keeper for the Champion "Sara" side, the Nomads for about a decade, he was ever agile but was distinctly unlucky not to have won representative honours, as he had to compete with Dr. H. I. K. Fernando who was the nation's automatic choice as the keeper during that period.

Mr. A. W. Rajasekeram became Principal in 1959 and remained during the turbulent period till 1966. The 1959 team led by S. K. Paramalingam failed to repeat the performance of the unbeaten 1958 team

by losing to Kingswood by a hair raising 22 runs. Six from our school, K. Paramalingam, V. Sivananthan, S. Shanmugarajah, M. Rajaratnam, A. Karuniyarajan and A. I. Somanader were elected to represent Jaffna schools in their winning debut against the Ceylon Schools Combined XI in Colombo. Subsequently, these six along with C. Balakrishnan were selected to represent Jaffna Schools in their tour of South India. Karuniyarajan went a step further winning a Ceylon Schools "Cap" as an opening bat.

The year 1963 though failing to see an unbeaten side, saw individuals blossoming into mature cricketers. Special mention must be made of M. Theivendra who was judged the "Schoolboy Cricketer of the North" by both the "Times" and the "Daily News" and R. B. Thambialayah who won the prize of the "Best Batsman of the North."

We remained unbeaten in 1964 under M. Theivendra. Tall scores became the order of the day. We thrice scored over 300 runs in an innings for the season. This is an all time record. Four of our players M. Theivendra as captain, P. Kanagadurai, J. Vairavipillai and S. M. Mootatamby were selected for the All Jaffna Schoolboys' Team to play against the All India Schoolboys' Team.

We continued our unbeaten record in 1965 under P. Kanagadurai. Our 1965 wins included a six wicket win over Royal College and an innings win over the Batticaloa Combined Schools. Spinner Theivendra finished with 70 victims, and Sooriyakumar with a flattering grand total of 614 runs. M. Theivendra, a Ceylon Schools Cricket 'Cap', Public Schools Athletic Champion, Footballer was, in the words of Mr. S. K. Mahalingam, "the most accomplished sportsman produced by



the school during the third quarter of the century."

M. Theivendra who continued as captain in 1966 was singularly unfortunate to lose the match to St. Sylvester's College, Kandy by one run. St. John's had earlier lost by one run to St. Patrick's under D. J. N. Selvadurai's captaincy in 1963. The train of glorious uncertainties started in 1947 under K. Thirunavukkarasu when we first lost to Patrick's by one run.

This should set a poser to the historians of the game. Has any school lost to the same school twice by one run? Has any school lost thrice by one run? Are these world records? M. Surendra was selected to lead the Jaffna Schools in the under 18 zonal tourney in 1966. C. Sooriyakumar added a feather to his cap by finding a place in the Ceylon Schools' Cricket XI.

The unbeaten 1967 team will go down in the annals as a team dominated by the batting feats of skipper C. Sooriyakumar. The 181 by Sooriyakumar against Hartley is the highest individual batting record, breaking the earlier record of 156 by R. R. Scott against Jaffna Hindu in 1939. He had also two more centuries, 106 against Manipay Hindu and 154 against Jaffna College. His effort of 154 against Jaffna College erased the 1922 record of 113 by J. M. Singanayagam. No other Johnion had scored three centuries in one season. Scott's record was four centuries in a four year period from 1937-'40. We also scored over 300 twice. This included 344 for 3 against Manipay Hindu and 345 for 4 against Hartley. But unfortunately both fell short of the all time record of 389 for 8 set in 1922 by the team led by J. M. Singanayagam.

Mr. K. Pooranampillai became Principal in March 1967. The unbeaten 1968 team led by S. M. Mootatamby will long be remembered as one of the best in recent

S.J.C.—II

times when we won six and drew one. The "match of the decade" was the one against St. Patrick's against whom we staged one of the most amazing batting recoveries. From a perilous 24 for 6 on the second innings just before lunch on the final day, after being led 22 runs on the first innings, we fought a battle of nerves with fresher D. S. Mills, the hero of the win and S. M. Mootatamby guiding him. We scored 136 and then ran through the Patrician's eleven giving us a miraculous win by 64 runs.

Mootatamby was a tower of strength as a shrewd leader and an able wicket keeper. N. Vamasivan, M. Surendra and S. D. Kulanathan formed the inseparable combination of fast bowlers. The dynamism of T. Vipulananthamoorthy, was a great factor in our favour. Vipulananthamoorthy's contribution to sports in St. John's has been grossly underrated as for the better part of his career he had to play under the shadow of the great Theivendra. "Vipul," a Public Schools' Athletic Champion, brilliant close in field, one of the speediest forwards in soccer, captain of the unbeaten hockey team and a reputed singer and musician, was, without doubt, the most talented schoolboy produced by us. As a first-rate singer of Tamil "Pops" he now has innumerable admirers both in Sri Lanka and India. J. Navaratnarajah was a useful stock bowler. The man of the season was undoubtedly fresher D. S. Mills.

In 1969, M. Surendra was elected captain of the Jaffna Schools XI. After a lapse of three years we remained unbeaten in '72 under T. Thevapalan and maintained the record in '73 under N. S. Alexander.

### Football

There was not much to speak on football during the period prior to 1920. The football teams of 1921 and '22 did not

produce the enviable record of the cricket teams. But one player stood out. He was I. T. Solomons popularly regarded as one of the finest school right extremes. St. John's broke her hoodoo of defeats in the Inter-Collegiate Soccer Tournaments by winning the championship for the first time in 1924, the year when she celebrated her centenary.

The decisive final match against Jaffna College, which St. John's won by 7-1, was played at Vaddukoddai. According to a contemporary report "about thirty five cars were used by players and supporters to go to Vaddukoddai, and every goal that was scored was heralded by a fanfare of trumpeting produced by motor car horns. This naturally irritated the supporters of Vaddukoddai considerably and ugly scenes would have followed but for the tactful handling of the situation by the staff and students of Jaffna College."

The members of the team were D. S. Abraham (Capt.) "the sandow of the team," G. H. R. Hubert "who kicks neatly and powerfully with both feet. his stature and additional asset for defense", F. D. M. Kanagasabai "the impenetrable half", H. T. Hubert "the dribbler", M. R. L. Theethavelu "a recruit with plenty of dash as right in with a periously perfect shot," K. D. Praesoody "strong and sturdy with a perfect defense and the hero of the crowd," K. Thirugnanam M. Velauthapillai, A. R. Abraham M. Kumarasingam and H. K. Vandendriesen.

It was admitted that "the great wave of enthusiasm for football spreading through the land should be partly attributed to a healthy spirit of emulation displayed by schools contesting for the championship and partly, of late, to the encouragement given by Capt. Brindly, the sporting Superintendent of Police."

Football which slumped during the next four years was resurrected in 1929 when we grabbed the schools' championship beating the holders for the previous three years, Manipay Hindu, by 5-2 in the finals. The enthusiastic Principal, Rev. Peto declared the next working day a holiday. We then went on to repeat the unbeaten performance in 1930 and '31. A report of the 1930 season states that "the team was entertained to no less than a dozen congratulatory dinners before the end of term by old boys and well wishers."

C. T. Ethirnayagam Mills as captain during these three glorious years helped soccer to take giant strides. With the school cricket championships too coming our way in '30 and '31, this period proved to be a vintage period for sports in St. John's. During the last seventy five years, we have remained unbeaten only six times and never for two or three years in a row. After Mills produced the last unbeaten team in 1931, we had to wait for 36 years for S. M. Mootatamby to produce a similar record in 1967.

The 1929 team, coached by Mr. S. L. Jansen and Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai, consisted of C. T. E. Mills (capt.) J. R. Gnanapragasam, the most senior member of the team and the present Supervisor of our Lower School, P. Thiagarajah, C. N. Johnson, G. C. Keerthisingam, A. Jeyaratnam K. Saba-ratnam, N. Thalayasingam, T. Segarajasingam, H. T. Nathaniel, N. Kandiah, A. M. D. Richards, A. Perambalam and A. Ponnambalam.

The forward thrust was spearheaded by the much feared pair, Mills, as left extreme and Thiagarajah, the centre forward, who later became the Prefect of Games of Jaffna Hindu. Referring to P. Thiagarajah Mr. Ponnudurai wrote "for speed, ball control and precision shooting there was none to equal him." J. R. Gnanapragasam as



# SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, 1924

## "THE FIRST TILT AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP"



*Standing (L.—R.)* Mr. S. L. Jansen, K. Kumarasingam, M. Velauthapillai, (unidentified), A. R. Abraham, C. Mylvaganam, Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai.

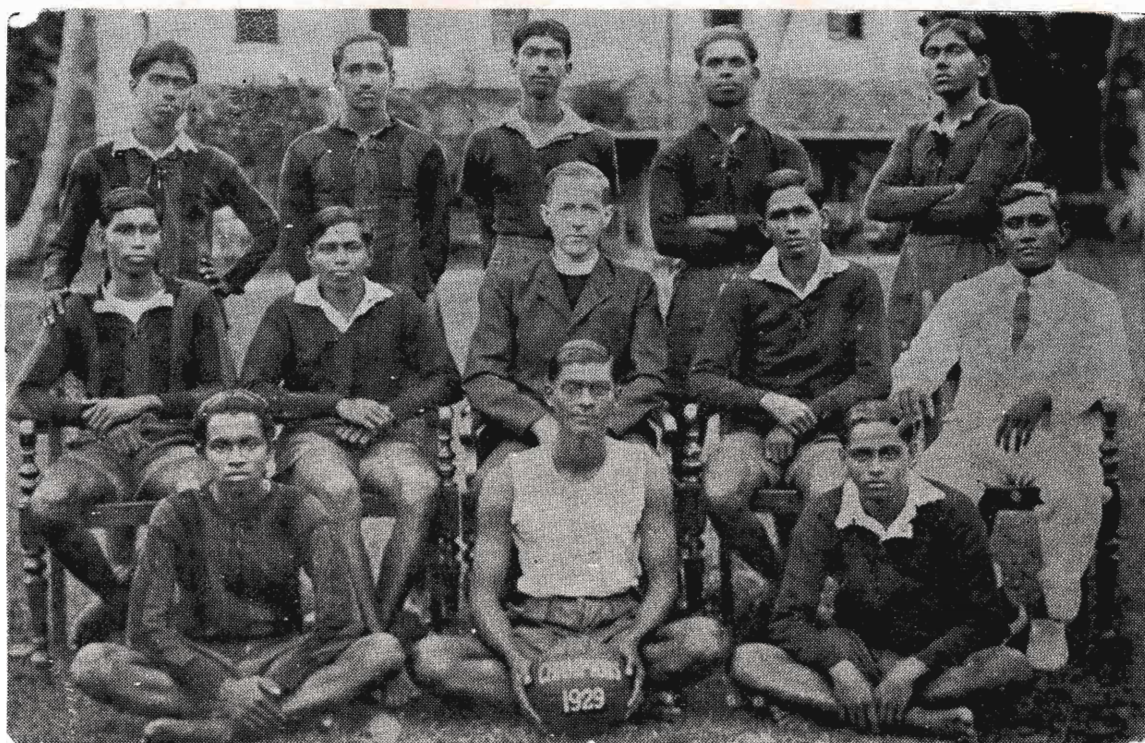
*Seated :* K. C. Praesody, D. S. Abraham, Mr. T. H. Crossette (*Actg. Principal*), G. H. R. Hubert, F. D. M. Kanagasabai.

*Ground :* M. L. Theethavelu, H. K. Vandendriesen, J. T. Hubert.



## FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, 1929

"BAREFOOTED SOCCER WIZARDS"



*Standing (L.—R.)* T. Segarajasingam, N. Thalayasingam, A. Perampalam,  
K. Sabaratnam, G. C. Keerthisingam.

*Seated :* S. N. Johnson, C. T. E. Mills (*Capt.*), Rev. H. Peto,  
J. R. Gnanapiragasam, S. L. Jansen.

*Ground :* A. Jeyaratnam, H. T. Nathaniel, P. Thiagarajah.



fullback was the "Jack" of the team with his ability to play in any position. He held a fine record throughout the season.

These were the days when St. John's, St. Patrick's Jaffna Central, Jaffna Hindu, Jaffna College, Hartley, Parameshwara and Manipay Hindu fought out for the J.S.S.A. championship. The age limit was 21. The matches were played on a home and away basis. Admission was free.

From 1934 the Jaffna Schools Sports Association decided to have the matches on neutral ground. So the Pannai grounds, also known as the Koddady grounds—the land opposite the Pannai Cemetery (the present road that goes from the bazaar to Pannai was not there then), including the Western side of the Jaffna Fort came to be regarded as the local Wembley.

Gates were charged ever since the shift to the neutral Pannai grounds in 1934. The rates were 10 cents standing and twenty five cents seats for a single match, 25 cents standing and 50 cents seats on "Cup Finals" and season-tickets at Rupees one and two for standing and seats respectively.

The "Cup Final" attracted about ten thousand wildly cheering fans. Business in town and suburb came to a near standstill by two O'clock in the afternoon. The soccer-crazy cigar rollers who formed a "sizeable percentage of knowledgeable fans and who have several soccer clubs of their own where the game is played scientifically and in true sportsman-like manner", rickshaw pullers, (about three hundred in number and three to four deep who occupied one side of the field), and owners of barber saloons and laundries would come early to the grounds to witness the drama of the "Cup Final". The trees mainly tulips which grew all round the grounds overflowed with their quota of explosive human cargo.

Clashes between rival supporters was a rarity. Police were rarely called in to maintain order. When Mr. Sidney de Zoysa was the A.S.P. during the early 40's, he used to come on horseback and wait behind the goalpost at the cemetery end. His very presence was sufficient to control the entire crowd. Fans rarely knew the rules of the game to take exception to the whistle of the referee. Rules were not rigidly followed. Every referee of the day was claimed to have had his own interpretation to the rules of the game.

Before the introduction of the rule which penalises the players who charge at the goalie when he is in possession of the ball, goalies were made the target of many a mad forward rush. "Lay flat the goalie at the earliest possible opportunity and the match is in our bag" was a secret strategy adhered to by most schools. Some goalies had to be carried away from the field to the obvious glee of spectators. Injured goalies were often made the "martyrs" in many a bloody battle on the playing field.

Some of the leading referees during the 30's and 40's were W. G. Spencer (Magistrate), P. Sriskandarajah (Puisne Judge and then on the Unofficial Bar), E. Sabalingam (then a Teacher at Kokuvil Hindu and the present Principal of Jaffna Hindu and one time International Soccer Referee), K. V. Mylvaganam (Teacher Jaffna Hindu) A. J. Casipillai, R. J. Thurairajah (former Prefect of Games, Jaffna College) and R. Rajaratnam (Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Development). Not until the formation of the Jaffna Football Referees' Association in 1947 was the whole question of refereeing streamlined. In 1946 we broke off from the J.S.S.A. to begin a period of friendly matches.

The 1950 football team led by A. J. Segarajasinghe was one of the best in the 50's. We played nine, won seven, drew one and lost the last one against Patrick's by a sensational 2-0. Segarajasinghe and K. Kasinathan (who later became the first Asian to captain an All American Football XI) as forwards spearheaded the attack ably supported by M. Shanmuganathan, Sara Nadian who was one of the best right wingers of the school and A. W. Yogarajah. In the half line G. G. Gnanasegaram with S. M. Shanmuganathan and T. A. Ramanathan formed a very sound trio. E. G. Thevayagam was ever agile as a right back. The team was coached by Mr. N. E. Jeyasingam.

The 1951 team led by M. Shanmuganathan was distinctly unlucky winning seven, drawing one and losing to Hartley by a thrilling 2-1. The 1952 team led by N. Tharmavarathan too maintained its ill-luck winning eight, drawing one and losing the only match to Jaffna Hindu by 3-1. The wins included a 3-0 win over Dharmadutta College, Badulla, 5-0 win over St. Joseph's College, Anuradhapura and 4-0 win over the J.S.S.A. champions, Kokuvil Hindu.

There was misfortune again in 1954 under S. M. Visvanathan when we won seven, drew one and lost two. Our wins included a 5-0 win over Central College, Batticaloa and a 4-0 win over St. Michael's College, Batticaloa, both played "away." S. K. Mahalingam as right extreme "proved to be the hero, with his speed, perfect control and accurate placing." The trio C. Jothiravy, Mahalingam and Shanmugam Nadian were the mainstay of our attack. In 1956 boots were introduced for the first time.

The year 1961 was an year of gathering momentum for the great victories of '67 and '71. After a mild slump we rose in

'61 under K. Mylerumperumal winning seven and losing in a needle finish 2-1 to St. Patrick's, with whom we played after a lapse of twelve years. M. W. Rajasingam was a custodian of repute. The pick among the forwards were A. Shanmugarajah and M. Wijeratnam. Wijeratnam was later selected to represent Ceylon Schools in the Asian Youth Tourney in Bangkok. The tour unfortunately failed to come through.

Another team that reached a fair standard was the 1964 team led by S. Balasubramaniam which won six of the nine matches it played. "Bala" was a tower of strength as centre half. C. Generic "the solid mobile rock" and S. Sivakumar were outstanding as backs. The dual attack of M. T. Wijekumar and K. Rudrakumar was "a treat to watch."

S. Balasubramaniam led the side in another successful season in 1965. The '66 team skippered by S. Rajanathan went one step higher losing only one to St. Patrick's by 5-1 but winning six and drawing the last against Jaffna College.

The achievement of our 1967 team is now part of history. Led by the bespectacled S. M. Mootatamby, it created history by being the first team to remain unbeaten since Ethirnayagam Mills's invincible 1931 team. We played seven and won all seven.

The attack was led by the brothers V. Vamadevan, N. Vamasivam and the veterans T. Vipulananthamoorthy and T. Vinayagammoorthy. The half line was well marshalled by Mootatamby, S. D. Kulanathan and S. Antonipillai who formed the best known trio to do service for us in that vital position. The plucky M. Jeyaratnam and P. Ganesalingam were stout defenders. Custodian V. Vivekananthan was in splendid form with his performance against St. Patrick's



# THE INVINCIBLE FOOTBALL TEAM, 1967

## "FIRST UNBEATEN RECORD AFTER 36 YEARS"



**Standing (L.-R.)** M. Jeyaratnam, P. Ganeshalingam, N. Vamasivan, N. Vamathevan, S. D. Kulanathan, M. Surendra, S. Antonipillai, K. S. Mahalingam, V. Shyamasunderam.

**Seated :** Mr. T. Gunaseelan (*Secy. of Games*), Mr. K. Tharmasrirajah (*Coach*), T. Vipulanantha, S. M. Mootatamby (*Capt.*), T. Vinayagamoorthy, A. Sri Rangan, Mr. K. Pooranampillai (*Principal*).

**Ground :** V. Vivekananthan.

*Handwritten signatures in blue ink, likely of the players and officials, are visible at the bottom of the page.*



# JAFFNA INTER SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS. 1944

"THE WIN OF THE CENTURY"



*Back row (L.—R.)* W. C. Jebarajah, S. Gopalapillai, A. Sivayoganathan,  
S. Thevathason, E. J. Lawton, C. S. Sinnathurai, T. Yogarajah,  
C. Vykuthanathan, T. Vivekananthan, S. Sellathurai,  
A. K. Jeevanayagam.

*Middle row :* T. Kanagaratnam, S. Nadarajah, S. Selvanayagam, K. Shanmugam,  
P. Thurairajah, K. Thirunavukarasu, S. B. Horshington,  
V. A. Benjamin, T. Sebaratnam, L. B. Thambirajah, T. Thuraisamy.

*Seated :* P. Tharmalingam, Mr. V. C. Canagaretnam (*Secy. of Games*),  
R. S. Peter (*Capt.*), Mr P. C. Gaussen (*Actg. Principal*),  
Mr. P. E. Rajendra (*Coach*), Mr. P. Selvarajah (*Coach*), A. R. Rasiah.

*Ground :* S. Selvanayagam, T. Allalasundaram, A. W. Yogarajah,  
D. J. George.



as his peak. Coach K. Tharmasirajah did a splendid job training the team.

The 1969 team under N. Vamadevan played eight, won six but lost one, to our traditional rivals St. Patrick's by 3—0. After a three year lapse we repeated the 1967 unbeaten record by winning all our seven encounters in 1971 to become the first champions of the newly formed Jaffna schools' Football Association. The team was led by P. Anandalingam.

Sharp shooter Ajantha Mylvaganam combined with "opportunist" S. Antonipillai to enhance our scoring potential. N. S. Alexander was content to play second fiddle to this combine. The half line was full of life with "burly" N. Naveenan, "midget" P. C. Sakundararajan and "interceptor" A. L. Kamaldeen. Skipper Anandalingam excelled as a back. According to the Games Report of the period the achievement was due to coach Mahalingam who "set to work with dedication in an amazingly short period."

S. Antonipillai was without doubt the most outstanding Footballer produced by St. John's during the last quarter century. He played in all four matches for the Ceylon Schools in the Indo-Ceylon Dual held in Madras in 1969. He was the first recipient of the "Johnian Eagle" given for outstanding performance at national level in any branch of sport. He subsequently represented the country to win his National colours.

### Athletics

The earliest recorded athletic meet was held in 1893 during the time of Rev. J. W. Fall (1892—1895). How standards have improved by leaps and bounds since 1893 could be gauged by the fact that in the senior group in long jump the winner cleared only 13' 6" while in Pole vault the winning target was 5' 6".

There was no outstanding performance in athletics prior to 1920. After the appointment of the Rev. Henry Peto radical changes were introduced in the field of sports. The most remarkable was in athletics when he introduced for the first time in Jaffna the "House" system in 1920. It enabled a large number of boys to enter competitive sport. The first four captains were John Kadirgamar (Johnstone), E. M. Ponnudurai (Parigiter), J. M. Singanayagam (Handy) and Herath Banda (Thompson).

By about 1922 athletics had become popular. St. John's won the championship in 1922 and repeated it in 1923 and 1924. We were also winners of the Sports Cup in the Annual Ceylon Cadet Battalion Competition held at Diyatalawa and runners-up for the Herman Loos Challenge Cup at the Diyatalawa Camp. Mr. A. S. Abraham as Secretary of Games and first Officer Commanding the cadet Corps gave the necessary impetus. The most outstanding athlete was I. T. Solomon. Mr. T. B. Daniel of Trinity fame was chiefly responsible for coaching the athletes. It was he who first introduced a planned programme of coaching.

In 1928, the number of Houses was increased from four to eight. The new Houses were Knight, Evarts, Adley and William. This system proved impracticable and after a one year experiment the school reverted to the four House system.

The later part of the 1930's saw the emergence of R. R. Scott as a brilliant all-rounder. He brought honour to the school by representing Ceylon against India in the Indo-Ceylon Athletic Meet held in 1940 while he was yet a school-boy. Knowledgeable critics rate him as the athlete of the first half of the twentieth century.

St. Patrick's was a Colossus in athletics in the early 30's and 40's when, under B. R. Motha's scientific methods of coaching, they had created an unparalleled record,

winning the J. S. S. A. championship from 1933—'43. The performance of our athletes in '42 and '43 however gave a foretaste of the things to come, when in the words of Mr. K. C. Thurairatnam, the Prefect of Games, "we were able to reduce the big margin in points that used to obtain between St. Patrick's and us."

The year 1944 was an year to remember when we annexed the athletic championship after twenty years, beating St. Patrick's by a cliff-hanging two points, the decision coming in the last event of the day, the 4×440 yards relay after both schools were level at 73 points before the start of this crucial event.

The athlete who will be remembered for all time was P. Tharmalingam, a hitherto unknown quarter miler who beat Patrician skipper Lucian Keil in the last lap after "unimpressive" runs by T. Kanagaratnam, S. Nadarajah and Skipper R. S. Peter had resulted in a ten yard disadvantage to him.

According to eyewitnesses there was confusion worse confounded on the Jaffna Central College grounds, as Johnion athletes and hundreds of supporters invaded the field, hugged and kissed each other. Tears of joy ran down many a cheek. Mr. P. E. Rajendra who had vowed that he would explode the myth of Patrician invincibility when he left St. Patrick's to join St. John's in 1943 "danced on the field." The whole team was carried shoulder high to the school in a triumphant march through the town. It was the "finest hour" for athletics in St. John's.

Besides P. Tharmalingam who had earlier won the long jump, mention must be made of the Senior Champion Albert Rasiah (high jump and polevault), S. Nadarajah (mile), and Victor Benjamin (low hurdles) who won first places in the senior

group and the Junior Champion A. W. Yogarajah 100 and 220 yards and T. Alagasuenderam, D. T. George, S. Selvanayagam and A. W. Yogarajah, the 4×110 yards quintette who won the "first" in the junior group.

After exactly thirty years in 1974 I met Mr. P. Tharmalingam, the "old war horse" who is now a special grade clerical servant attached to the Railways in Colombo at his home in Ariyalai. "I still carry the "scar" of my effort" as the "wounded soldier" showed me and Mr. S. K. Mahalingam, with whom I had gone the "mark" on his right elbow caused by his falling on the ground, exhausted after that miraculous run.

"Many thought that Mr. Rajendra was taking a suicidal decision in allowing me to run the last lap" as he reminisced. "I was determined to silence the critics. The challenge was overpowering as the third lap runner, R. S. Peter gave me the baton with a ten yard handicap. The more I pressed, the more determined did Lucian Keil become. Every fibre of my nerve had attuned itself to take up the shock of the extra surge. My final spurt began at the 220 yard bend. I had a strange feeling that I was on the threshold of history as I began striding. I caught him at the clock tower bend and led on till the tape."

While we beat Patrick's to snatch the J.S.S.A. Championship by the flimsiest of margin in 1944, a similar photo finish at the Public School's Athletic Championship in Colombo, 19 years later, in 1963, saw us being beaten by Royal College into second place in the last event of the day, the 4×400 metre relay, to deny us the Senior Tarbat Cup which has not been won by any school in the North in the history of athletics.



We retained the championship under Albert Rasiah in 1945. At the peak of his career he was regarded as the best Pole-Vault prospect in Ceylon. With the break from the J.S.S.A. in 1947 a practical problem was created. Athletes from the break away schools faced the threat of being disqualified from the Public Schools' Athletic Championship. To overcome this deadlock, these schools subsequently formed the "Group II".

1950 saw the emergence of G. G. Gnana-segaram as a top rung school-boy middle distance runner. He proved it by winning the first place in the half mile in both the Junior Amateur Athletic Meet and the Army Meet in Colombo.

In 1951 the rules of competition were changed as an experiment in order to encourage team spirit. In track events points were awarded to the first four in the order 4, 3, 2, 1 as against 5, 3, 1 for the first three. In field events each house had to send in three competitors for each event, all of whom had to achieve a minimum standard and points were awarded in the order 8, 6, 4, 2 according to the total achievements of the three competitors of each house. This principle has since been accepted at our school inter house meets. The Junior School (Primary—School) Inter House Meet was held for the first time in 1952.

In 1954 "Peto House" was formed because of the increasing numbers and more so "to honour an old Principal who had done much to dignify and popularise the playing field as a means of education." T. G. Arulampalam was appointed the first captain.

In the 1954 inter-house meet K. Shanmugalingam of Handy-House bettered J. F. Sigmaringam's long Jump record of 19 feet 8 inches established in 1939 by clearing 19 feet 9½ inches. He later cleared 20 feet

4 inches in the Group Meet to become the first Johnion to break the 20 feet barrier in long jump.

In the 1958 inter house athletic meet, "burly" S. S. Shanmugarajah of Thompson House made a record breaking effort of 40 feet 8 inches in the senior Putt Shot. This record stands to this day as the oldest individual record in our inter house meet. In 1959, he won his Public School Colours.

The 60's were the golden years for athletics in St. John's when for the first time we reached national stature. We secured the Tarbat Cup for Outstation Schools at the Public Schools' Athletic Championship twice, missed it also twice by one point and a half a point and failed to snatch the Senior Tarbat Cup by a hair's breadth. Seven of our athletes reached the Public Schools' colours standard nine times. Inter House and Jaffna Group Meet records tumbled in the wake of the sudden upsurge led by a band of brilliant athletes like M. Theivendra, R. Raveendrakumar, T. Vipulananthamoorthy and M. Surendra.

The year 1961 was one of promise. At the Public Schools Meet we collected 29 points, thus missing the Tarbat Cup for Outstation Schools by only one point. C. Satkurunathan was awarded the Public Schools' Colours for clearing over 43 feet in the Hop Step.

1963 was the peak year both at the lowest level of inter house meet and at the highest level of National Schools' Championship. The tremors were first felt in the Inter-House Meet when one record was equalled and twelve shattered including three by M. Theivendra in the long jump, 440 yards and 120 yards hurdles.

At the Group meet the seniors won every event except the Putt shot while the Juniors had a landslide win, getting the first place in all the events to establish a

unique record. At the All Jaffna Schools Track and Field Meet R. Raveendrakumar soared with a vault of 11 feet  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch.

The Public Schools' Meet was a mixture of triumph and disaster. St. John's who led Royal College, the ultimate winners by six points before the final event of the day, the 4 × 400 metre relay hoped for a "Royal" mishap. St. John's who were not in the final race, thus watched with dismay the final triumphant flight of the Royal last lapper and Royal had beaten an outstation school, St. John's by four points to win the Senior Tarbat Cup.

We won two first, two second and three third places. The outstanding performers were M. Theivendra, first in 120 metre hurdles and R. Raveendrakumar, first in Pole vault. We also won the Tarbat Cup for Outstation Schools and the V.B.M. de Silva Challenge Cup for Field Events. M. Theivendra, R. Raveendrakumar and P. Kanagadurai won Public Schools' Colours.

In 1964 we fell line in with the national system by going metric. So we had to take the "painful decision" to freeze all track records. M. Theivendra, continued his run of victories by winning the triple jump with 44 feet 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the Junior A.A.A. Meet. For the second time in succession we won the Tarbat Cup for Outstation Schools and the V. B. M de Silva Trophy for Field Events also for Outstation Schools. M. Theivendra and R. Raveendrakumar reached Public Schools Colours standards in the Triple jump and Polevault respectively.

In 1966, the most outstanding athlete at the Public Schools' Meet was T. Vipulananthamoorthy who secured a first place with a jump of 21 feet 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches, a distance which no Johnion had ever jumped before. He won his Public Schools Colours for

his great effort. Team wise, we were unfortunate to lose the Tarbat Cup for Outstation Schools by a mere half a point securing 29 points.

In 1967, M. Surendra emulated the feat of his brother Theivendra by winning the first place in the 110 metre hurdles at the Public Schools' Meet.

With a view to increase the number of boys participating in the Inter-House Meet, seven age groups under 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19 and over 19 were introduced in 1968. The under 12 was an addition in 1969. R. Sivakumar the "dark horse" from St. John's won the Ceylon Schools A. A. Colours for his effort of 21 feet 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. He later represented Ceylon Schools in the Indo-Ceylon Dual Contest.

The period '69-'74 was uneventful team wise, except for the performance of A. Raveendran. He won the first place in the triple jump at the Ceylon Schools Athletic Meet in 1973. Another notable athlete was V. Muraleetharan who won the "gold" in the under 15 discus throw at the Ceylon Junior Athletic Meet held in Batticaloa in 1972.

### Hockey

There is no other game that can compare with the "tragic" history of hockey in St. John's. It is "tragic" for a game that was introduced to St. John's by Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam as early as 1907 to die a natural death soon after chiefly because the other schools in the district had not taken to the game. Over half a century lapsed before it was reintroduced as a serious game in 1960.

When Mr. Vethavanam introduced the game, it had to compete with cricket and football. But the Sports Committee of the school was determined to give hockey an important place in the sports programme.



With this in view, hockey practices were held on Thursdays and Fridays with cricket practices being held on Mondays and Tuesdays and football on Wednesdays. Hockey held out bright prospects by the end of 1907. To quote the Games Report of the year "the boys have taken to it enthusiastically."

Hockey was resurrected in 1960. We entered the wider arena of Inter-Schools' competition from 1964. Our chief rivals were Jaffna College where it was already one of the recognised games. Our first championship win was in 1967. Then from 1969-'72 we held the "Rotary Shield" for four years in a row.

Our first coach after the reintroduction of the game was Major Leslie Sellayah, one of the veteran hockey administrators of the island who was then attached to the local Customs. Three players T. Kirubaitilakan, who later became an All Varsity "star," Sithambaram and Karunaharan became the first set of players from the school to represent the Jaffna schools in hockey.

The team broke new ground by participating in inter-schools' tournaments in 1964. The first set of team members to represent the school in 1964 were S. Shanta Ram (Capt.), J. Jebaranjen, S. Balasubramaniam, B. N. Navaratnarajah, R. Ratneswaramoorthy, K. Ambihaipahan, C. Ambihaipalan, M. K. Shivashanmugasunderam, S. J. Jeyaratnam, W. W. Arunupiragasam, S. Rudrakumar and B. Balendra. We played three matches, won one against Kopay C.C. by 1-0, but lost to both Jaffna Central 0-1, and Mahajana 1-2.

Hockey became an organised game with the appointment of Mr. K. Tharmasrirajah as a teacher in 1966. A former seasoned player from Jaffna College, it was

he who laid the foundation for our subsequent wins.

Our finest moment was the 1967 season when for the first time under T. Vipulananthamoorthy we became Senior Schools Hockey Champions. The team consisted of T. Vipulananthamoorthy (Capt), S. Jeyendran, N. Sivanesan, A. Selvarajah, C. Sivendran. T. Vinayagamoorthy, T. Ganesha, T. Ponnampalam, M. Rajeswaran, K. S. Mahalingam, V. Manoharan, R. Navaratnam, V. Sooriyakumaran and S. Balendra.

After being runners-up in 1968, we jumped to the top by winning the championship again in 1969 under M. Jeyaratnam and held it successfully for a record four years in a row. N. Naveenan captained our team in 1970 when we emerged Joint Champions with Jaffna College. The Juniors rounded off a season of promise by lifting the Junior Championship under M. V. Jeyasunderam.

N. Naveenan led the team again on an unbeaten note in 1971. We played five, won four and drew one. Naveenan was one of the most outstanding players as half. He represented the Jaffna District which created history by emerging Joint Hockey Champions in the Senior Hockey Nationals held in Matale. He later toured South India with the victorious Jaffna District Team.

We remained unbeaten for an unprecedented fourth year in 1972. The team was coached by Mr. N. S. Thanapalan who had taken the task of coaching with the departure of Mr. Tharmasrirajah. Owing to a 'dispute' with the local Schools Association we didn't participate in the tourney in 1973. Our run of victories was shattered in the 1974 when we finished a close runners-up to our old rivals Jaffna College.

## Volleyball

The history of volleyball is one of fits and starts. Volley-ball was started on an inter-house basis in 1921 as soon as the "House" system began. It was one of the compulsory games introduced by the Rev. Henry Peto.

The 20's also saw the college play a few friendly inter-collegiate matches. By 1928 the game had become extremely popular. In that year there were as many as six courts in the premises. Each boy had to play twice a week. Volley-ball fell on evil days in the 30's and the early 40s'. Performance wise, it reached Himalayan heights in the year 1949.

The year 1949 is an unforgettable year for sports in St. John's for it was in that year that the school won the All Ceylon Nine-A-Side Inter Collegiate Volleyball Championship. Never has the school team won a national championship in any field of sport either before or after. The singular honour of leading the team fell on a lean and lithe-some lad, S. Panchalingam who was also the coach of the team. The team had earlier won the North Ceylon tourney beating Sri Somaskanda College in the finals in straight sets. In the All Ceylon Championship in Colombo, they beat De Mazenod College, Kandana by a close two sets to one to become the unbeaten schools champions of Ceylon.

The team received banner headlines in the local newspapers. The "Sporting Times" picked out S. Panchalingam for special praise. It referred to him as "one of the best exponents of the dashing play in Ceylon today". He was then the most talked of school boy volleyball player in the country.

The trophy for the school was presented by the Governor General, Lord Soulbury at a colourful ceremony held at St. Joseph's

College, Maradana. The one time "spiker" Mr. S. Panchalingam is now one of the most senior members of our staff. As a teacher of Physics, he has gravitated from the thrills and spills of the playing field to the exclusiveness of the laboratory.

The 1949 win could have been the springboard for a dynamic promotion of the game. But like Rip Van Winkle the game fell into a deep slumber from 1950 from which it has still not awakened.

## Badminton :

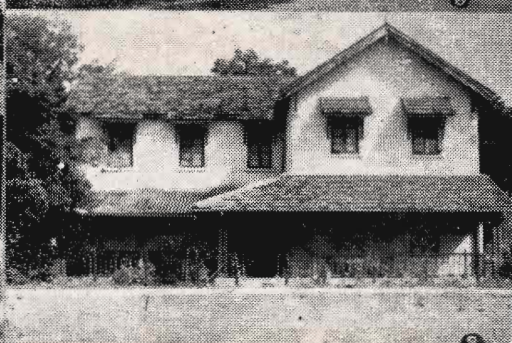
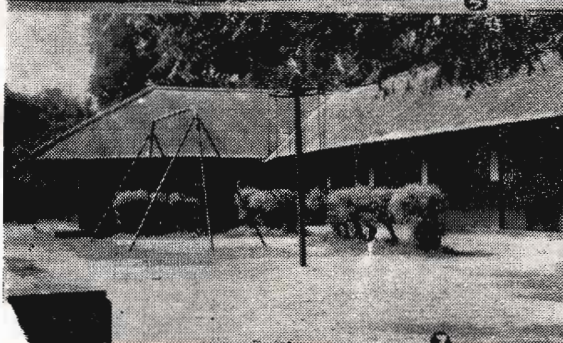
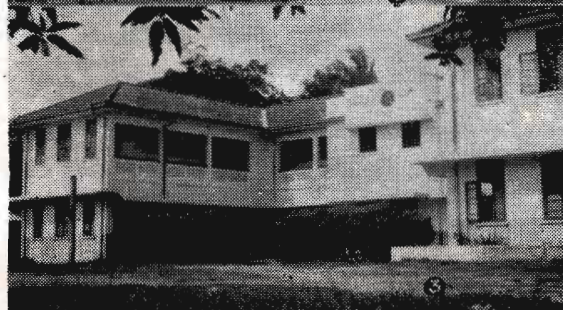
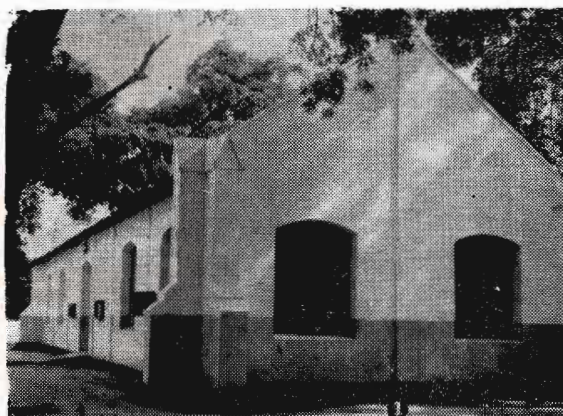
Like hockey, badminton too had an early beginning that could be traced to the year 1915. As there were no Inter-Collegiate fixtures to sustain, it collapsed. A whole half century passed before it rose again in 1965 to become one of the dynamic sports activities of the school.

The Badminton Club was formed in the midst of war conditions in 1915. It was formed "for the convenience of masters and students who find it difficult to take part either in the game of cricket or football." It was started with about twenty five members. During that year a tournament was organised between the club and Mr. J. N. Vethavanam's team which ended in a victory for the college.

The results were almost spontaneous when it was reintroduced in 1965. From 1967 we have set up an all time record of winning the senior championship for six years in a row, a record equalled only by the 1921-'26 cricket teams and the junior championship for four years in succession from 1969-'72.

Our first major break was in 1967 when we shattered Skandavarodaya College by three matches to two to become the Northern Province Senior Schools' Badminton Champions. The team was led by S. Jeyendran and included C. C. Anandajeya, C. Sivendran and T. Ganesha.

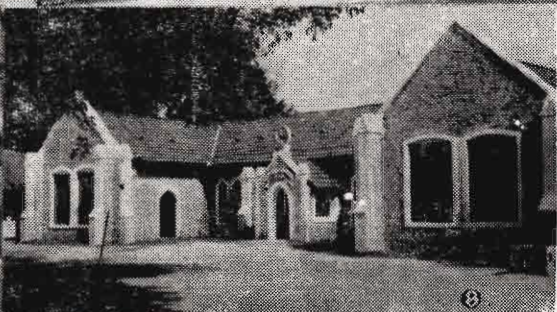
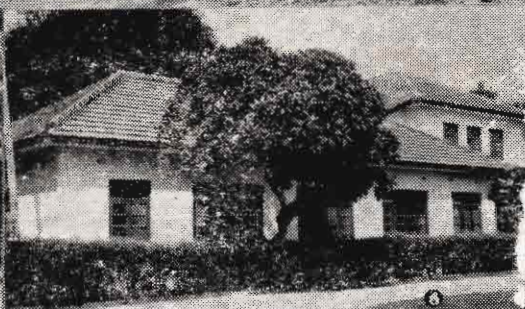
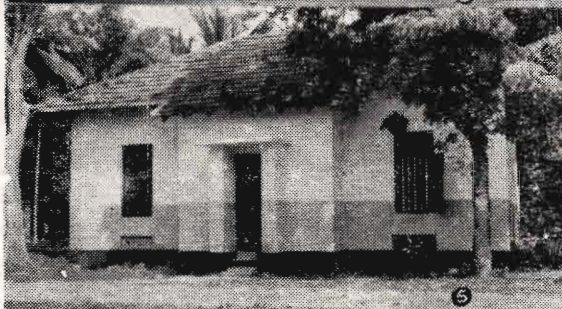
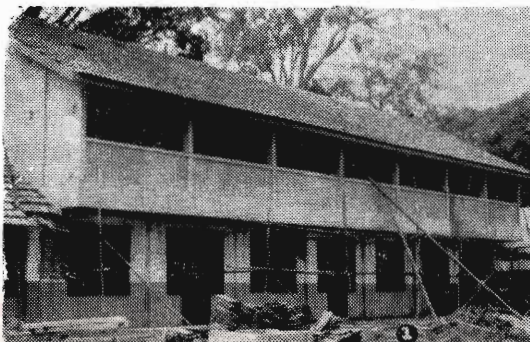




- 1 Robert Williams' Hall
- 2 Workshop
- 3 Memorial Block (Hostels)
- 4 Thompson Hostel

- 5 Resident Staff Quarters and Girls' Common Room
- 6 Evarts Hostel
- 7 Lower School
- 8 Principal's Bungalow





- 1 J. T. Arulanantham Memorial Block
- 2 Dining Hall
- 3 College Office
- 4 Fleming Hostel

- 5 Rose Walton Sick Room
- 6 Centenary Science Block
- 7 Old Handy Memorial Library
- 8 Present Handy Memorial Library



Jaffna has still to witness a more exciting schools' finals when St. John's and Skanda led by S. Nimalananda were level two all at the end of the fourth match. The final fifth match, the singles clash between the underrated S. Jeyendran of St. John's and the North's No. 1, S. Nimalananda of Skanda was the match of the decade when after going down tamely in the first set, Jeyendran clinched the second and third sets to give us the most unexpected win. Scenes reminiscent of the 1944 athletic win by St. John's against St. Patrick's were enacted in the closed quarters of the floodlit court of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

The unbeaten 1968 team was led by J. E. R. Sellathambu, a great fighter. We also participated in the All Ceylon Junior Nationals, Inter Club and Inter District Championships conducted by the Badminton Association of Ceylon and Jaffna District and Y. M. C. A. tourneys. The outstanding performances came from S. Jeyendran who won four titles in the Jaffna 'Y' Championship. The "giant killer" was Sellathambu who beat the Badulla District Champion in the District Tournament. Another not to be forgotten name was S. Sugumar who was popular with the crowd with his emphasis on the power game.

Our great moments were in 1968 and '69 when we were runners-up to Richmond College, Galle in the All Island Schools' Tourney held in Galle and Colombo respectively. While the 1968 finals was a tame affair with St. John's losing to Richmond by four matches to one, the 1969 finals had the spectators on razors edge with St. John's losing by three matches to two after levelling two all at the end of the fourth and penultimate match. The 1968 team to Galle included Ajantha Mylvaganam (Capt.), C. S. Veerasingham, R. Shivaji and A. J. Jeyalogendran. The 1969 team to Colombo consisted of R.

Shivaji (Capt.), C. S. Veerasingham, R. Gunanayagam and A. J. Devanesan.

A. Williams "who plays an unruffled game" led us on our assault of the senior championship in 1969. We also achieved the notable "double" in the province by lifting the Junior championship which remained with us for the next four years from 1969 to '72.

The two outstanding players of the seventies were the "tactician" C. S. Veerasingham and R. Shivaji, the powerful hitter of the game. C. S. Veerasingham's record in badminton in the province is now part of history. He has been unbeaten in the district in the boys' and men's events for the last four years from 1970. Winner of all the singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships in the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. and Open Badminton Championship from 1970, he has been the North's most outstanding player since the game took root in the mid sixties. On his performance he was included in the Ceylon Schools' Squad that met the Chinese National team in Jaffna in 1972.

I must also record the achievements of three of our old boys. Two of them had won honours in Ceylon and the other in Malaysia. K. Kanagarajah and Dr. K. Vijendra are Thomas Cup players — the former having represented Ceylon against Japan in 1957 and the latter against Pakistan in 1968. K. Kanagarajah is now the National Schools' Coach with responsibility of promoting the game in the schools in the country. C. Rajalingam is a name synonymous with badminton in Malaysia. During the 60's, he was given the singular honour of being the official coach of the All Malaysian Schoolboy's Team, at a time when "conqueror" Malaysia led the world and others meekly followed.

## Basketball

Unpredictability has been the hallmark of basketball in St. John's. Basketball suffered heavily because of competition from cricket and football. It started on an inter house basis, increased in stature in the late 40's, went into a shell in the 50's, became a great force in the late 60's when we won the senior school's championship thrice, fell into a five year rut from 1969 and showed remarkable resilience when it rose again like a mighty rock in 1974 when we lifted the championship.

1948 was an important year in the early history of the game when it gained a foothold due to the efforts of Mr. V. M. Mathew. Lack of an organised competition among schools resulted in a slump in the 50's. This was rectified with the formation of the Northern Province Basketball Association in 1960. We had an unsteady start, going through the initial phase of losing many matches. But a start had been made by Mr. J. N. Ponniah which proved to be the springboard for an optimistic future.

The period after 1962 was one of expansion. 1962 was the year when we ventured out. Under Mr. T. Thavarasalingam's coaching, we finished runners-up in Group II of the Northern Province tournament and were Joint Champions in the Eastern Province tourney. N. Sathasivam was the most outstanding player of the year. The Junior Team under Mr. Ponniah participated in first ever N. P. B. A's tourney and the All Ceylon Competition in Colombo.

Basketball received due recognition and colours were awarded from 1963. Mr.

D. J. Thurairatnam, former District "Star" took over temporarily the coaching from Mr. Ponniah. The Juniors were the first to hit the jackpot when they emerged champions under M. V. Mathavan in 1964. The senior team was quick to follow suit when they won the "I. D. M. Van Twest" Shield in 1965. The team was led by M. R. Vijayaragavan and included S. M. Sathiamoorthy, S. M. Mootatamby, J. Alphonsus, T. Vinayagamoorthy, M. V. Mathavan and D. J. Gnanakone.

We repeated the feat in 1966 when we clinched the "Subramaniam Canagaratnam" Shield. The team was skippered by S. M. Mootatamby. Mootatamby who in 1967 had the distinction of leading the cricket and football teams to unbeaten records holds the unique distinction of being the captain of the unbeaten cricket, football and basketball teams of the school. The year 1968 was one of triumph and disaster. While our senior team won the "plums" under M. V. Mathavan, our Junior team failed disastrously losing all their encounters.

With the repairs to the court taking an unusually long delay, the school could not participate in competitive basketball for the next two years. When the court was laid in 1971, the game had to start all over again through the medium of inter-house competitions. When we re-entered the provincial scene in 1972, we experienced a paralysing series of shocks, losing both the senior and Junior tourneys to Jaffna College and St. Patrick's. The outstanding player was A. K. M. Sandrasagara who was later included in the National schools' "pool". Our win in 1974 however has given the game a new lease of life.





# *The College Buildings*

By

J. R. GNANAPRAGASAM

In the Ter—Jubilee year, it will be interesting to trace the history of the buildings now in use at St. John's, and to refer to buildings that are no more, but are hallowed by memories. The present buildings include the buildings of three separate schools—the buildings of St. John's, the buildings of the Girls College (before its removal in 1936 to its present site) and the buildings of the former Mission Primary School.

The Girls' College was in the North East corner of the present St. John's compound, and included the present St. John's College Staff Room Block, the present Women Teachers' Quarters, the Quarter's occupied by Messrs C. E. Anandarajan & S. Panchalingam, the block now called Evart's Hostel, and the Figg Hall. The Johnian Cricketers of these days (when only a cadjan fence separated the two schools) recall that a power other than gravity directed the balls in a North Easterly direction over the fence; that the ball went into hiding when the very young boys were sent to recover it, and that it revealed itself only when the appropriate adolescent went in search. The late Mr. J. T. R. Perinpanayagam reminisced that once his Principal, the Rev. Jacob Thompson, had received a complaint from the Principal of the Girls' School that holes were being made by the boys in the cadjan fence. Mr. Thompson had instructed Perinpanayagam (then Senior Prefect) to report on the matter. The Senior Prefect found that the holes had been made from the other side, and Mr. Thompson, after scrutiny endorsed the Senior Prefects finding! But can it be said that after the migration of the Girls' College across the road

the school-day romances that blossom later into marriages are fewer? Does not distance lend enchantment?

The Mission Station Tamil Primary School was nearer the road, than the present Music Room—Office—Grade I Block, and consisted of only a long hall. To this School beginners sought admission into Standard I. Most of the pupils left after Standard three to join the First year Special (English medium) classes of St. John's or the Girls' College. It was in the days of the Rev. J. T. Arulanantham (1940—1957) that the Mission Station School was amalgamated with the Primary School of St. John's College. The fact that the buildings of three separate schools are put together to make up one school explains why St. John's sprawls from the Old Park Road to almost the Bastiampillai Junction, when a compact set of rooms could house the whole school in the old compound of the Girls' College.

The older a school is, the longer is its history, and the richer its traditions, but it often happens that many of the older buildings fall short of the educational standards and requirements of later times. As is well known, St. John's had its beginnings in Nallur, and the shift to Chundikuli took place in 1841, in the time of the Rev. J. T. Johnstone, commemorated by the School House of the name: Money was scarce, and land not easily available, but behind the hard toil and the labour of love of the Missionaries was perhaps the thought, "Better build schools for the boys than cells and gibbets for the men." At first in Chundikuli, the classes were conducted in

rented houses, in the Church vestry and under the trees. It was by the hard work of the Revs. Johnstone and Pargiter that permanent buildings were put up. The present generation of Johnnians should not take the buildings of today for granted, but remember with gratitude the hardships undergone by the Missionaries of old.

Let us go round the compound, looking at the buildings one by one, and recalling the history of each. The gate and the arch at the entrance was the gift of an Old boy, Dr. C. Candiah. It was put up in 1940, on the Old Park Road and when the notorious Mahendra Cinema failed, the gate was shifted to its present place.

(I) Administration Block: As you enter, on the left is what may be called the Administration Block: first you have the Welfare Office, then the room of the Co-Vice-Principal and the Supervisors; then the College Office with the Clerical Staff, and last, the Octagonal Room occupied by the Principal and Vice Principal. The Octagon and the rooms forming the College Office formed the Twynam Museum. Sir. William Twynam, Government Agent of the Northern Province for 27 years (1869—1895) was known as the 'Rajah of the North.' He had made a collection of the antiques of Jaffna, and he gifted the collection to St. John's College on condition that the collection be open to the public, and that the trustees be the Government Agent of the Northern Province, the Principal of the College and the Maniagar of Jaffna. The museum was built on College land, with money collected by the College for the purpose. The foundation stone was laid by Miss Nera Twynam. Later, when the Government started a Museum, the antiques of the Twynam Museum were handed over, and the Twynam Museum building became available for College use. The rooms used by the Welfare Office and by

the Supervisors were added in 1971—1972 during the time when Mr. J. C. Handy, was Manager.

(II) The Handy Memorial Library: The next building that attracts our attention is the building with the legend "Handy Memorial Library" over the entrance. The Handy commemorated is the Rev. C. C. Handy, (Headmaster 1889—1908; Acting Principal 1889—1902). There was on this site an earlier building, a long Hall without wings, put up by the Rev. Robert Pargiter, which collapsed in 1899. The earlier building had been put up in 1862 with timber from the Old Portuguese Church. In 1899 the roof of this building collapsed, and the present one put up with gifts of timber from the pupils and parents in the time of the Rev. Jacob Thompson. Till the building was completed, the classes met once again in the Vestry & under the Tamarind tree & rented houses. In this connection it is good to recall that this building was the School in the days when the Rev. C. C. Handy was Headmaster & Acting Principal. When Mr. C. C. Handy died, his brother Dr. J. M. Handy of Malaya, paid money for the erection of the building (now known as the Chaplain's Quarters occupied by the Revs. A. A. Perera and J. R. Ratnanayagam, and now by Mr. Param Selvarajah) for the purpose of the Memorial Library. It was soon realised that the library was wrongly located and that the location helped truancy via the Old Park Road. The books were shifted to the present building in the time of the Rev. J. T. Arulanantham.

(III) The 'Special Five' Rooms: Connecting on the West, the Administration Block, and the Handy Memorial Library, was put up as a temporary building in the time of Mr. Arulanantham and made permanent later,



(IV) **The Robert Williams Hall:** As you follow the road, on the right is the Robert Williams Hall, built in 1914 in memory of Mr. Williams, Headmaster (1853—1866) who died during the epidemic of 1866. The funds for this Hall were collected mainly in Malaya, and when it was completed it was the largest Hall in Jaffna. It was claimed that if the Hall and all the wings were used, it could accommodate 800 persons; but the body of the Hall could accommodate only 400, and if the corridors in the sides were used, it could hold about 500. It is inadequate to meet the needs of the school today. Hence the necessity to build a larger Hall.

(V) **Figg Hall:** As we proceed between the Williams Hall and the Parish Church, we come to Figg Hall on the right, the Hall of the Old Girl's College. The Foundation was laid by the Rev. George Daniel, Pastor of St. John's Church in 1910. The Hon. Mr. Figg who was generous helped the Church Missionary Society to build this Hall. First the Girls' School was allowed to use it, and later St. John's. The Church is helping us with over a lakh to build the Ter-Jubilee Hall, to enable us to move out of Figg Hall, so that it may be used by the Church.

(VI) **Form IV Block:** This is a temporary building with wooden partitions and aluminium roof, put up in the time of Mr. P. T. Mathai, to meet the rush from the South during the Emergency of 1958. We hope it will soon be replaced by a permanent one.

(VII) The long line of eight Class rooms, (when this Souvenir appears, there may be eleven rooms, three being Upstairs—work on which has already been started) between the Fourth Form Block and the Old Park Road Junction should be considered in two sections. The five rooms, counting them from the Old Park - Main

Street Junction were built in the time of the Rev. J. T. Arulanantham for the middle School Classes in 1951. The other three were built in 1972 to make up for the rooms knocked down to make room for Ter-Jubilee Hall. Three more are to be put up on the top of those, six in all, being rooms built from gifts of 5000/- each donated by Old Boys, Parents and Well wishers in connection with the Ter-Jubilee.

(VIII) To the east, parallel to the Old Park Road, and connecting Middle School Block and Evarts Hostel is a temporary block of three rooms, — the Middle one is the Junior Laboratory, the others being class rooms.

(IX) The Evarts Hostel, now so called was the Hostel of the Girls' College. After the College moved to its present site, it was given its present name and used as the Hostel for the Senior boys. Later, it was found that the Seniors were spending much time contemplating the passers-by along the Old Park Road, especially those bound for the sister school. The then Principal acted quickly and firmly. When the Senior boys returned after a week-end in their homes, they found the very junior boys in possession, and had to be content with the less exciting Fleming Hostel, away from the distractors. After the exchange of Hostels, perceptible improvement, one presumes, the senior showed in studies.

It must be noted here, that the building first erected in 1839 in memory of Mr. Jeremiah Evarts, one time Headmaster of the school (1867—1886) was on the place now occupied by the Chemistry Laboratory, and what is now playground, and in a line with the College Gate. It was in the form of an H, the middle rooms being teachers' rooms, the sides used variously at different times, as Dormitory, Dining Hall, Class-Rooms, etc. The first Evarts Hostel was demolished to make room for

the Centenary Science Block, and extension of the Play ground. It was then the name was given to the Old Hostel of Girl's College. The other buildings in line with the present Evarts Hostel were the quarters of the Principal and teachers of the Girls' College.

(X) Behind Evarts Hostel are two buildings — the two-storeyed Workshop, the groundfloor for woodwork and the upstairs for Coirwork—was built in 1971 during the time when Mr. J. C. Handy was Manager of the school. St. John's had been teaching at different times Woodwork, leather work, clay work and other handwork, because the authorities believed that training in manual skill was helpful in the child's development. But when the curriculum was introduced in 1972, the new workshop was built and equipped at a cost of about Rs. 85,000/-. It must be recorded that Mr. Handy had almost the Midas touch. He became Manager at a time when the finances were at a low ebb. That he should have not only put things right, but also proceeded to add to the buildings shows his great ability and his devotion to the alma mater. Incidentally, it should be noted that it was his plan that the Ter-Jubilee be celebrated in a fitting manner, and commemorated by a Hall to accommodate a thousand people.

(XI) The Chaplain's Quarters was originally the Handy Memorial Library. The foundation of the building was laid by Mrs. T. Handy, widow of the Rev. C. C. Handy, and the money found by Dr. J. N. Handy. When it was found to be unsuitably located to be a Library, it was used as College Office, Armoury, Book Depot and later Chaplain's Quarters. In 1970, the accommodation was increased by the addition of two bed rooms, bath room, and garage.

(XII) The Principal's Bungalow was completed in 1911. At a meeting of the O. B. A. on the 24th May 1903, it was decided that the Principal, should have a bungalow in the College Compound, but away from the other buildings. (It should be recalled that in 1896, the Girls' College had been started by Mrs. Carter, the wife of the Principal of St. John's in the Principal's bungalow. When the Carters left, and a separate Principal was appointed for the Girls' College, the Principal of St. John's had been living mostly in rented houses, near the beach). The Old Boys rallied round with generous donations, and with help from the C. M. S. in London, the building was put up. — Mention must be made of the technical help of Mr. George Wondell, the then Provincial Engineer of the Public Works Department. The Rev. Jacob Thompson went into residence. The advantages of the Principal being in residence in the compound are many. His personal oversight was an asset; also the teachers and pupils were able to have the benefit of advice and guidance.

(XIII) The Centenary Science Block: Though it had been decided to commemorate the Centenary with a suitable building, sufficient funds were not available. However, in 1941 work was begun: The foundation of the Science Laboratory was laid on the 25th of July 1941 by Dr. (later Sir) Ivor Jennings, then Principal of the Ceylon University College, and later Vice-Chancellor of the University. Exactly a year later, in July 1942, the building was declared open by Dr. A. Kandiah, Dean of the Faculty of Science & Professor of Chemistry at the University. He was a loyal and distinguished pupil of St. John's. The Centenary Science Block has three laboratories, two lecture rooms, stores room and Preparation room.



(XIV) **The Ter-Jubilee Hall:** Several plans were considered how best to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the College, and the Celebrations Committee decided to build a Hall large enough to accommodate the audience at School Functions like the Prize Giving. To build the Hall, five class rooms, including the first Science Lab. of the school had to be pulled down. The longstanding illuppai tree, which had acted as belfry for a number of years, also had to be sacrificed, much to the regret of many. The new Hall is about 150 feet long & 50 feet wide; the seating area is 112 feet long and 50 wide: there are also the balcony and six class rooms. A Hall of this capacity, with modern conveniences is a much felt need of the school, and the Celebrations committee, and its Chairman Dr. A. V. A. Vethanayagam ought to be congratulated on their faith and work. The foundation was laid by Mr. J. C. Handy on the 24th July 1972, and it is expected to be completed in September 1974.

(XV) Behind the Ter-Jubilee Hall are the rooms of the Primary School. In a line with the Jubilee Hall are four rooms. One of these four is an Art Room of the Primary School built and equipped by Mr. J. C. Handy. Then on the site of the mission Station School, and on land given by the Church, are seven more rooms, built in the time of Rev. J. T. Arulanantham. These seven rooms are in the form of a T, with three rooms on the top arm, parallel to the Main street: the Music Room, (equipped with Piano Accordion and Percussion band) The Office-cum Staff Room, and the Grade ONE room. The Primary School has swings and Roundabouts, and provision for two classes to meet in open air under the shade of trees.

(XVI) **HOSTELS** (a) Reference has already been made to the Evarts Hostel.

(b) **The Thompson Hostel:** In 1919, the days of the Rev. Jacob Thompson, there was pressure of numbers seeking Hostel accommodation. To meet the demand, the House now occupied by Mr. V. R. Amerasingam was bought and used to house "babies". Later a dormitory was added: Into this the boarders moved, and the house became the house of the Hostel Master. The Hostel was named Thompson Hostel later.

(c) **Fleming Hostel:** When the Rev. Jacob Thompson went in 1917 to the Federated Malay States, Old Johnians there made collections for the College Extension Fund. Dr. J. M. Handy, who had already given largely for the Memorial Library, donated a piece of land. From the proceeds of the sale of this land, and with help from the Extension Fund, a new Hostel, called the Fleming Hostel was built for the Senior Boarders. The Rev. G. J. Fleming was the first full-time Principal of the school, and he was in charge for ten years (1879—1889), during which time Dr. J. M. Handy was pupil.

(d) **The Memorial Hostel:** One of the munificent gifts made to the College was by Dr. A. C. Rajasingham and Mrs. Rajasingham. Thanks to the timely addition to the Funds, the building of the new Hostel became possible. On the 2nd of February 1954, Mrs. Rajasingham laid the foundation stone, and the building was declared open in June 1955 by the Rt. Rev. A. R. Graham Campbell. This spacious and airy Upstairs Hostel has four sections: on the ground floor are Crossette Hostel in memory of T. H. Crossette (Vice-Principal 1911—1916; and from 1921—1929); and Alison Rajasingham Hostel, in memory of Dr. Rajasingham's son, a Crown Counsel, who died very young. On the first floor are Rajasingham Hostel, and Handy Hostel in

memory of the munificent benefactor, and of the Rev. C. C. Handy respectively.

(e) **The Peto Hostel:** When the Mahendra Cinema failed the C. M. S. bought the property, and allowed the school to use it as a Hostel. It had 60 boarders, and was named Peto Hostel (the Rev. H. Peto was Principal from 1920—1940), but when the numbers in the Hostel dwindled, the College gave up using the property.

(XVII) **The Hostel Dining Room and Kitchen** were completed and declared open in July 1941. The first meal served was a lunch for the Old Boys, and Velu, our Head Cook now, participated in that function. The Dining Hall was built to accommodate the increasing number. The Servants Quarters were built in 1951, and the Tuck Shop in 1952.

**Rose Walton Memorial Sick Room:** A College like St John's with growing numbers in the Hostel felt the need of separate accommodation for sick boarders. This was met by the building of the Sick Room. Mr. W. A. Walton, a former teacher of the School, (and popularly called 'Shakespeare Walton, because of his interest in drama) gave the generous sum of

Rs. 3000/= in memory of his wife towards the cost of the Building. The first sod for the building was cut by the Bishop of Colombo, and the building was declared open in March 1943.

There are a dormitory for about eight boys, a room for an attendant, a dispensary, and a master's room.

This brings us to the end of the historical journey of the College buildings.

One hundred and fifty years have rolled on and thousands of Johnians in various moods and moulds have passed through the portals of these buildings, which in love and loyalty have been erected by those who laboured not in vain to add light and lustre to the institution. Therefore it is the bounden duty of us the present generation of Johnians to bow our heads in love and reverence and remember our benefactors on this day for their great and noble work.

Let us then, carry on unitedly the torch of the bright light and chase the gloom away in the years to come, and wish the College many more years of useful service to the Community and to Sri Lanka.



# Reminiscences of My Early Days

By

J. M. HENSMAN

I suppose I am expected to write about my early days in the Chundikuli Seminary, but that would leave my account quite inadequate, for when I came to Chundikuli in 1859, I had practically finished my Tamil education at Kopay, and I found that Tamil was not a subject in the Chundikuli Seminary. There were only Elementary Mathematics, English and Latin besides Scripture. My education later on would have been hopeless but for the Tamil I had learnt at Kopay, in the Elementary Tamil Station School. So I must write about what I learnt in that Elementary Tamil School. The boys were more or less all seated on the floor, and I learnt my Arithmetic writing with my right forefinger on the sanded floor of the School. The teacher gave us a thorough grounding in Arithmetic so that we knew our addition, subtraction, multiplications and division until the work had become entirely mechanical. We learnt by rote, so that we could repeat mechanically: நாலேந்து இருபது, ஐயெட்டு நாற்பது, ஏழெட்டைம் பத்தாறு; ஆறென்பது ஐம்பத்தினாலு etc. without a single moment's pause for thinking. This complete mastery of figures helped me in the whole of my educational career, as a learner and as a teacher. The teacher's name was Ponniah and I have a grateful corner of my heart for his name.

And then as to my progress in Tamil, he taught us Tamil grammar thoroughly so that by the time I left Kopay and went to Chundikuli there was no intricacy in Tamil grammar which I was not master of. My progress in Tamil Literature also was really marvellous. I knew with பதவுரை one or two சுருக்கம் of Villiputurar's

Mahabharata, some parts of Naladiar, நீதிநெறி விளக்கம், and so on. All this may seem extravagant self-laudation. But I am writing facts. The teacher deserves a major part of the praise.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it. I joined the highest class in the lower school at Chundikuli in 1859 and I am glad I had the good fortune to have as my teacher one Kanagasabai. He taught me English grammar through my Tamil grammar, so that in about a year's time there was no word in any English sentence which I could not parse readily even if I did not understand the English sentence. I became a marvel and somehow the Headmaster of the Seminary, Mr Robert Williams, came to know of my skill in parsing. And if any big fellow in one of the higher classes failed to parse a word, Mr Williams sent for me and asked me to parse the word, which I always did correctly, and the boy who failed to pass the word felt thoroughly ashamed. I was then ten or eleven years old.

Then I was taken into the higher school. I was put into the sixth form, which was the lowest form in high school, the highest class being called the First Form, the next lower the Second Form and so on. I don't remember who my teachers were in the Sixth, Fifth and Fourth forms. Nor do I remember what progress I made in the various subjects. I must have made some progress in English and Arithmetic. But I do remember my teacher in the Third Form, I do not like to give

his name for so far as I could make out, he knew nothing.

When I came to Chundikuli, Tamil entirely disappeared from the school course and the study of Latin began in the Third Form so that from 1859 right up to the end of 1865 there was no Tamil teaching at all. I learnt some Latin under Mr. Robert Williams. He was a fine English scholar and a good mathematician. But it is strange for me now to think that he exercised no supervision whatever of the work of the lower forms. Evidently, Rev. Robert Pargiter appointed the lower form teachers himself and did not ask Mr. Williams to see that they did their duty. Mr. Williams of course left them alone. The teacher in the second form, a fine Burgher gentleman, was a good English scholar and taught us our English Readers, but very little else.

It was when we came to the first form that Mr. Williams pulled us up in every one of the subjects. But even he failed to make out that I knew no Algebra though, strange to say I worked out questions in that subject. And if I solved any problem and found out the value 'x' the answer contained 'x' also!! Practically I knew no Algebra when I left school at the end of 1865. It was in the first form, under Mr. Williams, I mastered my Latin fairly well. I said that Mr. Williams was a fine English scholar and first rate mathematician. How well he taught us French 'On the study of Words'!

On Sunday evenings we used to go to the Fort Church where Mr. Pargiter conducted an English service for the benefit of the large Burgher colony in Jaffna and the European officials. We the boarders attended that Even Service. That Burgher colony has practically disappeared from Jaffna. We used to go on our primitive clothes, in verty and சவுக்கம் thrown over our shoulders.

What shall I say about our Boarding House? We were boarders but we had no boarding house. We lived in the school rooms. Our dining room was a thatched shed. The school rooms were also our bed rooms. But we did not complain. There were about twenty-five or thirty of us.

I went to India and joined the Matriculation class in a Government High School in May or June 1866. I found the second language there was Tamil. There was Tamil poetry and Tamil prose. I had to tackle these texts without any study of Tamil for seven years and found that the Tamil texts were not beyond me. This would show how thorough and complete the teaching was in the Tamil Station School at Kopay. I should have mentioned another circumstance about my Tamil. My father had a large bureau at Kopay. Into one of the drawers he had thrown in a large number of Tamil story books. I alighted on these books and went on reading one story after another so that by the time I went to Chundikuli I had read about forty or fifty of these books. In the Senior B. A. Class at Kumbakonam, while reading Kambar's Ramayana சுந்தர காண்டம் the students were asked to give the பதவுரை of one of the stanzas. My turn came and I had to give the meaning of a Tamil word for 'they died' I gave the meaning as 'மரணித்தார்'. The whole class laughed, but the Pundit told them it was a very good Tamil word. I must have picked up that word in one or more of the stories I read in Kopay before I went to Chundikuli.

Mr. Percival Acland Dyke was the Government Agent of that time. He belonged to a good family in England. He came to Ceylon after having joined the Civil Service. When he came to Jaffna he stuck to this place for the rest of his official



career. It was he who made the Old Park and also planted all the mahogany avenues in Chundikuli and Nallore. He had trees brought from South America and planted them all round the Park. He also planted rare fruits trees inside the Park, plums and

different varieties of guava amongst them. One of the guava varieties was blood red in colour and extremely sweet. The boys of the Seminary were free to enter the garden and to eat as much fruit as they wanted, but not to take any away.

## *Eighty Years Ago*

BY

A. J. R. VETHAVANAM

It was about eighty years ago that I entered the portals of St. John's College. It was then a much smaller school, but was well known, and was connected with Trinity College. Kandy, the Vice-Principals of Trinity coming as Principals of St. John's and boys passing on from St. John's to Trinity. There were only four buildings, the present Library, which was the main one an open building accommodating two classes by the side of the famous Ilupai tree. The other two buildings were, the Boarding House, which has now been completely rased and the playground extended, and the Principal's bungalow, which is now the Vice-Principal's quarters and Boarding House. There must have been only about 300 to 350 boys. They came from all parts of the Peninsula.

I joined the third standard housed in the building near the Ilupai tree on one side. On the other side were the second and first standards. In those days pupils came from the vernacular schools and joined the third standard, so that there were very

few in the first and second. 'Appucutty Master', officially Mr. James Arudpiragasam was in charge of the third standard and 'Petty Master', who was no other than Patrick Gomesz, was in charge of the first and second. It is a strange coincidence that Mr. C. C. Jell who was in charge of those classes in later years was a nephew of Mr. Gomesz.

Mr. Arudpiragasam was a great believer in the rod, which was but a tamarind tree branch, and the one who suffered most from it was his nephew, Rajah. He was a slim tall man with a bald head and a short finger in his right hand. Boys said he lost his finger by putting his hand into the mortar, while his mother was pounding poonac. Of course; it was all a joke, but they added that the finger was used for knocking on the head of the boys.

Rev. C. C. Handy, B A. was acting as Principal at the time I joined school, the Principal, Rev. J. W. Fall, M.A., being away on furlough, having gone to get

married. He came back with his bride after a short time and we had a welcome for them and I was one of those chosen to garland them.

Mr. Fall was a young man comparatively speaking and was very vivacious and active. He had a camera and took pictures. One of his pictures he sent to 'The Gleaner' (a C. M. S. Magazine that was published in London those days) captioned 'Natives playing cricket'—the boys were of course, in their kodukkus, and some bare bodied. It was not resented at that time but later there was a demur.

The only playground we had then was the space between the church and the cemetery on two sides and the road and the main building on the other two. I remember one Murugesu from Pandianthalvu, a very fast bowler, like Shanmugam of later days, and I used to be placed at a position called 'long stop' behind the wicket keeper at a distance to stop the ball, when he missed it. He was later baptised Gnanapragasam. Very little cricket or football was played. I do not remember any match being played at that time with an outside team. There was on this ground a swing on the cemetery side. It consisted of tall mast with a revolving disc on top, to which were attached six long ropes that reached the ground, and boys held them and ran round fast and took their feet off the ground. I forget now what happened to it.

I remember a 'Prize Giving' at that time. Those days either the Bishop of Colombo or the Supreme Court Judge who came for the Assizes, used to preside at these functions. In one of them, I was trained to recite a poem which went:

Drive the nails aright, boys,  
Hit it on the head,  
Strike with all your might, boys,  
While the iron is red.

and so on. It was headed 'Perseverance' and Mr. E. A. Niles, a senior teacher, made me pronounce it with correct accent. This

was eighty years ago. Many boys from different parts of Jaffna always came to St John's for its well known 'English' speech. I had recited at more than one 'Prize-Giving'.

The fourth standard teacher was 'Watson Master' officially Mr. P. W. Ariyanayagam. He used to wear a papoos, slippers of red leather with a turned up toe, and cloth, coat and a shawl. So did another teacher, Mr. Martin Luther, who had no shawl but wore a peculiar turban not seen now-a-days. Both of them had kudumbies, which used to be a source of amusement to the boys. When sometimes the boys crowded round the teacher for something a boy will try to touch it, never fully successfully however.

Mr. Luther was supposed to be an expert in the teaching of Arithmetic and taught it in the upper classes. I remember his teaching his division by fractions. He will put his hands together saying, as he made a circular motion, "invert the divisor" and stretching his hands outward, he would "and proceed as in multiplication". But no reason was given why we should do so. In fact no reason was given for anything. You had to listen and do what you were told. One was seen and not heard unless questioned.

Before I got into the fifth standard, the teacher of that class, 'Godwin Master', (Mr. Godwin Arudpragasam) died. His son Dr. Arudpragasam, retired from Malaya is now living in Kopy. He was a pupil of mine. The acting teacher was one Mr. Solomon. Later he went to Burma and came back as Mr. Ratnathickam. He taught in the Girls' School and was later ordained and was Pastor at Nallur and Chundikuli. Afterwards Mr. R. A. Ramapillai came as the fifth standard teacher. He was a short, lively man who talked a



lot. He had some letters behind his name—F. T. S. and R. A. S. He once complained to Mr. Fall that a certain boy called him "Mr. Ramapillai". Mr. Fall then asked him what else he wanted him to call him. He did not say anything, but what he wanted was to be called "Ramapillai Master"! Mr. Ramapillai later went to the Hindu College and also became a Hindu.

The other teachers concerned were Mr. G. Philipiah, Mr. Manickavasager, Mr. Scudder and Mr. E. A. Niles. Mr. Philipiah was a very strict disciplinarian who taught well the sixth standard. He became an Inspector of Schools afterwards. He died as a confirmed bachelor. He gave money for the renovation of the Church roof. Mr. Scudder came from Kokuvil in a verty and went to the Boarding House and changed into trousers. He was in charge of the seventh standard. He was very mild till he lost his temper, when he would mercilessly slap a boy with both hands. Mr. Philipiah slapped with the back of one hand. The cane was not used in the upper classes.

Mr. Niles sat the B. A. Exam. of the Calcutta University and unfortunately failed by not getting the required aggregate. Boys unsympathetically started saying: E. A. Niles, B. A. fails. Mr. Niles was a very conscientious teacher and always prepared his work thoroughly.

Rev. C. C. Handy, was Headmaster for a very long time. It was in 1909 that he died and was till then in that position. But for the then policy of appointing Missionaries, he would have been Principal long ago. He acted on several occasions as Principal. A very gentle and kind person, soft spoken and quiet. He used to treat me like his brother. When later I became a teacher he called me Mr. V. in school

and as soon as we got out of the gate he called me Ariam. When he punished a boy it was really very hard.

Rev. James Carter, M. A. succeeded Mr. Fall. He was a Mathematician—a senior optime from Cambridge. He taught Maths, in the upper classes. He went about quietly with his business. He did not do anything outstanding. It was during his time that the Girls' School was started. Mrs. Carter was a fine woman and she took a great deal of interest in the movement. She was the founder and first Principal of the School. It was housed in the Principal's Bungalow and steadily grew, so that the Bungalow was given to the school and the Principal moved into the Bungalow opposite the Church on the other side of the road known as Alagakoon's Bungalow. Mr. Carter began to be interested in the Girls' school more than in the Boys' school. Sometime later he lost his wife here. They had only one daughter. A long time afterwards she came out as Head of the Deaf and Blind Institute at Ratmalana. She came to Jaffna too.

Mr. Niles was House Master of the Boarding House and he had the small Library of the School in his room. Mr. Thambaiyah Richards was Monitor. After his marriage, Mr. Niles left and went to Madras, but he returned after some time.

He was succeeded by Mr. J. C. V. Ratnam from Calcutta. He became House Master too. He first did a deed of destruction. One fine morning he got a knife and cut off all the rose plants (and the crotons too, I think) that were growing in the house premises. No one knew why he did it. Then he improved conditions in the Dining Room. Cloth for the tables was bought, dishes, plates and glasses for the boys, spoons and forks and all in right royal style were provided. But there was

a snag, the servants refused to wash the plates of the boys. So they were dismissed en bloc and new ones were got in Chundikuli itself. I remember one Nallathamby brought his own assistants and took charge. Everything was going on all right. But one morning, they found everything missing from the dining room, literally everything. A search produced no results. A make-shift had to be made and they reverted to the old practice

Sometime later it was found that all the material had been thrown into the W. C. Pit. That created more surprise and speculation, till it was discovered that one Nathaniel, a senior boy had done it. He was called 'Pamban' by the boys as his father, a doctor, lived in Pamban in S. India as the Ceylon doctor, for the round-the-island steamers 'Lady Gorden' and 'Lady Havelock' used to touch at Pamban for passengers. Nothing was done to him as it was found that he was off his head.

Mr. Ratnam left after a time, went to Colombo and with his brother Mr. S.C.K. Ratnam started a school called Central College. Mr. Niles came back to take his place. There were some senior boys who acted for teachers. Mr. Gnanapragasam (Asai) of Kopay and Mr. J. A. Muthuvaloe of the same place were among them. Mr. A. M. Richards, too acted for a time in the seventh standard. He became a Veterinary Surgeon later. Mr. P. Vannithamby, 'Ponniah Master' left during Mr. Fall's time as the latter thought he was too old, because he slept in class. His grandson, a Proctor, was Secretary of the O. B. A., Colombo, for a long time.

Mr. Carter was succeeded by Rev. R. W. Ryde, M. A. He was a very active man but did not do anything positive. He went about in his gown and in the seam was a cane, and so there was no delay in punish-

ment and in his vest pocket was a small pencil, so there was no delay in replying to notices or sending advertisements. He used to wear a compass on a chain instead of a watch, probably to guide him on his rounds on his bicycle. His wife was not a missionary type. She was a nurse in the Kandy Hospital, where Mr. Ryde had been a patient. She expected the teachers and the pupils to stand up even when she passed by. She thought that the servants should not be given tea even when they were ill. Mr. Ryde did not stay long, he went back to Trinity as Principal. In the meantime a very serious thing happened just before he was to leave. The roof of the main building came down, fortunately when boys were not there. There was a big scare and many rumours, but the school did not close even for one day on account of it. Arrangements were made to conduct classes in various places. Combined Bible Classes in the Church, the Church vestry, the Boarding House verandah and the dining room, the shade of the Puliam tree etc., were all utilised. School went on as usual, when the Rev. Jacob Thompson, M. A. arrived. He did not come from Trinity. He had come to Colombo from a Theological Institute from South India and had not been appointed anywhere. It was a case of the man and the hour. The right man came at this critical hour. He set about without any delay to reorganise and rebuild the school.

He approached the Government for timber and succeeded in getting Palu beams for the main trusses. Collection of funds was started in various forms and he even went with others to Malaya and Singapore for the collection of funds and to meet Old Boys. Before long the building operations were over and the building was occupied without any fuss.



He improved the School in every way and it soon became one of the leading schools in the Island and boys began to come from all over the Peninsula and outside it. There was a switch over from 'Calcutta' to 'Cambridge' in line with the Schools of the South. He was one of the most outstanding principals of the school, the other two being Rev. H. Peto, M. A., and Rev. J. T. Arulanantham, B. Sc. He was Principal for very nearly 30 years.

In Mr. Thompson's time, Mr. George Lee from City College, Colombo, founded by the Lee brothers, joined the Staff and was house master also. He organised and conducted a College Sunday School on a grand scale. He taught in the upper classes and himself sat the Calcutta Entrance Exam. and passed it. But sometime after for some reason he left and went back to Colombo.

I left St. John's during his time after passing the Calcutta University Entrance in 1902. I returned to it as a teacher in August 1906, after taking my degree from Bishop's College, Calcutta.

Of my Schoolmates I can remember only two living now. One is Luther Ariaratnam, retired Post Master living at Nallur. He is the son of our master Martin Luther. The other is J. Tambiah Bartlett, Retired Proctor in Colombo. He was at School only for a short time. Ariaratnam must be about 90 and Bartlett about 94. There may be others known to me. Of Senior boys who were at school when I was a teacher there are several. C. Yogasunderam, K. Chornalingam, W. I. Alagaratnam, A. F. Williams, R. R. Crosette-Thambiah, R. W. Crosette-Thambiah, C. Suntheralingam, S. J. V. Chelvanayagam, Mudaliyar Appathurai, J. T. N. Handy, R. T. Rajaratnam (and others whose names I cannot recall, Denton Thompson and B. Peterson must also be living.

I left St. John's finally at the end of October 1911 for the Government Training College with a 'thundering' Farewell by the boys. But I kept in touch with it right through the years.

# My Days At St. John's

By

K. CHORNALINGAM

The 150th anniversary of an institution is an unique event. During the last 150 years this College has grown up as a great institution not merely for studies and sports but also for the good training the students have had there. It is no exaggeration to say that every old boy is proud to call St. John's as his Alma Mater. I am one such old boy.

When I recall my thoughts about St. John's College, it is Rev. Jacob Thompson who first appears before my mind. He was the architect of this great institution. I remember having seen several photographs taken by my father of the old buildings with cracked walls and with props supporting the roofs from collapsing. With these photographs Rev. Thompson went to Colombo and abroad and collected funds with which he rebuilt the buildings. St. John's was his life. He was a broad-minded person without any prejudice against anyone. Through his genial attitude St. John's attracted boys from a large number of leading families in Jaffna.

It was on the 3rd of September 1903, I joined St. John's College. I remember the day very well. My father had already informed the Principal that he wanted to put one of his sons at St. John's. I went there with my father. My father took my right hand and placing it in the Principal's hand, said, "Here, take charge of my son. I am not very particular to hear what he will do in the class-room, but I am very particular to hear what he will do in the play-ground". It will be surprising to hear that a parent even in those days realised the value of physical fitness.

It was a Wednesday. With due permission my father took me home. The Principal had also agreed to send me home every Friday evening as I would be feeling home-sick. I was then only 14 and had never slept without either my father or my mother by my side. My first night's experience in the boarding can never be forgotten. I had previously heard that the grave-yard being by the side of the College, devils used to come in through the windows. I was allotted a room by the side of the dining room with three others with me. Luckily there was no window to that room. But in the middle of the night I was startled by a weird sound. I thought the devil was near-by and lay down motionless for well over half an hour. Then again the sound. It was from one of my room-mates shouting in his sleep.

In the evenings, the Principal had asked me to go to the Jaffna esplanade for cricket practice. In those days our playground was very small and we had no proper pitch. Going to the esplanade was a great privilege to us, for we had no necessity to get permission to go out. To me it was a pleasure to walk about the town. I was afraid to face the bowling of Christy Olagasekaram and Godlieb who were fast bowlers who bowled fast even to small boys to frighten us. So I did only fielding every day and even though a small boy I became a good fielder. Here I should like to mention something which will be interesting to those of the present day. I used to go home every Friday. For the whole week, that is for the five school days, I was given 25 cents for my pocket expenses. My father's strict order was



that I should not borrow anything from anybody and "if any money was required I should get it from either M. Nalliah and Sons, or from Mr. Lopoaj's shop. I was also asked to see them once a week. So my daily allowance was 5 cents. Every evening I would invite one of my companions for a 'treat'. We would get into a tea-shop and proudly order six 'vadais' and two teas without milk. The six vadais cost three cents and tea one cent each. When coming out, my friend would say, 'Thank you for your treat' and I would say 'Oh! don't mention.'

I was doing very well in the class keeping the first position every week. I was at the same time mischievous. One night after dinner I did something to a friend and he chased me. I ran and fell down hurting my knee bone. In two or three days the wound got swollen up and I had to go home. The wound got worse and I had to be in bed for nearly two months with an attack of Malaria in addition. During this period I was promoted to Junior B Class. I returned to College in January and again joined the cricket team.

When I joined College, the beautiful buildings of today were not there. Only the old hall with four rooms in the four corners, the Infant School where the present Williams Hall is situated, and two class rooms just completed to the north of the hall were there. Senior Local A and B Junior Local and Eighth Standard classes were located in the four rooms of the main building. Seventh and sixth standards were in the new class-rooms. 4th and 5th standards were held on the Verandah of the building while classes 1, 2 and 3 were held in the infant school. The Girls' school was situated by the side of the College. Only a cadjan fence separated us.

Our teachers then were the Rev. C. C. Handy (Headmaster), Messrs L. S. Ponniah, G. R. Subramaniam, S. Somasunderam (Graduates), George Philipiah (Boarding Master), A. M. Maurice who was also treating people for eye-troubles, E. A. Niles, Thambiayah, Martin Luther and others. S. K. Ponniah a graduate joined the College the following year.

It was in 1904, that the first old boys' meeting was held. This was on the Empire Day (24th May), I Remember William Wadsworth, James Hensman and others participating in it. That year the old boys' day went off only with a meeting. But in the following years this day was celebrated in a grand style. In the morning both our boys and our sisters of the Girls' School would join in a flag hoisting ceremony. Then there would be a cricket match between the old and present boys. In the evening the Principal would give a tea-party at which the leading citizens of Jaffna would be present. At 6 p. m. the O. B. A. Meeting. One special feature of the day is that every student would bring mangoes, jack fruits, oranges plantains, young coconuts etc. These were heaped up in lots in the infant school. In the evening the boys would stand round the school and things would be distributed by the senior boys.

A match was arranged against Central College and played on 28th May 1904 the first of this long series. Mr. Thompson seeing my fielding asked the Captain P. S. Hallock to put me in the team saying that I could save as many runs as the best of their batsman could score. I felt very pleased and proud that I would take part in a match on the Jaffna esplanade. But the previous night a fear got hold of me. I could not do anything in batting and I was very nervous about the ordeal I had to face. I was hoping that the

Central team would bat first so that I could get used to the environment and get rid of my nervousness. But the toss was won by them and we had to bat first. We were beaten by an innings. My score was nought in both innings.

Mr. Thompson left for England early in 1905. One Rev. Pitchford came as acting principal. He was not popular in the College as he showed some anti-Hindu feelings. He was not even interested in Sports; and so there was nothing doing during that period.

In the boarding house I was noted as a mischievous fellow. One night, some of my friends in the dormitory section had created some mischief. Although they asserted that I being in the room-section had no knowledge of the affair, yet the boarding master maintained that nothing would have happened without my initiative. I too was given 6 cuts along with others. My hands got swollen. I informed a senior student that I was beaten unreasonably, and he advised me to run away home. I did so. At home I told my father what had happened and refused to go back to the boarding saying that they would not admit me as I had run away without permission. But the next Monday he sent me with a letter to the Principal, and asked me to remain there till the end of the term.

In September 1905, the Rev. Thompson returned from England. He was taken in procession from the Railway Station. Mr. Thompson also brought with him a good supply of sports materials. At the end of the year I sat the Cambridge Junior Local Examination, along with the Government 8th standard Examination. In the latter I won a certificate of merit along with a scholarship for one year.

After leaving the boarding, I was staying at the Y. M. C. A. There too, I was mischievous and was reported to Mr.

Handy, and he in turn reported to my brother-in-law Mudaliyar Canagasabai, the Station Master. So I was asked to immediately leave the Y. M. C. A. and stay with him. I continued to stay there till I left St. John's.

Early in 1906 Mr. Thompson got down Mr. Fred Van Cuylenberg from Royal College to coach us in cricket in addition to teaching. In those days my favourite game was foot-ball, and I did not go for cricket practice. Mr. Van Cuylenberg noticing me at School thought my physique was well suited for cricket and asked the other boys to bring me for practice. I was virtually dragged there by my friends. Mr. Van Cuylenberg asked the bowlers to send easy balls so that I may hit them. This gave me pleasure and I voluntarily went there afterwards. After Mr. Van Cuylenberg joined us, the first match we played was against St. Patrick's which ended in a thrilling victory for us. Then we started intensive practice to be ready to meet Central. I was trained to be a steady batsman and was sent in first. Mr. Van Cuylenberg said "You keep your wicket safe for half an hour and that will be enough. Even if you do not score anything it does not matter. We will do the scoring". I went in first and was not out till the end, besides being the highest scorer in both sides. Mr. Wilkes held my hand and asked me where I had learnt my cricket. I said it was only that day that I knew what cricket was and I would thereafter play well. For in those days anyone who could stand for 10 minutes against Mr. Wilkes was thought to be a good batsman. The match, however, ended in a win for Central. From then onwards I was regarded as a Senior student even though I was under 17. This match was played on 24-2-'16 and I should say this was the first step in making this encounter the most popular in Jaffna. We had



pitched tents on a side of the Criciket field. In the morning Central treated us from their tent and we did so from ours in the evening. I was given much encouragement by the Principal and Mr. Van Cuylenberg. My father, too encouraged me by buying copies of the SKETCH illustrated weekly magazine of London, in which photos of all the country teams of that day were printed week by week portraying each player in his favourite action. I had photos of 14 country teams and studied their action whether as a fielder, bowler or batsman. A fancy for cricket had caught my mind. I took home, a bat 4 wickets and a ball with me and practised both batting and bowling during the Easter holidays. Although we were a young team and the old boys included some well-known cricketers, yet we were proud to beat them.

I was anxious to develop our cricket team and defeat Central. A funny thing occurred one day. Whenever a new boy joined College, I would always try to find out whether he could play cricket. One day, a boy in trousers came to the College in the morning, I asked him whether he could play cricket. He said he knew something about it. I said that would do and patted him on his shoulders and asked him to come for practice that evening. He agreed. I went and told my friends that a new boy had come to join College and from his appearance I noticed that he would be useful to our team. I showed him to them. They all laughed and said that it was Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam B. A. who had come to join our College Staff. This incident is well remembered by both of us and even lately we spoke of it and had a good laugh.

The same year, another new teacher Mr. S. K. Ponniah, B. A. joined the College. He was a very good teacher but liable to get provoked easily. Very often I would

crack some jokes and the boys would laugh. He would say "Chornalingam you are very troublesome. One day or other there will be an unpleasant affair between us" I would calmly say, "Oh! you will only beat me, and it will be a pleasure to me to be beaten by you" He would often say, "I don't know what to do with this boy. I have no mind to punish him or to let him go free."

At the end of 1906 both Mr. Somasunderam and Mr. Ponniah left us to study theology. I was personally sorry at their departure especially Mr. Somasunderam who was very fond of me due to my proficiency in Mathematics. In the beginning of 1907, Mr. Thompson took maths in our class. His new methods made me advance quickly but most of the boys could not follow him. They came to me and said whether it was proper for them to suffer. So we hit upon an idea. We wrote a petition to the Principal against his own teaching. I was asked to sign first so that there may be no misunderstanding. Mr. Thompson asked me about it. I said, "Under you, I am sure to get a distinction. But most of the boys are unable to follow you. For the sake of all, I have sacrificed my interests and signed first." Immediately he wired to Madras and got down Mr. Chinappah, an amiable gentlemen.

In 1907, I was elected captain for cricket, and I hoped to beat Central. But the match ended in a draw, we having to make 30 runs with 7 wickets in hand.

The first foot-ball match against Central was played in 1906, ending in a draw, and in 1907 we beat them. I was then Goal-Keeper. I kept this position for 2½ years without letting a single goal but gave 3 goals in one match and thereafter I played in other positions. In 1907, a very sad incident occurred. I was the favourite student of Mr. A. M. Nathaniel who had

assumed duties as Head-Master in succession to the Rev. C. C. Handy. He would tolerate my jokes with a smile. But one day when some boys in the class laughed loudly, Mr. Nathaniel asked me to stand up. I asked him, 'what for?' I had done nothing. But he insisted that I should stand and I refused to do so. He said that he would cane me. I said he may do anything. He asked me to stretch my hand and I refused. He said he would cane me on my back and gave me 56 cuts. At the end I walked out saying that I will have it out, outside the School.

I was that day wearing a fully lined flannel coat and it did not hurt me at all; but I felt very angry for having been punished for no fault of mine. Denton Thompson, the Principal's son had told his father that I had done nothing and that I was very angry and would do anything. But in the evening Mr. Thompson summoned the senior students and spoke about students' behaviour. He said, "No doubt Lawton is the most mischievous boy in the School, but if you ask me to select the best boy, I will select him" He knew that I would admit any wrong I had done. He made both of us to apologise and shake hands. Mr. Nathaniel told me that he liked me best in the College and owing to something or other he lost his temper. He asked me to forget all about it and behave as before. So once again I was his favourite student. Receiving 56 cuts at a stretch is no doubt a record for the College during its 150 years. Some 25 years later at an Old Boys' function, I was boasting in my after lunch speech about my achievements and records at College. Some one remarked, "you also hold other records." I said, "yes, I hold a record for having received the highest number of cuts at a time and the person who helped me to create this record is Mr. Nathaniel" There was tremendous

laughter and Mr Nathaniel felt very shy and put his head down.

In 1907 I got through my Cambridge Examination and also won the College Maths prize. Usually they held an Examination before sending our applications. But we insisted that all the 16 students in the class should be allowed to take the examination and this was done. Twelve of us were successful in the exam- the largest number who had so far passed from any College in Jaffna.

In January 1908 Rev. and Mrs. Walmsley from England came to the College. Mr. Walmsley was a Cambridge graduate and was qualified as a master of methods. He introduced several new methods in the College. Mrs. Walmsley was a London science graduate and taught us maths. She left us after 6 months and Mr. C. P. Thamotheram succeeded her.

It was in January 1908 Mr. Walmsley introduced the Prefect System in the College. Messrs. N. S. Sanders, E. J. Rajaratnam, A. R. Stickney and I were first prefects. I was the Senior Prefect and was in charge of keeping order in the hall during morning prayers. My father did not like to send me to Colombo and Mr. Thompson also wished that I stay in College. I attended School and sometimes took classes when a teacher was absent. Owing to some reason or other the cricket match was not played during the first term. This match was played in June before a big crowd. We won by 3 wickets I was top-scorer on either side in both innings. Two months later a return match was played and we won by 10 wickets. In September the Europeans employed at various points from Anuradhapura to Jaffna wanted to have a match against a combined College XI. I captained the team. Mr. F. J. S. Turner, conservator of Forests, offered a bat to the highest scorer. This prize was won



by me and was presented to me at the prize-giving that year. My College prize bat was given to me later. We had made arrangements for fire-works at the function. I told this fact to Mr. Thompson and asked him whether we should get a licence for it. He said, "When I am Principal here, you do not need to get a licence? you may carry on".

Mr. Martin Luther who had taught for years, having become aged and feeble, wished to retire. But Mr. Thompson wanted him to remain till the end of the year and put me to assist him mainly in giving punishment to the boys. In addition, whenever any boy was to receive punishment even in the other classes, I was called in to punish him. The boys nick-named me as "Punishment Master". I was also given an allowance of Rs. 25/- per month for my services.

The College ground was too small for cricket. I had broken a good number of tiles of the boarding house while batting at practice. Mr. Thompson had asked me not to bat there. Mr. Thompson found funds to enlarge the ground. The compound on the north of the play-field where the principal's bungalow now stands was bought. We boys did the cutting of coconut and palmyra trees that were standing there. This was a great enjoyment to us as we had the young coconuts for us. We were also busy digging the ground, clearing all the slate pieces that were buried there. As the ground was dry and hard we drew water from the boarding-well. This was hardly sufficient. Mr. Thompson got permission from the Principal of the Girls' School to allow some of our boys to draw water. I was there to keep order. Mr. Thompson said that he would give us a goat if we could finish the ground and pitch ready for the match against Jaffna College. He also gave permission

to engage some labourers to do the work. With our help the levelling was done in a week. We went to the P. W. D. office and begged the overseer to help us to put up the pitch and made him to agree to do the work only with the cost of the stones and gravel totalling only Rs. 25/- The work was completed by about 3 p. m. on Friday. We opened the pitch with myself batting and Lawrence Jansen bowling. We had 2 goats for lunch the next day.

In 1909, our match against St. Patrick's ended in a draw. Most members of our team had decided to leave College at the end of the first term after the Central match. As a mark of cordiality that existed between the two teams, we invited Central team to our College and had a photograph of both the teams taken the day before the match. We won this game by 5 wickets. This year the old boys' day was celebrated in grand style. The day before the Empire Day the College Athletic Sports were held and I won the championship coming first in all running and jumping events. A shield was presented by Advocate Sandrasegara to be competed for by the Colleges during the 2nd term. As players had left College I thought I should remain in the College and help the depleted team. The hours of play were 3 to 6 p. m. on Fridays and 7-30 to 11 a.m. and 2-30 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Our first match was against Jaffna College. Their score was 7 in the first innings and we too did not score much. Our score was only 63. The next day Jaffna College started to bat and all were out for 14 and so the match ended before 8-30 a.m. At the Principal's request we took the Jaffna College team to our College and gave them a good time with sumptuous lunch. This was a record for low scoring.

We lost to both St. Patricks and Central but not so badly as people expected of a young team. I was appointed a teacher in addition to being the prefect of games. And so was unable to take part in the foot-ball competition. But at the end of the year Trinity College of Kandy came to play one match against us and another against the Combined Colleges. From Mr. N. Cumaraswamy (Proctor) I had learned how each of their batsmen played. He said that S. R. Titus was hard to get out and he may hit centuries in both matches. It was a head-ache and every night I was thinking how to get him out, and hit upon an idea. Something made me to be sure to bowl him out in my first ball. I told my friends that I would bowl Titus out with my first ball. I told them that I would take a bet for Rs. 10/- against anyone who said that I cannot. This talk had gone to Mr. Van Cuylenberg. He called me and said "This is not only the best batsman among the Colleges but he is one of the best batsman in the island. He has played

for All Ceylon even as a School boy". I told him firmly that I would bowl him out in my first ball. We batted first and I was the top scorer in the first innings of both sides. Titus opened for Trinity. I told the Umpire (Mr. H. S. Perera) that I am bowling round the wicket and his guard was given accordingly. I bowled with the same speed and spin and put the ball at the same spot as I had intended. His middle wicket went off. Mr. Van Cuylenberg who was keeping wickets came and lifted me with both his hands. Then again I took two more wickets. That is three wickets in my first over without giving a single run. I think I took 5 wickets for 18 runs. The other bowler Lawrence Jansen also did very well getting them out for 48 runs, in the first innings. Of course Titus did well in the second innings and won the match. With this match my life at St. John's ended.

I am happy to say that the training I had at St. John's has helped me to lead an honourable life throughout. I am very grateful to my Alma Mater.



## *Reminiscences*

By

THE REV. J. T. N. HANDY, M. B. E.

My earliest recollection of St. John's was the collapse of roof of the College Hall, the present Library. I was a student then and remember the relief we felt that the roof did not fall during the morning Assembly. Had the roof fallen ten minutes later there would have been a calamity. As an emergency measure classes were held under the shady trees. The C. M. S. invited my father, the Headmaster, to go to Singapore and Malaya to collect funds for putting up new buildings from Old Boys and friends. My uncle, Dr. J. M. Handy helped in Singapore and Dr. E. W. McIntyre in Malaya. The mission was a success and new buildings were put up without loss of time.

The C. M. S. made a wise choice in the appointment of the Rev. Jacob Thompson who was the principal during most of the time I was a student. It was nice to have his son Horace and Denton Thompson studying with us in College. At a Public Meeting held in Jaffna some years ago to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the C. M. S. in Ceylon presided over by the then Archdeacon of Colombo, now the Bishop of Colombo, I spoke of the contribution the missionaries had made to Ceylon and mentioned the Rev. Jacob Thompson as one of the three English Missionaries, known to me in Ceylon who impressed me most.

Among my masters I have vivid memories of Canon S. Somasundaram, the Rev. S. K. Ponniah, Messrs. A. J. R. Vethavanam, W. A. Walton and last but not least Mr. S. M. Thambiah to whom I owed a great deal in the formative

years of my life. He was a convert from Mandativu who came under the wing of my father. There was also Mr. A. G. Charles, who in addition to teaching helped my father at Christ Church as Vestry Clerk. He was more of a friend rather than a teacher.

I had the honour of being invited to preach at Canon Somasundaram's Memorial Service at Nallur with Bishop Harold de Soya as Celebrant. He was a great teacher of Mathematics. The Rev. S. K. Ponniah had the distinction of being the first Tamil Priest to be in charge of Sinhalese speaking Parish (St. Mark's Dandugama). "A. J. R." was a youngster when he joined the Staff and soon befriended us. He instructed Hockey at St. John's and was Master of Methods. Mr. Walton tall and well built produced Shakespearean plays and also taught us English.

Among some of our distinguished Old Boys I remember the Rev. Dr. Isaac Thambiah when he was Hon. Lay Reader to my father at Christ Church. His sermons, short as they were, were much appreciated. I met him later in Penang where he was practising as a Lawyer. I used to go there with the Chief Justice, whose Private Secretary I was, for the sessions of the Appeal Court. We became firm friends.

Other distinguished Old Boys with whom I was associated when I was Secretary of the Diocese of Colombo were Justice H. W. Thambiah, the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulendran, the Rev. Dr. James S. Mather and Archdeacon J. A. R. Navaratnam. With the last named I was closely associ-

ated in the work at Christ Church, Jaffna and St. Andrew's Mission, Pallai.

In our days, Empire Day was celebrated with great pomp. The students of both Colleges assembled in our Cricket field and then the Government Agent unfurled the Union Jack followed by the singing of the National Anthem, and spoke of the significance of Empire Day. Later the Head Boy of the College and Head Girl of the Girl's School were presented to him. The occasion I remember vividly was that of E. J. Rajaratnam as Head Boy and Miss Lizzie Ponnambalam (late Dr. Mrs. A.B.C. Doray) being presented to the Government Agent. Lizzie was the 2nd Ceylon Tamil to pass out of the Singapore Medical College, and on her retirement to Jaffna used to worship with her husband at Christ Church, Jaffna, where I used to minister.

The first year C. Sanmugam played Cricket for St. John's against Jaffna College in the Central College grounds we did very well. He bundled Jaffna College off for 7 runs in the first innings and for 14 in the second. I read with pride when I was in Singapore of his doings in the Cricket world playing for Ceylon. On our retirement we used to meet often, he living at Irupalai and I in Kopay.

I remember at a meeting in the College Hall representing Bishop Harold de Soya as Rural Dean of Jaffna to bid good-bye to Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram on his retirement as Principal and to welcome on his behalf Mr. K. Pooranampillai as a new Principal who came to us with a great record as Principal of Hartley. It was the last time I sat on the platform with my brother J. C. who as Manager of the College contributed his full share in keeping the College Private.

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## *An Incident I Remember*

By

S. J. V. CHALVANYAGAM, Q. C.

The incident in my career through St. John's College that made the deepest impression on me was one that took place at the Prize giving in the year 1911.

Mr. Thompson, the then Principal, used to give a prize for every student who did best in each subject at the Cambridge Senior Examination. At the Cambridge Senior Examination in 1910, Mr. A. M. K. Cumaraswamy had obtained first class honours with distinction in Mathematics. He must have done best in the different subjects: so the greatest number of prizes was awarded to him.

But A. M. K. Cumaraswamy was not there to receive the prizes. He had gone to Royal College for continuing his studies.

So his father, an old gentleman, had come to receive the son's prizes. The old gentleman had to carry the many prizes which were awarded to his son. He was physically unable to carry the books.

In those years first class honours was a rare achievement, especially in Jaffna. There used to be a few students in the Colombo Colleges who used to get first class honours. The first person to do that from Jaffna was A. M. K. Cumaraswamy. S. S. Navaratnam, J. N. Arumugam and C. Sittampalam followed Cumaraswamy in getting a first class at the Senior Cambridge Examination from Jaffna Schools. Cumaraswamy went to Royal College and from there passed his Inter Science in July 1914. Then he joined the Teaching profession.



# What I Remember

By

B. S. PETERSON

The iron horse had hardly galloped into the palm-fringed turf of the town of Jaffna and the screeching motor had scarcely trundled along the narrow streets of the town, when with a slate and pencil in hand, I entered St. John's College as a student in standard four in the year 1903. My teacher was the late A. M. Moris who dressed himself in immaculate white verti. My Principal was the Rev. Jacob Thompson who had just come to Jaffna from a mission in Travancore to take charge of St. John's College and Church, and Christ Church, Jaffna. St. John's College at that time consisted of three sets of buildings: the old College Hall, two class-rooms along one side, and three class-rooms further away from the Hall. In all, there were ten class-rooms from standard one to the Cambridge Senior Local Class, which was the highest and final class in all schools of Jaffna at that time. This was the state of the College at the beginning of the century. The School had been founded seventy years earlier and my knowledge of these past years is almost nil. I have only vivid memories of the Thompson era. I remember Mr. Thompson as a gentleman active, energetic, deeply religious, with a strong sense of humour and ever-willing to serve all concerned.

These eighteen years at St. John's was a period of devoted work for the sake of the College. He loved the College, the pupils and masters, and he loved his work. It is most amazing to me that a man who had his education in one of the public schools of England and at Cambridge University, a man used to the vast and ancient buildings of old England, should come over to a little outpost of the empire and

take charge of a little building and look after it with a fullness of heart and a just pride. The only explanation for this wonderful attachment is that he regarded his work as a mission assigned to him, from above. He never lost sight of the fact that over and above imparting secular education, his mission was to win souls for Christ. So almost every year one or two boys would accept the faith, and no man in St. John's College was happier about it than the Rev. Jacob Thompson. I recall one of my class-mates, A. M. K. Cumaraswamy, of an orthodox Hindu family, becoming a Christian. The old priest was happy and jubilant. Andrew Cumaraswamy was an exemplary Christian, a great Bible student and a composer of Tamil Hymns. The Rev. Jacob Thompson set about adding some buildings to the College. He acquired lands and extended the College play-ground. In his time was built the Handy Memorial Library. The Robert Williams Hall was due to his enterprise. Three additional class-rooms were built along the two old class-rooms, originally intended for standard four and five. He persuaded Sir William Twynam to donate his private museum to the College and lastly he got a building put up so that the Principal may reside in the College premises. As I said earlier, the Rev. Jacob Thompson loved his school very much. His pride and pleasure was to invite distinguished old boys and public men to visit the the College. I remember a visit paid by men of the type of James Hensman who it is said spent more years as a pensioner in Jaffna than as a teacher in India. I cannot forget the visit of Rao Bahadur Louis Williamspillai and his silver tongue oratory. P. Casi Pillai, a lawyer,

was a very devoted old boy of St. John's. Once when he visited St. John's at the invitation of Mr. Thompson, he told us,

"You are the present boys, I am an Old boy. That makes no difference for after all, boys are boys."

Maniagar Muthucumaru lived hard by the College and was a great friend of Mr. Thompson. He was a clean, neat man, and his temperament manifested itself in his flower garden, which he looked after with great care. We often visited the garden to study Botany. R. E. Stubbs, acting Governor of Ceylon, was on an official visit to Jaffna. Mr. Thompson called on him and made him visit the College. The Governor was taken from class to class and was introduced to every teacher, including my humble self, who was then a teacher of standard six. It is no exaggeration to say that the Rev. Jacob Thompson had many friends, whom he grappled with hoops of steel. In 1918, the father of the poor and needy, this Mahathma left Jaffna for good, old and feeble, broken hearted because his eldest son, Horace Thompson, had died in the great war. He spent nearly eighteen years

at St. John's College and when he left, the College had the stamp of an institution almost entirely English. English Culture, Christian Worship, English manners in fact, and as Rupert Brook said,

"There is a corner of a foreign field which is forever England"

I shall now recall some of the masters who taught at St. John's in the first decade of the century. The Rev. C. C. Handy was the Headmaster of the College. He was the curate of Christ Church, Jaffna, and lived in a large house, right in front of the Church. The Sunday evening service at Christ Church, Jaffna was in Portuguese and the Rev. Handy used to deliver his sermon in Tamil. Other teachers whom I cannot forget were Messrs. T. H. Crossette, George Philipiah, W. A. Walton, Rev. S. Somasunderam, A. M. Nathaniel, E. A. Niles and the youngest of them all, A. J. R. Vethavanam. I understand he has his home now in Jaffna. He taught us accurate English in the Cambridge Junior Class. How I long to meet him, although I am eighty two years old and I am now totally blind.





# An Old Boy Remembers

By

A. S. ABRAHAM

It is a great privilege to be able to represent Old Boys of two important periods, the period of Rev. Jacob Thompson and the period of Rev. Henry Peto having been a student and a teacher in the earlier period and a teacher in the later period.

I gained admission as a student at St. John's after a short time at the Chundikuli Girls' High School under Miss Goodchild, Principal, and Miss Celestine Hensman, Assistant, where I learnt to read and write English and to sew with a blunt needle and coloured thread on sheets of cardboard perforated with guide lines. The experience in sewing was of great value to me later.

In the Lower School at St. John's there was more study and less fun with teachers like Mr. A. G. Charles and Mr. S. L. Jansen who were devoted to their work in the class room as in the playing field. Very soon we were engaged in the study of Reading, Writing and Arithmetic — referred to as the three Rs in which a candidate had to satisfy the Examiner in order to get a Pass in the examination. St. John's being a centre for the Cambridge Examination, a large number of students presented themselves for the Test in Writing - dictation - and the Examiner arrived with a Newspaper in hand to read a passage for dictation. Having satisfied himself that the candidates were ready, the Examiner began to read out a passage which sounded like this:

"In the morning the alaismaypatax"  
The unknown word would have provided the three mistakes required for failing

a candidate in dictation, resulting in a total failure in the examination. Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam, our Master, present in the hall to assist the Examiner, realising the danger facing the candidates, asked the examiner if he may repeat the passage at the other end of the hall so that the candidates at the other end may hear clearly. As soon as he had the Examiner's consent, Mr. Vethavanam walked up to the other end of the hall and repeated clearly.

"In the morning the allies made separate attacks" It was a great relief to the candidates who took down the passage correctly, thanks to Mr. Vethavanam for his quick decision made and the prompt action.

## STAFF

The Staff of Teachers during Rev. Thompson's period was regarded as the best that St. John's had. The Principal himself was a very successful Teacher of Scripture and many Christian and Hindu boys passed scripture with distinctions.

Mr. T. H. Crossette, Vice-Principal and for some time Acting Principal, was a brilliant Teacher of English Language and Literature and English History.

Mr. A. M. Nathaniel, for some time Acting Principal, and Mr. J. N. Vethavanam were also outstanding Teachers of English Language and English Literature.

Mr. W. A. Walton, the talented Actor and Mr. Edgar Niles the O. B. A. Secretary who held that office for many years were Latin Scholars. Rev. S. Somasundaram, the first Dean of the College

later Canon, Mr. Nallamuttu Hensman and Mr. F. H. V. Gulasegaram were most successful Teachers of Pure and Advanced Mathematics.

S. V. Chinniah, later Proctor, J. V. Markandu, George De Neise, Edwin Hensman, S. M. Thambiayah, B. S. Peterson, the famous Actor of Caliban fame, later Head Master, St. Annes Kurunegalla, Miss De Neise, Mr. Fred Van Cuylenberg, Cricketer from Royal and Latin Master, Mr. Bernard, Latin Master, and Mr. A. J. R. Vethavanam who could make any subject interesting-even Geography which baffled many a boy, and also Athletic Master and an exceptionally good Football player. With such an eminent Staff of successful Teachers, St. John's did extremely well in studies obtaining splendid results in public examinations.

For the teaching of Eastern and Western Music we had Rao Bahadur C. H. Kadiravelpillai, father of the famous singer Kirupa Coomaraswamy of Kandy and Miss Symox qualified teacher from Germany, - both of whom helped after hours.

#### PREFECT SYSTEM :

The Prefect System was introduced in the time of Rev. Jacob Thompson. "To be a prefect in his school is the greatest honour that can fall to the lot of a boy" - wrote R. R. Crossette Thambiah, a senior student, later Q. C. Commissioner of Assize, in the College Magazine that appeared at the time the prefect system was introduced.

In the earlier days Rev. Thompson had appointed as Senior Prefects John Eliathamby, James Mather and K. Chornalingam, all of whom set a very high standard for the prefects who followed.

I was the first Senior Prefect to be appointed with the introduction of the system. I was also the first Chairman of the Prefects' Guild of which there were five members.

The Prefects' duties were those of supervising study, saying grace at meals, helping to maintain order and discipline at School and away and bringing up before the Guild meetings for discussion and action any important case of misconduct but seldom-if ever-reporting a boy to the Principal.

As Senior Prefect, I was given the additional responsibility of being in charge of the Vegetarian Boarding House where the boarders were mainly Senior boys like A. Shanmugam, Winslow Navaratna and others who readily gave me their co-operation, allowing for such after-hour activities like picking young coconuts which even the Principal overlooked though Mrs. Thompson took a very serious view of.

#### CRICKET :

A high standard was reached in the time of Captain G. Sebastian and again in the time of Captain K. Chornalingam. It was during Chornalingam's time that our annual fixtures with Trinity began and matches were played in Jaffna and at Kandy in alternate years. Among the Captains at Trinity was C. E. Smithratchy, later Secretary of the Diocese of Colombo. Our Captain Chornalingam who excelled in batting, bowling and fielding, was looking forward to the match with Trinity which was to be played in Jaffna that year. His one ambition was to bowl out the famous left hand batsman of Trinity-Titus, who was a fast scorer and the main stay of their team. One day Chornalingam told his team mates and others that he dreamt that he



bowled out Titus with the first ball. When the day came and when Titus came to bat for his side, Chornalingam bowled him with the first ball and thus realised his dream.

Chornalingam was succeeded by Albert Sabapathy, Rajah Brodie and C. Yogaratnam, all of whom left School for employment. The team was however considerably strengthened by the addition of A. Sanmugam the famous left hand bowler who became the Captain of his side.

Rev. Fraser, Principal of Trinity College, was so much taken up with Sanmugam's bowling that he promptly offered a scholarship at Trinity to Sanmugam who thereafter played for Trinity and also for the All Ceylon Team. The high standard was however maintained when I took over the Captaincy and I was lucky to be the undefeated Captain leading my men to victory in all the matches.

In the big match with Central in 1915, which St. John's won with me at the wicket at the time of winning, I was fortunate enough to be the highest scorer and the best bowler, my average being 4 for 39 and 5 for 19. I can picture the figure of Rev. Thompson running down to the ground as we topped their score and taking me to his phaeton which was halted under the shade tree on the road side. After the cheers had been called, the Principal and some of the players were taken in the horse carriage as the procession moved down the Main Street, accepting the cheers of our supporters all the way.

#### FOOTBALL :

In Football too the standard reached in the time of Captain John Eliathamby and Captain James Chinnappah and C. Yogasunderam, now at Negombo, was kept up for some years. Robert Perinpanayagam proved a very successful Captain. He was

succeeded by Alfie Williams who was too swift for any opposing team and lead his men to victory. Alfred Chinnappah who succeeded him was also a very successful Captain. D. S. Abraham who later became Playground Instructor in Colombo was also a successful Captain of Football.

#### EXAMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

After obtaining the Cambridge Junior and Senior Certificates, I joined the London Matriculation Class which was formed at St. John's for the first time with the staff of teachers available in the Upper School. Although Nine Candidates were presented for the London Matriculation Examination, I was the only Candidate to pass the Examination and was the first student at St. John's to obtain the London Matriculation Certificate.

In the following year I was awarded the Certificate of Proficiency by the Department of Education and was appointed a teacher in the Lower School.

On being advised to apply for a Government Science Scholarship in Colombo, I forwarded my application and succeeded in winning a Scholarship for a Two Year Course in the study of Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics under Professor Joseph and Professor Rao. Having been successful at both Examinations, I was awarded the Government Science Diploma and accepted the post of Senior Science Master at St. John's - a post which I held till I left College, according to the certificate issued to me by Rev. Peto.

I also took up work as Science Master at Chundikuli Girls' College. While serving at these Schools, I was awarded a Licence by the Bishop of Colombo to perform duties as Lay Reader and Preacher.

## CADET CORPS.

Rev. Thompson gave me his whole hearted support and encouragement in the introduction of Chemistry and Physics in the Upper School and permitted me to order Chemicals and apparatus direct from England. After the introduction of the Science subjects and the progress made by students in Upper Forms, Rev. Thompson was obliged to go on leave owing to failing health.

Rev. K. C. Mc Pherson of Trinity College relieved him as Acting Principal during the short time he was able to stay at St. John's before leaving for India to accept another appointment.

He improved the Physical drill at St. John's by grouping the Boys into Drill Squads and placing Masters in charge. I was myself in charge of the Senior Squad which later became the nucleus of the Cadet Corps which was organised at St. John's in the time of Rev. Henry Peto as soon as I was given a Commission as Honorary Lieutenant in the Ceylon Cadet Battalion by His Excellency the Governor, St. John's being the first College in Jaffna to have a detachment of the C. C. B. The Movement became popular with the boys who were greatly benefited by the Training received at School and in Camp. J. M. Singanayagam, Captain of Cricket, was appointed by me as Platoon Sergeant and was the first Non-Commissioned Officer of the C. C. B. in Jaffna. He was succeeded by Harry Vandendriesen who was happy to take over a fully trained Platoon. Among others who specialised in one branch or the other were D. S. Abraham, K. Vaithianathan, Arthur Edwards, F. D. M. Canagasabai and Alfred Mc Intyre.

The first inspection of our Platoon was held in Jaffna by Colonel Clifford Coffin. The Platoon was trained by Regimental Sergeant Major Parker who came from Colombo. At the same time the cadets were put through a movement in Military Tattoo with paper lantern lights. In this training for the Tattoo, we had the assistance of Henry Aiyadurai one of our energetic Old Boys.

Col. Clifford Coffin who inspected the Parade on our grounds commended the Officers and Cadets on the splendid turn out and the efficient March Past. The Colonel called again at night and watched the Military Tattoo with coloured lanterns and congratulated the Cadets on their magnificent display.

At the Annual Camp at Diyatalawa, our cadets made great progress and our Platoon was generally one of the leading Platoons in Camp. The year 1924 was a very successful year.

Col. Rowley was expected one day to test the efficiency of the Platoons at Field Exercises. The whole Battalion was to advance out of Camp to meet the enemy approaching the Camp. No further instructions were given. The Battalion went out of Camp to meet the Enemy and when the Enemy was sighted the different Platoons moved in different directions.

I gave orders to my Platoon to lie in ambush on the line of approach of the the Enemy and took up my position. Col. Rowley rode up to my Platoon on horse back and pulling up his horse called out:

"Who is in charge of this Platoon?" I sprang up to attention and the Colonel rode up to me and commended me saying:

"The only sensible Officer on Parade" He asked for my name and the name of my College and after noting it down, rode away.



The Regimental Orders the following morning showed that St. John's had won the first place in field exercises.

In the same year St. John's won the inter-Platoon Challenge Cup for Athletic Sports, won the First place in the knock-out Football Championship Competition and were Runners-up in the Herman Loos Challenge Cup Competition.

The success of our Cadets was due to the Excellent Team work and keen sense of responsibility.

### JAFFNA SANGEETHA SABHA

It was during Rev. McPherson's time that the Sangeetha Sabha was organised under the auspices of the College. I was elected the first General Secretary of the Sabha and Mr. Sita Rama who joined the staff from Colombo was elected Assistant Secretary. Mr. Sita Rama was mainly responsible for bringing out Maharajah and party, Musicians, to help with our first Variety Entertainment which was a great success.

Our next performance was the staging of the famous Indian Play "Manohara" by Rao Sahib P. Sambandam of Madras who was good enough to let us stage his play and without payment of Royalty.

I was myself selected to act the part of the Hero "Manohara" and another member of the Staff — D. J. Ponnuthurai — was chosen to act the part of the Heroine, Vijaya, and was adjudged as the best dressed lady in the Hall. Among others who took part in the play were: S. Kulendran who acted the difficult part of a Sannyasi very creditably, C. T. Solomon who acted as King Purushothuman, with Subramania Iyer as his Queen, R. A. Alagaratnam, the bewitching maid who won the love of the King, N. Rajaratnam the Prince, S. T. Solomon, the Court Jester and D. J. S.J.C.—16

Thambapillai another attractive maid. Among those who helped at the rehearsals were Advocate Bailey Mylvaganam, Dr. S. Ponnuswamy, Mudlr. V. Muthucumar and S. Krishnasamy the famous actor of Subhoda Villa Sabha.

K. Chornalingam, one of our old boys who had distinguished himself as a great actor in Colombo was very helpful with his advice on costumes, jewellery and general make up of character. The play was well attended and Rev. McPherson who watched the performance from beginning to end was greatly impressed with the acting, and it was found necessary to have a second performance of "Manohara".

### GAMES AND SPORTS

Rev. Peto while giving me his fullest support and encouragement in running the Cadet Corps and the Sangeetha Sabha was anxious that the standard lost in the Games and Sports should be regained. He appointed me Prefect of Games and gave me all facilities for the reorganisation of Games and Sports.

In Cricket it was found necessary to have a second Eleven, a third Eleven and a baby Eleven and organise practices with adequate materials in order that players may be made available for selection to the first Eleven. The assistance of Old Boys and friends like Richard Aluwihare of Trinity, late Sir Richard, I.G.P., was most valuable. The best of materials and nets for practice were made available and there was rapid progress in raising the standard in Cricket.

To create interest and improve the standard of Football, it was found necessary to devote some time during School hours for practice on the ground roped out for the purpose. A regular practice was organised with the assistance of Old Boys

and friends who rallied round and rendered valuable help.

In the field of Athletic Sports a growing interest was created by the introduction of House system. The boys were divided into Four groups under Four House Masters and House Captains—Johnstone House, Pargiter House, Thompson House and Handy House. House competitions were organised and several talented athletes were found for the inter-collegiate competition.

### INTER-COLLEGIATE SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Committee was formed with the co-operation of Principals who agreed to send representatives to serve on the Committee and attend meetings of the Committee of which I was elected the first Secretary. Among others who helped to organise inter-collegiate competitions and to maintain order and discipline were: I. P. Thurai-ratnam, himself a great Sportsman, later Principal, Union College Tellipalai, J. P. Nagalingam of Manipay Hindu College, S. Joseph of Central College, Fr. Long of St. Patrick's College and C. W. Phelps of Jaffna College.

A Police Officer who rendered valuable help in maintaining order at the grounds during the Football Match was Mr. J. H. A. Fernando, A. S. P. without whose help it would have been quite impossible to keep under control the large crowds that collected at every Football Match. Mr. Fernando who now lives opposite St. Michael's Church, Kollupitiya, still talks about the Football days in Jaffna and the crowds that moved behind the ropes as soon as he appeared.

There were no incidents after the Committee took over the management of

these competitions. Reference may be made, however, to two matches:

In the Cricket Match between St. John's and St. Patrick's played on St. John's grounds, the Patrician Prefect of Games, objected to the use of Wisen's match ball by our bowlers D. C. Rajaratnam and D. S. Abraham who had already captured some Patrician wickets in their first Innings of batting, and wanted the match to be started again with Dian's match ball. A replay was allowed as requested by them and it made no difference to the result of the game as the match ended in an easy victory for St. John's.

In the Football Championship match between Jaffna College and St. John's played on the Jaffna College grounds at the request of their Prefect of Games, St. John's won by five goals to two though in the equalising match played earlier the score was one all. It was too much, for their old boys and friends who had come to witness the match to bear the unexpected defeat and attempts were made to throw stones at our cars as they went past on their return to Town. One of their old boys—Thuraisingam—who was also an old boy of St. John's passed on this information to us and helped us to return by another route and avoid what may have been a bad clash.

When St. John's was at its height in Games and Sports, we had won the Cricket Championship for six years in succession—1921—1926—and the Football and Athletic Sport Championship for three years. This was mainly due to the encouragement given by the Principal, Rev. Peto, who was always willing to take suggestions for improvement.



St. John's loses a part of its fabric.

While the College was winning Championship cups, publicity and fame and I was enjoying my work as Senior Science Master with twenty free periods in the week out of forty, allowed to me to attend to organization and correspondence connected with the work relating to the C. C. B., the Sports Committee etc., I heard of a vacancy in Government Service with a salary scale starting at my maximum

as a teacher and answered an advertisement in the papers. I was called for an interview and selected for appointment as Inspector in the Department of Labour. At the School farewell given to me the Principal said that a part of the fabric of St. John's was being taken away. I continued to help the cadets at Camp at Diyatalawa, as Officer on Reserve, and also helped with the Practical Science Examination as already undertaken by me.

## What I Remember

By

S. KULENDRAN

Bishop

I joined St. John's early in May 1913 and left at the end of 1919. The Principal during most of my time was the Rev. Jacob Thompson; when he retired at the end of 1918, the Rev. Kenneth McPherson assumed charge and remained with us till October of the year.

Teachers came and went, some of course remaining constant. Sometimes the quality of the staff rose very high and sometimes sank low. I, however, had some of the best teachers available at the time. The Rev. S. Somasundaram and Mr. F. H. V. Gulasegaram for Mathematics, Messrs. W. A. Walton, R. R. Crossett-Thambiah and Mr. Thompson for English Literature, Messrs. J. N. Vethavanam, T. H. Crossett and Mr. Thompson himself for History.

It would not be true to say that I profited equally from all the teachers. It was not certainly their fault that I gained little from the efforts of my teachers in Mathematics. It is a defect I have carried through life that numbers have never kindled any enthusiasm in me. But I had to pass my Mathematics at my Matri-

culation examination; this I did with my own painstaking efforts, with the aid of Mr. Julius Philips in class.

With Mr. Walton and Mr. R. R. Crossett-Thambiah English Literature was a passion that was infectious, unless one was prepared to erect a wall of resistance against their influence. This of course I did not do.

However, an important part of the training I received was extra-curricular. In those days the Boarders' Union and the College Literary Association were very active. A fortnightly Newspaper, edited by one of the students and read by him, was a regular feature of the College Literary Association; but at meetings of both Societies there were debates on all kinds of subjects. The standard of speaking was very high. The benefit I received from the Meetings of these Societies cannot be exaggerated.

All my secondary education was received at St. John's under great Principals and good teachers; and I shall remain ever grateful for all the benefit the Institution has conferred on me.

# Some Reminiscences

By

R. R. CROSSETTE THAMBIAH, Q. C.

St. John's College was a hive of intellectuals in 1908. There was J. N. Vethavanam, with triple first class honours from the Madras University. There was Nallamuttu Hensman, a son of the famous Mr. James Hensman, a brilliant Mathematician, and then a whole galaxy: A. M. Nathaniel, S. Somasundaram, W. A. Walton, A. J. R. Vethavanam, E. A. Niles—all men of the first order of mind.

At their head was the Head Master, first in English in the M. A. Examination of the University of Allahabad, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of England, every inch a king.

Above them all was a short man with the face and mien of a Roman Emperor, Jacob Thompson, the Principal. He was a graduate of Gonville and Caius College of Cambridge University, the same College which trained Ceylon's famous Chief Justice, Sir Anton Bertram.

Both the Principal and my father agreed that example was better than precept. Mr. Thompson brought some of the greatest speakers available to speak to us: Rao Bahadur Louis Williams, Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Dr. G. S. Eddy.

As for my father, his mere presence was enough to thrill the beholder. His name was sufficient to still a tumult. Once, when Mr. Thompson was on furlough in England, and my father was acting as Principal, there was a serious clash between St. John's College and Central College. We had lost the championship football match by one goal and the team

had crept back to school with tear-stained faces. A while after, who should be on the road in front of the Church but carriage loads of Centralites cheering and jeering. The House Master, with great presence of mind shouted to a senior boy: "Run quickly on your bicycle and tell Mr. Crossette". That one word 'Crossette' was enough. Our boys who had marched out to give the Centralities fierce battle, walked back to their rooms. The Centralites finding no one to give them a fight returned to their own school. My father was in our garden watering his favourite trees when the messenger arrived. I was by his side. "Sir", he said, "there is a big fight between us and Central". "Do they know that you have come to fetch me?" my father said. "Yes Sir". "Then go back". My father was right. When the boy returned the whole place was silent as a tomb.

My father had a room to himself during the noon interval where he ate his mid-day meal and smoked his favourite Jaffna Cigar. One day, Mr. S. N. R. Breckenridge, who was then a teacher, rushed into my father's room. "Sir," he said, "There is a rumour that some of the questions in tomorrow's English Prize Examination have leaked out". My father said nothing. Mr. Breckenridge left the room dejected. Was the Acting Principal so indifferent about the probity of the School? On the next day when the competitors for the Prize had taken their places, and the invigilator was at his seat, my father walked in and opened a sealed envelope in the presence of all present. The question paper was



handed round to each of the candidates. It was a totally new set of questions! Mr. Breckenridge went to my father's room that mid-day with a radiant smile on his face. My father said to him in his usual low voice: "Never be troubled about rumours. A rumour is only a rumour. But meet each situation as it arises calmly and quietly". It was Mr. Breckenridge himself who told me this story. As between him and my father there was the guru-sishya friendship.

Some years later, when I was at Trinity College, Kandy, and Mr. Nevins Selvadurai was our beloved Head Master, my father wrote to him to permit me to stay with him in his home during one of the school vaca-

tions. I shall never forget that experience of living for six weeks in the home of a Tamil Christian gentleman. Once again, the guru-sishya relationship.

My own special guru at St. John's was Mr. W. A. Walton. He knew his Shakespeare better than any man in India or Ceylon, Englishman or non-Englishman. He put into our blood stream all the atomic energy of Shakespeare's power of expression. Shakespeare himself would have been delighted to meet our Mr. Walton.

Some years later, I was myself, for a short spell, a teacher at St. John's College. Teaching done with for ever, I went to the Railway Station at Jaffna to take train to Colombo. I was pleased to see some of my students waiting on the Station platform to say good-bye to me.

## *A Grateful Tribute to my Alma Mater*

By

G. R. HANDY

It was very kind of the Principal to have asked me to write about my reminiscences of my College days for publication in the College Ter-Jubilee Souvenir.

Unfortunately, it is not easy to recollect vividly events of more than half a century ago, particularly when life was rather drab and restricted on account of poverty, which however was a blessing in disguise. My father died when I was five years old and my mother was poor. Fortunately, I received free education at St. John's College, for which I am grateful.

I recollect very well a tall and well built Afghan sweet seller-ice cream vendors did not exist then-whose stall was very popular. I used to envy the boys who

crowded around him, especially two of my cousins who were staying with me and attending College. Their father used to send them monthly generous pocket allowances which they spent at the sweet-stall. Sometimes, they used to pawn their books to the Afghan, in payment for what they had consumed. Unfortunately, they were both failures in life.

I remember the Principal, Rev. Jacob Thompson, as a somewhat plump and genial person with whom I had hardly any contact, except for one occasion, when with trepidation, I walked up to his Bungalow to receive a caning for some mischief committed in the class room.

My favourite teachers were Mr. C. C. Jell in the Lower School, Mr. B. S. Peterson in the Middle School and Mr. S. Sivapragasam in the Upper School. They were all kind and dedicated teachers and their humorous disposition made their lessons interesting. The teacher whom I dreaded was the Art Mistress, who had a sadistic nature. She apparently derived some pleasure from striking the boys on knuckles with the sharp edge of their foot rulers and then she would follow this up by massaging the bruised knuckles — a very painful form of punishment.

Mr. W. A. Walton was an interesting person. One of his many extra curricular activities was amateur dramatisation and I

was greatly thrilled when he allowed me to act some minor female parts in "Merchant of Venice" and in "As you Like it", which were staged by the College Staff and Students.

I used to be fascinated by the piano-forte music which wafted across the boundary wall from the adjoining Girls' College and I spent some of my leisure time listening to the sweet music.

Whatever success I have achieved in the medical profession is mainly due to the influence of two mothers—my own dear mother and my Alma-Mater, and I wish to take this opportunity to pay my humble and grateful tribute to both of them.



## *My Reminiscences of College Days*

By

D. R. GUNASEGARAM

I am grateful to the TER-JUBILEE Souvenir Committee for having requested me to give my reminiscences of College life at St. John's, Jaffna, where I was a student from 1911 till 1921. Yet another year, 1922, I spent at St. John's as a teacher of English and Latin at the request of the Rev. H. Peto the Principal. My reminiscences should, therefore, cover the period 1911-1922. In the 3rd Form in 1922 when I taught, was a galaxy of very bright students which included Advocate Sivagurunathan, the eminent Income Tax consultant, Advocate S. Thambydurai, later District Judge, and a leader of the Tamil United Front, the late A. W. Rajasekaram, Principal, Dr. T. Selvarajah, the leading skin specialist, Dr. Willie Jayaratnam, the equally wellknown Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Rajendran (a brother of the late

Col. E. A. Rajasingham) and the irresistible young Chinniah who later passed out as a surveyor. The last two are no longer with us. My classmates at school included Dr. G. R. Handy, E. A. Rajasingham, K. Nesiah, J. M. Singanayagam, E. M. Ponnudurai, S. T. Navaratnam and several others still living. George Handy was always ahead of us as a scholar but left us for Trinity College at the Junior Cambridge stage. He is now, of course a luminary in the medical profession. Nesiah, of course, has carved for himself a niche as an educationist and, may I say, a Ghandian politician of the North. Advocate R. R. Crossette-Thambyah, who in his 'dandy' days as a young man taught us for a while at St. John's, had consigned Col. E. A. Rajasingam and me to a desk in the last row called the 'duffers' desk"



as we seldom carried our books to school and were, on the whole, a nuisance in the class, but it so happened that when the Cambridge Senior results were out in 1921 we two topped the pass list. I remember Mr. K. A. Selliah, later Principal of Jaffna College sitting the Senior Cambridge with us at St. John's centre. My classmate Singanayagam and he would freely exchange their snuff packets. Of Course they must have given up this pleasure soon after? Now we are all tottering towards the seventies.

Among teachers in my time, Mr. C. C. Jell was an institution in the Lower School and many distinguished Old Boys of the past had passed through his hands. In spite of his bulky presence and bogus threats he was a kind soul and a great teacher. Other great teachers whom I can recall to mind were W. A. Walton, F. H. V. Gulasekaram, Advocate J. N. Vethavanam (later Judge), A. M. Nathaniel, T. H. Crossette, Nallamuthu Hensman, Julius Philips and Principal Peto. We had for a time a Telugu gentleman called Perupattan with his "tharu" dress and simple ways. Although his Indian accent amused the boys, they always respected him as a capable science teacher. The three Mathais made a significant contribution to the school and their interests extended to religious and social work among the students.

Old Boys' Day at St. John's was a much more patronised and colourful event during our school days than it is now. Many old boys came over each year from the South. We youngsters watched with appreciation the late Arthur Hensman and Muthunayagampillai (Tommy) attending Old Boys' Day year after year.

Apart from Newton Master who often preached at our chapel services and old Solomons master who carried the attendance register to the different class rooms for

roll call and was much respected, there were two other humbler individuals one can call to memory. One was Chinniah the sexton who was a fair six footer but had a female gait and voice. The other was the ubiquitous Kashmiri Bhai who used to sell us the most delightful sweet meats and tasty kadalai. He had a nickname for each boy particularly the more mischievous ones. My brother was called "thoplai".

The art of debate was not neglected in those days. Then, as in later life, Sam Sabapathy (one-time Jaffna Mayor), Bishop Kulendran, Advocates N. Cumarasingham and Thillainathan and S. J. Gunasegaram distinguished themselves in College debates to the awe and admiration of the younger boys. English dramas, chiefly Shakespearean plays, were staged almost annually. W. A. Walton as Prospero and B. S. Peterson as Caliban were well nigh inimitable. I remember Col. E. A. Rajasingham and myself taking the inconspicuous parts of Salarino and Salanio. We had been given two oval shaped caps for head gear. R. R. Crossette-Thambyah the wit, not unlike two other lovable and famous old boys A. M. K. Coomaraswamy and S. Sivapragasam who won international competitions, wrote in the College magazine that the caps worn by us "reminded one of inverted tins of Canterbury cakes". Tamil drama was safe in the hands of master artist Chornalingam who is another of our distinguished old boys.

St. John's was in the forefront of cricket and football even in our time. I can remember Shanmugam from Mannar as a much-dreaded pace bowler. D. C. Rajaratnam (baby elephant alias pisthol), D. S. Abraham, Alagaratnam Jeremiah and R. A. Alagaratnam were successful opening bowlers just as J. T. Hubert and Vythianathan were good opening batsmen,

Julius Gunaratnam (wicket keep) and Yogarathnam (later an Advocate) impressed me as very elegant batsmen, and my classmates E. M. Ponnudurai and J. M. Singanayagam did equally well in cricket as in football. Robert Werkmeister, then the baby of the College team turned out to be an all-island cricketer later.

We had two Sinhalese old boys who were great hitters. Of the two, Subasinghe was the more dependable batsman. In a match played at the Jaffna esplanade against Central College, he hit a sixer so hard and so low that the ball broke a twig off a mahogany tree and fell inside Central College. The other hitter was J. Herat Banda whose lofted strokes and superb fielding were the delight of spectators. A little digression here. The stockily built Herat Banda, who later became a headman in the Wannai, was very popular with boys as well as teachers. In 1922 Banda was in the E. S. L. C. class when I took their English. One day, on entering the class room, he presented me with a brush or what seemed to be one. When I inquired what it was, he said that he had made a brush out of the white moustache Mr. Crossette had discarded. Mr. T. H. Crossette was of course our Vice-Principal, and a noted teacher of History, English and Geography. I myself remember, when he taught us Geography in the 2nd Form, he asked a boy to enumerate the products of Russia. While the boy was giving his reply, such as "leather, etc.," Mr. Crossette was sorting out the white hair in his moustache and tugging at them gently but as soon as the boy had completed his answer, Mr. Crossette pulled out his collection with the remark "these are the products of Russia".

As for football, it was indeed a pleasure to watch E. J. Rajaratnam, Sam Sabapathy and Alfi Williams (bless him.

he is still with us) playing centre forward, I. T. Solomons was the most nimble and impressive right extreme I can remember at school. We often beat Jaffna College at cricket but for years on end we lost to them at football. It was only in 1923, our Centenary year, that we were able to take our "revenge" and beat them by 9 goals to nil, or one.

In addition to his prowess in football, old boy K. C. Praesoodu was our best Tennis player. He later became an All-Ceylon tennis champion in 1925. Among our teachers that I can remember our much-loved Tamil master C. H. Kathiravelpillai outdid the rest.

There was a huge well adjoining the kitchen and the dining hall of the time, in which boys were allowed to bathe and swim. Mostly the senior boys had a dip in it every evening. I remember the Kadigamars were adepts at diving and swimming, particularly Gordon and Stoner Kadigamar. Some day-scholars were allowed permission to attend the night study with the boarders inside the College. This occasionally resulted in the disappearance of king coconuts from the College trees and even mangoes from the adjoining Old Park! I remember that even the saintly Canon Somasundaram is said to have owned up to such mischief when he was a student at Jaffna College. The miscreants at St. John's are not worth mentioning!

Before concluding my reminiscences I should like to recall one or two incidents while at school provided the Editor does not feel like using his scissors at this stage. One was a schoolboy howler. A boy in the 5th standard while answering a paper in biology described a frog as "a kind of big bug sitting on its hind legs and jumping on its front legs".



Once Leetham, a European inspector of schools, walked into the Junior Cambridge class. Probably a war veteran, he had a limp in his walk and had a huge round head with graying hair and arresting eyes. K. Nesiah and Sonny Richards who were in the front row were so tickled that they could not help giggling but I was two rows away and so escaped notice. Mr. Leetham grunted his disapproval to the teacher who, I believe, was Mr. A. S. Williams.

Mr. A. G. Charles, like C. C. Jell, had a long spell as teacher at St. John's. He would occasionally divert our attention to his exploits, mostly fancied and intended to impress. He once told us that he was riding a bicycle along the tramways in Colombo when the front wheel got wedged between the tram lines and the tram was approaching fast. He immediately pulled out a red handkerchief and waved it in the

air so that the tram came to a dead halt. We boys wondered whether he always carried a red hanky with him.

Many such occurrences crowd one's memory, such as scavenger cows eating up all the paper lying about in College premises, the playing field under water during the rainy season becoming a sport for the boys with plantain trunks floating all over. I can visualise even now H. W. Thambyah, retired Supreme Court Judge, wading through the water with his verty tucked up and his books under his arm; the slate roofed church at St. John's; Rev. Jacob Thompson fraternising and playing football with the little boys; the military discipline under McPherson and the more spacious times under Peto when the College prefects were given enhanced freedom and responsibility.

And now I would stop as the Editor will very much like me to.

## *Thoddil Palakkam Sudukadu Maddum*

By

S. ARUMUGANATHAN

The above is a Tamil proverb "Thoddil Palakkam Sudukadu Maddum".

I had my early days of education at St. John's College, Jaffna in the years 1927 when I was ten years old and during which time T. B. Ekanayake (Tikri Banda Kiri Kiri Bole) Registrar of Sri Lankians, M. Vecrasingam (Vellai Appam) Retired Assistant Food Controller, Maithiripala Senanayake Hon. Minister of Irrigation and Highways, George Karunaratne Depot Superintendent, C. T. B., Matala, have been my boarding mates at Thompson House. For additional diet

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we made cigarette tin oil lamps and placing another tin on the top of the three stones boiled eggs.

Rains were welcome and we played rugger and football in the flooded compound and during Sundays we studied in the class rooms or slept at noon. And in the evening we went with clean dresses to Church and then for a walk.

We used to go in rows for matches to the esplanade followed or preceded at times by St. Patrick's boarders accompanied by prefects keeping us from hooting Doe! Doe! enna Doe! Machadoe!.

During this time the Chundikuli girls' school was separated by a fence with many peeping holes. This was mostly done by the girls to see the cricket and football matches and to call for the boys to have their tennis ball thrown back. It was at this stage Maithri would not pick up the ball even when called for but will run away and we used to run behind Maithri to have the ball thrown back to the girls, school. So shy was he at that time.

During Easter a day or two before holidays we went round at night with moistened ash to place whiskers on those who were asleep and this was allowed.

In 1928 I won the scripture prize in the old testament although I was a Hindu by religion.

In 1929 when we went to Jaffna College at Vaddukoddai and won the football Match, we who travelled by bus were pelted with stones by the Jaffna School boys.

It was during this time that a cow's tail was tied to the church bell and it began to ring the bell and Master Ponnudurai's room door of Evart's House was placed at night with two shutters of the barber saloon. The knee cap of one of the players was lost at the mail office and all the boarders were given imposition till it was found.

Every day there was drill for us cubs, and sports, both cricket and football with coaches according to season and inter school matches even for young boys.

All had to speak English and should anyone be found to speak Tamil and if caught by the prefects or monitors he would be fined five cents every time he spoke in Tamil.

Now coming back to the proverb it happened that I got a shining one cent coin when I bought tuck shop coupon from Cashier Brother Richard. When I showed this to Mr. Anandarajah at night study wanting to find out whether he had seen a horse in a one cent piece he said it may be a gold coin and so we took it to the market and obtained Rs. 10/50. With this I bought a pocket watch and wristlet but both these got lost or damaged and plus more things of mine got lost. From this I learnt that I should not touch anyone else's property even if he had no knowledge of it, as this coin had no place in my till box.

I am today being looked upon as a truthful, trustworthy and benevolent citizen as a result of my practical study I had at College apart from discipline, obedience and respect to teachers and elders.

As a result of the above qualities and regulated hours of study, play and rest I have been able to qualify myself in Commerce, Building and Water Engineering as a Fellow of the Commercial Institute of Birmingham, Member of the Institute of Accountancy, Calcutta, Associate Member of the Institute of Engineering Technology, London, and remain as a business man in Shipping and Petroleum at Trincomalee by heredity of a Shipping family of 100 years progeny.





# *Reminiscences of A Retired Teacher*

By

K. SUBRAMANIAM

I have been asked by the Editor of the *Souvenir of the Ter-Jubilee Celebrations of St. John's College, Jaffna*, to give my personal experiences and recollections of outstanding events and achievements of the College during my time - 1929 to 1960. It gives me great pleasure to make this contribution.

After a lengthy interview, I was appointed Senior Tamil Master by the Rev. Henry Peto. 1929 was the year of Triennial Inspection. I was given one Latin class in the Middle School. One of the Inspectors was the late Mr. Vanderwall. He came to my Latin Class to test the boys. I had, even as a student, studied Mr. Vanderwall and his stock of questions in grammar and composition, each of which had a "Catch". I had prepared the students to be ready to answer such questions. They did very well. He was so pleased that he pulled out his diary, asked me my name and qualification and wrote something, I knew not what, and told me, in the hearing of the boys, that the class was very good in Latin and that he was quite pleased with my work. Next, he went to the Senior Camb. class whose Latin was done by Mr. Peto, a Classical Tripos scholar of Cambridge. There, too, I was told later, he complimented me and my Latin class. In the Triennial Report sent to the Principal, he paid the same compliment. It was read to the staff along with the reports of the other Inspectors. That was how I was recognised as a Latin Teacher also. So, I went merrily on, teaching these two subjects mainly in the Upper School. Later I had to teach Logic also in the Matriculation

and Inter-Arts classes preparing for the London University Examinations.

In 1932, something unexpected - as far I was concerned - happened. Mr. Peto called me and said I should do the Senior Latin, and that he would do the Junior. I was taken aback a little. Then I asked him, "Sir, do you really have so much confidence in me?" (I was only an Inter-Arts man then.) He readily said he did have. With all humility I undertook the task. There were fifteen students. At the Withdrawal Examination in November, I passed fourteen of them. At the meeting held to consider the eligibles, I told Mr. Cumaraswamy, the Acting Principal, that I was fairly sure that all the fourteen would pass the Cambridge Examination also. The results came; as I predicted, all the fourteen passed.

Tamil in those days, I felt, was not given its due place in the school curriculum. Very soon the library was fairly well equipped with Tamil books, Magazines and News papers. Junior and Senior Essay Competitions, and two years later Oratorical Contests too, were begun in the School. A gold medal for Tamil Oratory was annually presented by Mr. Sam Sabapathy till his death. Mr. Peto though an Englishman gave me all encouragement in my endeavour to give Tamil its due place. All that I did was to enthuse the boys with a love for Tamil. How far I succeeded may be judged from at least a few scholars, the foremost among whom is the present Professor of Tamil at the University of Sri Lanka, Dr. S. Vithiananthan. M. A. - Ph. D (Lond).

The end of my first year saw the retirement of the veteran teacher and educationist, the late Mr. T. H. Crossette. He was Vice-Principal for a long period and served as Acting Principal too, on more than one occasion. From the speeches made on that occasion, I realised the great contribution he had made to St. John's.

Mr. A. M. K. Cumaraswamy succeeded Mr. Crossette as Vice-Principal. He was a versatile gentleman with a wealth of humour. Though his stay was only for five years, yet it was a colourful period. He acted for the Principal for thirty three months.

He enriched the school in many ways. We had in the school then some Sinhalese lads, chiefly from this side of Anuradhapura and a few Malayalee and Burgher Boys. Mr. Cumaraswamy introduced two novel prizes to be awarded annually. 1. A Sinhalese prize for non-Sinhalese, 2. A Tamil prize for non-Tamils. To decide the winners Mr. Cumaraswamy examined the non-Sinhalese in Sinhalese and I, the non-Tamils in Tamil. I remember the first prize for non-Tamils was won by a Sinhalese lad, who, today is a Minister of State and was for some time the Acting Head of the Government as well.

When I joined the School, I found it very satisfactory in many respects except in the matter of buildings. The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham had returned from England with high academic and theological qualifications. He was appointed Vice-Principal. Both he and Mr. Peto together planned the building project. I must state at this juncture that in 1929 the C. M. S. had withdrawn all financial support to St. John's College. Mr. Peto made an appeal to the staff to undertake on a Voluntary basis the supervis-

ion of the Boarders' study. He received ready response. This gave him a little financial relief, because he was paying the Boarding house masters a certain sum every month by way of remuneration. It was in such a situation that the colossal task of putting up new buildings was undertaken. Mr. Peto had a mental picture of the whole project. First he started with the renovation of the Robert Williams' Hall. Before giving it to the contractor he personally supervised the removal of all the furniture in the Hall and met with his tragic end that very night. Mr. Arulanantham had to shoulder the responsibility of guiding the destinies of the school for a period of seventeen years.

A word or two about Mr. Peto will not be out of place here. He was a simple man and a great disciplinarian. He worked very hard both day and night with a missionary zeal to make St. John's the foremost Institution.

When Mr. Arulanantham assumed the Principalship of the School, he was closely watched by the "Old Boys", by the parents of the students, by the friends of the school, and by the public in general to see how he would shape as a Principal. Within a few years he had earned the encomium of all concerned. One day I had the pleasure of chatting with an old teacher of mine; he was a great English Scholar and a reputed educationist. He talked of many things; one was about the Tamil Principals of the Jaffna Colleges. At one stage I asked him "Sir, what do you think of our Principal?" Then he asked me, "You mean Arulanantham". I said, "Yes". This was his verdict. "He is a great success, you know; he is a great success".

It was left to Mr. Arulanantham to carry out the building programme. He had



no money at all. Somehow or other he found the money and today most of the stately buildings stands to his credit. "Si monumentum requiris, conspice". If you want a monument to Mr. Arulanantham, look around.

Side by side with the progress of St. John's, the forces of evil also were at work. I shall mention here only one such. The foundation (overnight, as it were) was laid for what was then called the Mahendra Theatre. It was just in front of the College gate. It was a great threat to the discipline of the school. The evil effects of a theatre in front of a school may better be imagined than described here. The Principal had no alternative, but to shift the gate from Main Street to the Old Park Road. The theatre was financially a complete failure. The owners came to Mr. Arulanantham and asked him to buy it for the school. "Fools who came to scoff knelt down to pray". Though he had a head-load of debt running into several lakhs incurred in connection with the new buildings, yet he didn't wish to miss the chance. Somehow, I don't know the "modus operandi" he adopted,—he managed to get the money, straightaway bought the theatre, remodelled it to serve the purpose of a hostel and named it "Henry Peto Hostel".

With the unstinted support, loyalty, enthusiasm and encouragement of the staff at all times, Mr. Arulanantham had to take far-reaching decisions. I mention here only one instance. When the Free Education Scheme was first introduced, the school was given the option either to accept it or reject it. The latter course was chosen and as a result the school gained in every way. In all these undertakings and decisions I always felt that there was the invisible hand of God guiding the destinies of St. John's, because it was founded by the Missionaries of old

on faith in God, in a spirit of service and with sincerity and genuineness of purpose.

Long before the Department of Education ever thought of Parent-Teachers' Association, Mr. Peto formed one such at St. John's. The teachers at his suggestion undertook to visit the parents in their homes by prior arrangement with the boys. Every year there used to be a meeting of the parents in the school. Thus a much closer contact between the school and the parents was established and this was of great help, particularly in the matter of discipline.

It should be said to the credit of Mr. Arulanantham that he made History and Geography compulsory for all boys up to the S. S. C. He so designed the curriculum that it was possible for a boy to take to any course of study after the S.S.C. whether it was medicine or engineering or any other. Further, it was his rule that a science boy in the S. S. C. class should do an Arts subject and an Arts boy should do a science subject. Specialization started only after the S.S.C. and not somewhere at the middle school stage. He was a firm believer in an all round education up to the S.S.C.

Mr. Arulanantham was a great optimist, a man of undaunted courage and faith in God. He had plenty of tact and extraordinary patience. All these combined made him the great Principal he was. On the whole his stewardship was a glorious one.

I have to record here some outstanding achievements of the school during my time both in the class room and in the playing field. For three years in succession from 1929—1931, the school won the Championship in Football, and in 1930 and 1931, in Cricket. In 1949, St. John's also won the All Ceylon Nine-a-side Intercollegiate

Championship in Volley Ball. A shield was presented by the Governor-General, Lord Soulbury. A photograph of the team together with him was taken on the occasion. The school had the Cadet Corps for a long time till 1960. A large number of boys with a military training and with their achievements in games and athletics were easily able to get jobs particularly in the Police and the Excise Departments.

St. John's can well be proud of her achievements in the academic field as well. The results at Examinations were consistently good. It was in the University Entrance Examinations, that the school did very well, particularly in Medicine, in the North. Once it was first in the whole Island, again it was bracketed first with Royal College. In another year it came second in the Island. The Government of Ceylon (Now Sri Lanka) offered six scholarships to do Engineering in Australia; two of them were won by boys of St. John's. Another time six boys were selected by Government to undergo military training in Sandhurst, England; two of them were from St. John's.

It is also to the credit of the school that it produced two judges, three civil servants, five C. A. S. officers selected through open competition, nine D. R. O's of whom two had risen to the position of Additional Government Agents and a third, a Sinhalese is now the Commissioner of Registrations of Persons, and seven Ph. D's. The respective numbers may even be more, because I have produced all these from memory and not from any record.

A number of doctors have become specialists in the different branches of Medicine, of whom one has obtained the highest qualification in Surgery—M. S. (Master of Surgery) and on the other was conferred the F. R. C. P. by the University of Edinburgh. In Engineering as well as in other fields, too, the school has done quite well. I can't go into details any more, but I can say this much that St. John's always maintained a high standard in games and studies.

When I joined St. John's, I was a perfect stranger and Hindu by faith. Yet I was treated very well by the whole school. For the little I did to the school both in the class room and outside, the Principal and the Management were so good as to reward me with a "Special Post".

“தினத்தின நன்றி செய்யும் பணத்தின யாக்  
கொள்வர் பயன் தெரிவார்”.

This was an extremely fine gesture and I felt always grateful. St. John's is a great and noble Institution with excellent traditions built over the years. There was plenty of esprit de corps, a perfect understanding between the Principal and staff. The boys were good, they were interested in their work and play, and the teachers, in the all-round development of their charge. All of us then felt that we were enjoying in the school a period of halcyon days. I had no regrets at all. Positively I was quite happy and contented, and I always felt and do feel so even now that I had the privilege of teaching in such a school.

In conclusion I wish St. John's all prosperity and progress ad multos annos.

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# *An Old Pupil Thinks Back*

By

S. SIVATHASAN

There is hardly a pleasanter thing than to summon up remembrances of one's days at school. I hapened to be at St. John's College from 1947-'57. As I seek to recount the events during my stay, nostalgic memories are revived of the delightful time I was able to have. When I was young our house was more or less part of the college campus. So literally I lived, moved and had my being in the college. That wrapped-up feeling which is rare for a student, was mine, and the activities of the college absorbed much of my thought and sentiment. When one is at college the thought seldom crosses one's mind that this experience is never again to be repeated.

To gain admission to the college, I was tutored in English. I was ready for any grilling up to three questions. The Principal asked my name. I answered and was admitted to the fourth standard. I wonder whether the time would ever come when one could enter a college of one's choice with such ease.

St. John's enjoyed a high reputation at this time as one of the leading institutions in Jaffna, though the best years in the annals of the college were perhaps in the fifties. Even students in the lower forms were conscious of this, though they were not fully aware as to what made this institution great. The destinies of the College were guided by men of dedication. When the welfare of the college was paramount in them, all other considerations melted away. The staff was united to a man and was dominated by the older generation brought up in an ethos all their own. At the apex was the Principal Rev. J. T. Arulanantham, austere and dignified whose

authority was never questioned. His aloofness with the students added to the mystique about him. Most of the teachers were in their profession out of a sense of vocation and seem to have been animated by the spirit of the Gita "to work alone hast thou a right, not to the fruits thereof." Perhaps the achievements of their pupils came as adequate recompense for their labours.

In this climate, the teachers gave of their best. The cause of learning benefited most. Extra-curricular activities too were well looked after. An all pervasive discipline moulded the character of the student community. It is my understanding that it was this sense of discipline steering deftly through the extremes of sternness and laxity, which has marked out St. John's from other institutions and has accounted for the high standards the college was able to attain in all spheres of activity.

The student population had a sense of community and shared in the pride of belonging to a noble institution. This sense of belonging manifested in the efficiency with which all school functions were conducted. The annual prize-giving always stood out as a testimony to organisational ability. Preparations and rehearsals took a fortnight and the final event had a serene atmosphere about it. The annual sports meet too was an event worth looking forward to. The idea of a healthy mind in a healthy body obtained alongside with primacy for studies.

When I was young, the most significant event at college was the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the college. I can

remember a series of functions that were arranged in this connection. Occasions of this type brought the students and teachers closer, and the whole school revelled in the celebrations. We looked forward to the ter-centenary celebrations, hardly suspecting the vast changes that would take place in this period.

Throughout in the fifties the college did very well in cricket, football and athletics. However the years 1951 and 1952 were exceptionally brilliant in all three fields. Excellent players thrilled the spectators at both cricket and football. As young students, we basked in the reflected glory. A cricket match to remember was the encounter with Jaffna Central College in 1951. That year, St. John's had defeated all the teams by an innings. But in the final match, the College was defeated by seven runs. However amends were made the following year, when St. John's emerged as the unbeaten team in Jaffna. Some of the most thrilling football matches were witnessed in 1952. The best was against Kokuvil Hindu College who were the champions in Jaffna. St. John's was able to trounce her with ease. In the same year in an evenly matched encounter, one of our players hurt a star player on the other side and secured victory for the college. We gave him a rousing ovation and looked sheepish when the coach who was a member of the staff gave him a severe reprimand. It showed pointedly that what the college sought was how we played the game.

My happiest memories as a student go back to the third form. Most of the studious pupils were placed in one class. It was reckoned as one of the best in the whole college. Out of a strength of thirty five not less than twenty have graduated. The group counts several doctors and engineers. Two are in the Overseas Service.

Two have entered the Administrative Service. They were followed by one of their teachers. The class excelled in studies as in mischief. Perhaps that irrepressible energy which effuses in mischief has its relationship to the work of the intellect. Unity was our byword. Not a student let the side down. We were ceasing to be young. Loyalty to the group was successfully competing with allegiance to authority. This earned the appreciation of some teachers.

My period of stay at College was long enough to see a great deal of growth and development. Even as we grew, we also saw the school grow. The student community grew from about eight hundred to nearly thousand five hundred. Alongside with this growth was also the expansion of buildings and a gradual transformation of the whole landscape. Besides these aspects of physical growth, there was a visible enhancement of the quality of education that was imparted. The series of lectures organised for the benefit of the students, enriched their confidence. The cumulative impact manifested in commendable academic performance as viewed through examination results.

With a succession of proud achievements we reached the year 1957. After seventeen years of stewardship, Rev. J. T. Arulanantham relinquished his duties. He had held his office with dignity and acceptance and brought distinction to the college. His mantle descended upon Mr. P. T. Mathai. There was no worthier person for this rare honour. He was a teacher of unrivalled excellence. When he was Vice-Principal from 1952-57, his flair for discipline complemented the gentleness of the Principal to provide a harmonious blend of leadership. Now he was at the helm. He touched nothing which he did not adorn. His influence was all pervasive. He was



a Principal for two years and when he retired in 1959, St. John's sent the largest number of students to the University in the whole island. This was a tribute to his thirty eight years of dedicated toil. His first love was India and second St. John's.

My career at college came to an end in early 1958. Since then my connection has not been intimate. However I cherish

the memory of the long years I spent there and recollect with gratitude the loving care and concern with which the teachers set about their noble calling. Wherever I happen to go on my official assignments, I seldom fail to encounter a Johnian. This is a standing tribute to the labours of the college. It's our renewed hope that she will continue to hold aloft the torch of learning and keep afire the flame of freedom.

## *Memory Pays Its Tribute*

By

VICTOR NEWTON

I am an old boy with Johnian blood pulsing proudly in my veins. I passed through the portals of St. John's beginning from the 1st Year C class right up to the London Matriculation, the highest class in College at that time.

During these 150th Anniversary Celebrations reminiscences of my school days bring back pleasant and grateful memories of days gone by—days of my boyhood—days when the mere sight of our College colours—red and black—tinkled the blood in our veins and warmed the cockles of our hearts—days when we sang lustily "Lord behold us with Thy blessing" at the beginning of every New Term and "Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing" at the end of term—days of our noble and beloved Principal—days of our loving and lovable teachers, who knew every one of us inside out—days of friends and classmates sincere and true—days of a feeling of oneness and harmony, which blossomed out and remained to strengthen us even after we had passed through the portals of the College—days S.J.C.—18

when the canker of communalism was not heard of or thought of in any part of Sri Lanka—days when warm friendships and friendliness grew unhampered—days when we thought of us only as Ceylonese and the thought of any distinction on grounds of race, religion or creed never bothered us.

So to all of them—those who have left their imprints on the sands of time and have passed beyond the veil, as well as those still with us to witness these celebrations, this article is dedicated with love and affection and presented with a bouquet of red roses tied in a black ribbon with the label "Lux in Tenebris lucet" — "Light shineth in the darkness".

To my old Principal Rev. Henry Peto, a great product of both Oxford and Cambridge, a valiant knight of old and a stalwart of a leader imbued with sincerity of purpose and matchless skill and who led St. John's from strength to strength and who gave our Alma Mater that quality and character, which made her unique in the

annals of education in Sri Lanka, and taught us sportsmanship and how to accept victory with humility and defeat unruffled and with grace, I bow my head in grateful memory. This great son of England who became a son of Jaffna and was looked upon as a father by thousands of Johnians whose characters he moulded, stands enshrined in letters of gold in the history of the College. It is fitting that the new Jubilee Hall is dedicated to his memory during these celebrations.

My heart wells up in gratitude at the thought of my old teachers the first of whom was Mrs. Lembruggen, a thin old lady, the sight of whose rickety rickshaw made us put our marbles into our pockets and run into class to commence lessons for the day. She was lovable and kind and a mother to us all. Next came Mrs. Werkmeister, a charming lady and a strict disciplinarian, who did not spare the cane to correct us when we were naughty and gave us sweets when we were good. The bespectacled Mr. D. H. Chinniah, whose frequent shouts of "Keep quiet" and "Stand up on the form" will still echo in the ears of those he taught. Mr. C. C. Jell was another valiant teacher, who was particular about our pronunciation. He was a large hulk of a man and frightened us with stories of how he had dealt with our predecessors who neglected their studies. Mr. S. L. Jansen, who was our football coach, was another lovable teacher, who did not spare the wooden handle of the class duster or our side burns when it came to correcting. He spoke Tamil with gusto that endeared him to us all. Mr. S. M. Thambialayah taught us arithmetic and never forgot to draw a train on the black board complete with smoke puffing out of the engine to teach us to work out our sums involving speed and time. I cannot forget my own father Mr. Charles Newton,

who taught us Tamil with zest and enthusiasm and helped us to prepare copious notes with which to prepare for and obtain distinctions in our examinations. His gift to me of a green coloured parker fountain pen when I passed the Junior Cambridge examination made me the proud possessor of a pen because its colour was that of my House—Handy. Messrs. D. C. Arulandam, J. C. Handy and E. M. Ponnudurai taught us Chemistry and Physics and we love them all, as they spared no pains to make us men. The Mathais, P. T., T. M. and P. I. were a grand trio, T. M. was our scout master and science teacher and had a thick cane close at hand as a stern reminder to do our Chemistry practicals correctly and not play the fool by mixing acids and alkalis at random to produce liquids of various fanciful hues in our test tubes! Good old Vellaichamy, a faithful lab boy, was behind us at every turn to see that chemicals were not wasted by us. P. I. was our history teacher and went into ecstasies when speaking of Mahatma Gandhi and Mother India. P. T. was a methodical man who did not waste a minute during class hours and saw to it that the time was spent profitably. He was a man of strong character, who taught us geometry and arithmetic with a clarity that left no doubts in our minds. Messrs. S. J. Gunasegaram and V. C. Canagaratnam taught us English and moulded our thought patterns with firmness mingled with kindness. Among others are Messrs. K. Nesiah, A. J. Evans and K. Subramaniam—all great men whose names will go down in the college history as noble and valiant teachers. Mr. Nesiah taught us history in professorial fashion and his lectures sparkled with wit and humour. Mr. Evans taught us Latin and also cricket. He wanted dead accuracy and brooked no nonsense. I still remember his keeping the then ten cent silver coin



on the cricket pitch and requesting the bowler to pitch his ball on the coin with dead accuracy. Mr. Subramaniam taught us Latin along with a bevy of smiling beauties from Chundikuli Girls' College. We were scared of these classes and were up to date with our home work for fear of being pulled up and put to shame before the girls.

Among us, college and class mates the Vandendriesen brothers Harry, Collin, Eric, Tom and Billy come to my mind forcefully. Eric was my friend and he was loved by all his classmates as a leader among us and a gentleman to his fingertips and one who always stood by his friends through cloud and sunshine. Albert Vethanayagam, J. T. Chelliah, J. V. C. Nathaniel, Maitripala Senanayake, T. B. Tennakone, George Karunaratna, S. Sivasothy, M. Veerasingam, Vincent Jacob, H. L. D. Selvaratnam, Christopher Somasunderam, K. Nadarajah, S. Ponnudurai A. J. C. Selvaratnam, W. E. L. Jebanesan, N. E. Ratnam, S. C. Atputharajah, T. C. Selvarajah, Nathaniel's brothers, Simon, Rasiah brothers and S. Ambalavanar are all names well remembered. Albert, the present O.B.A. President, during this momentous period of our celebrations showed signs of great promise even as a little boy and his love for his college then as now knew no bounds. Good old J. T. C. — "Tambiratnam" as we fondly called him, has always been a great gentleman and behaved with great decorum and dignity. To us, his friends, it is a matter of pride that he holds the position of Vice Principal in our Alma Mater. Maitripala was a quiet and serious lad who was respected by all of us and was gentlemanly in his ways. It is a source of pride to us that he holds the office of a Cabinet Minister and has even acted for the Head of the Government on many an occasion, 'J. V. C.' was cast to be a

lawyer and showed promise in this direction at the College Debating Society. He carried away gold medal after gold medal for his oratory. Tennakone and Karnunaratne too were great gentlemen of the first order and proved themselves loyal Johnnians always. Sivasothy, Jacob and Veerasingham excelled in scouting, cadeting and in cricket respectively. "H. L. D." was a careful and studious boy and we are proud that he holds the position of first Deputy Governor of the Central Bank. Amarasingham or "Lottar" as he was affectionately called, was a lovable friend. He was fond of music and drama and took part in Shakespearian plays. The role played by him as Caliban in the Tempest fitted him admirably and raised rounds of applause. Nadarajah or 'Mankutty' as he was popularly known, reminded one of a fleet footed spotted deer in his performance in athletics. S. Ponnudurai became our Senior Prefect — a hardworking and loyal old boy. So was Sivasothy, both of whom have retired from Government service and still prove themselves amiable pals. That A. J. C. Selvaratnam would take to Holy Orders was evident from early school days in view of the keen interest he took in studying his scripture. On Monday mornings he would come to school spick and span wearing his Sunday best and kept himself aloof from his classmates for fear of soiling his suit. We are proud that he is the Vicar of the Parish toiling in the Lord's Vineyard. I cannot forget R. E. Rajanayagam leading Scouter and Sportsman who later on did yeoman service to the O.B.A.

In the field of athletics, cricket and football the names of T. Gunaratnam, C. T. E. Mills, G. R. Canagasabai (Congo), J. R. Gnanapragasam, Meyappan, A. Perumal, C. M. Alfred, C. H. Duraisamy, Belligodapitiya, C. Canagaiab, P. Thiagarajah, K. Sabaratnam (Thadiar), S. G. Rajanayagam,

Charles Keerthisinghe and V. Perampalam have become immortal. Gunaratnam, the Present O. B. A. South Ceylon President was our goal keeper par excellence. Mills was our brilliant left winger, who could kick the ball into the mouth of the goal from any part of the field and all that remained to be done was for our dashing centre forward P. Thiagarajah to head the ball in for a sure goal. Canagasabai better known as "Congo" was an all rounder in cricket and captained our side with distinction. J R. Gnanapragasam was an ace bowler and wickets fell like nine pins before his deadly spells of bowling. Perumal excelled both in cricket and football and fared best in times of crisis. The brothers Alfred and Duraisamy played cricket and football creditably well. Canagaiah was our clever goalie who jealously guarded the goal and whose hawk-eyed vigilance always paid dividends. Thiagarajh as our dashing centre forward who could dribble his way all alone and shoot a goal to the wonder and amazement of all. The picture is still vivid in my mind of how at the Championship match between St. John's and St. Patrick's played

at the Jaffna esplanade and umpired by the meticulously careful Phelps of Jaffna College, within seconds of the kick-off our forward line functioned with clock work precision and the ball, Thiagarajah and the St. Patrick's goalie were found pat against the net to get our first goal of the match. Didn't the Johnians jump for joy? This goal was followed by a second in quick succession and two more after the breather to take the tally to four winning the Championship match. These were great occasions for us and also an excuse to run into the Girls' College and demand a holiday for the girls as well to honour our winning the Championship. This request was always readily granted by Miss Page, the Principal, who also never failed to call for three cheers for St. John's.

Time and space prevent me from going on and on. I have written of those whose names come to my mind. There are many many more and if any have been missed in this article, it should be remembered that they are all precious to us as old Johnians.

I conclude with this verse composed by Albert, our O. B. A. President:

*"I am longing for my boyhood times,  
When Ceylonese we were all proud to be,  
Not Singhalee, not Tamil, nor Buddhist, Hindu, Christian  
thought were we,  
But all one happy Johnian family. were we."*





## PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

*(Continued from page 15)*

- |           |       |   |
|-----------|-------|---|
|           | 1938: | The Principal, the Rev. Henry Peto, the Vice-Principal, the Rev. J. T. Arulanantham and Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai visited the old boys in Malaya during the Easter vacations.  |
| 13th JUNE | 1940: | The death of the Rev. Henry Peto. The Bishop of Colombo, the Rev. R. W. Stopford, Manager of St. John's, Miss. Opie, Principal Ladies' College, Miss Carter on behalf of the C. M. S. and Mr. E. T. Dyson, (Government Agent) were among those who attended the funeral and tributes were paid to the life and work of Mr. Peto. The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham appointed Principal. |
|           | 1941: | Work on the Robert Williams' Hall and a new Dining Hall was completed. Mr. P. C. Gaussen appointed Vice-Principal.  |
| JULY      | 1941: | Foundation for the Centenary Science Block laid by Dr. Ivor Jennings, Principal of the University College. The Cottage system in Boarding House introduced.   |
| SEPT.     | 1941: | The 25th Anniversary of the College Scout Troop.  |
| 25th JULY | 1942: | The Centenary Science Block opened by Prof. A. Kandiah, Dean of the Faculty of Science  |
|           | 1943: | The Rose Walton Memorial Sick Room built.   |
|           | 1945: | St. John's opts to remain outside free scheme of Education  |
|           | 1948: | The 125th Anniversary celebrations held on a grand scale. New Iron Gate for the entrance gifted by Dr. C. Candiah J. P  |
|           | 1949: | St. John's won the All-Ceylon Inter-Collegiate Volley Ball Championship.  |
| NOVR.     | 1949: | Mr. S. Sivaprakasam appointed Vice-Principal.   |
|           | 1950: | New Block for Junior School.  |
|           | 1951: | St. John's joins the Free Education Scheme.   |
|           | 1952: | Death of Mr. T. H. Crossette and Mr. A. M. Nathaniel  |

- 1952: Mr. P. T. Mathai appointed Vice-Principal
- 1953: Station (Tamil) School amalgamated with St. John's.  
The property adjoining Fleming House was purchased.
- 1954: The Mahendra Theatre was purchased by the C. M. S. for Rs. 65,000/- and lent to the College for use as a Hostel named "Peto Hostel".
- 3rd JUNE 1954: The Jubilee Celebrations of the Old Boys' Association took place both in Colombo and Jaffna. Foundation for a Hostel laid by Mrs. A. Rajasingham towards the construction of which her husband had donated Rs. 30,000/-
- MAY 1957: The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham retires and is succeeded by Mr. P. T. Mathai. Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram appointed Vice-Principal.
- MAY 1959: Mr. P. T. Mathai retires and Mr. A.W.Rajasekaram appointed Principal. Mr. J. T. Chelliah appointed Vice-Principal.
- 1960: An Advisory Committee set up to advise the Governing Body. St. John's opts to become a Private and Non-Fee-Levying School, mainly due to the energetic action taken by the Old Boys' Association.
- 1963: Mr. J. C. Handy appointed Manager of the College.
- DECEMBER 1966: Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram retires as Principal.
- MARCH 1967: Mr. K. Pooranampillai assumes duties as Principal.
- NOVEMBER 1967: The Board of Governors for Educational institutions founded by the C. M. S. Ceylon, decides to set up a joint Committee to advise the Governing Body in matters concerning the College with the proviso "that the joint Committee in due course develops into a Governing Body for St. John's College and the Jaffna Academy.
- 1969: Death of Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram.
- 1970: Mr. C. E. Anandarajan appointed Co-Vice-Principal.
- 1972: Death of Mr. J. C. Handy, Manager of the College.
- 1974: The Governing Body accepts in principle the setting up of a separate Board of Directors for St. John's College and takes action to draft a constitution based on the drafts submitted by the Old Boys' Association and the Joint Committee.



## *The Launching of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations Campaign*

(President's address to the St. John's College, Jaffna 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee at a meeting held, in the staff room of St. John's College on 27-9-71 at 6-30 p. m. on the eve of launching the Campaign by the Committee's participation in the Jaffna Y. W. C. A. World Industrial Fair & Exhibition held at the College from 29th Sept. 71 to 2nd Oct. 71.)

Principal Sir, Fellow Old Boys.

Today we meet as members of the St. John's College 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee for the last time before we launch our first project towards this Campaign. To be members of a committee that is planning to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of any Institution is a rare event. To be members of a Committee preparing to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of this school—our School—the school which nurtured us and to which, next to our revered parents, we owe so much,—is indeed a rare privilege.

After weeks of debate and discussions since our Committee came into existence: we meet today on the eve of launching our 150th Anniversary Celebrations Campaign.

We go into this our very first project in this Campaign not so much to raise money, but to raise enthusiasm for our campaign amongst Old Boys, Parents, friends and well wishers. That we have more than succeeded in this our objective is quite evident.

The task before us—to raise a sum of Rs. 3½ lakhs—is indeed a Herculean one. But we are undaunted. For we know that “With God all things are possible” We bring into our venture Faith Enthusiasm and Belief in the venture. We will continue to hold before us a picture of successful achievement and succeed—we will.

At all great moments in my life I have prayed. I would, therefore request you, gentlemen, to rise from your seats and remain in silence for a few moments turning our hearts and minds to the ONE who said “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them”.

Let us feel His presence with us. Let us feel a sense of being gathered in His name. Let us wait in silence and listen and hear and obey—God's guidance in this our task.

Thank you, for joining me during these few moments in silence, prayer and meditation on the almightiness of God, as we are about to launch our campaign.

“O God our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.”

Albert Vethanayagam

## *Donation to the S. J. C. 150th Anniversary Building Fund as on Today*

NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on
<b>A</b>		27-11-74
Mr. A. R. Abraham, Malar Vasa, Kopay	150-00	150-00
„ T. I. Abraham, Temple Road, Jaffna	250-00	250-00
„ K. Aiyadurai, 10, Kachcheri East Lane, Chundikuli	50-00	50-00
Mrs. S. T. Aiyadurai 16, Somasunderam Avenue, „	100-00	100-00
Mr. K. Aiyaru, Nachimarkovil Road, Jaffna	250-00	125-00
„ W. T. Alagaratnam, 85/30, Jawatte Rd., Colombo 5	150 00	150-80
„ V. R. Amarasingam, St. John's College, Jaffna	700-00	700-00
„ C. Amarasingam, 73/34, Sri Ratnakara Place, Dehiwella	100-00	100-00
Rt. Rev. Dr. Ambalavanar, Bishop's House, Vaddukoddai	300-00	300-00
Dr. C. Anandakrishnan, B. H. Kalmunai	150-00	150-00
Mr. C. E. Anandarajah, St. John's College, Jaffna	750 00	750-00
„ A. Anandarajah, Ammankovilady, Valvettiturai	500-00	500-00
„ A. J. Anandarajan, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai	150-00	150-00
„ S. Antonipillai, Kandy Rd., Chundikuli	500-00	250-00
„ J. G. Arasaratnam, Temple Rd., Jaffna	150-00	150-00
Dr. R. B. S. Arasaratnam, 383, Navalar Rd., Jaffna	150-00	150-00
Mr. D. C. V. Ariyaratnam, 32, Rakka Lane, Chundikuli	250 00	150-00
„ I. R. Ariyaratnam, Jaffna Academy, Chundikuli	100-00	70-00
„ W. D. W. Ariyaratnam, Inland Rev. Dept., N'Eliya	20-00	—
„ M. A. P. Arnold, Bank of Ceylon Colombo	100-00	100-00
„ S. I. K. Arnold, Kurunegala	100-00	100-00
„ W. R. S. Arnold, Ratnakara Place, Dehiwella	100-80	100-00
Dr. (Mrs.) Arulampalam, S. M. O., Jaffna	100 00	100-00
„ T. Arulanadam, G. H. Kalmunai	150-00	150 00
Mrs. J. T. Arulanandam, Rasavinthoddam, Jaffna.	200-00	200-00
Dr. K. Arulanandam, Connecticut, U. S. A.	2000-00	2000-00
„ P. Arulanandam, G. H., Badulla	1000-00	550-00
Mr. D. S. I. Arulanandam, P. U. Migabukiula	150-00	150-00
Dr. T. Arulanandam, G. H., Anuradhapura	150-00	150-00
„ G. S. Arulpiragasam, Kopay	1000-00	1000-00
Mr. S. Arumainayagam, St. John' College, Jaffna	300-00	300-00
„ C. Arunakirinathan, E. E., Jaffna	50-00	50-00
„ K. Asaipillai, Karampon West, Kayts	50-00	50-00
„ J. G. Aseerwatham, D. J., Chavakachcheri	250-00	250-00



NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on
<b>B</b>		
		27-11-74
Mr. K. Balachandran, Eastern Paper Mills, Valaichenai	150-00	150-00
„ C. Balakrishnan, Lawton Rd., Manipay	100-00	100-00
„ S. Balakrishnan, Main St., Chenkaladi	1000-00	1000-00
Dr. B. Balasekeram, B. H., Kegalle	100-00	100-00
Mr. M. Balasubramaniam, Light House View, KKS.	25-00	25-00
„ S. V. P. Bastiampillai, Bastian Press, Chundikuli	100-00	100-00
Dr. R. A. Benjamin, G. H., Jaffna	1000-00	1000-00
„ V. A. Benjamin, G. H., Kandy	500-00	350-00
„ A. K. Black, Old Park Rd., Jaffna	500-00	500-00
His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo	5000-00	5000-00
<b>C</b>		
Mr. A. C. Canagarajah, McLeod Hospital, Inuvli	1000-00	1000-00
„ H. W. Canagarajah, St. John's College, Jaffna	550-00	550-00
„ Donald Chelliah, Church Lane, Chavakachcheri	50-00	50-00
„ J. T. Chelliah, St. John's College, Jaffna	1000-00	1000-00
„ T. Chelliah, Kaneshan Dispensary, Mullaitivu	50-00	50-00
Dr. T. Chelvarajah, 175, Ward Place, Colombo 7	100-00	100-00
Chestinad Corporation, Colombo	100-00	100-00
Mrs. E. G. Chinnappah, Zion Lodge, Nallur	100-00	100-00
<b>D</b>		
Mrs. S. C. Devanayagam, Girls' College, Chundikuli	100-00	100-00
Mr. C. Dharmaratnam, Uduvil East, Chunnakam	100-00	100-00
<b>E</b>		
Mr. Thomas Eapen, Principal, Sacred Heart College, Karaveddi	500-00	500-00
„ A Edwards, 10, Old Park Rd., Jaffna.	100-00	100-00
„ T. B. M. Ekanayake, 31, Sebel Avenue, Colombo 5	150-00	150-00
<b>F</b>		
Rev. K. M. J. Fernando, 368/3, Boudhaleka Mawatte, Colombo 7	30-00	30-00
Mr. A. A. Fitch, Air Ceylon, First Cross Street, Jaffna	100-00	100-00
„ J. Ratnam Fitch, 62, Punkankulam Rd., Jaffna	10-00	10-00
„ Mr. M. C. Francis, 9/2 Eachamoddai Rd., Chundikuli	200-00	200-00
S.J.C.—18A		

## NAME AND ADDRESS

	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on
<b>G</b>		
		27-11-74
Mr. S. Ganesanadas, D.R.O. Mullaitivu	50-00	50-00
„ K. Ganeshalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna	300-00	300-00
„ J. R. Gnanapiragasam, St. John's College, Jaffna	300-00	300-00
„ N. Gnanalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna	497-00	497-00
„ H. T. Gnanasekeram, 28, Vembadi Rd., Jaffna	50-00	50-00
Rev. H. C. Goodchild, Block 'J' Flats, Colombo 4	63-00	63-00
Mr. S. Guhapiragasam, 17, 42nd. Lane, Colombo 6	1000-00	1000-00
„ T. Gunanayagam. Kachcheri Lane, Chundikuli	150-00	150-00
„ K. D. Gunaratnam, Boundary Rd., Vavuniya	10-00	10-00
„ Mr. T. Gunaratnam, 16, Cambridge Terrace, Colombo 7	1000-00	1210-00
„ W. T. Gunaratnam, Bandar-Seri, Bagavan, Brunei	1000-00	1000-00
„ T. Gunaseelan, St. John's College, Jaffna	580-00	580-00
„ Mr. D. R. Gunasekeram, Advocate, Vaddukoddai	250-00	250-00

**H**

Dr. G. R. Handy, Colombo 7	10,000-00	10,000-00
Mr. J. C. Handy, St. John's College, Jaffna	1000-00	1000-00
„ J. M. Handy, Collingwood Place, Colombo 6	4000-00	4000-00
Rev. J. T. N. Handy, 3A Deanston Place, Colombo 3	100-00	100-00
Miss O. Hitchcock, Ladies' College, Colombo	100-00	100-00
Mr. G. R. Y. Hunt, Public Health Engineer, Kurunegala	100-00	100-00
Mr. G. R. Y. Hunt, Public Health Engineer, Kurunegala	100-00	100-00

**J**

Mr. M. R. M. Jebaratnam, Anaicoddai	50-00	50-00
„ S. P. Jeevanandan, St. John's College, Jaffna	360-00	360-00
„ R. T. Jeganathan, Station Road, Chavakachcheri	150-00	150-00
Dr. K. S. Jeyadevan, M. O., B. H. Chilaw	150-00	150-00
Mr. C. Jegatheeswaran, E. E. Badulla	100-00	100-00
„ K. Jegarajah, 3, Gnanasuriam Square, Batticaloa	100-00	100-00
„ E. J. Jeyarajah & children, Dutch Rd., Chavakachcheri	5000-00	5000-00
„ H. A. Jesudasan, 77, Davidson Rd., Colombo 4	150-00	150-00
Dr. K. Jesudasan, B. H. Valvettithurai.	150-00	150-00
Mr. S. C. Jesudasan, 145/1 Hosp. Rd., Jaffna	250-00	250-00
„ G. Jeyakumar, 137, Campbell Palace, Colombo 10	150-00	150-00
Mrs. R. Jeyanayagam, Manipay.	200-00	200-00
Dr. E. W. Jayaratnam, McLeod Hospital, Inuvil	1000-00	1000-00
Mr. A. E. Jayaseelan, 546/13, Galle Rd., Colombo 3	250-00	250-00
„ S. Joganathan, A. D. J's Bungalow, Pt. Pedro	200-00	200-00
„ M. P. M. Junaid, 3, A. P. Rd., Jaffna	500-00	500-00



NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt.	Amt. Paid
	Promised	as on 27-11-74
Mr. E. T. John, Vairavapuliankulam, Vavuniya.	25-00	25-00
„ E. M. Jebarajah, 9A, Somasunderam Avenue, Chundikuli.	100-00	100-00

## K

Mr. P. Kamaleswaran, Empire Hotel, Vavuniya.	25-00	25-00
„ S. M. Kanagaratnam, 42, Arethusa Lane, Colombo 6.	250-00	250-00
„ A. Kanagaratnam, Jaffna Central College, Jaffna.	25 00	25-00
„ K. S. Kanagasabai, Kanesan Stores, 78, K.K.S. Rd., Jaffna.	100-00	100-00
„ M. Kanagasabai, Jaffna Co-op. Stores Ltd., Jaffna.	1500-00	250-00
Dr. S. Kanesiah, 81 Pt. Pedro Rd., Jaffna.	1000-00	1000-00
Mr. S. Kanapathipillai, St. John's College, Jaffna.	300-00	300-00
„ C. Kandasamy Durai, Kadduvalavu, V. V. T.	1000-00	1000-00
„ V. Kandapillai, D. R. O., Kopay.	180-00	110-00
„ R. S. Kandiah, St. John's College, Jaffna.	425-00	425-00
Dr. S. Kandiah, T. R. I., Talawakelle.	100-00	100-00
Miss Rajes Kandiah, 2, Central Rd., Batticaloa.	100-00	100-00
Dr. N. Kandasamy, 41, Kandy Rd., Jaffna.	150-00	150-00
„ S. Karunandan, M. O., Eravur.	250-00	—
Mr. S. A. Karunandan, Rasavinhoddam Rd., Chundikuli.	300-00	300-00
„ S. Kaunairatnam, 25, Station Rd., Batticaloa.	100-00	100-00
„ M. S. Kathirgamathamby, St. John's College, Jaffna.	300-00	300-00
„ M. M. Kathirgamathamby, Eastern Paper Mills, Valaichenai	200-00	—
Mr. S. Kanagaratnam, Raja Veethy, Nallur, Jaffna.	1000-00	500-00
Dr. (Mrs.) R. Kanagasunderam, 46, 1st. Lane, Pt. Pedro Road, Jaffna.	500-00	500-00
Mr. T. Kasinathar, Neervely.	10-00	10-00

## L

Mr. Paul C. Lewis, Cambridge Terrace, Colombo 7.	500-00	500-00
„ H. S. J. Lewis, Kanagasabai Rd., Manipay.	100-00	—
Messrs Leyden Industries Ltd., Jaffna.	5000-00	5000-00
Mr. K. C. Logeswaran, Hospital Rd., Manipay.	150-00	150-00

## M

Mr. S. K. Mahalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	50-00	50-00
„ S. Mahesan, c/o Mr. S. Sivasothy, Chankanai.	10-00	10-00
Dr. S. A. V. Maheswaran, 22, Rasavinhoddam, Jaffna.	300-00	300-00
Mr. K. Maheswaran, 12, Colombogam Rd., Chundikuli.	250-00	125-00
„ A. Mahendrarajah, Station Rd., Wellawatte.	100-00	100-00
Dr. S. Mahendran, 3, De Fonseka Place, Colombo 5.	300-00	300-00
Mr. K. Mylvaganam, Uduvil.	250-00	250-00

NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on 27-11-74
Mr. N. Mylvaganam, St. John's College, Jaffna,	400-00	400-00
„ T. Mylvaganam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	100-00	100-00
Messrs. Malayan Trading Co., K. K. S. Rd., Jaffna.	500-00	500-00
Mr. S. S. Manuelpillai, St. John's College, Jaffna.	250-00	250-00
„ T. Manickam, S. E's Bungalow, Beach Rd., Jaffna.	250-00	150-00
„ R. Mathanakaran, 321, Navalar Rd, Jaffna.	25-00	25-00
„ V. M. De Mel, Messrs. Vinitha Ltd., 278, Union Place, Colombo 2.	150-00	150-00
Dr. B. A. Mills, G. H., Jaffna	500-00	500-00
Mr. C. T. E. Mills, Manipay.	250-00	150-00
„ S. Murugavel, Muhandiram's Rd., Batticaloa.	150-00	150-00
„ C. Muthiah. 12/1, Arulampalam Lane, Ariyalai.	100-00	100-00
„ R. Mahilrajan, 8, Moor Road., Colombo 6.	150-00	150-00

## N

Dr. C. S. Nachi narkinian, D. M. O's Bungalow, Maho,	100-00	90-00
Mr. B. Nadarajahpillai, Kannukerny West, Mullaitivu	50-00	50-00
„ S. Nadarajah, Proctor S. C. & N. P. Mallakam.	50-00	50-00
„ S. Nadarajah, Kandy Rd., Ariyalai.	100-00	—
„ V. Nadarajah, 23, Thriumakal Rd., Jaffna.	100-00	100-00
„ S. Nadesan, C. H. Homagama.	10-00	10-00
„ N. Nagarajah, Rajah Rice Mills, Mannar.	500-00	500-00
„ S. Nagendran, Peradeniya	10-00	10-00
Miss S. Nagalingam, Jaffna Academy, Chundikuli	100-00	20-00
Mr. L. W. D. Nalliah, St. John's College, Jaffna.	360-00	360-00
Mrs. C. Navaratnam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	200-00	200-00
Dr. R. Natkunam, No. 5A Rakka Rd., Jaffna.	250-00	250-00
Mrs. P. Nathaniels, St. John's College, Jaffna.	300-00	360-00
Mr. S. Navaratnarajah, S. M. Chavakachcheri	25-00	25-00
Dr. V. Neminathan, C. C., G. H. Kalutara	25-00	25-00
Mr. L. Nesiab, Somasunderam Avenue, Chundukuli.	100-00	100-00
„ T. Navaratnam, Ins. Corporation, Vavuniya.	150-00	150-00
„ V. J. J. Newton, Chundikuli.	250-00	250-00
Ven. J. A. R. Navaratnam, Colombo.	150-00	150-00

## P

Mr. T. Padmanathan, 146, Temple Rd., Jaffna.	250-00	250-00
„ S. Panchalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	1000-00	1000-00
Mrs. I. P. K. Paramothayan, St. John's College, Jaffna.	200-00	200-00
Mr. M. Parameswaran, c/o Mr. C. Kanagaratnam, M. O. H. Office, Matale.	25-00	25-00
Dr. V. Pararajasingham, 74, Hospital Rd., Jaffna.	750-00	750-00



NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on 27-11-74
Dr. T. Paramanathan, Vavuniya.	150-00	140-00
Mr. R. Pathmarajah, Forest Officer, Kalmunai	150-00	150-00
Dr. R. Pathmanathan, 16/1, Thavarakerny Rd., Batticaloa	200-00	200-00
Mr. A. P. Perinpanayagam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	235-00	235-00
Mrs. J. T. R. Perinpanayagam & Children	5000-00	5000-00
Mr. B. A. T. Perinpanayagam, Inland Rev. Dept., N'Eliya	50-00	—
„ E. M. Periyathamby, No. 1, Trincomalee St., Batticaloa.	1000-00	1000-00
Dr. A. Ponnampalam, Anaikoddai.	500-00	500-00
Mr. T. Ponnampalam, Vavuniya.	500-00	500-00
„ R. Ponnampalam, Nayanmarkaddu, Jaffna.	300-00	300-00
Miss M. Ponnampalam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	300-00	120-00
Mr. E. S. Ponniah, Jaffna Academy, Chundikuli	200-00	200-00
Mr. J. N. Ponniah, St. John's College, Jaffna	300-00	300-00
„ K. S. Ponnudurai, 9, Colombogam Rd. Jaffna	200-00	200-00
„ S. Ponnudurai, 61/10, Thirumagal Rd. Ariyalai	100-00	20-00
„ N. Ponnudurai, 480/1 <sup>st</sup> Galle Rd. Colombo 1.	100-00	100-00
„ K. Pooranampillai, Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna	1000-00	1000-00
„ P. Poovilingam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	50-00	40-00
„ T. Premakumar, E. P. M. C. Valaichenai	100-00	—
„ K. C. Praisoodi, Lakshimi, Murungan	500-00	500-00
„ N. Pulendra, 28, Daya Road, Colombo 6.	150-00	150-00
„ M. Pushparajah, Crosette Lane, Chundikuli	100-00	100-00
„ S. Puvendran, Shaw Wallace & Hedges Ltd. Colombo 3.	250-00	225-00

## R

„ J. M. Rajaratnam, Green Hospital, Manipay	100-00	40-00
„ J. I. Rajartnam, Kandy Road, Chundukuli	500-00	500-00
Dr. K. Rajalingam, D. M. O. Mullaitivu	150-00	150-00
„ L. S. Ratnam, M. O. H. Wariyapola	100-00	25-00
„ R. Rajaratnam & Family, Eachamoddai, Chundikuli	5000-00	—
Mr. Y. Rajaratnam, 71, Temple Road, Jaffna.	75-00	75-00
Miss. K. Rajaratnam, St. John's College, Jaffna,	200-00	200-00
Mr. G. T. Rajaratnam, St. John's College, Jaffna.	690-00	414 00
Miss. R. M. Rajasekerm, St. John's College, Jaffna.	220-00	220-00
Mr. A. G. Rajasooriyar, Beach Rd. Jaffna.	50-00	50-00
„ P. Ramanathan, E. E. Pallai	250-00	175-00
„ K. Ramanathan Jaffna Academy, Chundikuli	200-00	200-00
„ S. Ramanathan, 15 Moor Rd. Colombo 6.	100-00	100-00
Dr. R. Ramalingam, G. H., Kandy	250-00	250-00
Messrs. V. V. Ramasamy Pillai & Sons, V.V.T.	5000-00	5000-00
Mr. K. Rasiab, Sangilithopu, Nallur, Jaffna	150-00	150-00
„ A. R. Rasiab, 145, Main Street, Jaffna.	50-00	50-00

NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on 27-11-74
Mr. S. M. Rasiah, Hunuketta, Ratota	25-00	25-00
„ K. Ravi, 355 Navalar Rd., Nallur, Jaffna	1000-00	1000-00
Dr. G. C. Reginald, G. H., Badulla.	150-00	—
Mr. A. R. Ratnarajah, 53, School Lane, Bambalapitiya.	100-00	100-00
„ N. Ratnarajah, 39, Kachcheri - Nallur Rd, Jaffna.	50-00	50-00
Dr. (Mrs.) S. Rajasingham, Eye Hospital Colombo.	150-00	150-00
Mr. M. Ratnasingham, 6 Ramanathan Avenue, Dehiwela.	200-00	120-00
„ J. K. Ratnandan, 160 Park Rd., Colombo 5.	250-00	150-00
Dr. T. Rudramoorthy, Dickwella Clinic, Dickwella.	200-00	200-00

## S

Mr. K. Sambasivam, Urikkadu, Valvettithurai.	5000-00	5000-00
„ J. M. Sabaratnam, 32, Rakka Lane, Chundikuli	500-00	500-00
„ G. A. Sathiyathan, Bank of Ceylon, Amparai.	50-00	50-00
„ P. Sathivel, 83, Temple Rd. Jaffna.	250-00	225-00
„ V. Sathiyathan, D. A. E. O., Vavuniya.	50-00	50-00
„ T. Sangarapillai, 202, Navalar Rd., Jaffna	250-00	250-00
„ S. S. Sebaratnam, Paranthan Chemicals, Paranthan.	250-00	250-00
„ E. J. Samuel, Nunavil West, Chavakachcheri.	100-00	100-00
„ V. S. Sandrasena, 241, Pt. Pedro Rd., Nallur, Jaffna	100-00	100-00
„ R. E. V. Sandrasegara, 111/7, Beach Rd., Jaffna.	200-00	200-00
„ S. Saverimuthu, 22/5, Baratha Veethy, Chundukili.	100-00	100-00
Dr. (Mrs.) C. Sarwesvaran, 4, Angle Rd., Batticaloa.	200-00	200-00
Messrs A. S. Sangarapillai & Bros., Jaffna	100-00	100-00
Mr. S. S. Sebaratnam, 24, Kachcheri East Lane, Jaffna.	10-00	10-00
„ S. Selvaratnam, Lawton Rd., Manipay.	120-00	120-00
„ R. J. Selvaratnam, Proctor S. C. & N. P. Uduvil.	75-00	75-00
„ Mr. H. L. D. Selvaratnam, Colombo.	500-00	500-00
„ P. A. Senathirajah, Somasunderam Avenue, Chundikuli,	25-00	25-00
„ R. Senthinathan, Cement Factory, K. K. S.	50-00	50-00
„ R. R. Scott, 43/1, Colombogam Rd., Chundikuli	250-00	250-00
Dr. S. Selladurai, G. H., Jaffna.	125-00	125-00
„ S. Selvendra, Co-op. Hospital, Tellipallai.	100-00	100-00
Mr. Benjamin Selvanayagam, Chundikuli	150-00	150-00
„ R. E. J. A. Setukavalar, St. John's College, Jaffna.	420-00	420-00
„ R. N. Setukavalar, 4, Somasunderam Avenue, Chundikuli.	300-00	300-00
„ J. C. I. Segarajasinghe & Children Vembadi Rd, Jaffna	5000-00	5000-00
Maj. P. Selvarajah, St. John's College Jaffna.	300-00	300-00
Mr. K. A. Selliah, Jaffna Academy, Chundikuli.	200-00	200-00
„ M. Sebaratnam, 4, Rodni Avenue, St. Albans, Hurts.	200-00	200-00
Dr. S. J. Selvanayagam, Leprosarium, Almosa UPN, India	100-00	100-00
„ S. Selvaganesh, Lawton Rd., Manipay	300-00	300-00



NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt.	Amt. Paid
	Promised	as on 27-11-74
Mr. A. Shanmugarajah, 46 Bazaar, Badulla	100-00	—
„ J. F. Sigmaringam, St. John's College, Jaffna	460-00	460-00
Mr. P. T. Sivapragasam, 3 Chelsea Gardens, Colombo 3	250-00	250-00
Dr. S. Singanayagam, G. H. Homagama	100-00	100-00
Mr. A. Sivanathan, Sri Skandavanam Rice Mills, Vavuniya	250-00	250-00
„ A. Sivanandan, Palaly Rd., Thinnelvally, Jaffna	100-00	100-00
„ S. Senthinathan, D. W. S. Office, Batticaloa	200-00	200-00
„ S. Sivagnanam, G. A. Vavuniya	50-00	50-00
„ C. S. Sinnadurai, Singapore	250-00	250-00
„ A. Sivaratnam, 16 Moor Rd., Colombo 6	600-00	600-00
Mrs. M. Sivapathasunderam, G. H. A. De Silva & Co., Vavuniya	250-00	250-00
Mr. S. Sivasubramaniam, St. John's College, Jaffna	50-00	50-00
„ S. Sivathasan, 18 De Soysa Avenue, Mt. Lavinia	250-00	250-00
Dr. K. T. Sivapatham, Dutch Rd., Chavakachcheri	150-00	150-00
Mr. N. Swarnarajah c/o Mr. P. S. Nadarajah, Kurumpaisiddy Tellipallai	50-00	50-00
Mr. S. Sivasothy, Chankanai	150-00	160-00
Mrs. K. Snell, Somasunderam Avenue, Chundikuli	25-00	25-00
Mr. Hudson Selvarajah, No. 20 1st Lane, Pt. Pedro Rd., Jaffna	100-00	100-00
„ J. Senthilnathan, 4 Gnanasuriyam Square, Batticaloa	200-00	200-00
„ M. Sellathamby, 63 Sangilian Veethy, Nallur	50-00	20-00
Hon. Mr. Maitripala & Mrs. Senanayake, 121 Wijerama Mawatte, Colombo 7	1000-00	1000-00
Mr. K. S. Selladurai, Maharajah Organisation	50-00	50-00
Dr. R. Somasunderam, Central Clinic, Nelliady	250-00	250-00
Mr. W. S. Somasunderam, Court Road, Mallakam	50-00	50-00
„ V. Sivasubramaniam, St. John's College, Jaffna	250-00	250-00
„ S. Sithamparapillai, Station Rd., Chavakachcheri	50-00	25-00
Dr. K. Somasunderam, Kandy Rd., Jaffna	1000-00	1000-00
„ C. Sornalingam, Thinnelvally North, Jaffna	50-00	50-00
Rev. Canon S. S. Somasunderam's Family	5000-00	5000-00
Mr. S. Somasunderam, C. D. & M. H. Yatawatte	200-00	200-00
„ P. Somasunderam, Kopay South	500-00	500-00
„ P. J. Somasunderam C. G. R., A'Pura.	10-00	10-00
„ E. Sritharan, St. John's College, Jaffna	440-00	440-00
„ C. Sri Ranganathan, Bank of Ceylon, Trincomalee	50-00	50-00
„ D. P. Sunderampillai, Eachamoddai Rd., Jaffna.	250-00	250-00
„ V. Sundaradas, Jaffna Hindu College, Jaffna	50-00	40-00
„ V. Subramaniam, Bank of Ceylon, York St., Colombo	100-00	100-00
„ H. A. Saundrarajah, E. P. M. C. Valaichenai	100-00	—
„ K. Subramaniam, Suthumalai South, Manipay	200-00	200-00
„ S. Sittampalam, Fountain House Lane, Maradana	100-00	100-00

NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on 27-11-74
Mr. P. S. Solomons, Dutch Rd., Chavakachcheri	100-00	100-00
„ V. T. Subramaniam, Vavuniya	100-00	100-00
„ V. S. Stephen, St. John's College, Jaffna	200-00	200-00
T		
Mr. P. V. Thamber, 2 Barnes Avenue, Mt. Lavinia	50-00	50-00
„ C. Thambiah N. P., Mullaitivu	100-00	100-00
„ R. S. Thambiah, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai	200-00	—
„ M. Thambiah, Police Station, K. K. S.	25-00	25-00
Dr. H. W. Thambiah, 52, Fifth Lane, Colombo 3	300-00	300-00
Miss L. G. Thambiah, St. John's College, Jaffna	300-00	300-00
Mr. R. Thambiah, 328, Galle Rd., Colombo 3	100-00	100-00
Miss L. S. Thambirajah, St. John's College, Jaffna	300-00	300-00
Mr. A. Thambirajah, Post Office, Chunnakam	250-00	100-00
„ A. K. Thambirajah, St. John's College, Jaffna	50-00	50-00
„ M. S. Thambithurai, Old Park Rd., Jaffna	100-00	100-00
Miss K. Thambithurai, Jaffna Academy, Chundikuli	100-00	100-00
Mr. V. Thamboo, Adjoining Post Office, Chavakachcheri	25-00	25-00
„ S. Thambithurai, Thianelvely	250-00	100-00
Dr. Ganesh Thambipillai, 37, Moor Road, Colombo 6	150-00	150-00
Prof. & G. Thambiahpillai, Peradeniya	1000-00	1000-00
Mr. W. S. Thangamani, 35, Stanley Rd., Jaffna	50-00	50-00
Mrs. T. Thangarajah, St. John's College, Jaffna	250-00	250-00
Mr. S. Tharmalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna	360-00	270-00
Dr. S. A. Tharmalingam, 101, Main Street, Jaffna	500-00	500-00
Mr. T. Thavarasalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna	420-00	420-00
„ S. Thamootherm, St. John's College, Jaffna	150-00	150-00
„ K. V. Thmootheram, 232 K.K.S. Rd., Jaffna	50-00	50-00
„ S. Thavagnanam, 400/1 Navalar Rd., Jaffna	100-00	100-00
„ T. Tharmalingam, 8, Old Park Road, Jaffna	300-00	—
„ P. Tharmalingam, 391, A. V. Road, Ariyalai	100-00	100-00
„ S. Tharmalingam, Govt. Training College, Batticaloa	150-00	25-00
„ S. Thanabalan, St. John's College, Jaffna	295-00	295-00
Dr. R. S. Thanabalasunderam, Horton Place, Colombo 7	250-00	250-00
Mr. P. Thiyagarajah, 310, Navalar Rd., Jaffna	100-00	100-00
„ T. Thiyagarajah, Rose Brand Factory, Jaffna	10-00	10-00
„ Daniel Thambiah, 39, Brown Road, Jaffna	100-00	—
Dr. (Miss) E. M. Thilliampalam, Lewis Cottage, Uduvil.	100-00	100-00
„ K. Thillaivasam, G. H. Badulla	150-00	—
Mr. D. J. Thevathasan, St. John's College, Jaffna	220-00	220-00
Dr. E. S. Thevasagayam, Malasiya	5000-00	2000-00
Mr. I. S. Thurairatnam, St. John's College, Jaffna	200-00	200-00



NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt. Promised	Amt. Paid as on 27-11-74
Mr. P. Thuraijah, 376/2, Navalar Road, Jaffna	100-00	100-00
„ V. Thuraishamy, St. John's College, Jaffna	250-00	250-00
Datto Clough Thuraisingam, Singapore	5000-00	—
Dr. K. Thirunadarajah, 1 Vetharaniyan Square, Batticaloa	100-00	—
„ R. Thirunavukkarasu, 105, Colombogam Rd., Jaffna	100-00	110-00
Rev. A. C. Thuraijah. Kopay	150-00	150-00
Mr. S. M. V. Tissainayagam, Kachcheri-Nallur Road, Jaffna	250-00	250-00
„ C. R. Tissanayagam, 22, Canal Road, Colombo 6	300-00	300-00
St. Thomas' Prep Head Master, Kollupitiya	250-00	250-00

## V

S. K. V. Batticaloa	1000-00	1000-00
Mr. M. Vairamuthu, Lawton Road, Manipay	250-00	250-00
Dr. P. Vairavipillai, 71 Temple Road, Jaffna	50-00	50-00
Messrs. Vallipuram & Co., Thumpalai, Pt. Pedro	5000-00	5000-00
Mr. D. Vamadevan, A. C. L. G. Batticaloa	150-00	150-00
„ K. Vanniasingham, 4th Mile Post, Manipay	50-00	50-00
Miss. S. Vanniasingham, Jaffna Academy, Chundikuli	100-00	100-00
Mrs. G. Vararajasingham, St. John's College, Jaffna	200-00	200-00
Mr. K. Veerasingham, Teachers' College, Palaly	250-00	112-50
„ K. Velum Mylum, 2 Somasunderam Avenue, Chundi kuli	100-00	100-00
Dr. Albert Vethanayagam, Kandy Road, Jaffna	1000-00	1000-00
„ Arichandran (Chandi) Vethanayagam, Kandy Road, Jaffna	150-00	150-00
„ S. A. Vettivelu, Rasavinthodam, Jaffna	250-00	250-00
Mr. M. Vijayaratanam, 1 Alfred Avenue, Colombo 3	1000-00	1000-00
„ S. Vijayaratnam, 30 Cross Road, Nallur Jaffna	500-00	350-00
Dr. P. G. Visuvalingam, 74/3 Circular Rd., Kurunegala	100-00	100-00
Mr. S. Vijayadeva, Bandaranaike Mawatte, Badulla	150-00	—
Dr. M. Visuvarathnam, General Hospital, Colombo	100-00	100-00
Mr. T. Vivekanandam, F. A. O. Rome	500-00	500-00

## W

Mr. W. A. Walton, Ascervatham Lane, Hospital Rd., Jaffna	250-00	250-00
„ S. Wijayaratanam, C. T. B. Headquarters, Colombo	100-00	—
„ V. Wijayaratanam, A. I. Agricultural Office, Jaffna	10-00	10-00

## X

Mr. K. S. E. Xavier, St. John's College, Jaffna	100-00	120-00
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## Y

Mrs. N. Yogarajah, St. John's College, Jaffna	200-00	200-00
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NAME AND ADDRESS	Amt.	Amt. Paid
	Promised	as on 27-11-74
Dr. S. Yoganathan, District Hospital, Vavuniya	150-00	140-00
<b>Special Projects</b>		
World Fair Net Proceeds—O. B. A., Jaffna	—	4320-17
Film Show Manohara Theatre — Project Chairman Mr. D. P. Sunderampillai	—	589-70
Bharata Nadiyam "Jaffna Kalai Mantram" — Project Chairman Mr. S. P. Ponnuthurai	—	2960-20
Jaffna Central — St. John's Match 1972 O. B. A. Jaffna	—	2351-67
"Twelve Angry Men" — Staff, S. J. C.	—	4311-80
"Dowry Hunter" — Project Chairman Mr. J. G. Ascervatham	—	2815-00
Benefit Show "Christmas Carols" — Organised by Inter-Act Club, St. J. C.	—	2449-10
Mr Jaffna Contest — Project Chairman Mr. V. R. Amarasingham	—	1416-20
Benefit Show - O. B. A. South Ceylon	—	4900-00
Dance Dreams - Jaffna Kalai Mantram O. B. A. South Ceylon	—	6155-00
Interest from Deposits - Mercantile Credit, Jaffna	—	900-00
Collection Cards - Present boys S. J. C.	—	11685-50
Collection Cards O. B. A. Jaffna	—	
Co-Chairman—D. P. Sundarampillai	—	
J. M. Selvadurai	—	616-00

We appeal especially to fellow old boys that although we hold different positions and shoulder different responsibilities, we are all children of one alma mater. It may not be possible for many of us to contribute a large sum of money but do make your own individual contribution, no matter however small, that you and we can derive the satisfaction of having been personally involved in the building programme of the school to which we owe so much.

**N. B.** This is not a final list. The fund yet remains open. Your money and good will is still needed for the final touches.

Dr. A. V. A. Vethanayagam <i>President</i> 48, Kandy Road, Jaffna.	V. J. J. Newton & J.R. Gnanapragasam <i>Hon. Joint Secretaries</i>	William Mather <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> 46A, Beach Road, Jaffna.
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## *On the Eve of the Ter Jubilee Celebrations of St. John's College*

A Message from the Chairman of the Celebrations Committee, and the President  
of the St. John's College Old Boys' Association, Dr. A. V. A. Vethanayagam

*"The secret of achievement is to hold a  
picture of successful outcome in mind" — Therean.*

*"With God, All things (not some things only) are possible".*

A fund for celebrating the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of our Alma Mater in a fitting manner, which included among other things, the building of an Assembly Hall worthy of the school to accommodate approximately 1,000 people was launched in October 1971. We began our campaign at a time when our country was going through a financially very difficult time but we moved into the campaign undaunted because of our firm conviction that "With God, all things are possible". We took with us into the Campaign **Faith, Enthusiasm and Belief** in our cause. We decided to hold before us a picture of successful achievement and we believed that succeed we would.

Today as Chairman of the 150th Day Celebration Committee I feel really proud of you fellow Old Boys, parents and well wishers who have given us such enthusiastic support for our cause. This enthusiasm and whole hearted support from you all, at a time when we are passing through an economically difficult period in the history of our country, has produced miraculous results. It is only those among us who have been in the forefront of the campaign and come into personal contact with so many Old Boys, parents and well wishers know for ourselves the magnificent response which we have received and the wonder of it all. That we have already been successful, at a time such as this, in raising the

S.J.C.—19

colossal sum of nearly Rs. 200,000/- from old boys, parents and well wishers **resident entirely in Ceylon** — the major part coming from people resident in Jaffna itself — is a matter of great joy and pride to us. You will also note that a very large percentage of the donors — approximately 75 to 80 per cent, have already completed payments of their donations in full.

The First Interim Report of our Campaign was issued in September 1972. We expected to issue this Second Interim Report four months later, on the 31st December 1972. However, due to the prolonged Bank Strike, no Bank Orders could be realised during this four month period and this delayed the progress of our Campaign. During this period also we lost one of our most beloved and enthusiastic leaders of our Campaign, the late Mr. J. C. Handy, which also gave us a temporary setback. The Second Interim Report was issued on the 30th April 1973, registering further significant progress.

To all old boys, parents and well wishers who have responded so magnificently we are most grateful. I would like here to place on record the great enthusiasm and inspiration which we received from the late Mr. J. C. Handy, Manager, Mr. K. Pooranampillai, Principal and his loyal band of staff. This has contributed in a

great measure to the success of this Campaign. The building of our Jubilee Hall has now been completed and also the block of six class rooms.

I should like to end this message with a personal appeal especially to fellow Old Boys. Although we have different talents, hold different positions in life and shoulder different responsibilities concerning our own families and other affairs, yet we are all children of one Alma Mater. It may not be possible for many of us to contribute a large sum of money, but it should be possible for each one of us to make our own contribution, no matter how small it may be, so that we can derive the satisfaction and happiness that we have all made our personal contribution towards the 150th Anniversary Celebrations Building Programme of our school — the school

we love — the school to which we owe so much — the school that nurtured us — the school that “made us men and taught us how to live”.

We pray that God will continue to guide and inspire and bless us, and our Alma Mater to go forward into the future undaunted.

*“We build our school on Thee O’ Lord  
To Thee we bring our common need  
The loving heart, the helpful word  
The tender thought, the kindly deed.*

*We work together in Thy sight;  
We live together in Thy love;  
If Thou art with us, Lord, we must  
Be faithful friends and comrades sure”.*

“So long Thy power has blessed us; sure it still will lead us on” — yes, the Power of God will lead us on.



## *The Ter-Jubilee Celebrations—Notes by The Principal*

For more than two years before his death in November 1972, Mr. J. C. Handy, the then Manager, had been making plans for the celebration in a fitting manner of the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. John's. The College had been happy in the loyalty of its Old Boys. Under the leadership of Dr. A. V. A. Vethanayagam, the President of the O. B. A., the Old Boys' Association had been largely responsible for the decision that St. John's should not become a Government School, but remain independent. And so, it was to the Old Boys that Mr. Handy turned to discuss his plans for the Ter-Jubilee Celebrations. It is good to have plans, but there must be the persons who can turn the plans into realities. St. John's has a good number of such persons.

During the annual celebrations in 1971 of the Jaffna Old Boys' Association, Mr. Handy was seen talking to groups of Old boys. At the business meeting, after considering various suggestions, it was decided to build a Hall with accommodation for 1200 to Commemorate the Ter-Jubilee — a Hall which was large enough to hold the total enrolment of the School and a fair number of parents and well-wishers; in which could be had all School Functions, including the Prize Giving; and which was equipped for the performances of dances, drama, etc.

When the O. B. A. meeting proceeded to the business of electing office bearers for the ensuing year, those present were led to elect the team that held office in 1960, the year the decision to remain independent was made: President; Dr. A. V.

A. Vethanayagam; Secretary: Mr. V. J. J. Newton; Treasurer: Mr. William Mather. As the Ter-Jubilee Celebrations concerned not merely the Old Boys of Jaffna, but also Old Boys in other parts of Ceylon, the parents and the teachers of the College, a Committee called the Celebrations Committee, representative of all concerned was appointed. Dr. Vethanayagam was appointed Chairman, Messrs V. J. J. Newton and J. R. Gnanapragasam, Joint Secretaries, and Mr. William Mather, Treasurer.

Under the energetic leadership of the Chairman, the Celebrations Committee appointed a number of sub-committees, called Project Committees to organise fund-raising Projects — Benefit Film Shows, Dance Recitals Dramatic Performances etc. Such Projects were organised in various areas, and funds began to come in. But as the Chairman of the Celebrations Committee emphasised, these Project Committees had more than one aim — to collect funds no doubt, but also to bring past pupils together in workable groups, and to involve as many as possible in the cause. In this, the Project Committees were successful.

The Commemoration Hall, the Celebrations Committee decided, is to be called The Peto Memorial Jubilee Hall. Individual gifts of Rs. 5000/— each had been forthcoming, both as personal gifts and as gifts in memory of the dear departed of the donors. Twelve such gifts were given, and twelve rooms have been built-six in the Jubilee Hall, and six to form a two-storeyed block of class rooms. This block is to be named the Rev. J. T. Aru-

Ilanantham Block, in memory of the first national Principal. Near the entrance of each room is a brass plate giving the name of the donor, and the name of the one to be remembered.

In these days of financial stringency and high costs, to have put up such a pile as the Hall, and a two storyed block, is an achievement. The total cost will be Rs. 450,000/-. To the members of the Celebrations committee, the alma-mater says a big "Thank you". Dr. Vethanayagam as Chairman gave a great deal of his time and energy, and brought to the task a fund of tact and patience. To him, we say a very big "Thank you". We thank also all who contributed in money. A number of Engineers, Old Boys of the College, besides giving money, gave freely of their technical knowledge. Our sincere thanks to Messrs. S. M. V. Tissainayagam, K. Maheswaran, A. C. Canagarajah, C. Arunakirinathan and A. K. Jeevanayagam. To Mr. P. Thevarajah, architect and contractor also our sincere thanks are due for his patience and for forbearance with

the delays and changes in the plans. Here's hoping that the pupils at St. John's now and in the future will live up to these high traditions of service and sacrifice.

A word about the World Council of Churches, which had been helping us over the last 14 years and a word of special thanks for their munificent grant of Rs. 114,000/- for the Hall. The following break-up of the Collections made so far will be of interest:

1. The Church: W. C. C. and church of Ceylon	184,455-69
2. S. J. C. staff, Students and the Academy Staff	29,581-10
3. Old Boys, Parents and Well wishers, ect.	156,381-80
	<hr/> 370,418-59 <hr/>

About 25,000/- in promises have yet to be realized. Besides this amount, we need another 50,000/- to equip the School fully. Here's wishing success to the Celebrations Committee.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Dr. G. R. Handy                              | in memory of his parents, the Rev. C. C and Mrs. Handy       |
| 2. Mrs. Perinpanayagam and Children             | in memory of Mr. J. T. R. Perinpanayagam                     |
| 3. Five Old Boys                                | in memory of their teacher, Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram            |
| 4. The late Mr. J. C. Handy and Mr. J. M. Handy | in memory of Susan (Mrs. J. C.) Handy                        |
| 5. The Segarajasinges                           | in memory of their father, J. C. Segarajasinghe              |
| 6. E. J. Jeyarajah & Children                   | in memory of Mrs. Caroline Thiraviam Jeyarajah               |
| 7. The Somasundaram family                      | in memory of their father the Rev. Canon, S. S. Somasundaram |



8. The Eliathamby family	in memory of their father, Mr. S. V. Eliathamby	
9. Mr. and Mrs. K. Sambasivam	in memory of their son Premkumar	
10. Vallipuram & Sons, Point Pedro	—	—
11. Messrs Ramasamypillai & Sons	—	—
12. Leyden Industries	—	—

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## SEVEN SCORE YEARS AND TEN

*St. John's dear mother, seven score years and ten  
 Thy light has shone in Lanka's hills and vales,  
 Removing from our eyes blinding scales  
 And bringing Truth's grandeur to our ken.  
 Thy ancient halls were graced by men so dear  
 Who taught us Science, Arts and heroic tales  
 And led us to Wisdom's secret vales;  
 When may we their loving voices hear?*

*Hush a voice does speak in accents clear:  
 "Lux in tenebris lucet", it boldly says  
 To boys—young and old, big and small:  
 "Follow the Light of the World to us, so dear  
 And dispel earth's darkness with His rays;  
 This is our Jubilee message to Johnians all"*

The Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam

# Panels

## HEADMASTERS & VICE-PRINCIPALS

Mr. John Hensman	1841—1842
„ W. Santiagoe	1842—1848
„ J. Philips	1848—1853
„ Robert Williams	1853—1866
„ S. Williams	1866—1867
„ Jeremiah Evarts	1867—1887
The Rev. C. C. Handy	1889—1908
Mr. T. H. Crossette	1908—1911
„ F. H. V. Gulasegaram	1916—1919
„ A. M. Nathaniel	1919—1921

### Vice-Principals

The Rev. A. M. Walmsley	1908—
Mr. T. H. Crossette	1921—1929
„ A. M. K. Cumarasamy	1931—1936
The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham	1936—1940
Mr. P. C. Gaussen	1941—1948
„ S. Siva Pragasam	1949—1952
„ P. T. Mathai	1952—1957
„ A. W. Rajasekaram	1957—1959
„ J. T. Chelliah	1959—
„ C. E. Anandarajan	1970—

## SENIOR PREFECTS

1908	E. J. Rajaratnam
1909	K. Chornalingam
	C. J. Chinnappah
1910	A. T. Sabapathy
	C. J. Chinnappah
1911	J. C. Eliatamby
1912	
1913	A. C. Abraham
1914	S. Sellathurai
1915	V. Ponnusamy
	J. C. Handy
1916	C. C. B. Kumarakulasinghe
	Sam Sapapathy
1917	R. A. Alagaratnam
1918	R. A. Alagaratnam
1919	V. Manickam
1920	J. N. Kadirgamar
1921	G. S. Chelliah

	E. M. Ponnuthurai
1922	P. W. Rutnam
	J. B. Hunt
	1923 J. M. Singanayagam
1924	C. A. W. Edwards
1925	J. W. W. Jehoratnam
1926	F. D. M. Canagasabey
1927	W. J. Edwards
1928	C. R. Norman
	R. C. Daniel
1929	S. J. Asbury
1930	W. J. Gunaratnam
1931	W. J. Gunaratnam
1932	W. J. Gunaratnam
1933	A. K. Black
1934	G. C. George
	S. C. Jesudason
1935	S. Ponnuthurai
1936	G. J. Thambapillai
1937	T. Vanden Driesen
1938	V. Benjamin
1939	S. Nadarajah
1940	P. Benjamin
	R. R. Scott
1941	R. R. Scott
1942	J. M. Rajaratnam
1943	P. T. Siva Prakasam
1944	P. T. Siva Prakasam
1945	P. T. Siva Prakasam
1945	P. Nagamuthu
1946	V. Sivapragasam
1947	K. Thirunavukarasu
1948	S. Panchalingam
1949	D. J. Rasiah
1950	E. J. Samuel
1951	E. J. Samuel
	C. E. Anandarajan
	R. K. Pillai
1952	C. J. Somasunderam
	P. Ratnesar
1953	V. Yogaratnam
1954	C. Sathiamoorthy
	R. A. Benjamin
1955	N. Tharmavarathan
1956	N. Y. Maurice



# SENIOR PREFECTS—ERRATA

(For the years given below the following are the Senior Prefects)

1947	T. Vivekananthan K. Thirunavukarasu	1968	S. M. Mootatamby T. Vipulananda
1948	S. C. Karunanathan A. A. Martyn S. Panchalingam	1970	K. K. C. Harideva S. Kokulathan
1966	R. B. S. Arasaratnam P. Kanagadurai	1972	S. Anthonipillai P. Rajadurai
1967	W. A. Wijayakumar S. M. Mootatamby	1973	P. Rajadurai A. Raveendran
		1974	N. T. Thevarajah N. Gowripalan

1961 T. S.  
1962 T. S.  
1963 T. V.  
1964 M.  
1965 N. C.  
1966 P. K.  
1967 W.  
1968 T. V.  
1969 K. C.  
1970 S. K.  
1971 S. A.  
1972 P. R.  
1973 A. R.  
1974 N. C.

# GE

1910 S. N.  
1911 A. M.  
1912 L. R.  
1913 M.  
1914 J. C.  
1915 C. C.  
1916 R. J.  
1917 V. N.  
1918 A. S.  
1919 G. R.  
1920 D. R.  
1921 D. R.

1923 E. M.  
1924 C. A.  
1925 F. D.  
1926 W. J.  
1927  
1928 Not  
1929 Not



	S. M. V. Tissainayagam
1957	S. M. V. Tissainayagam
	S. Sivasubramaniam
1958	S. Sivasubramaniam
	K. T. Sivapatham
1959	G. R. Chandrarajah
1960	S. Periyasamy
	M. Karunagaran
1961	T. Sivashanmugam
1962	T. Sivashanmugam
1963	T. Varunalingam
1964	M. Gnanasambanthan
1965	N. Gnanalingam
1966	P. Kanagadurai
1967	W. A. Wijayakumar
1968	T. Vipulananda
1969	K. C. Harideva
1970	S. Kokulathason
1971	S. Antonippillai
1972	P. Rajadurai
1973	A. Raveendran
1974	N. Gowripalan

**GENERAL EXCELLENCE****Ryde Medal**

1910	S. Nagalingam
1911	A. M. K. Cumarasamy
1912	L. R. Danforth
1913	M. N. Kulasegaram
1914	J. C. Handy
1915	C. C. B. Kumarakulasinghe
1916	R. Jeremiah
1917	V. Narayanapillai
1918	A. Somasundaram
1919	G. R. Handy
1920	D. R. Gunasegaram
1921	D. R. Gunasegaram

**Handy Medal**

1923	E. M. Ponnudurai
1924	C. A. W. Edwards
1925	F. D. M. Canagasabai
1926	W. J. Edwards
1927	—
1928	Not awarded
1929	Not awarded

1930	W. T. Gunaratnam
1931	—
1932	C. G. George
1933	K. Sabaratnam
1934	S. C. Jesudason
1935	Not awarded
1936	T. Sivanandian
1937	T. Vanden Driesen
1938	Not awarded

**College Award**

1941	R. R. Scott
1942	—
1943	—
1944	—
1945	V. A. Benjamin
1946	R. R. Jeyarajah
1947	A. A. Martyn
1948	Not awarded
1949	S. Panchalingam
1950	E. J. Samuel
1951	R. K. Pillai
1952	P. Ratnesar
1953	Not awarded

**Siva Prakasam Prize**

1954	R. A. Benjamin
1955	Not Awarded
1956	S. M. V. Tissainayagam
1957	M. B. J. Tissainayagam
1958	Not awarded
1959	K. Arulanantham
1960	C. Balakrishnan
1961	Not awarded
1962	R. N. Setukavalar
1963	C. Anandakrishnan
1964	R. B. S. Arasaratnam
1965	N. Gnanalingam
1966	Not awarded
1967	P. Kanagadurai
1968	R. S. Jeyendran
1969	M. Surendra
1970	R. K. C. Harideva
1971	S. Sri Ramaratnam
1972	N. Naveenan
1973	T. Easwarakanthan

# **THURAISAMY SCOTT CUP FOR ALL-ROUND SPORTSMAN**

1950	A. J. Segarajasinghe
1951	D. Canaganayagam
1952	S. K. Mahalingam
1953	S. K. Mahalingam
1954	Not Awarded
1955	S. K. Shanmugalingam
1956	M. B. J. Tissainayagam
1957	K. Paramalingam
1958	K. Paramalingam
1959	Not awarded
1960	C. B. Balakrishnan
1961	Not awarded
1962	P. Kanagadurai
1963	P. Kanagadurai
1964	M. Deivendra
1965	T. Vipulananthamoorthy
1966	Not awarded
1967	M. Surendra
1968	N. Vamadevan
1969	Not awarded
1970	N. Naveenan
1971	N. Naveenan
1972	P. G. Sahundararajan
1973	V. Muralitharan

## **CRICKET CAPTAINS**

1904	P. S. Hallock
1905	G. M. Sebastian
1906	F. Vancuylenberg
1907	K. Chornalingam
1908	K. Chornalingam
1909	K. Chornalingam
1910	A. T. Sabapathy
1911	Raja Brodie
1912	A. Chanmugam
1913	C. Yogaratnam
1914	A. S. Abraham
1915	J. R. Gunaratnam
1916	J. R. Gunaratnam
1917	R. A. Alagaratnam
1918	R. A. Alagaratnam
1919	Manickam
1920	J. M. Singanayagam
1921	J. M. Singanayagam

1922	J. M. Singanayagam
1923	J. M. Singanayagam
1924	D. C. Rajaratnam
1925	D. C. Rajaratnam
1926	H. K. Vandendriesen
1927	J. H. R. Perinpanayagam
1928	J. R. Gnanapragasam
1929	J. R. Gnanapragasam
1930	C. T. E. Mills
1931	C. T. E. Mills
1932	A. Perumal
1933	A. Perumal
1934	A. Perumal
1935	G. R. Kanagasabai
1936	T. Vandendriesen
1937	T. Vandendriesen
1938	R. R. Scott
1939	R. R. Scott
1940	R. R. Scott
1941	R. R. Scott
1942	J. M. Rajaratnam
1943	J. I. Rajaratnam
1944	A. Ramalingam
1945	R. S. Peter
1946	T. Kadirgamar
1947	T. Kadirgamar
1948	A. A. Martyn
1949	D. J. Rasiah
1950	D. J. Nathaniel
1951	E. G. Thevanayagam
1952	D. Kanaganayagam
1953	D. Kanaganayagam
1954	S. K. Mahalingam
1955	N. Y. Maurice
1956	R. Navaratnam
1957	J. Tissainayagam
1958	J. Tissainayagam
1959	K. Paramalingam
1960	K. Arulanandam & C. Balakrishnan
1961	C. Balakrishnan
1962	D. M. Selvanayagam
1963	D. J. N. Selvadurai
1964	M. Deivendra
1965	P. Kanagadurai
1966	M. Deivendra



1967 C. Sooriyakumar  
 1968 S. M. Mootatamby  
 1969 M. Surendra  
 1970 M. Theivendra  
 1971 T. Thevapalan  
 1972 T. Thevapalan  
 1973 N. S. Alexander  
 1974 W. Raveendran

#### FOOTBALL CAPTAINS

1905 D. de Niese  
 1906 D. de Niese  
 1907 N. S. Sanders  
 1908 E. J. Rajaratnam  
 1909 C. J. Chinnappah  
 1910 C. J. Chinnappah  
 1911 J. C. Eliatamby  
 1912 —  
 1913 J. T. Roberts  
 1914 A. F. Williams  
 1915 A. F. Williams  
 1916 A. R. Chinnappah  
 1917 Sam. A. Sabapathy  
 1918 T. R. John  
 1919 —  
 1920 E. M. Ponnudurai  
 1921 E. M. Ponnudurai  
 1922 E. M. Ponnudurai  
 1923 J. M. Singanayagam  
 1924 D. S. Abraham  
 1925 K. C. Praesoody  
 1926 E. J. Chellappah  
 1927 L. R. Vethanayagam  
 1928 K. Nadarajah  
 1929 E. Mills  
 1930 E. Mills  
 1931 E. Mills  
 1932 S. G. Rajanayagam  
 1933 P. Kanagaratnam  
 1934 P. Kanagaratnam  
 1935 S. Ambalavanar  
 1936 M. Ratnagopal  
 1937 C. Kanagaratnam  
 1938 R. R. Scott  
 1939 R. R. Scott  
 1940 R. R. Scott

S.J.C.—20

1941 R. R. Scott  
 1942 J. M. Rajaratnam & J. I. Rajaratnam  
 1943 R. Brodie  
 1944 C. Elagupillai  
 1945 S. P. Jayarajasingham  
 1946 S. Nadarajah  
 1947 S. Gopalapillai  
 1948 S. Gopalapillai  
 1949 A. J. Segarajasinghe  
 1950 A. J. Segarajasinghe  
 1951 M. Shanmuganathan  
 1952 N. Tharmavarathan  
 1953 S. M. Viswanathan  
 1954 S. M. Viswanathan  
 1955 E. Uruthiran  
 1956 M. Ganeshasunderam  
 1957 M. J. Tisisanayagam  
 1958 K. Paramalingam  
 1959 K. Paramalingam  
 1960 R. Jeyaratnarajah  
 1961 K. Mylerumperumal  
 1962 A. Shanmugarajah  
 1963 P. Thavanathan  
 1964 S. Balasubramaniam  
 1965 S. Balasubramaniam  
 1966 S. Rajanathan  
 1967 S. Sivakumar  
 S. M. Mootatamby  
 1968 N. Vamadevan  
 1969 S. Anthonypillai  
 1970 S. Anthonypillai  
 1971 P. Anandalingam  
 1972 N. S. Alexander  
 1973 N. T. Thevarajah  
 1974 E. D. Alexander

#### ATHLETIC CAPTAINS

1924 D. C. Rajaratnam  
 1925 D. C. Rajaratnam  
 1926 F. D. M. Canagasabai  
 1927 W. J. Edwards  
 1928 K. Nadarajah  
 1929 H. T. Nathaniel  
 1930 P. Thiagarajah  
 1931 P. Thiagarajah  
 1932 C. B. Vandendriesen

1933 S. Ambalavanar  
 1934 H. G. Bowdeyn  
 1937 K. Thuriaratnam  
 1938 C. J. Sanders  
 1939 C. J. Sanders  
 1940 E. E. Sabapathy  
 1941 A. A. Alphonsus  
 1942 A. Kanaganayagam  
 1943 K. Sathananthan  
 1944 R. S. Peter  
 1945 A. R. Rasiah  
 1946 V. A. Benjamin  
     L. B. Thambirajah  
 1947 T. Vivekananthan  
 1948 S. Gopalapillai  
 1949 S. Sellathurai  
 1950 A. W. Yogarajah  
 1951 G. G. Gnanasegaram  
 1952 T. D. Ganesh  
 1953 S. K. Mahalingam  
 1954 S. K. Mahalingam  
 1955 N. Y. Maurice  
 1956 S. K. Shanmugalingam  
 1957 S. Sivasubramaniam  
 1958 C. Yogakumaran  
 1959 C. Yogakumaran  
 1960 T. Varnalingam  
 1961 D. M. Selvanayagam  
 1962 D. J. N. Selvadurai  
 1963 N. Gnanalingam  
 1964 P. Kanagadurai  
 1965 M. Deivendra

1966 K. S. Sothilingam  
 1967 A. D. S. Rajaratnam  
 1968 T. Vipulananda  
 1969 M. Surendra  
 1970 R. Sivakumar  
 1971 P. Anandalingam  
 1972 M. Jeyendra  
 1973 N. Sivasunderam  
 1974 D. S. Subramaniam

#### BASKETBALL CAPTAINS

1963 S. Sathasivam  
 1964 S. Sathasivam  
 1965 M. R. Vijayaragavan  
 1966 S. M. Mootatamby  
 1967 S. M. Mootatamby  
 1968 M. V. Mathavan  
 1971 A. K. M. Sandrasagar  
 1972 A. K. M. Sandrasagar  
 1973 V. Jeyasundaram  
 1974 J. R. Joshua

#### HOCKEY CAPTAINS

1957 Vipulanantha T. Moorthy  
 1968 M. Selvarajah  
 1969 M. Jeyaratnam  
 1970 N. Naveenan  
 1971 N. Naveenan  
 1972 P. G. Sahundararajan  
 1973 V. Jeyasundram  
 1964 T. Jeyakmar



# Old Pupils

The following list of our old pupils that we print here is not intended as a register. A Register is now being compiled. This list is intended to show that in all the more important spheres of activity in the country St. John's has been and continues to be well-represented. The list is not comprehensive and we are certain there are hundreds of names that have been inadvertently omitted. Some of this information may be incomplete and some out of date. This list was compiled from information sent by old pupils.

(D—Deceased. R—Retired)

## ACCOUNTANCY

S. Annamalai, Ford Rhodes Thornton & Co., Colombo  
 W. R. S. Arnold, Ford Rhodes Thornton & Co., Colombo  
 C. Arudpragasam, P. W. D. (R)  
 S. A. Arunasalam, State Mortgage Bank (R)  
 R. Balaratnam, U. K.  
 D. E. G. Arulanantham, Tungsram Ceylon, Colombo  
 S. Easwaralingam, Paddy Marketing Board, Batticaloa  
 S. Ganeswaran, Burah, Hathy & Co., Colombo  
 J. J. Gunaratnam, State Engineering Corp., Colombo  
 N. Gnanaganeshan, U. K. (D)  
 N. Gnanasegaram, Canada  
 S. Ilanganayagam  
 T. Jegatheeswaran, Ontario, Canada  
 H. A. Jesudasan, Walker & Sons, Colombo  
 S. Jeyanathan, C. B. C., Colombo  
 S. M. Kanagaratnam, (R)  
 P. K. Mills, U. K.  
 M. C. Nadarajah, (R)  
 P. Navaratnarajah, C. W. E., Colombo  
 W. N. Neelanandan, Ford Motor Co., U. K.  
 S. Pathmanathan  
 R. Ponnambalam, W. & O. P., Colombo (R)  
 N. Ponnudurai, Lady Lochore Fund  
 J. R. Rajanayagam  
 A. Rajaratnam, Rowlands Ltd.  
 C. Renganathan, Aitken, Spence Ltd.  
 C. Retnanandan, Hayley & Co.  
 S. Shanthakumar, Zambia  
 A. Sivaratnam, Indeco Ltd., Zambia  
 V. Sirinivasan, Ceylon Shipping Corporation

T. Somasundaram  
 K. Srikanthan, Paranthan Chemicals Corporation  
 V. Thangavelu, Dehiwela-Mountlavinia M. C.  
 S. Tharmakulasingham, Ceylon Shipping Corporation  
 S. Thevakuncharapathy, Walker & Co.  
 R. Durairatnam, U. K.  
 R. N. Varendran, Steel Corporation  
 S. Karunanathan, Paddy Marketing Board, Kilinochchi  
 F. M. Selvaratnam, Accountant, Employers Federation of Ceylon  
 R. P. Olagasegaram

## BANKING

M. A. P. Arnold, Branch Manager, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 C. R. Arnold, Commercial Bank, Jaffna  
 R. Balendra, National & Grindlay's Bank, Colombo  
 W. J. Chelliah, Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna.  
 Ranjit Chelliah, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 Lalit Chelliah, Bank of Ceylon, Badulla  
 S. Canagasingam, Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna  
 M. Dharmarajah, General Manager, Hatton National Bank  
 M. Ganeshasundaram, Manager, Peoples Bank, Jaffna  
 P. C. A. Handy, Manager, Hatton National Bank, Colombo  
 D. J. Hensman Commercial Bank, Jaffna  
 R. Jeyanath, National & Grindlay's Bank, Colombo  
 R. Jeyanathan, Bank of Ceylon, Muthur  
 N. K. Kingsley, People's Bank, Trinco  
 P. Kathirvelauthapillai, Manager, People's Bank, Puttur  
 P. Kanagadurai, Hatton National Bank, Colombo  
 K. Kanagendran, Central Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 M. Olagasegaram, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 C. T. Premarajan, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 A. S. Paramanathan, Bank of Ceylon, Trinco  
 S. Paramanathan, Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna  
 K. Parameswaran, Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna  
 A. M. Rajanayagam, People's Bank, Jaffna  
 R. P. Sithamparapillai, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 V. Sithamparapillai, Manager, People's Bank, Jaffna  
 S. Shanmuganathan, Hatton National Bank, Colombo  
 B. T. I. Segarajasinghe, Asst. Manager, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 G. A. Sathiyathan, Manager, Bank of Ceylon, Amparai  
 H. L. D. Selvaratnam, Asst. to the Governor, Central Bank, Colombo  
 M. Shanmugamani, Research Officer, Central Bank  
 C. Sivanathan, People's Bank, Trinco  
 C. Sri Ranganathan, Manager, Bank of Ceylon, Trinco  
 A. J. Subramaniam, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo



V. Subramaniam, Bank of Ceylon, Colombo  
 R. Sundaram  
 T. Thanjaratnam, Shroff, Bank of Ceylon, Chunnakam

## THE CHURCH

### Clergy - in Active Service or Retired, Church of Ceylon

The Rev. A. K. Anandanayagam, Asst. Curate, Holy Trinity Church, N' Eliya  
 The Rev. A. Chinniah, Asst. Curate, Church of the Ascension, Bandarawela  
 The Rev. J. D. E. R. Daniel, Priest in Charge, Church of the Ascension, Matara  
 The Rev. T. B. Daniel, Retired. Priest in Charge, Holy Trinity, Wellawatta  
 The Rev. J. T. N. Handy M. B. E. Retired. Formerly Secretary, Diocese of Colombo  
 The Rev. S. D. Horshington, Incumbent, St. Mark's Badulla  
 The Ven. J. A. R. Navaretnam, Archdeacon Emeritus, All Saints' Church, Colombo.  
 The Rev. C. S. J. Rajamoney, Priest in Charge, Church of Christ the Compassionate,  
 Anuradhapura.  
 The Rev. J. R. Ratnanayagam, N. C. C. University Chaplain, Peradeniya  
 The Rev. J. N. Samuel, Incumbent, Holy Emmanuel Church, Lock  
 The Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam, Incumbent, St. John's Church, Chundikuli  
 The Rev. G. J. Thambapillai, Incumbent, St. John's Church, Rakwana  
 The Rev. W. A. Vanden Driesen, Incumbent, Christ Church, Matale

### Church of South India — Jaffna Diocese

The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop in Jaffna  
 The Rt. Rev. S. Kulendran, Retired Bishop in Jaffna  
 The Rev. J. M. Singanayagam, Retired  
 The Rev. Sam Thampoo, Evangelism Secretary, Naval

### The Methodist Church in Ceylon

The Rev. Dr. James S. Mather, Retired Chairman

### Clergy beyond the veil

The Rev. J. T. Arulanantham  
 The Rev. C. C. P. Arulpragasam  
 The Rev. W. R. Coomaraswamy  
 The Rev. S. C. Daniel  
 The Rev. C. C. Handy  
 The Rev. J. Kadirgamar  
 The Rev. A. B. Kanagaratnam  
 The Rev. K. J. Mills  
 The Rev. V. B. Muthuveloe  
 The Rev. A. Mathias  
 The Rev. N. G. Nathaniel  
 The Rev. W. A. Rajadurai

The Rev. I. S. Ratnathicam  
 The Rev. A. Richards  
 The Rev. S. S. Richards  
 The Rev. Canon S. S. Somasundaram  
 The Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Thambiah  
 The Rev. A. C. Thuraijah  
 The Rev. R. V. Vethavanam  
 The Rev. A. Virasinghe  
 The Rev. S. M. Viswalingam  
 The Rev. C. T. Williams  
 The Rev. A. A. Yorke

## EDUCATION

- T. I. Abraham, Jaffna Central College (R)  
 W. B. Allegakone, Lecturer, Jaffna Polytechnical College, Kokuvil  
 R. Ambikaipakam, Publications Department  
 S. J. Anandanayagam, Warden, St. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia  
 A. J. Anandarajah, Jaffna College  
 C. E. Anandarajan, Co-Vice Principal, St. John's College  
 I. R. Ariaratnam, Parameshwara College (R)  
 J. H. Ariaratnam, Ass. Registrar, Jaffna Campus  
 J. S. Ariaratnam, Principal, Canagaratnam M. M. V. Jaffna  
 Rev. J. T. Arulanantham, Principal, St. John's College (D)  
 D. C. Arulanantham, Principal, Canagaratnam M. M. V. Jaffna (D)  
 S. G. Arulanantham, Principal, Athiar Hindu College (D)  
 K. Aiyathurai, Chundikuli Girl's College, Jaffna  
 V. N. Aiyathurai, Vice Principal, Drieberg College, Chavakachcheri (R)  
 C. Balakrishnan, Kokuvil Hindu College  
 M. P. Brodie, Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna  
 M. S. Brodie, St. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia  
 S. Balasubramaniam, Principal, Kanchi Madam M. M. V. Trinco  
 C. N. Balachandran, Urumpiray Hindu College  
 S. Balasegaram, Velanai M. M. V.  
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 S. Chandrasekaram, Kathiresan College, Nawalapitiya  
 H. W. Canagarajah, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 G. S. Chelliah, Principal, Christian College, Kopay (D)  
 B. S. Chelliah, Vice Principal, Christian College, Kopay  
 J. T. Chelliah, Vice Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 Prof. V. Chelvanayagam, University of Ceylon (D)  
 M. Chinniah, St. Thomas College, Gurutalawa  
 T. T. Christy, Trinity College, Kandy  
 A. M. K. Cumaraswamy, Registrar University of Ceylon (D)  
 T. H. Crossette, Vice Principal, St. John's College (D)  
 R. Y. Fitch, Principal, Hindu M. M. V. Sandilipay (D)  
 B. Gutamadasa, Vice Principal, Hardy Institute, Amparai  
 T. Gnanendran, Trinity College, Kandy  
 S. Gopalapillai, Senguntha M. M. V. Jaffna  
 M. E. Gunaseelan, Royal College, Colombo  
 J. Gnanamanickam, M. M. V. Mullaitivu  
 T. Gunaseelan, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 S. J. Gunasegaram, Education Officer (D)  
 E. V. J. Hensman, Principal, Vasavilan M. M. V. (R)  
 Hensman Sathianathan, Carey College, Colombo  
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 B. T. Jeyanandarajah, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 T. Kandasamy, Educational Publication Dept.



R. S. Kandiah, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 S. Kandasamy, Skandarodaya College, Chunnakam  
 S. C. Karunanathan, E. O., Jaffna  
 S. K. Mahalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 L. J. D. Mahilajan, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai  
 S. Mahendran, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 T. Manickavasagar, Regional Director, Jaffna  
 A. M. Nathaniel, Vice Principal, St. John's College Jaffna (D)  
 H. W. A. Nathaniel, Principal, Navatkuli M. M. V. (R)  
 S. Navaratnam, Principal, Athiar Hindu College  
 S. G. Nalliah, St. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia  
 A. L. Kamaldeen, M. M. V., Hettipola  
 E. C. A. Navaratnarajah, Principal Christian College, Kopay (D)  
 K. Nesiiah, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education, Peradeniya (R)  
 S. Maheswara Iyer, C. E. O., Nallur  
 S. Panchalingam, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 T. Perairampillai, Sri Somaskanda College, Puttur  
 A. P. Perinpanayagam, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 B. S. Peterson, Kurunagala (D)  
 J. T. R. Perinpanayagam, Principal, St. Thomas Prep. School (D)  
 J. N. Ponniah, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 R. Premachantrakumar, Lecturer, Aquinas  
 T. Rajaratnam, Lecturer, University, Peradeniya  
 Dr. A. Rajaindran, Principal, Tamil M. M. V. Nugegoda (R)  
 P. E. Rajendra, Physical Education College, Bangkok (D)  
 A. W. Rajasekaram, Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna (D)  
 K. Ramasamy  
 A. R. Rasiab, Union College, Tellipallai  
 S. Rajendra, Vice Principal, Polytechnical Kokuvil  
 R. Ratnaruban  
 E. B. Sabapathipillai, Lecturer, Training College, Palaly  
 M. Salaam, C. E. O. Commerce, Jaffna  
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 C. Sathasivam, Vantharamulai M. M. V.  
 B. Sivakadacham, Jaffna College  
 E. Sivananthan, Educational Publications Dept.  
 C. Sivanesan, Principal, Chithambara College, V. V. T.  
 C. Suntharalingam, Professor of Mathematics, University (R)  
 A. Sivarajah, Asst. Lecturer, Economics, Peradeniya  
 V. Sabanayagam, E. O., Trinco.  
 J. F. Sigmaringam, St. John's College, Jaffna (D)  
 N. Sivanathan, M. M. V. Mullaitivu  
 N. Suntharalingam, Curriculum Development Centre, Colombo  
 P. Sivasubramaniam, Sri Somaskanda College, Puttur  
 T. Selvarajah M. M. V. Kilinochchi

**P. V Sundaradas**

- B. A. Thambapillai, Vice Principal Kingswood College, Kandy (R)  
 D. J. Thambapillai, Vice Principal, Christian College, Kopay (R)  
 G. Thambithurai, St. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia  
 M. S. Thambithurai, St. John's College, Jaffna (R)  
 S. G. Thambiah, Wesley College, Colombo  
 J. R. Thambiayab, Vice Principal, Canagaratnam, M. M. V. Jaffna (D)  
 R. S. Thambiah, Jaffna Campus  
 S. Sevalkodiyaone, M. M. V., Pt. Pedro  
 Sara Thamothearam, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 N. S. Thanapalan, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 Capt. S. Tharmalingam, Lecturer Training College, Batticaloa  
 D. J. Thevathasan, St. John's College, Jaffna  
 K. C. Thuraiatnam, Vice Principal, Jaffna College (D)  
 A. C. Selvarajah, Christian College, Kopay (R)  
 P. Thiagarajah, Jaffna Hindu College (R)  
 S. Thiagarajah, Principal, Colombogam Hindu M. V.  
 A. Thuraiajah, Jaffna Hindu College  
 Param Thillairajah, Principal, Kopay M. V.  
 A. J. R. Vethavanam, Divisional Inspector of Schools (R)  
 Dr. S. Vithiyananthan, Professor of Tamil, Peradeniya  
 T. Vinayagamoorthy, Botany Dept. University, Peradeniya  
 T. Yathukulasingham, Training College, Palaly  
 S. Yoganathan, St. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia  
 K. Balachandran, Education Service, Sierra Leone  
 M. Balachandran, Research Assistant, Waterloo, Canada  
 Dr. E. A. Champion, Bowling Green University, U. S. A.  
 N. Gnanendran, Education Service, Nigeria  
 N. Gnanalingam, Education Service, Nigeria  
 W. T. Gunaratnam, Education Service, Brunei  
 S. C. Jesudasan, Education Service, Nigeria  
 S. K. Kasinathan, Overseas College, Singapore  
 R. Karunamoorthy, Education Service, Sierre Leone  
 K. Paramothayan, U. K.  
 S. K. Sandrasegaram, Teachers' Training College, Zambia  
 P. S. Somasundaram, Education Service, Brunei  
 P. Shanmugathas, Velanai, M. M. V.  
 M. M. Kulasegaram, Vice Principal, Royal College (R)

**ENGINEERING**

- W. T. I. Alagaratnam, Director of Irrigation (R)  
 S. Ananda, Chem. Engineer—Fertiliser Corp. Colombo  
 C. A. R. Anketell, Telecommunication Engineer  
 E. B. Anketell, Sanitary Engineer  
 D. C. V. Ariaratnam, Mechanical Engineer, Ceylon Cold Stores  
 K. Arumugam, Irrigation Engineer



- S. Arumugam, Deputy Director of Irrigation (R)  
 C. Arunagirinathan, E. E. Jaffna  
 S. Balachandran, Mechanical Engineer—Dept. of Agriculture, Hinguragoda  
 V. S. Balakrishnan, Engineer, Shipping Corp.  
 K. Balaratnam, E. E. N'Elia  
 F. K. Balaratnarajah, E. E. P. W. D. (D)  
 N. L. Balasingham, Engineer, Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation  
 G. C. Bartlett, Irrigation Engineer (R)  
 A. C. Canagarajah, Chief Engineer, Walker & Sons Ltd.  
 C. Chandrakumar, Irrigation Engineer, Oddisuddan  
 S. Easwararuban, Irrigation Engineer, Colombo  
 T. Elayathamby, C. E. B. Colombo  
 T. Gunaratnam, Deputy Director, Buildings (R)  
 S. A. Handy, Engineer, Post & Telecommunication, Colombo  
 G. R. Hunt, Sanitary Engineer, Colombo  
 E. M. Jebarajah, Engineer, Agricultural Dept., Kandy  
 A. K. Jeevanayagam, Chartered Architect  
 R. K. Jeganathan, Engineer, P. M. B., Anuradhapura  
 C. Jegatheeswaran, S. E., Badulla  
 K. Jeyapalan, Asst. Lecturer, Engineering Faculty, Univ. of Ceylon (Peradeniya Campus)  
 S. Jeyaseelan, Engineer, C. E. B.  
 C. Kanagalingam, Irrigation Engineer, Colombo  
 P. Karunakaran, Project Engineer, Mahaweli Development Board, Polgolla  
 N. Kathiresu, Civil Engineer, Dept. of Highways  
 F. N. de Kretser, D. E. (R)  
 S. Krishnamoorthy, Mech. Engineer, C. E. B. Colombo  
 V. Krishnamoorthy, Civil Engineer, Colombo  
 S. Kulasingham, Sanitary Engineer, Colombo  
 A. V. Mahendran, C. E. B., Kandy  
 R. Mahilrajan, Irrigation Engineer  
 K. Mailvaganam, E. E., Kilinochchi  
 R. Muthukumarasamy, Engineer, Irrigation Dept.  
 T. Mylvaganam, Research Engineer, Irrigation Dept.  
 P. Naganathan, Buildings Dept., Colombo  
 Miss V. Nallathamby, Colombo  
 M. Nalliah, Mech. Engineer, Ceylon Leather Corp., Mattakuliya  
 N. Nalliah, Irrigation Engineer, Oddisuddan  
 U. Nalliah, Staff, Hardware Corporation  
 N. Navaratnam, Project Engineer, Ukuwella  
 S. J. R. Niles, Mahaweli Development Project  
 E. A. Poobalasingham, Mech. Engineer, C. G. R. (R)  
 K. Punithavel  
 V. Ragunathan, E. E., N. C. P.  
 B. Rajadurai, Acting Deputy Works Manager, Ekkala  
 E. Rajakulasooriyar, Mech. Engineer, C. G. R.  
 A. R. Ratnarajah, Dept. of Highways  
 M. Ratnarajah, Processing Engineer, Paranthan Chemicals Corporation

T. Rajakulasingam, Irrigation Engineer  
 D. C. Rajaratnam, C. T. B. Engineer (R)  
 J. K. Retnanandan, Mech. Engineer, C. G. R. (R)  
 D. Rajaratnam, Engineer, Cement Corporation, Kankesanthurai  
 K. Sabaratnam, Irrigation Engineer (R)  
 P. Sabaratnam, Electrical Engineer, Central Power Station, Chunnakam  
 R. Sathasivam, Executive Engineer, Maho  
 M. Sekar, Development Officer, Rubber Research, Colombo  
 S. Senthilnathan, Divisional Irrigation Dept. Batticaloa  
 R. Senthinathan, Cement Corporation, K. K. S.  
 R. N. Setukavalar, Dept. of Buildings, Madawachi  
 C. T. R. Singham, Irrigation Engineer (D)  
 T. Sivagnanam, Irrigation Engineer  
 V. Sivakumar, Engineer Cement Factory, Kankesanthurai  
 S. Sivalingam, Engineer, Bandarawela  
 T. Sivalingam, Engineer S. E. Badulla  
 N. S. Sivanesan, Engineer, R. V. D. B.  
 A. J. Somasundaram, Electrical Engineer  
 G. D. Somasundaram, Engineer & Lecturer  
 S. Sothilingam  
 K. Thevasakayam, Engineer, Irrigation Dept.  
 J. N. Thevathasan, Project Engineer, Mahaweli Development Board  
 R. Thevathasan, Irrigation Dept.  
 S. Thiagarajah, Engineer, Cement Corporation, Galle  
 S. M. V. Tissanayagam, E. E., Jaffna  
 C. R. Tissanayagam, Engineer, Additional Secy. Ministry of Irrigation, Power and High-ways  
 M. Vamadevan, Ceylon Development Engineers Ltd.  
 R. Vethanayagam, C. E. B.  
 L. R. Vethanayagam, Irrigation Engineer (R)  
 M. Vijayaratnam  
 M. Vijayasundaram, Civil Engineer, C. G. R., Maradana  
 J. Vyravipillai  
 S. Vyravipillai, State Engineering Corporation, Ratnapura  
 W. A. Wijeyakumar, Mechanical Engineer  
 M. Yathindra, Engineer, Buildings Department, Colombo  
 K. Yoganathan, S. E., Puttalam

## LAW

C. Ambikaipalan, Attorney, Chavakachcheri  
 S. Ariacutty, Proctor  
 M. A. Arulananthan, District Judge (D)  
 J. K. Arnold, Proctor, Jaffna (D)  
 T. Ariyanayagam, Attorney  
 J. G. Aseervatham, District Judge, Chavakachcheri



C. S. Barr Kumarakulasinghe, Commissioner of Assize (R)  
 J. T. Bartlett, Proctor  
 P. Casipillai,  
 C. Cadiravelu, Proctor (D)  
 V. Casipillal (D)  
 S. Chellappah, Attorney  
 S. J. V. Chelvanayagam, Q. C.  
 R. R. Crossette Thambiah, Solicitor General (R)  
 N. Cumaraswamy, Crown Proctor (R)  
 A. T. Duraiyappah, Mayor, Jaffna, Attorney  
 S. Emerson, Jaffna (D)  
 R. Gopalaratnam, Attorney, Jaffna  
 Harry Richards, Attorney, Colombo  
 Dr. T. Isaac Thambiah, (D)  
 K. Jeganathan, Attorney, Canada  
 G. Jeyakumar, Attorney, Colombo  
 S. Jekanathan, Magistrate, Maho  
 R. Kamalanathan, Attorney, Jaffna  
 Hon. A. Kanagaratnam, (D)  
 S. Kanagaratnam, J. P. U. M. Crown Attorney, Jaffna  
 Mrs. Kalaimagal Thirunavukarasu, Attorney, Jaffna  
 K. Kesavan, Attorney, Jaffna  
 T. Kumarasamy, Attorney, Colombo  
 S. Kumarasingham  
 S. Logeswaran, Attorney, Jaffna  
 S. C. Mahadeva, Attorney, Jaffna  
 W. W. Mutturajah, District Judge (D)  
 Justice C. Nagalingam, Q. C. Senior Puisne Judge (R)  
 J. V. C. Nathaniel, Attorney, Colombo  
 S. Parameswaran  
 M. Pararajasingham, Attorney, Colombo  
 S. Parirajah, Attorney, Uduvil  
 C. Pathmanathan, Attorney, Colombo  
 S. Ponnuswamy, Attorney, Nuwara Eliya  
 J. G. Rajakulendran, Nawalapitiya (D)  
 J. I. Rajaratnam, J. P. Attorney, Jaffna  
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 P. C. Rasakone, Attorney, Jaffna  
 M. Ratnasingham, J. P. U. M. Attorney, Colombo  
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 Shanthi Crossette Thambiah  
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 Dr. Ragupathy Ramalingam, General Hospital, Kandy



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 Dr. K. Thillaivasam, General Hospital, Batticaloa  
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 S. Kumaravel, Hotel Taprobane, Colombo  
 N. Manoharan, Monfinco Printers, Colombo  
 B. Mahinda, Director, Maharajah Organisation  
 S. P. Mills, Automobile Engineers Co., Colombo  
 Noble Nalliah, Lever Bros., Colombo  
 V. N. Nathaniel, District Rep. Lever Bros. Ltd.  
 T. Y. Nicholas, Samuel Sons & Co., Colombo  
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 Raja Arasu, Shipping Manager, Tea Administration, Trinco  
 S. Rajanathan, Mackwoods Ltd., Colombo  
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 R. Rajaratnam, Walker & Sons, Colombo  
 R. A. Rasiyah, Embassy of Phillipines  
 R. E. Rasiyah, Eastern Motor Garages, Colombo  
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 Percy Ratnasingham  
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 T. Sathivan, Industrial Finance Ltd., Colombo  
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 P. T. Sathianathan, Jafferjee Bros., Colombo  
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**Noel Kanagasabai**  
**Selva Kanagasabai, Halgranoya**  
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 T. Arasaratnam C. G. R.  
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 R. V. V. Arasaratnam, Agricultural School, Kundasale  
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 L. J. S. Arnold, Ceylon Electricity Board Colombo  
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 T. Balathevan, Social Services Dept. Jaffna  
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 K. B. Basanayake, Prison's Dept. Kandy  
 Barton Hunt, Irrigation Dept. (R)  
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 P. Chandradas, Wellawatte Weaving Mills  
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 A. Chellappah, Supdt. Prison's Dept.  
 E. J. Chelliah, C. G. R. (R)  
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 R. V. Chelliah, Hospital, Ragama  
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 S. Dharmendra, T. A. Oddisuddan  
 R. S. Duraisingham, Irrigation Dept. Attanagalle  
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 T. K. Elaiyathamby, Post Master (R)  
 J. V. Elaiyathamby, Port Cargo Corp., Colombo  
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 T. S. Fry, C. G. R. (R)  
 D. J. Gnanakone, Pilot Air-Ceylon  
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 T. Ganeshamoorthy, Air traffic officer, Aviation Dept.  
 S. Ganesharatnam, Deputy Director  
 K. Gengatharan, Asst. Director Social Services Dept.  
 C. Ganeswaran, Tyre Corp. Kelaniya  
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 J. Handy, Asst. Commissioner, Agrarian Services  
 J. M. Handy, Secretary S. A. R. T. C. Colombo  
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 A. Hensman, Asst. Conservator, Forest Dept. (R)  
 G. R. Hensman, Postal Dept. (D)  
 G. H. R. Hubert, O. A., Co-op. Dept. (D)  
 J. Hubert, Excise Dept.



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 Dr. A. J. Jeevaratnam, R. R. I. (R)  
 R. A. Jeevanayagam, Agricultural Dept.  
 T. Jeganathan, Insurance Corporation, Jaffna  
 K. S. Jeyendran, Manager, Singer Company  
 A. Jothithas, Accountant, Embilipitiya  
 K. Kanagaratnam, O. A. Registrar of Companies (R)  
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 S. Karunainathan, Secretary, Village Council, Karachi  
 A. S. Karalasingham, Agrarian Services, Mullaitivu  
 A. Karunaratnam, Irrigation Dept. Colombo  
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 L. C. R. Kathirgamar, C. G. R.  
 T. Kirubathilagan, Maha Illupalama  
 P. Kumarasamy, R. R. I.  
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