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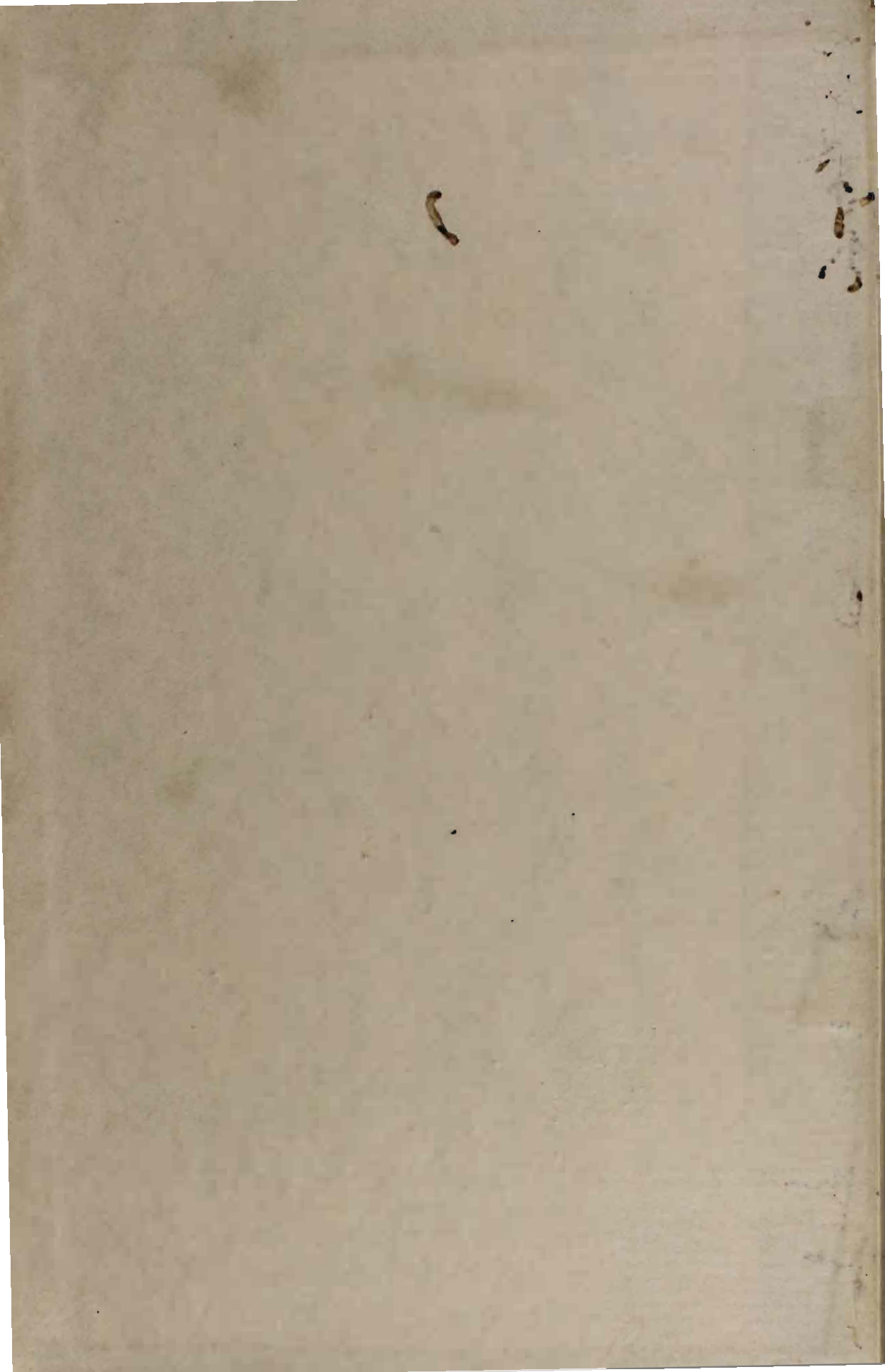
CENTRAL

College :

(1834-1934)



CENTENARY :
MEMORIAL :
EDITION :





THE COLLEGE CREST.

Jaffna : :
CENTRAL :
College : :
(1834—1934)



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MEMORIAL :
EDITION :

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PREFACE.

The Executive Committee of the Old Boys' Association that met to discuss the ways and means of celebrating the Centenary of the College thought it appropriate to put on record the contributions Central has made towards the educational progress of our country and decided to publish a history of the College. A Centenary Memorial Edition Committee consisting of Rev. P. T. Cash, M.A., B.Sc., Messrs. Nevins Selvadurai, B.A., J.P., M.B.E., W. D. Niles, B.A., Advocate, J. W. Arudpragasam, B.A., L. P. Spencer, B.A., J.P., A. E. Tamber, B.Sc., D. T. Niles, B.D., Sam Seevaratnam, J. C. Charles and K. Navaratnam was appointed, with Rev. P. T. Cash as Chairman and Mr. K. Navaratnam as Secretary and Editor, to collect the necessary facts and write the history. The Committee after two years of work places this history of the College and its achievements before the Old Boys and the public with the only satisfaction of having served their alma mater to the best of their ability.

The history of a country is nothing but the story of the growth and development of its institutions and the achievements of its individual citizens. Institutions are the collective efforts of individuals and they stand for the ideals and aspirations of the groups they represent. The Methodist Mission, as an Organisation endeavouring to translate into action the teachings of Jesus as lived and experienced by John Wesley, has contributed not a little towards all that is modern and progressive in Jaffna to-day, and the Jaffna Central College as the Premier Methodist Institution in North Ceylon takes the first place in this category.

The work of compiling a connected history of an institution for a period of one hundred years and more, in the absence of sufficient data and materials, is not an easy task. All that the compilers could lay hands on as sources were the Minutes of the Synods, the

back numbers of the College Magazine 'Central' and the disconnected facts found in books such as 'Notes on Jaffna' by H. Martin, 'Leaves from My Life' by Joseph Grenier, and the 'Life and Times of Kathiravelupillai.' In addition to information gathered from the above, facts were also collected from personal anecdotes and reminiscences of Old Boys.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the arrival of the Pioneer Missionaries and the founding of schools. The period dealt with in this section is from 1814 to 1833 during which time Central was a mixed English School catering to the needs of the children of the Jaffna Town. The second part begins with the re-organisation of the school by Rev. Peter Percival under the new name of Jaffna Central School, and covers the period between 1834 to 1869. The third part deals with University affiliation and the development of Collegiate Education as far as 1934.

The references to the Old Boys and the photographs published are by no means exhaustive. The Old Boys of Jaffna Central College have occupied and continue to occupy positions of honour and responsibility in all parts of Ceylon and the Federated Malay States. Every effort was made by the Committee to secure photographs of prominent Old Boys and information relating to their achievements. Omissions, there may be, but due only to lack of information and failure on the part of some of the Old Boys to respond to repeated requests.

This preface will not be complete without a few words of appreciation to those who contributed towards the success of the publication. The thanks of the Committee are due first and foremost to Messrs. D. T. Niles, B.D., A. E. Tamber, B.Sc., and J. C. Charles for having collected the necessary facts and written the various chapters they were in charge of. Mr. Niles undertook the arduous task of ransacking

the old records of the Mission House for information relating to the earlier chapters of the history. How far he has succeeded in presenting the scattered facts in a connected readable form will be apparent to the readers. The Committee is also grateful to the members of the Sub-Committee—Messrs. F. H. V. Gulasagaram, M.A., J. V. Dharmarajah, M.A., W. T. Jegasothy, and Dr. A. Kandiah—appointed by the Colombo Branch of the Old Boys' Association, for reading through the manuscript and for making valuable suggestions and criticisms. We cannot adequately thank Rev. P. T. Cash who, in the midst of his many duties as Acting Chairman of the North Ceylon District and as Principal of the College, found the time to go through the manuscript and to make the necessary corrections. The Committee's thanks are also due to all Old Boys and friends who gave us photographs and information about Old Boys and Teachers of the College.

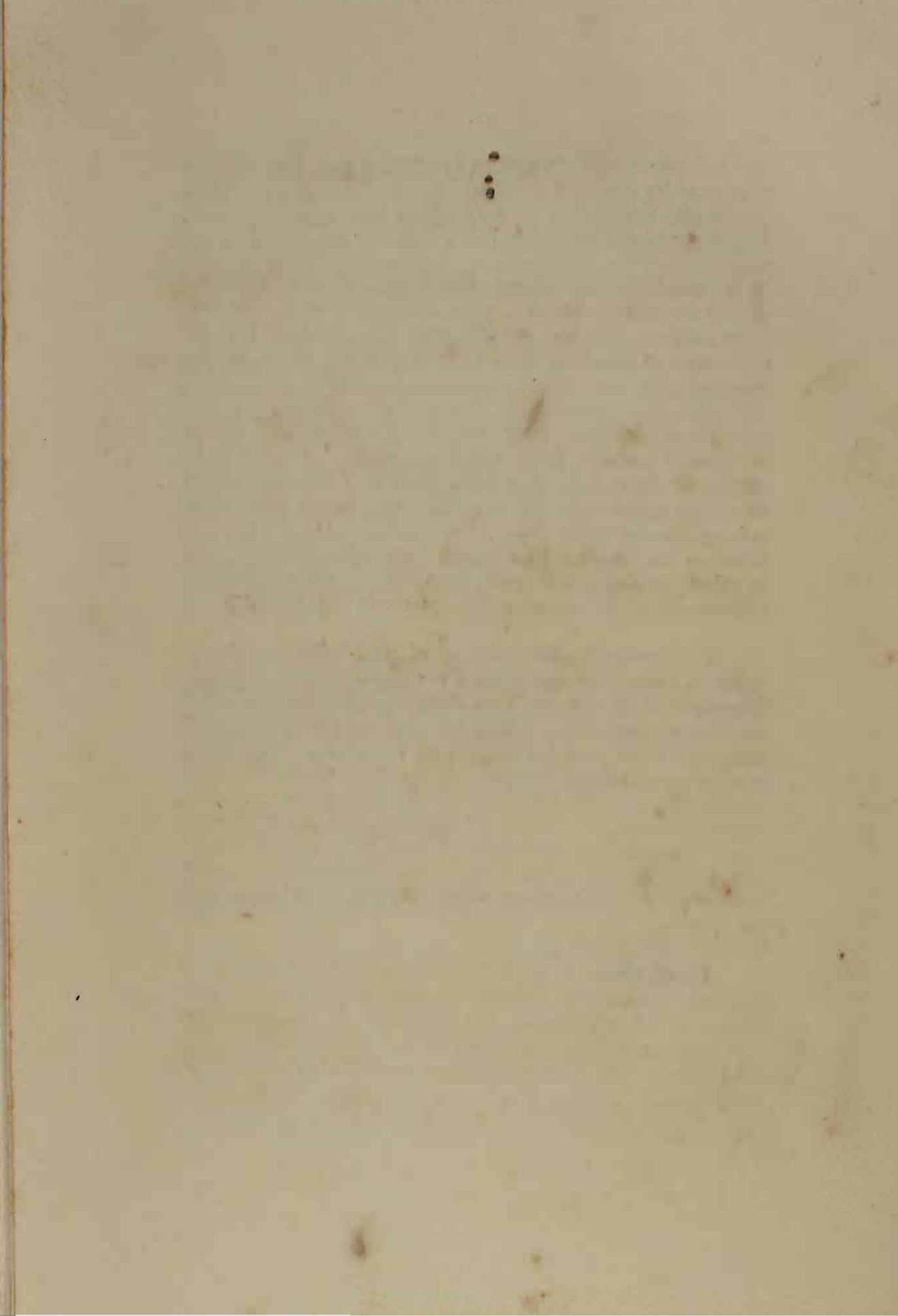
A note of appreciation is also due from the Editor to the Manager of the Ceylon Examiner Press, Colombo, and especially to Mr. S. H. Boustead, for the cheerfulness with which he received all our suggestions and the care he bestowed in getting the book printed to our satisfaction.

K. NAVARATNAM,

Secretary,

Centenary Memorial Edition Committee.

Jaffna Central College,
June, 1935.



FOREWORD

IN sending out these Centenary remembrances, we really look back more than a century, for the English School which was the predecessor of Central was founded in the very earliest days of the pioneers.

It is thrilling however to consider the deeds of those who have gone before us, even if we decide to take only the century as the theme of our consideration; we mark the vicissitudes, the times of smooth sailing, the stormy days, the triumphs, the sorrows of those who, having toiled and borne the burden and heat of the day, now rest in God or work 'beyond human view' in some higher sphere of service.

The same South-West wind washed through the trees in those former days, the same burning sunshine illuminated the land, the 'same' dust blew in great clouds across the esplanade, our predecessors were familiar with similar sights and sounds of nature, earlier generations of squirrels shouted at one another, crows of the last century waxed impudent as now, barbets called in Vembu trees then, and from time to time the cries of lively boys and girls whose grandchildren even are passed on, echoed across open spaces where only Tamil games were played. Nature goes on, but we. . . . ?

It is strange to ponder over the continuity of a school; as far as Central is concerned, scarcely one stone of it represents the Central of its founders, not one teacher, not one servant—is the same. The Old Boys of the earlier days have 'fallen on sleep' long ago.

Yet we celebrate the centenary. What continues? Is it a mere name? A thousand times—No! It is a tradition, it is a spirit; and we trust it is a spirit of devotion to Jesus Christ, a spirit of courage. It has been handed down from generation to generation of Centralites, it had its part to play in mart, in state, in Courts of Justice, in field, and in homestead.

It was found as a tradition of sacrificial toil, of Christly devotion, of dedicated scholarship, of unselfish love in such great men as Percival, Walton, Kilner, Rigg, D. P. Niles, Chanmukam and many others whose names are enshrined in these memorials—for in a sense they are memorials.

Are we, 'upon whom the ends of the ages have come' worthy of these traditions? Often we feel that we are not. This is a busy distracting age, we wander to and fro in thought and energy, and often, by lack of any opportunity of concentration, lose the finest opportunities of real service.

How different is our experience now from the experience of those who lived in a more leisured age! when journeys were conducted at the rate of five miles an hour, when Education Codes were unknown, when science had not yet 'unrolled her ample page, rich with the spoils of time,' and laboratories were not even thought of, when the pressing competition of an area crowded with schools was not yet, when strange and new systems of thought had not to be considered and reckoned with.

“Let the great world spin for ever down
the ringing groves of change.”

And change lays its feverish hands upon all things, efficiency shouts aloud to us, and examinational systems—probably a passing phase—demand and still demand their taxing toll.

More and more the mechanical grasp of Governmental control is laid upon our schools, the impersonal power of a great national institution does not make for the upbuilding of personal loyalties, this is a new feature comparatively. Where is it leading us?

We are forced to look forward; in toiling along the busy road of modern life, it is not only the traffic that has passed us that we must notice.

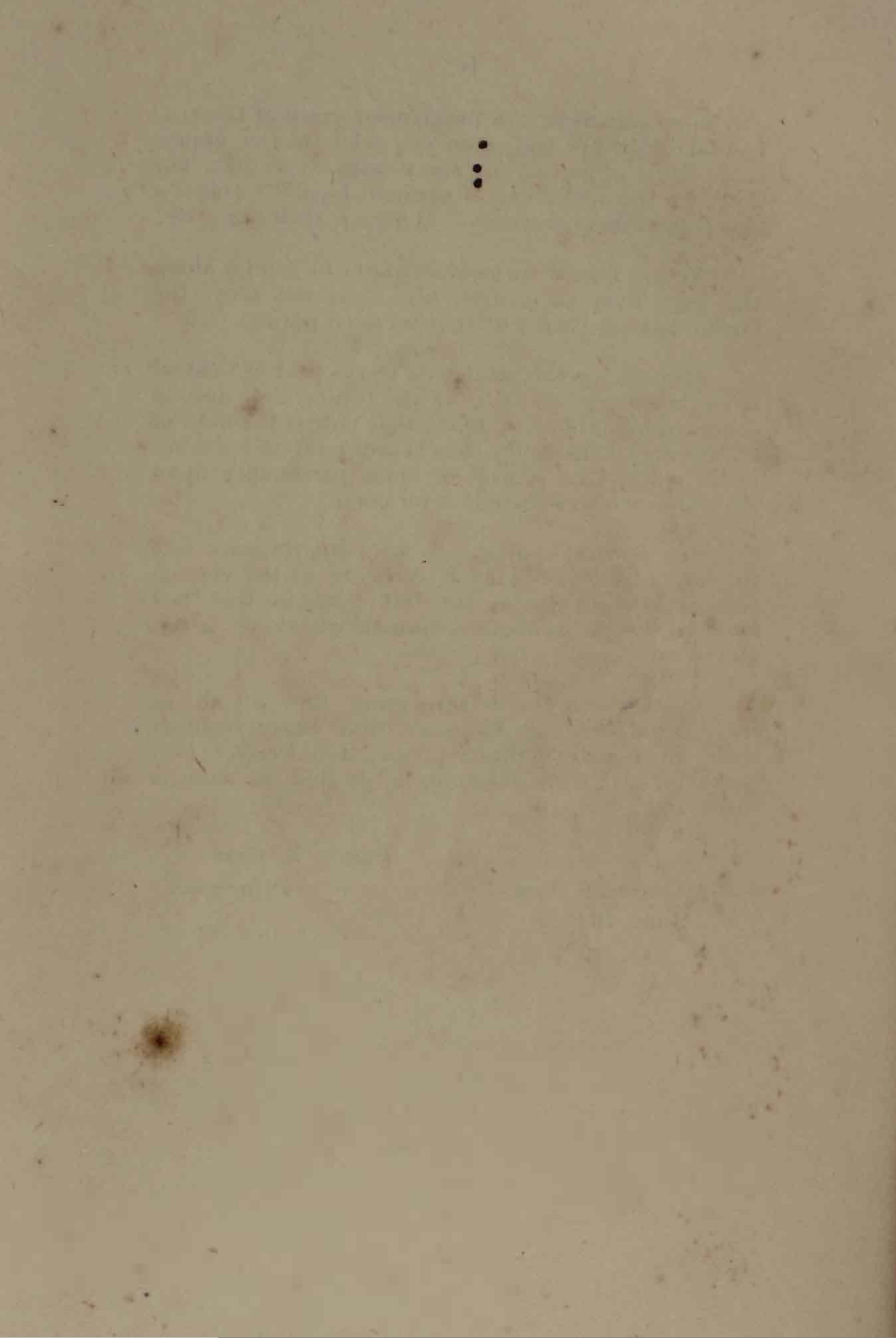
Nevertheless the great note of the past of Central must be the great note of the future also, despite codes, examinations, systems, that note is the note of Consecrated Personality, this is the greatest influence in the world—the impact of noble personality upon the world, which remoulds it for good.

May Central continue to send out its sons into the ways of service. May it do more in the coming century even than in the last; and in this last hundred years, as these memorials will show, it has played no unworthy part.

And to some of us the great test of all is, 'Is Central bringing its sons into closer contact with the Greatest, the Supreme, the Perfect Personality?' If it is continuing to do this, its work is succeeding.

Jaffna Central College,
June, 1935.

PERCY T. CASH,
Principal.





REV. DR. THOMAS COKE.

CHAPTER I.

THE WESLEYAN PIONEERS.

"A brand snatched from the burning," but snatched to set the England of his day ablaze with the love and the light of God—that Wesleyan was John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. He set England on fire, and Ireland and America. John Baxter, shipwright and preacher, claimed for him children in Antigua. But the world was not his parish still. There were children yet to be claimed in the lands of the East.

The eighteenth century drew to its close and still little happened. The Missionary conscience of English Dissent remained paralysed. William Carey (1790) asked for foreign Missions but met only with rebuke "Sit down, young man," was John Ryland's answer, "when God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine." It was the voice of a Christianity paralysed by the partial view of a great truth.

Thomas Coke, a young Welshman, a Commoner of Jesus College, Oxford, where he took the Degree of Doctor of Laws and was ordained Missionary priest in 1772, felt the expulsive Enterprise power of a new affection and he joined the Methodist ranks in 1777. From 1786, his were the hands that directed Methodist Foreign Missions. Under his influence missions were established in almost every English Island of the West-Indies. The flame of his missionary zeal burst forth on British America. Methodist Societies were formed by him in the Bahamas and Bermudas, and to the coast of Africa also he directed zealous efforts.

But still he was not satisfied. His heart embraced the world. He saw beyond the lands of the setting sun, countries ever which he longed for the Sun of Righteousness to rise. At the age of sixty-six, when men plan for rest and retirement, he thought of India and yearned to call it to Christ. But the East India Company stood in the way. They did not want Missionaries. Dr. Coke beat his ardent wings against the cage of circumstance and waited; and then news reached him that Ceylon was open. It had been ceded to the British Crown in 1802, and Sir Alexander Johnstone, the Chief Justice of the Island (1811) hearing from Wilberforce of the good work done by the Wesleyan Missionary Society sent an invitation. On June 23rd, 1813, British India was also opened to the Gospel by an Act of Parliament. Coke had received his call.

In view of Dr. Coke's advanced age and the risk to health and life which his residence in the torrid zone would involve, many of his

The Liverpool Conference friends tried to dissuade him from his purpose; but in vain. "I am now dead to Europe and alive to India," he wrote to one of his friends. "God himself has said to me, 'Go to Ceylon.' I am so fully convinced of the will of God that methinks I had rather be set naked on the coast of Ceylon, without clothes and without a friend than not go there."

At the Wesleyan Conference of 1813, which assembled in Liverpool in the month of August, Dr. Coke brought forward his proposal for a Mission to the East. But the cost of the undertaking and the many difficulties attending it appeared so formidable that the Conference spent a whole day in discussing the question without arriving at any decision. The Doctor repaired to his lodgings with a heavy heart. The Rev. B. Clough who accompanied him home, afterwards testified that Coke wept as they walked along the street, on referring to the opposition

which was made by some of his brethren to his cherished project. That night he spent in prayer. And when the Conference met again to resume its debate, Dr. Coke carried all before him.

He detailed the providential circumstances which had led him to desire the establishment of the Mission, the favourable disposition which some men in power had manifested towards it, the sacred duty of preaching the Gospel of the Grace of God to every creature; and then making the offer of himself and of the proffered services of the Ministers who had consented to 'brave with him the dangers of the enterprise'; he added boldly and generously, that if the connexion could not furnish the expense he himself would prepare to defray the expenditure necessary for the outfit and commencement of the work, to the extent of six thousand pounds. Awed into acquiescence by so splendid an example of devotion and generosity, his brethren in the Conference at once gave their consent; and Dr. Coke and the six young Ministers who had volunteered to go with him were at once appointed to proceed on a Mission to the East (two for India, three for Ceylon, one for Java, and one for South Africa).

From the moment that the Conference gave its sanction to the enterprise, Dr. Coke and his companions were busily employed

The Sailing of in preparing for their journey.
the Mission On the zealous little Doctor

himself devolved a large amount of care and responsibility connected with stores, passages, and other matters. As it was found impracticable to arrange for the whole party to sail in the same ship, passages were booked for Dr. Coke, Mr. Clough and Mr. and Mrs. Harvard on board the 'Cabalva,' and for Messrs. Lynch, Erskine and Squance and Mr. and Mrs. Ault, in the 'Lady Melville.' It being war time, it was arranged for these vessels to sail in convoy; and every necessary

preparation having been completed, Dr. Coke and his companions proceeded to Portsmouth in the month of December to join their respective ships.

At Portsmouth, Dr. Coke preached his last sermon in St. Peter's Chapel, Portsea, on his favourite text, "Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God." They embarked on the 29th December, 1813, and on the following morning the beautiful panorama of the Isle of Wight and the grand sights which Portsmouth with its towers and spires, ramparts, and battle-ships, presented in time of war, had vanished from their sight; and the fleet was on its way down the English Channel.

Two of their number, however, were destined to end their course before they landed on India's 'Coral Strand.' On February

The Passing of 10th, 1814, Mrs. Ault, the wife
Dr. Coke of one of the oldest Missionaries,
succumbed to a wasting disease.

It was known that she was ill and when on the morning of the 10th the Union Jack was seen flying half-mast high on board the 'Lady Melville,' they knew that the dear sufferer had passed to her Master's nearer presence. The whole fleet joined in the token of mourning, and the same evening her remains were committed to the sea.

But this was only a prelude to a still heavier trial which awaited the party. During the voyage, Dr. Coke was generally pretty well, active and cheerful. He was devoting most of his time to a study of Portuguese in which language, he hoped to preach in Ceylon. Possibly due to over-work and strain, he had a slight indisposition on the 1st May, but not so serious as to excite apprehension. On the 2nd, before retiring for the night, the Doctor requested Mr. Clough to bring him some medicine from the chest, which he intended to take that night. Mr. Clough then requested permission to watch at his

side all night; but Dr. Coke thanked him and said this was not necessary, as he hoped to be better in the morning. This was the last time that his gentle voice was heard on earth. At half past five next morning the 3rd of May his faithful attendant, as usual, stood at the cabin door and knocked. He listened in vain for the customary acknowledgment. At length, moving the latch, he noiselessly entered the room, and petrified with surprise and awe, beheld the form of the venerable man of God stretched lifeless on the floor. Apoplexy had deprived the Missionary party of its leader. The brethren on the 'Lady Melville' which was still in company were informed, and with feelings of intense sorrow and deep dismay they committed the body of their father and leader to the mighty deep. A British officer had described Dr. Coke as 'the holiest little devil I ever met'—a description which tersely sets before us at once the Doctor's short stature, his fiery zeal and the transparent sincerity of his life. Of all the Wesleyan Methodist Presidents whose list is given in the minutes of Conference, he is the only one whose residence is not given. It is a significant indication of his tireless energy and boundless enthusiasm for the work of God all over the world. A veritable Moses, he died in sight of the chosen land. The ocean received his remains, a fit sepulchre for one whose sympathy and aims knew no boundary of land or tongue.

Bereft of their leader and yet determined to fulfil his mission and theirs, the party proceeded on their journey and landed

The Landing of the in Bombay on the 21st
Missionaries May, 1814. Dr. Coke had left no letters or papers

authorising anyone to draw money or transact any business on his account or that of the Missionary Society, but through the representation of their Captain, Mr. Birch, to Thomas Money, a respectable merchant in Bombay to whom Dr. Coke had a letter

of introduction, they received from him all the cash they needed and every kindness.

Dr. Coke's death made it necessary for them to depart from the original plan, and so after spending a month in Bombay all of them except Mr. and Mrs. Harvard who remained some time longer on account of family circumstances, set sail for Ceylon on the 20th June. After a pleasant journey of nine days they reached Ceylon (29th June, 1814) and anchored their ships three miles from the shore in full view of the palm fronted coast of Galle.

Thomas Money had written to one Mr. W. Gibson and he was waiting for them. The sun had set and it was twilight, when the first Wesleyan Missionaries—Lynch, Squance and Clough—set foot on Ceylon soil, shook hands with Mr. Gibson, and thanked God for their arrival. Ault and Erskine had remained in the ship to attend to the luggage. They arrived early next morning by palanquin from Weligama, a place nearly twenty miles from Galle.

Sir Robert Brownrigg, the Governor of Ceylon, on hearing from Sir Evan Nepean, the Governor of Bombay, had already written to Lord Molesworth, the Commandant of the Fort, to receive the party and make them comfortable in the Government house at Galle. But attracted by the cordiality of welcome afforded by Lord Molesworth and his wife, the Missionaries decided to stay as their guests.



T. CHELLAPPAH PILLAI, ESQ., B.A., B.L.,
Chief Justice, Travancore, India.
(Old Boy)

CHAPTER II.

FOUNDING OF SCHOOLS.

The scene now shifts from Galle to Colombo and then to Jaffna. On the arrival of the Missionary party, Lord Molesworth wrote to the Governor, and within a few days there arrived in Galle Rev. Mr. Bisset (probably the Governor's Chaplain) conveying to the party the Governor's welcome and bringing also suggestions as to what they might do.

The suggestion was that they should open English schools in some of the principal places, to serve both as a method of teaching the people of the land, and also as a means of learning their language. The Governor himself promised financial aid. The proposal was unexpected but welcome; and when the Governor was informed of the acceptability of the proposal, he wrote back offering a sum of fifty six dollars per month to each school which they might establish, and asking that as Colombo was already supplied with English schools, they should elect to start work in Jaffna, Mannar, Batticaloa, Galle and Matara. He wrote, however, that this was only his opinion, and that they were at full liberty to accept any or none of these places, as they judged most suitable to themselves, and advised them to take time to consider the matter before they finally decided.

The Missionaries met in conference on Monday the 11th July, 1814—their first meeting in Ceylon, and called by them 'The Little Conference'

The Little Conference —and there discussed the matter. In the first letter which the Missionaries wrote to England from Ceylon, there occurs the following description of this conference:—

“Our first question was, should we separate so far and to so many places? After looking at every argument for and against the question, we agreed to separate to Jaffna and Batticaloa on the one hand for the Tamil language; and Galle and Matara on the other for Singhalese; and to give up Mannar; and that two of the brethren should go to Jaffna.

“The second question was, who shall go to these several places? This being by far the most important question, we humbled ourselves before God, and prayed for resignation and divine direction; we looked at the places and languages, and the disposition and talents of each brother...We agreed to fix our stations by ballot, when Brothers Lynch and Squance were chosen for Jaffna; Brother Ault for Batticaloa; Brother Erskine for Matara; and Brother Clough for Galle...At this instant our feelings were most acute. We saw ourselves as at last separated to various and distant parts of the Island; we embraced, and wept, and prayed for each other. God had given us the spirit of love in an unusual degree.....

“Whether our mode of proceeding, and the plan which we have adopted, may meet your approbation, we cannot tell; but we are conscious that we have acted in simplicity and Godly sincerity; and we do most sincerely request your advice or reproof, as you may judge necessary. That you, and all our Fathers, and Brethren in the Gospel of Jesus may be kept in the unity of the Spirit, and bond of peace; and live to see more glorious days of the Son of Man, is the sincere prayer of your sons in the Gospel.”

Lynch and Squance were the first to set out for their new station. They left Galle on Thursday the 14th July, and first of all

Lynch and Squance proceeded to Colombo,
Arrive in Jaffna where they visited His
 Excellency the Governor

and thanked him for all his kindness. They stayed

in Colombo with Rev. and Mrs. Twisleton. They were welcomed also by the Baptist Missionary, Rev. James Charter, and his wife—the Baptists having come to Ceylon two years earlier.

On August 1st they bade goodbye to their friends in Colombo and set out on their journey through village and jungle to Jaffna, where they arrived on the 10th. They brought letters of introduction to several gentlemen, but went first to the house of Mr. James N. Mooyart, the sub-collector, who received them gladly and with whom they stayed.

It is interesting to note from the letters which Lynch and Squance wrote to England and also from the letters of their immediate successors how Jaffna appealed to them, and what they found significant for them and their work in its people, customs and religion. The most repeated references are to the Dutch and Portuguese inhabitants, who formed a Christian nucleus, but were nevertheless mostly illiterate and in many ways non-Christian; to the remnants of the indigenous Christian Community under the Dutch, who were mostly baptized Hindus; and to the indigenous population itself with its caste distinctions and idol worship.

Lynch, in one of his letters makes some interesting observations on 'Caste'. He writes, "It is to be regretted that our European Christians by their conduct rather encourage, than discountenance caste. I cannot but detest a national custom which prevails, that no native, no not even a native Christian is allowed to sit in the company of an Englishman..... But while we abhor the anti-Christian conduct, we feel very delicate at once to break through the custom, lest we expose ourselves to censure on the one hand, and such a degree of familiarity on the other, as might cause contempt,"

Lynch and Squance proposed immediately on their arrival to open schools. But there was inevitable delay due to the want of a suitable building large enough to serve as a dwelling house, and as a school. In fact, it was two years before they purchased a suitable site and building.

By this time Lynch was in charge of the whole work in Ceylon. William Ault had died at Batticaloa on April 1st, 1815, and Lynch who was the next most senior missionary found himself within a year of the establishment of the Mission in the position of Chairman of the whole Ceylon District.

Born a Roman Catholic, James Lynch became a Protestant when 17 years old, and in 1808, entered the Irish Methodist Ministry. He was one of the two men whom the Irish Conference gave Dr. Coke for Ceylon, George Erskine being the other.

The work during the period (1814-1816) was largely preliminary. No buildings had yet been purchased. Services were conducted in the Fort Church. Lynch and Squance were learning Tamil, and a beginning in the way of Christian literature was made by circulating sermons in Tamil, written on olas.

Their helper during this time and later was the Rev. Christian David, a pious and zealous Tamil preacher who had been converted by the Rev. Mr. Schwartz, son of the Judge of the High Court of Justice under the regime of the Royal Danish Government, and educated at Bishop's College, Calcutta. He was at this time Colonial Chaplain of Jaffna. When Lynch and Squance arrived in Jaffna, he visited them and offered his help. He told them that he had been waiting and praying for missionaries for more than 10 years and that now he believed that God had answered his prayers.

On the 1st August, 1816, the old Orphan House and Lutheran Church opposite the Esplanade were purchased by James Lynch from the Government for a sum of 646 Rix Dollars. It was the first property acquired by the Mission in Jaffna and marked the beginning of a new phase.

**The founding
of Schools**

Squance, since the beginning of the work in Jaffna, had expressed the view that schools would be premature until the parents of the children were first converted. Squance himself was heart and soul a preacher. And now that a suitable building was found, the question arose, to found or not to found schools? How the question was settled is not fully known. Christian David himself was an enthusiast for the 'school policy.' The question of training a competent Tamil ministry was already to the fore. Other considerations there must also have been. And so it was in 1817, a programme of establishing schools was definitely launched.

The letter dated September, 1816, written by Lynch to the Committee in England, probably soon after this decision among others was taken, reveals something of what he as Chairman felt at this time. "Oh! that we may never substitute the wisdom of man, or that honour that cometh of the world, for the love of God shed abroad in the heart! Never did I see the necessity of this more clearly than I do at present. During the whole of our meeting, we felt our responsibility to God, and to you, and to the connexion at large.....

"In several cases we are clearly convinced that we should adopt new plans of usefulness, but a fear of not meeting with your approbation prevented us. In several particulars we have thought it our duty to deviate from the directions which your most encouraging letter contained: but we trust a plain statement of our case will be our best apology for doing so.

"If ever I felt my soul willing to be anything or nothing in God's hand, or Church, I do at present. I see myself as a little child and I feel, yes, I sensibly feel concerned for the success of this most important and expensive Mission. I believe a wide door is now opened, and that we shall very soon have joyful news to send to you and to all our Missionary Societies in Europe."

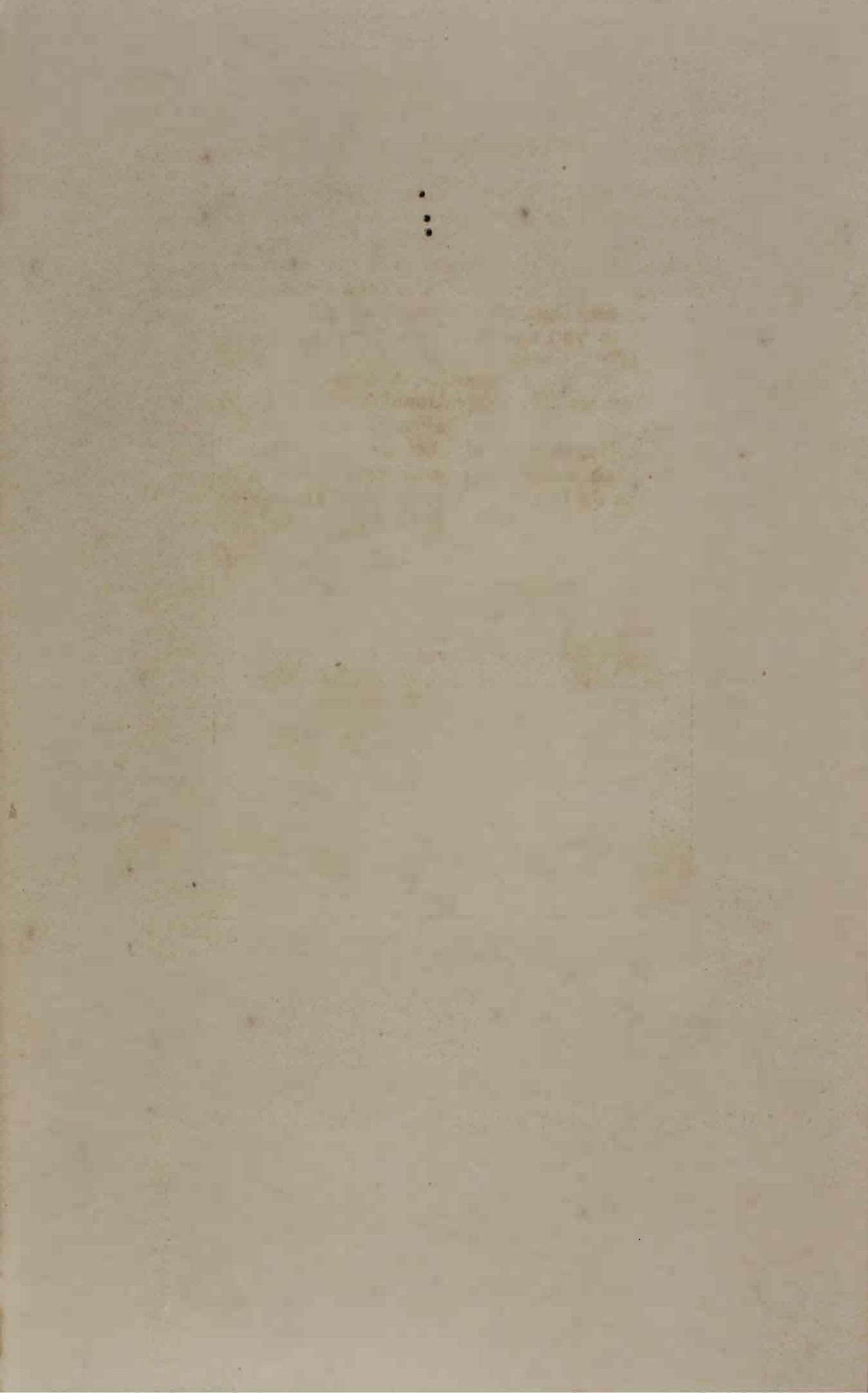
Thus was the Educational policy of the Wesleyan Mission launched in Ceylon.

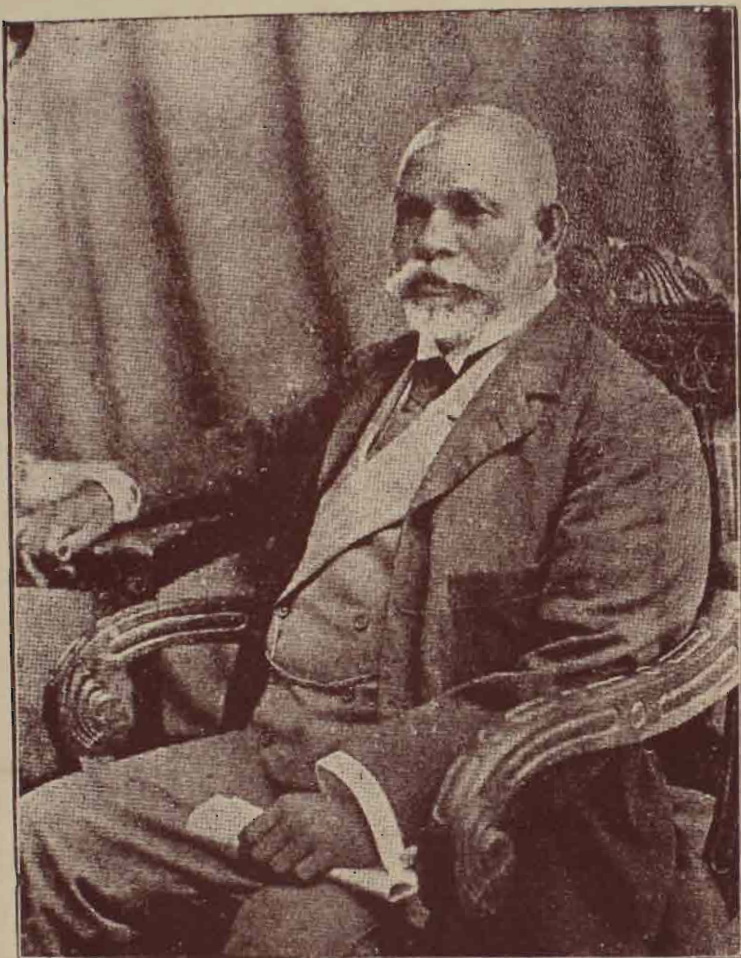
The Beginning of English Education in Jaffna As far as the Tamil District was concerned it meant a network of Tamil and English Schools.

The newly acquired building opposite the Esplanade was turned into an English school and Chapel. Squance, in a letter to England, reports three Tamil schools in Vannarponnai, Navatkuli and Puttur, in 1818. By 1819, there were thirteen schools, eleven of which were in the Jaffna Peninsula, attended by 650 children. When Lynch returned to England in 1824, he was able to report twenty-one schools with 891 children, English being taught in the schools at Jaffna, Trincomalie and Batticaloa.

But many of these schools appear to have survived only for a short time—the Jaffna English School being an exception, due to the important and central position of Jaffna in the Missionary Scheme.

The Jaffna English School is the fore-runner of the Jaffna Central School.





HON. DR. W. G. ROCKWOOD, M.D., M.R.C.S.,
M.R.C.P., (Lond.)
(*Old Boy*)

CHAPTER III.

WESLEYAN ENGLISH SCHOOL

(1817-1834)

The Jaffna Wesleyan English School founded in 1817, by the Rev. James Lynch on the site of the Orphan House and Lutheran Church (the present site of Jaffna Central College) was under the direct control and management of Mr. Lynch from 1817-1819. His helpers were the Revs. T. Squance and R. Carver; the Rev. R. Carver having been sent out to Jaffna by the Asia Conference of July 1816, to 'itinerate in a direct line between Pt. Pedro and Jaffna and establish schools on the road' in collaboration with Messrs. Lynch and Squance.

The success of the English School at Jaffna and of the whole 'school policy' was, of course, judged during this period mainly in terms of conversions. Mr. Carver, in a letter written to England dated 31st March, 1817, mentions a youth of 18, a student of Lynch who had been violently persecuted, because he became a Christian. Lynch himself on his return to England in 1824, spoke of a class of fifteen enquirers in Jaffna as the fruit of his labours in the schools.

In January, 1819, the Missionaries met together in their third Annual Conference at Galle. This Conference divided Ceylon into two

James Lynch

districts, the Sinhalese and the Tamil; the Rev. W. B. Fox assuming the Chairmanship of the Sinhalese District, and Lynch the Chairmanship of the Tamil. Lynch having visited Madras in 1817 and established work

there, Madras was now made a part of the Tamil District. Though Lynch remained Chairman till 1824, he was resident in Madras practically from the 1819 Conference.

Lynch was 39 years of age when he landed in Ceylon and had worked hard to master the Tamil language. "We long to address the people in their native tongue," he writes in a letter to England "and could I stand under a tree, at the corner of a street, as I formerly did in Ireland, and preach Jesus to them, I would promise myself such happiness as even there I did not enjoy."

On the departure of Lynch from Jaffna, the work came under the control and supervision of his colleague, Mr. Squance. Originally rather
1819-1825 sceptical about the "school policy" being successful at such an early stage of the Mission, he now threw himself heart and soul into the work. In a letter dated September 29th, 1819, he wrote to England for two brethren to be sent out who were acquainted with the British system of Education, and his letter to his sister shows his enthusiasm for the school. Commenting on two or three young men who wished to become Christians, he writes, "It is on young men of this description that we build our greatest hopes. Under God and from them we expect to see the Gospel spread among the natives. Being acquainted with the English language, they may acquire knowledge with greater facility than others, and as they know the native language they may make it known to the people. May God fully bring them to the knowledge of Himself."

Thomas Hall Squance could not continue in Ceylon for long. A young man of 24, and the first
Thomas Hall Squance to set foot on Ceylon soil, Squance was however a consumptive when

he joined the band of Dr. Coke. In fact, Dr. Coke had intended to land Squance in Mauritius or Bourbon to establish a Mission there, but by April, 1814, his health had improved sufficiently to enable him to come to Ceylon.

A diligent student of Portuguese and Tamil, he also wrote a Tamil Grammar. But he is remembered chiefly for the sermons he preached. "He has a voice like the sound of a Cathedral bell," Hardy said of him and when that bell pealed it was a call to prayer. William A. Lalmon, the first Ceylonese helper of the Wesleyan Mission was converted by one such sermon of his in Galle.

After the Missionaries landed, it was Squance who preached the first sermon on Sunday, the 3rd July, in the Dutch Church in Galle and the text he announced was, "We came even as far as unto you in the Gospel of Christ." (2 Cor. 10-14.)

Squance extended his field of activities as far as Nagapatam in South India in 1820, and laboured in the service of the Lord till 1832.

From 1820, the Rev. R. Carver took charge of the work in Jaffna, being helped by the Rev. Joseph Roberts, who was sent out in the same year. The

The Increase of Plant (R. Carver, 1824-1825) in the same year. The main feature of this period is the increase of plant.

The Lutheran Church proved to be too small as a place of worship and the land across the road was bought and the present St. Peter's Church was built and opened on the 19th February, 1823. It was at this time called the "Jaffna Wesleyan Chapel". James Mooyart purchased the present Wesleyan Mission house property and adjoining buildings at a public auction held in Jaffna on the 14th July, 1817, and transferred the same to the Wesleyan Mission on the 27th March, 1824.

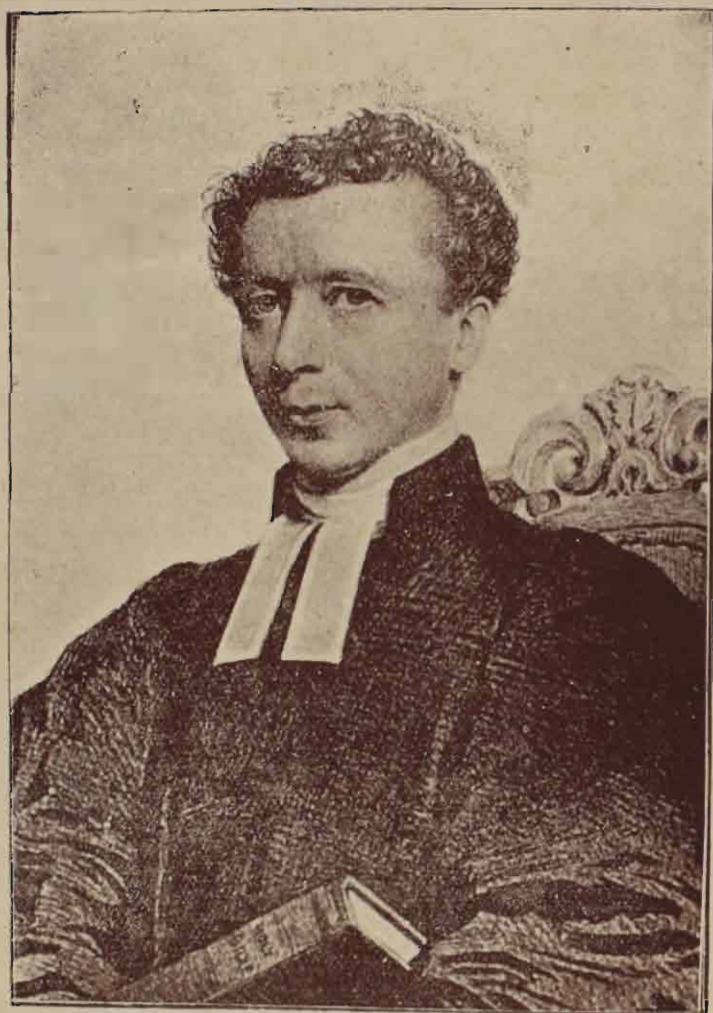
In 1824, Lynch retired from the chair. The Indian stations were constituted a separate District, and the Rev. R. Carver crowned his period of service by succeeding Lynch and serving the Tamil District as its Chairman during 1825.

It does not seem possible to determine with any degree of certainty when the Jaffna English School was transferred from the Lutheran Church site to the building adjoining the Mission house. The probable date however is 1825, for it was then that the Rev. Joseph Roberts succeeded the Rev. R. Carver in the chair, and it was with the name of Roberts that this School was associated when Percival took it over and reorganised it in 1834.

The returns for 1825, contain 26 Schools with 795 scholars taught by 26 teachers; the English School in Jaffna being attended also by 40 girls, mostly of Burgher families, who were taught by a highly respected Burgher lady, Mrs. Schrader.

But Roberts himself is remembered not for what he did to the School, but for what he himself was. He was a scholar and author, remembered best by his work on 'Oriental Illustrations.' He was an administrator of no mean capacity and steered the District through a difficult time. The early attachment of the Dutch and Portuguese for the Mission was lessening. Discipline was resented. The Missionary staff was at its lowest—in one year, the Chairman being practically alone. But Roberts braved it all and won.

He took the first step in creating a Tamil Ministry, increased the plant, and when in 1834, Percival succeeded him, the District had definitely passed its probation and was ready for a further step.



REV. DR. PETER PERCIVAL,
Founder—Principal, 1834—1851.

CHAPTER IV.

THE JAFFNA CENTRAL SCHOOL (1834-1851.)

The Rev. Peter Percival, the successor of Roberts in the chair, arrived in North Ceylon in 1826. A man of outstanding ability, he made his

The Rev. Peter Percival mark in the District at once. A letter of his dated March 25th, 1829, and written from Pt. Pedro, where he was then stationed, is highly illuminating. It bears testimony to his Tamil scholarship, his enthusiasm for education, his independence of spirit and his evangelistic zeal.

“I feel little difficulty in preaching in Tamil,” he writes, “I find equal liberty of speech in my colloquial intercourse with the people. For this gift I cannot be too grateful to the Father of Lights.

“Although the English school which I have opened here is not on your list of means employed in this work, in as much as I support it myself, yet as I regard it as an important auxiliary in active operation, it may not be foreign to the subjects of this letter to give some view of its prospects.”

“I have now about twenty boys, who are making good improvement in reading and writing. In addition to the constant endeavour to lead their minds to the consideration of divine things, I have seen them assembled on a Sunday morning, after the service, and more formally instructed in Christian principles. With regard to the Tamil schools, in addition to the regular visitations of these establishments, I convene the children of three of them, who are capable of reading, in the English school-room, every Saturday morning, where they read select portions of

the Gospels and hear them expounded in a familiar way. This I consider an important mode of instructing the children of our schools where it can be adopted."

Early in 1830, Percival was sent to Calcutta together with another missionary to start a mission there. The attempt was not immediately successful and the Society gave it up. Percival returned to Ceylon in 1832. But even this interlude was of value, for when in Calcutta, he came into contact with Dr. Duff and his educational activities. This experience fired his already keen enthusiasm for education and confirmed his belief in it as an evangelistic agency.

In 1834, Percival succeeded the Rev. James Roberts in the chair. It is true that during the first two or three years after Percival Becomes Roberts left, the Chairmanship
Chairman appears to have been put into
(1834-1851) commission, Clough and Gogerly
presiding in the District meetings. But throughout this period the ruling mind was that of Percival. He remained Chairman till 1851. It is not easy to exaggerate either Percival's achievements or his talents. He will long be remembered for his scholarship in Tamil and for his literary efforts.

Assisted by Arumuka Navalar, the celebrated Tamil Scholar, who was a student of his at Central, he produced a Tamil version of the Scriptures, which for elegance and dignity of expression has never been equalled; besides he edited an English-Tamil Dictionary, composed the Methodist Catechism, and also translated the Methodist Liturgy which with small alterations is still in use. He was a scholar of marked distinction—"the greatest Tamil scholar Methodism has ever had."

He had however great gifts in other directions, his ability as an organiser being the most relevant to this history. He organised and established the edu-



BROWN SINNATHAMBY, ESQ.,
First Head-master.

cational work of the District. Mr. Trimmer writing about this period says, "The educational work shews consolidation rather than extension. Up to this time the existence of all schools had been uncertain. From this period there is a beginning of a permanency." And among the schools which Percival re-organised and made permanent, Central takes the first place.

In a letter written from Batticaloa and dated July 28rd, 1849, the Rev. Daniel Poor, one of the American Missionaries, wrote to

The Jaffna School Mr. Percival as follows: "On (1834-1851) looking into the state of your school establishment... I see

ample reason to rejoice, that a reproach has been rolled away from the Wesleyan Mission in Jaffna and that the only unfavourable bearing of our school operations, namely the mental elevation of the country to the detriment of the town is now removed. You are laying a firm, not to say the only foundation for the successful preaching of the Gospel to the people."

This letter shows at once into what condition the English school started by Lynch had fallen by this time, and how necessary it was both for the reputation of the Mission as well as for the success of the work that it should be revived and re-organised. Percival adopted the following methods to improve the school:—

1. He increased the plant acquired by Carver and added a boarding department.
2. He appointed a respected and well-known Tamil gentleman, Mr. Brown Sinna-thamby as Head-master.
3. He secured an efficient staff in the persons of Messrs. Mackenstry Kanagaret-nam, Jonathan Crowther, John Koch and several others.

4. He drew up a new course of study which included in addition to the ordinary branches of education, Ancient and Modern History, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration, Natural Philosophy and the Elements of Mental and Moral Science.

A further act which strengthened the school was the renovation of the old Lutheran Church. In 1836, this building was architecturally improved and dedicated to the worship of those whose mother-tongue was Tamil. It was called St. Paul's to distinguish it from the Pettah Chapel (St. Peter's), and it was said to be at that time the most beautiful building in Jaffna. Percival also added to the number of village schools already in existence, organising them as feeders to his Central school in Jaffna, called by him the Jaffna Central School.

It was a red letter day for the new school when on the 4th March, 1839, His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable J. A. Stewart
Central Receives Mackenzie, paid it a visit. In a
Government letter dated March 13th, 1839,
Support written by Percival to England
 we have the following account of

the visit :—“His Excellency went through our suite of school-rooms, and inspected the general disposition of the pupils, and the plans we have organized for the promotion of general education. There were present nearly two-hundred and fifty children. His Excellency expressed a wish to hear one of the Girls' classes examined in some of their studies. I put a number of questions to the girls of the first in Grammar, Geography and History; they answered with a readiness and correctness which greatly interested the Governor. He expressed himself highly delighted with the institution and with the general arrangements of the extensive Mission-Premises we occupy in Jaffna.”

Emboldened by this visit and its impressions, Percival made an application to Government for help. He received the following letter in reply :—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 23-7-1839.

Sir,

Having laid before the Right Honourable the Governor your letter of the 9th inst., I am directed to acquaint you that His Excellency considering the great advantages of the Jaffna school institution, is prepared to sanction a grant of £150, to defray the expenses, on account of the improvements made to the institution, and which still remain to be completed, and the Commissioners of the Treasury will be instructed to advance to you that amount.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) R. INMAN.

In addition to this amount, Percival also obtained £50 in Jaffna by special collections in aid of the school. "The two amounts combined" he wrote to England, "will pay off the whole debt contracted with myself for the suite of school-rooms, the omnibuses, printing school and other books ; and leaves a balance of about £30 to finish the rooms."

Thus administered and provided for 'Central' made its mark even in those early years. She sent out into the world students who rose to very high eminence in their respective walks of life. Messrs. Arumuka Navalar, Samuel Grenier, Henry Francis Muthukristna, T. Chellappahpillai, G. S. Arianayagam Pillai, Morgan Covington and W. G. Rockwood, were some of the many students of this period.

Arumuka Navalar was the greatest Saiva Reformer, educationist and preacher of his time. As a student and teacher at Central he acquired an intimate knowledge of the methods of organisation and propaganda of the missionaries and later adapted them in his religious and literary work.

Messrs. T. Chellappahpillai and G. S. Arianayagampillai were recommended by Mr. Percival to the Normal College in Madras where they brought honour to Central by passing their B.A., B.L. examinations with credit. Mr. Chellappahpillai retired as the Chief Justice of the Indian Native State of Travancore. After retirement he took a great deal of interest in the public affairs of this country. He was one of the founders of the "Hindu Organ," the "Saiva Paripalana Sabai," and the "Jaffna Hindu College." He was the first Editor of the "Hindu Organ" and the first President of the "Saiva Paripalana Sabai," which office he held till his death in May 1902. (The first Treasurer of the "Saiva Paripalana Sabai" Mr. S. T. M. Pasupathy Chettiyar was also an old boy of Central.) Mr. G. S. Arianayagam Pillai, B.A., B.L., retired as Puisne Justice of Travancore.

The higher education of Morgan Covington, the famous Medical Officer of the Eastern Province and Mr. Francis Muthukristna, Queen's Advocate, was generously undertaken by Sir Anthony Oliphant, Chief Justice, whose attention they had attracted on the occasion of his visit to their institution.

"Mr. W. G. Rockwood, M.D. (Madras), M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. (Lond.), was a most skilful and distinguished physician and had by rare ability proved himself 'the greatest surgeon in the East.' His reputation was not confined to Ceylon or the adjacent continent, but had extended far beyond the seas to Great Britain, where he won the esteem of such eminent members of the Medical Profession as Dr. Marcus Beck, Dr. Charles Stonham, Dr. J. Bland Sutton, Sir

Thomas Barlow, Lord Lister, and Sir Frederick Treves. Dr. Rockwood had also done good service as a member of the Legislative Council. When he obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of Madras, a member of the Board of Examiners paid him the following rare compliment :—
 “I have lately had on behalf of the Madras University to examine a man of the name of Rockwood, from Ceylon, for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine and certainly was quite unprepared to meet a candidate for medical honours of this country so remarkably proficient. I fully believe that in any English or Scotch University he would have carried the highest honours.’”

Rev. J. Robinson recounting his first impressions of the work in Jaffna in a letter to England dated 10th April, 1847, wrote as follows about Central :—
 “Mr. Percival’s school arrangements are most admirable. By the higher form boys English is spoken with as much classical propriety as in some of our superior schools in Britain, and the students and scholars generally appear to appreciate their unusual privileges.”

It is perhaps necessary to note here that by ‘Percival’s school arrangements’ not one but three institutions are meant. There was first of all Central itself, the Boy’s English School, and then there was the Girls’ section which in fact was a separate institution since 1837 under Mr. Percival’s management; then there was also the Teachers’ Training class from which teachers were recruited to Central and to the other numerous schools.

The carrying out of this large educational programme was not all plain sailing to Percival. The

Rev. Ralph Stott who was Mr.

Stott and Percival Percival’s colleague in the District and was also its Secretary, strenuously opposed and severely criticized Percival’s educational policy. Stott was a great

Evangelist. He was responsible for mass movements among the Veddahs. In addition to this he also reported a great revival among the Dutch at Batticaloa, "all by the simple preaching of the Gospel." He held the view that the Mission must place its emphasis on vernacular preaching rather than on education.

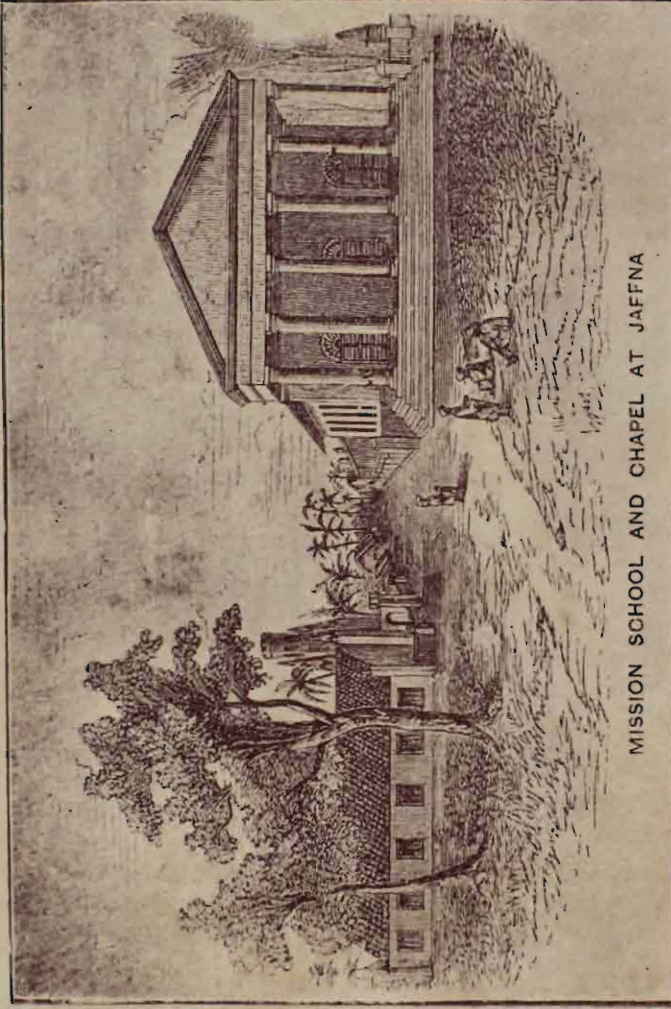
The conflict of opinion appears to have been open and frank. Stott says, "Schools are a means but neither primary nor secondary. I firmly believe that they have done very little in the way of true Conversion." Percival in his footnote to the report in which the above remarks appear, says, "I have read the foregoing and have no objection to it as the report of the Superintendent of a circuit, although it contains opinions which I could not subscribe to, as the opinion of a meeting in which I had a voice."

The historian of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society commenting on this controversy observes that "both of these great Missionaries were right. Where they each failed was in not seeing that the one work was complementary to the other. Time was to show their successors that the church which neglected education robbed itself of its greatest strength, while education without the witness of the preacher remained barren of its best and most desirable fruits." In fact Stott himself mentions in a letter of his written to England from Pt. Pedro and dated April 24th, 1834, how people came to him asking for books and saying, "we were taught in your schools, we can read well and therefore you should give us books."

Percival was at pains to keep the Committee in London fully informed of his educational projects, and in 1836 he wrote at

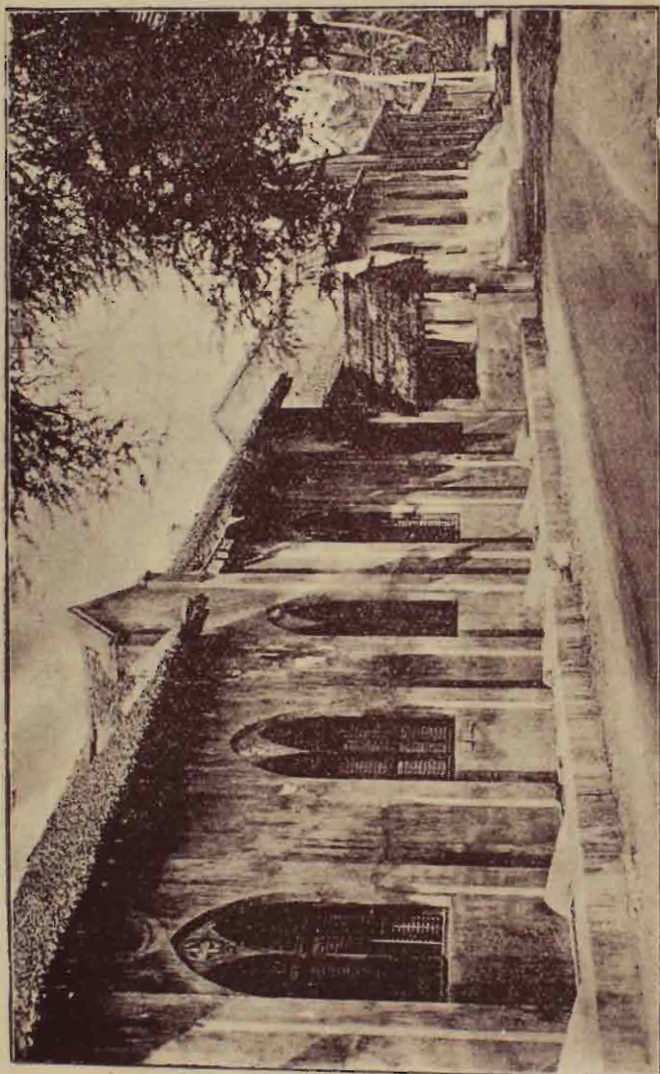
Percival Retires from the Chair

length describing his work in and around Jaffna. It must not be thought, however, that his interest in education made him indifferent to vernacular work and the general inter-



MISSION SCHOOL AND CHAPEL AT JAFFNA

MISSION SCHOOL AND CHAPEL, 1857.



OLD SCHOOL, (Vembadi Site.)

ests of the District over which he presided. The whole letter is instinct with the feeling of one who never loses sight of the fact that he is engaged upon the work of God and that work is many sided. He had no doubt that the best means to its furtherance was the removal of the pall of ignorance which hung over the minds of the people. To him the letting in of light was always to be welcomed by the Missionary in whatever way that light may come. Thus we find him rejoicing over the establishment of schools by the Government as well as by the American Missionaries. He held that all such enterprises were to be welcomed even though they might mean a diminished number of scholars in his own schools, since they brought a larger number of youths to "a high state of preparation" for receiving the Gospel.

The year before he left for England he made his famous voyage to Tranquebar on a 'katumarang' to find money. The journey cost him in cash £2-17-0. It might easily have cost him his life.

In 1851 he returned to England and it was expected that after the usual furlough he would come back to direct the affairs of the District. But during his furlough a serious disagreement arose between him and the Secretary in London, the result of which was the withdrawal of one of the ablest Missionaries ever sent to the East. "Over the details of this deplorable dissension," writes the historian of the W.M.M.S., "it is best that the veil of reticence be drawn. Administrative boards are often swayed by impressions which are unreal and prejudices which bring little credit to those who entertain them. The issue was deplorable."

Shortly before he left Ceylon, Percival published his last report and if any doubt be felt as to the character of his administration, a perusal of that report would remove it. It is an exposition of Missionary policy pursued during a quarter of a

century, which stamps its author with the mark of statesmanship only too rare in either the Councils of the Church in England or on the field itself. At a time when there seemed to be a complete lack of vision, and when all that could be called policy seemed to be an ever shifting adaptation of action to circumstance, this man saw the Church of the coming days and bent his marvellous strength and his most tenacious purpose to provide for it. He was never deterred by difficulty, nor did he allow himself to be either embittered by suspicion or estranged by opposition. He kept an unwavering course, through the twenty-five years of his ministry, and left behind him a record of service which all may envy and few will be able to emulate; 'Central' may well be proud of its founder.

After his resignation, Percival returned to the East and was for some years connected with the University of Madras as Professor of Oriental Studies. The students of Jaffna, among whom were many Centralites, who went to Madras during this period for higher studies, found in him a good guide and friend. His statue is in the Madras University Senate Buildings—a fitting memorial to a great scholar.

CHAPTER V.

FEEDERS TO CENTRAL (1852-1855)

The successor of the Rev. Peter Percival in the chair was the Rev. R. D. Griffiths. He was transferred from Madras for the purpose. There is hardly anything special to record about Central during his period of Chairmanship (1852-1855) except that Central along with the rest of the District prospered and grew under his wise administration. The general letter to England of the Synod of 1855, written on the eve of his retirement, bears convincing testimony to his greatness and goodness.

“We would,” the Synod wrote, “that circumstances had been more propitious and that you had seen it to be for the best, that he had continued with us for a longer season. In endeavouring to give appropriate utterance to our judgment and feelings on this matter, we cannot nor would we forget the very peculiar and we may say, the very painful circumstances which surrounded the onerous office of General Superintendent when our brother was appointed to this District. The financial difficulties of the District were great, but they have been energetically grappled with and completely surmounted... In the midst of severe domestic affliction, he has devoted unremitted attention to the duties of his relation to the District and on all occasions, has supplied the financial wants of the several stations with a punctuality probably unprecedented in the history of this District.”

The following events in the history of Central
Feeders to Central' During this period may how-
 (1852-1855) ever be noted:—

1. A preparatory or lower school which taught up to the 5th standard was opened at St. Paul's and served as a feeder to the Central School.
2. Another feeder was the Vannarponnai English School which Mr. Walton, the colleague of Mr. Griffiths, opened in the Wesley Chapel Vestry in 1853. This was the predecessor of what became and was known later as Kilner College. Its first Head-master was Mr. V. Chinnappah.
3. Private schools were also opened in the town which served practically as a Kindergarten Department and from which students came to Central.

It is perhaps best at this point to make fuller mention of these schools which served as 'Feeders.'

The Preparatory School at St. Paul's had a continuous existence on that site from 1853-1889; its

The Preparatory School best known Head-master during this period being Mr. John Koch. He was one of the many sons of Mr. Cyrus

Koch, Crown Proctor, or, as he was then called, Government Proctor, who was a very successful lawyer and had a large practice in the District Court. Mr. John Koch, joined the staff of Central during Mr. Percival's period, and he taught in the upper school from that time up to about 1860. In 1860 he took charge of the Preparatory School. We have a striking pen picture of him and of the school in Mr. Joseph Grenier's book, 'Leaves from my Life.' "Under Mr.

John Koch," he writes "I made considerable progress in elementary subjects, and formed my first acquaintance with the school-master's rod which was freely used in those days. He was a strict disciplinarian and had a stentorian voice which he employed to great advantage in singing at the evening Services at St. Peter's Chapel."

In about 1889 the Preparatory School was transferred from St. Paul's to a building which stood on the present site of the Tennis Court behind the New Hostel. The best remembered Head-master of the lower school during the period that followed is Mr. G. V. Williams. He was one of the earliest to pass his Madras Matriculation from Central, and he distinguished himself as Head-master of the lower school through a long period. A good teacher, a strict disciplinarian, who nevertheless rarely used the cane, and a Christian gentleman, his students remember him with affection and with respect. His son, Mr. Arthur Williams is now the Head-master of the Christian College at Cotta.

After the retirement of Mr. Williams the practice of appointing a separate Head-master for the lower school was discontinued.

This is not the place in which to enlarge on the history of what became and was known as Kilner College, or to refer to the excellent work of Mr. S. A. The Vannarponnai English School Edward who raised it to the Standard of a College.

It was soon transferred from the Vannarponnai Wesley Chapel Vestry to its present site in Chetty Street, and Mr. Peter Vyramuttu was appointed Head-master, having been transferred from Central for the purpose. This accounts for both the names by which the School was known in those days, viz : Chetty Street School and Peter's School. It was during these days that it served as a feeder to Central,

The private schools in the town which served as feeders to Central were one kept by Miss Dora Koch and another run by an old

Private Schools gentleman of the name of Maartensz. It is difficult to say when they were started or how long they continued, but it is certain that they existed about 1856 or 1857. Mr. Joseph Grenier in his book "Leaves from my Life" refers to them as schools in which he studied before he went to the Preparatory School at St. Paul's.

There were also other schools which were started later and which served

Other Schools and serve the same purpose. the Tamil schools established by Mr. Trimmer in the suburbs of the town, besides imparting a good vernacular education to their pupils, also serve to feed Central ; and so would also the English school at Punnalai-Kadduvan to a large degree if not for its distance from the town. It is a far sighted scheme, this plan of feeders, and thanks are due to the men who conceived it and carried it through.

CHAPTER VI.

FIRMLY ESTABLISHED (1855-1859)

The Rev. R. D. Griffiths was succeeded in the chair by the Rev. John Walton (Periya Walton Aiyer

The Rev. John Walton as he was popularly called). "A great, massive man, broad shouldered, and with a fine head of black hair" is Mr. Joseph Grenier's description of him. An impressive man, he left his impress also upon the District.

It was a time of great stress. The District suffered heavily from an epidemic of small-pox and cholera and from famine. Need was great and funds were low. The number of pupils in the schools which was 1,456 in 1852 dropped to 794 in 1856. But in spite of it all, as Mr. Trimmer remarks 'the Central institutions became firmly established,' and this was true of Jaffna Central as it was of any other institution.

The old staff of teachers resigned, some to join the legal profession and others to enter Government service; a new

Central's First Principal staff was appointed with Mr. Samuel Grenier as Head-

(1855-1858) master, Mr. John Koch as roll-caller, and Messrs. Frederick Grenier, Peter Vyramuttu, Joseph Vallipuram, Philip Tamber and several other graduates of the Central School as assistants. And to Central for the first time was appointed also a full time Missionary as Principal, the Rev. William Barber. He arrived in the District in 1853, and was Principal of Central from 1855 to 1858. A man of choice spirit and gifts he suffered

from ill-health during the whole of his residence in Ceylon and finally had to return to England. "We trust that Mr. Barber," the Synod of 1858 wrote in its general letter, "may be appointed to a station in South Africa where the climate will suit his delicate constitution and where "the gift of God," that is in him will find appropriate employment. He is a very devoted brother and had literally spent himself and been spent for the highest interest of the youth entrusted to his charge at Jaffna. His son, Dr. W. T. A. Barber, who later became the President of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, was born in Jaffna, and when about eleven years ago, he came again to Jaffna on a visit, Central had occasion to remember with pride its first full-time Principal.

As it was noted, the advent of Mr. Barber as Principal synchronised with a change of staff and of Head-master and

Mr. Brown Sinnathamby perhaps it were well to record at this juncture a reference to Mr. Brown Sinnathamby, Central's first Head-master and to some members of the staff. Mr. Sinnathamby resigned from the Head-mastership to join the legal profession, and his success as a lawyer is sufficient evidence of the ability and talent he possessed. He served Central for a period of about ten years. Mr. Joseph Grenier speaks of him as one of the leading Proctors of his day, while Mr. Martyn in his 'Notes on Jaffna' calls him 'the father of the Jaffna Bar.' He retired as Crown Proctor of Jaffna and died in 1898. His son Mr. S. Nagalingam was also a student of Central. He left school in 1872 to join the Presidency College, Calcutta. He succeeded his father at the Bar and enjoyed wide popularity and influence. He was a leading advocate in his days and founded the Jaffna Hindu College in 1889.

Mackenstry Kanagaratnam and Wyman Kathiravelupillai, two other members of the old staff, also joined the Bar, the former became Deputy Queen's Advocate





SIR SAMUEL GRENIER
(Attorney-General.)
Head-master, 1855—1860.

and the latter Police Magistrate of Kayts. Mr. Wyman Kathiravelupillai, a reputed Tamil and Sanskrit scholar, joined the School in 1851. "His efficiency and thoroughness as an instructor were fully recognised by his being selected to replace the Principal during his absence." He translated a book on Logic from Sanskrit and also compiled a Tamil Dictionary which is even to this day considered a standard book. In addition to his duties as a teacher at Central, he found time to conduct a monthly magazine called the 'Literary Mirror,' devoted to the study and exposition of Hindu Philosophical treatises. He was also the founder and the first Editor of the 'Ceylon Patriot' (1863).

Mr. Samuel Grenier, the new Head-master, was the son of Mr. Charles Frederick Grenier, the Secretary of the District Court of

Mr. Samuel Grenier Jaffna. He served Central for a period of about five years (1855-1860) after which he went to Colombo to study law. He rose to be Attorney-General of Ceylon and was knighted by the Queen in 1890. What wonder then that in spite of all difficulties Central became firmly established during this period, since it was a time when three men of choice gifts and talent worked together—the Rev. John Walton as Chairman, the Rev. William Barber as Principal, and Mr. Samuel Grenier as Head-master.

In 1854, the Rev. R. D. Griffiths bought over for the Wesleyan Mission, the house and properties which Mr. Percival had

**Central Becomes
Firmly Estab-
lished (1855-1859)** acquired with his own money as extension to the plant previously acquired by Mr. Carver. The house thus

bought was "Hope Cottage" which stood on the present site of the Principal's bungalow. It is difficult to say where the boarders of Central lived during the time of Mr. Percival, but from the beginning of this

period, the Boarding Department was housed in 'Hope Cottage.' This stabilisation of the Boarding was a sign that Central had found its feet.

Another sign was the beginning of what later gave place to the College Literary Association. This was the gathering together of the more intelligent of the students from the Vannarponnai English School, St. Paul's Preparatory School, and from Central to give recitations, dialogues, and similiar exercises in the presence of the Chairman, Principal and teachers. This was in 1855.

In 1857, the portico of the Jaffna Chapel being finished, both the Tamil and English services were held there, and the Sunday School began to be held in St. Paul's—a relationship between the Church and the School which is maintained to this day.

In 1859, the last year of the Chairmanship of Rev. John Walton, the first public examination and prize-giving was held. The educated people of Jaffna were invited for the occasion. Sir Richard Morgan who had come to preside over the Supreme Court Sessions, Mr. P. A. Dyke, the Government Agent, and other Government Officers and Missionaries were also present. One Lieutenant Miller from the Fort was examiner in British History, Mr. Patterson, C. C. S., in Euclid, and Rev. John Walton in Scripture. Sir Richard Morgan distributed the prizes and delivered an address.

Perhaps the last act of Rev. John Walton that might be remembered here, trivial as it is, is the cutting down of the big margosa trees which stood in front of the Mission House. Central was the 'Vembadi Wesleyan School' no longer. It had no other name now but what it had become, the Central Institution of the Wesleyan Mission in Jaffna—the Jaffna Central School.

The Rev. John Walton retired from the chair in 1859. In the general letter of that year, the Synod wrote about him as follows:—

**Rev. John Walton
Retires**

“The Meeting cannot permit our esteemed Chairman to leave the District without giving expression to its sense of appreciation of his labours among us. We may be permitted to observe that the tried fidelity, the unremitted attention to the various interests of the District, the deep and practical sympathy with each of the brethren on their several stations which have been uniformly manifested, have to say the least earned for him the goodwill and confidence of his brethren. Permit us further to remark that we think that it would subserve the interest of our District especially and of our Indian Mission generally were the Committee to avail themselves of Brother Walton’s knowledge and experience of the working of Missions to the Hindu.” This wish was fulfilled in 1888 when he was appointed one of the General Secretaries of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.

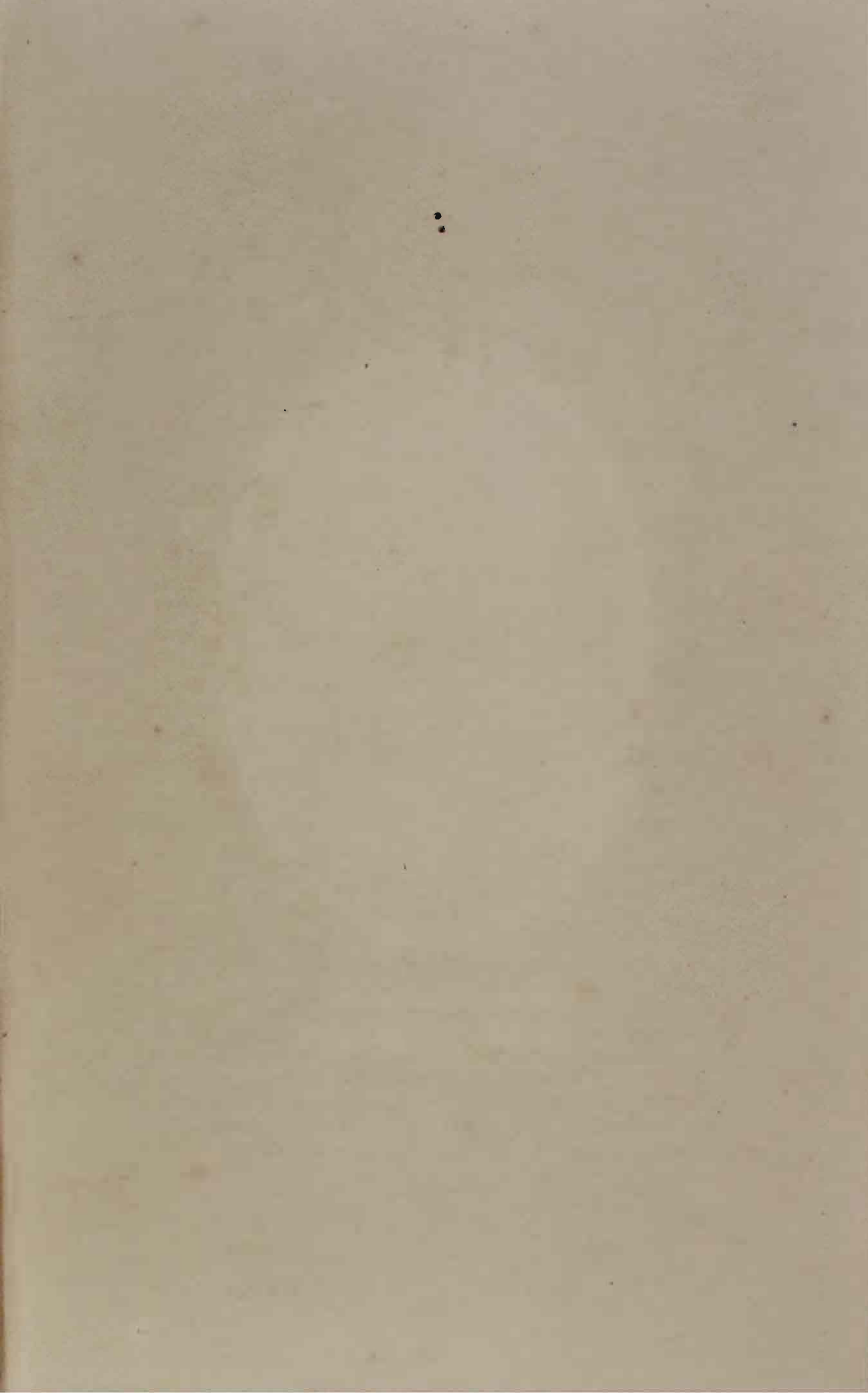
CHAPTER VII.

BECOMES A COLLEGE.

The next period in Central's history is from 1861 to 1867, a short space of seven years, and yet a period which is important no less for the men who served Central then, than for the progress which it made under their guidance.

The nature of the progress made can be judged from a letter written by the Rev. J. O. Rhodes, the Principal, to England on the 24th December, 1867. "There has been some really hard work done by the boys; and I believe our Head-master said with perfect truth the other day that all the teachers have toiled as though the school was their own. The local examinations, under Government oversight and something similar in character to those of the same name connected with the Oxford and Cambridge Universities came off the week before last. There were about one hundred candidates from the whole of Ceylon; from Jaffna Central we sent up twenty-two. There were eight boys in the province who sat last week at the Matriculation; of those eight, four were ours.

"Before we broke up for the Christmas holidays, I also put all the boys of my higher classes through a four hours, written examination in each subject on the programme; the Chairman, Mr. Kilner very kindly relieving me in the Tamil. Our standard for the first class was that of the Madras Matriculation. When we re-open, I intend to go right through all the schools, and examine every boy previous to promotion. The system of constant paper examinations which we have introduced rather largely wherever possible, is working better than my anticipation.





WILLIAM NEVINS, ESQ.,
Head-master, 1860—1886.

"Amidst the worry of those examinations, we have not ceased to keep prominently before us our great object, that of bringing these Hindu lads to Christ. I am fully satisfied that the 'truth as it is in Jesus' has touched some of their hearts. Two of our first-class boys have been baptised lately: and of most I have hope. But that hope is very much sobered down by the knowledge that they are now leaving us without having made a determined stand on the Lord's side. I have spoken to each of them in private as earnestly and pointedly as I could."

Thus it is seen that Central had begun to send in students for the Matriculation in 1867, even though it was, at least in name, a school.

As for the Senior and Junior local examinations, they were introduced into Ceylon by Mr. Walter Sendal, the Principal Inspector of Schools in 1861. "He was a brilliant scholar and rose to be Governor of one of the West Indian Colonies. A pale, cadaverous man, with deep set eyes, he used to strike terror into the hearts of the boys during his annual inspection."

There was also a scholarship attached to the Senior Local which was won, one year, by Alfred Grenier from Central. In 1880, Sir C. Bruce condemned these locals as having no prestige and introduced the Cambridge examinations. Central however sent up students for the Cambridge examinations only from 1907.

Having so far noted the progress that Central had made during this period, it is but right that mention should be made of the devoted

William Nevins men who guided Central's destiny during these seven years. The first in importance as in ability is Mr. William Nevins. He succeeded Mr. Samuel Grenier as Head-

master of the school and served Central almost right up to his death. He was an old student of the famous Batticotta Seminary. "He was a born mathematician," writes Joseph Grenier, "and the propositions and deductions in Euclid were mere child's play to him. It was talked about in school that whenever the English Principal was unable to solve a problem in Euclid or Algebra or Arithmetic, he sought the assistance of William Nevins." He was well versed also in Tamil and Sanskrit and was the author of several works. Among them was an English-Tamil Dictionary, now out of print, but valuable in view of his clever original definitions of modern scientific terms, and a book on logic.

He resigned from Central in 1886. In 1887, he founded the 'Native Town High School' which subsequently became the Jaffna Hindu College. He died on the 19th March, 1889.

When Mr. Nevins succeeded Mr. Grenier as Head-master, there were also other changes in the staff. The new staff were Mr. Peter Vyramuttu who subsequently went to Chetty Street School, Mr. Philip Tamber, Mr. Jeremiah Evarts, Mr. Lyman, the teacher of Logic, Mr. Robert Leembruggen who later became an Inspector of Schools, and Mr. John Koch who was put in charge of the Preparatory School. A true pen-picture of these men is found in Mr. Joseph Grenier's book—"Leaves from My Life".

The men who were Principals of Central during this period were
The Principals during this Period Revds. William Talbot, John Mitchell and John O. Rhodes.

Talbot (1859-1861) came of an aristocratic stock and Grenier refers to him as "a well-born and well-bred gentleman." Rhodes (1867-1870) was a good

classical scholar, and it was during his time that Latin was introduced into the College and taught in the higher classes. But of the three, it is Mitchell (1862-1866) who is remembered best.

Mr. Joseph Grenier relates an incident from his school-life that reveals the influence a good Missionary can have over his students; and Mitchell was par-excellence, a good Missionary and a good Christian. "During my time," writes Mr. Grenier, "the English Principal was the Rev. John Mitchell, a most saintly man and beloved by all the boys. He never spoke an unkind or angry word to anyone. He certainly was the most Christ-like man that I ever came across in all my life."

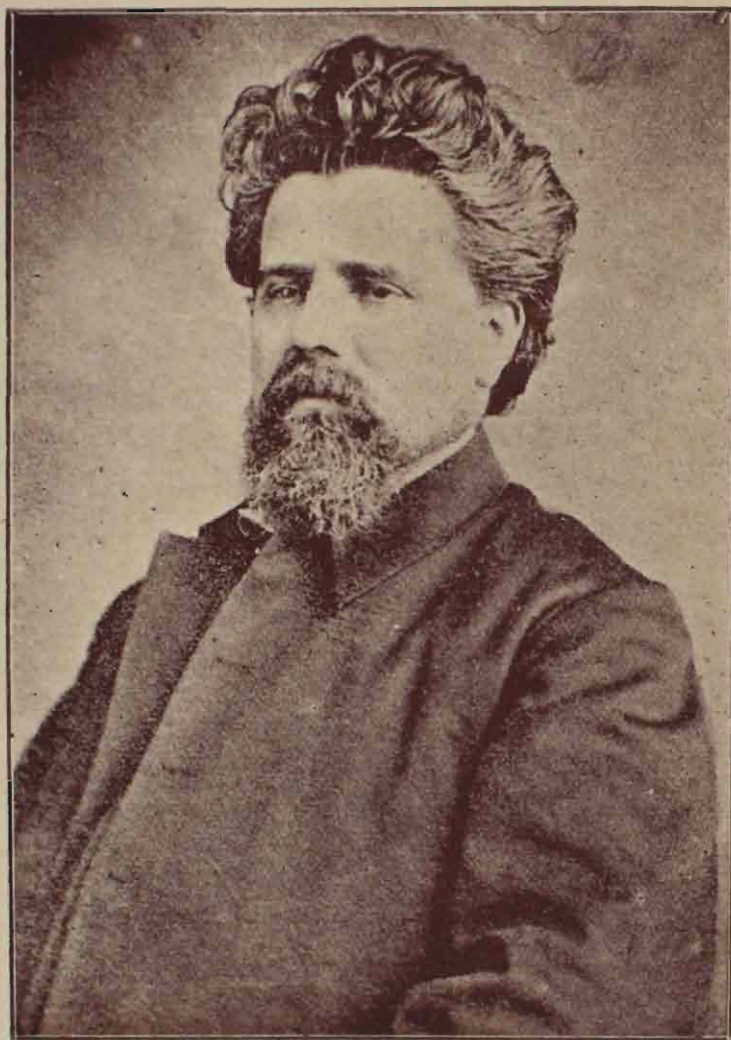
"He saved me once from a threatened caning at the hands of Peter Vyramuttu. One of the boys in class threw a paper pellet at him as he was bending over his desk, and it hit him right on the tip of his nose. The first boy who caught his eye as he looked up was unfortunately myself. He put me down for the culprit at once. I was promised a severe caning at the end of the day's work. My protestations of innocence were all disregarded. I could not think of being punished for something I had not done.

"I asked for permission to leave the class. It was granted with much reluctance. I walked straight into the Principal's study. I stated the facts to him in the best way I could, but with much earnestness. He listened very patiently to me, not interrupting me once. There was a tear in his eye when I had done. He rose from his seat, put his hand on my shoulder and walked with me to my class. Addressing Peter Vyramuttu, who looked awed at the presence of the Principal, he said: 'you must not touch this boy, I believe every word he has told me.'

"Sometime afterward, may be two or three years, that terrible scourge, cholera, broke out in the Peninsula. One clear night the people of the town witnessed a beautiful and awe-inspiring sight. A magnificent comet was seen right over the town; the head of it was one great star of dazzling brightness. The tail was a blaze of brilliant stars. It was popularly believed that it presaged death and desolation. And, surely enough, cholera of the most deadly type made its appearance a few days after."

People died by the hundreds and among them John Mitchell. He was ministering to those who were suffering from the fell disease and contracted it himself. His end was a triumph. "I am going to Jesus. I have perfect peace—I have no fear," were among his last words. He was laid to rest in the Church yard of St. Peter's Chapel.

Such were the men who made Central.



REV. DR. JOHN KILNER,

Manager (1860—1872,
) 1874—1876,

CHAPTER VIII.

COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT (1870)

The Rev. John Walton was succeeded in the chair by Dr. John Kilner (1860). That Kilner is not mentioned among the men who guided Central's destiny from 1860 to 1867, is not because he contributed nothing, but because he was the guiding star of the District and all its institutions from 1860 down to 1872, and again from 1874 to 1876.

Dr. John Kilner
(1860-1872)—
(1874-1876)

The Rev. John Kilner arrived in the District in 1848, but was soon transferred to India and seems to have spent several years there. In 1854, he helped on the staff at Central. He succeeded the Rev. John Walton in the chair in 1860, and was Chairman through an un-broken period of twelve years having been to England on a short furlough of a few months only in 1865.

He was elected a member of the "Legal Hundred" in 1872, and remained in England on furlough from 1872 to 1874. He returned in 1874 and was Chairman till 1876, when he was appointed as one of the General Secretaries of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Societies. He occupied this post till 1888, being succeeded by the Rev. John Walton, his predecessor in the chair in North Ceylon.

The general letter of 1872 has this paragraph on the election: "Mr. Kilner's election to the 'Legal Hundred' gave us great and unqualified gratification. Our confidence in the wisdom and justice of the Conference was strengthened by its recognition of talent, eloquence, practical wisdom, and unwearied

diligence expended during a quarter of a century in a distant land and for the most part beyond the observation of any but our Chairman's colleagues and our 'Father who seeth in secret.'

Joseph Grenier in his book gives a pen-picture of the man which might well be quoted here. The incident he relates about him shows also the influence which men of his stamp have always had on young lives. "The Rev. John Kilner was certainly the most erudite scholar of all the Wesleyan Missionaries in Jaffna. His personal appearance was very striking. He was of middle height and had a pale, almost sallow complexion, with piercing black eyes and a great shock of dark hair which clustered over his broad, massive forehead, and which he used to throw back impatiently when he warmed to his subject. I have heard him preach to crowded congregations, both in English and Tamil. He spoke the latter like a Tamil man. My earliest recollection of him was at my father's funeral service, which he conducted with much feeling and sympathy.

"My next recollection of him was at the Annual Prize-giving at the Central School, about a year or so afterwards. I had to recite Mrs. Heman's beautiful poem "Casabianca." The French boy's heroism had gripped me so strongly that I threw my whole soul into the recitation and when I was about to get down from the platform, the Rev. John Kilner drew me to him and with a tremor in his voice, said something which I cannot remember, but which at the moment, seemed to me like the breathing of a benediction."

He was a great personality, a veritable intellectual giant and a stupendous Christian. He built up a strong indigenous ministry, formulated a definite District policy, and when he left, every part of the District work was flourishing. And Central among the rest had also gained, for he had raised it to Collegiate level and efficiency.

It has already been noted how Central had established itself, and how by 1867, it had even begun to send up students for the Matriculation. Hence the next natural step was to assume the name and status of a College.

Central Made a College

And this was made all the more imperative by a Revised Code which the Education Department thought fit to introduce. It established the principle of "Result Grant" and also suggested a curriculum of studies which was not heartily approved. What the Synod thought of the whole situation can be gathered from the following paragraph which appeared in the Synod's general letter of 1869. "With regard to the Revised Code, the conditions under which the grants will for the future be made, are such as have compelled us seriously to modify our educational establishments, and we therefore fear that these excellent institutions will suffer unless we are permitted to fall back upon the Committee for some small subsidy. The standard of study adopted by Government, though likely to secure sound elementary education, is yet far more limited in its range than the one we have hitherto followed, and not therefore in our opinion adequate to all our necessities. We have therefore after mature deliberation resolved to meet this deficiency by the establishment of a Collegiate Institution in connection with the Jaffna Central School, our object being to afford a higher Christian education to the youth of our churches than the Government scheme affords, and also to train agents for the purposes of teaching and preaching."

The detailed plans which the Synod made to carry out this intention may be gathered from the minutes of the Synod of 1870.

"It is the opinion of this District meeting that the present position of Government with regard to education as well as the progress of European ideas in the

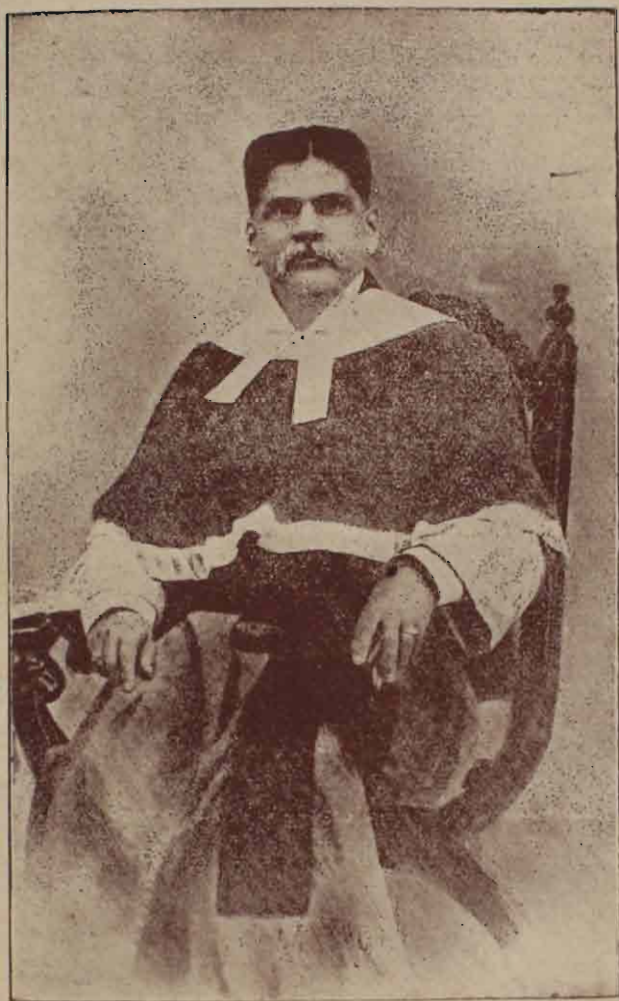
**The Resolution
of the Synod
of 1870**

Island calls for a new and vigorous effort to centralise and develop our educational scheme. For the accomplishment of this end, it is deemed highly necessary that a Collegiate Department should be established in connection with the Jaffna Central School, and that in this Department provision be made both for the religious and secular instruction of the children of our members and also for the training of effective teachers and agents for our schools. To this Collegiate Department the schools of our different stations should be made auxiliaries, and a programme of studies introduced for the orderly and thorough working out of the scheme. The following is the scheme which we now adopt and we doubt not the Committee will give it, their approbation:—

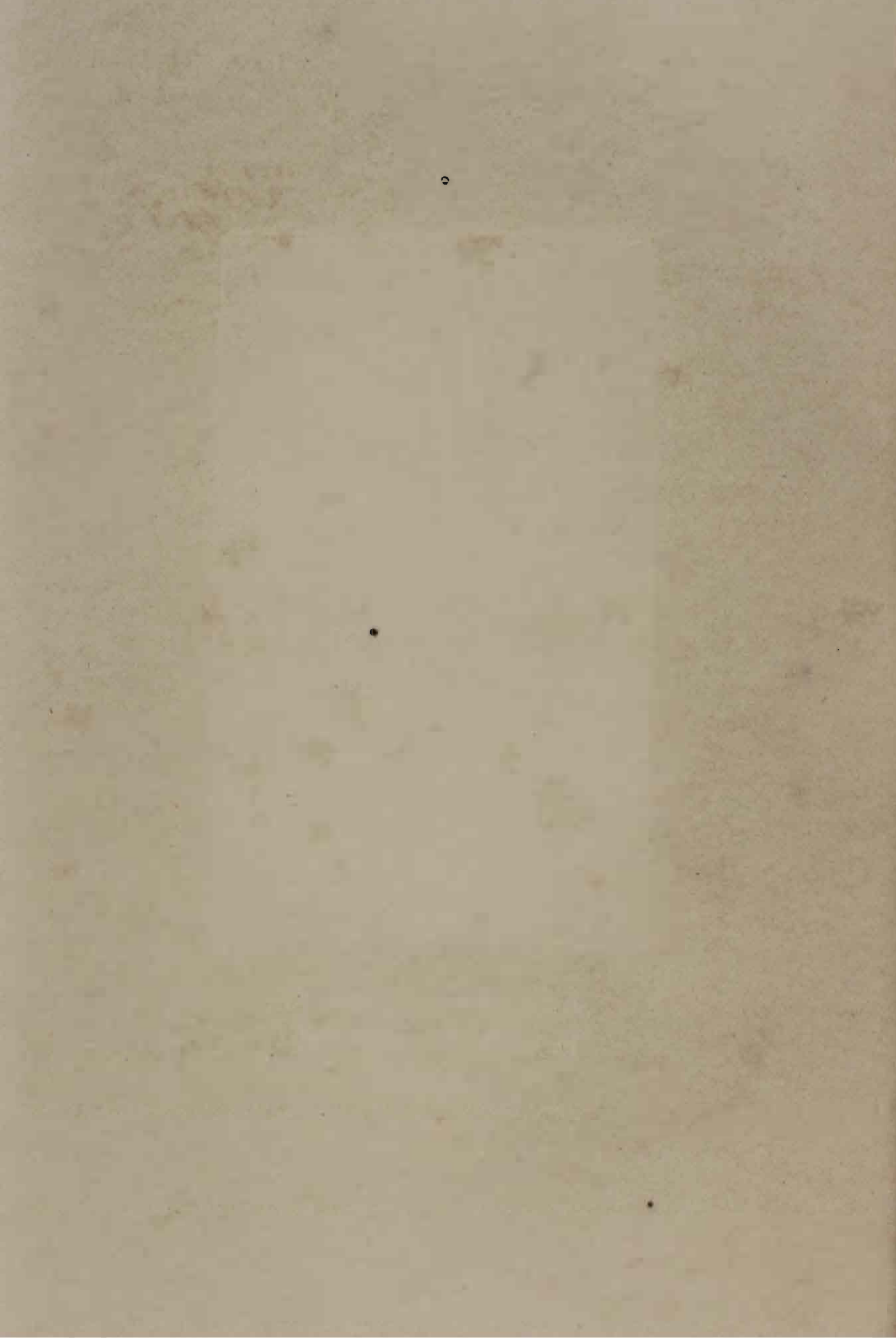
1. **THE NAME.**—This Institution shall be denominated, 'The Jaffna Central School and Collegiate Department.'

2. **THE OBJECT.**—

1. The object of this Institution is to secure a sound and advanced Christian education for the children of our churches and thereby obviate the risks of our people sending their children to scholastic establishments not favourable to Methodism.
2. To train teachers for the schools of the District.
3. To prepare agents for Evangelistic work in the District.
4. To lay hold of the mind of the non-Christian youth and lodge lasting and saving impressions therein.



JOSEPH GRENIER, ESQ., K.C.,
Puisne Justice, 1911—1912.
(Old Boy)



5. To conserve and develop those forces which our predecessors in this all-important work evoked by unceasing toil and from which the Government this year has withdrawn itself.

3. COURSE OF STUDY.—

1. The course of study in this Institution shall comprehend the Matriculation standard and the First Arts standard of the Madras University.
2. The Theory and Practice of Teaching.
3. Theology, Mental and Moral Science and the elements of Natural Philosophy.

4. INCIDENTALS.—

1. It is highly desirable that the Pettah, Vannarponnai, Point-Pedro, Trincomalie and Batticaloa schools should each have a scholarship of the value of £10, tenable for three years at the Collegiate establishment; and that our wealthy friends on these stations be urged to found these scholarships.
2. That in the selection of prizes for the successful students, medals be struck to commemorate those who in time past have taken a prominent part in these efforts, and also that Matriculation and First Arts Scholarships be established.

5. WAYS AND MEANS.—

1. Fees.
2. Scholarships.
3. A small grant from the Theological Institution Fund in support of the classes for the Teachers and Agents.

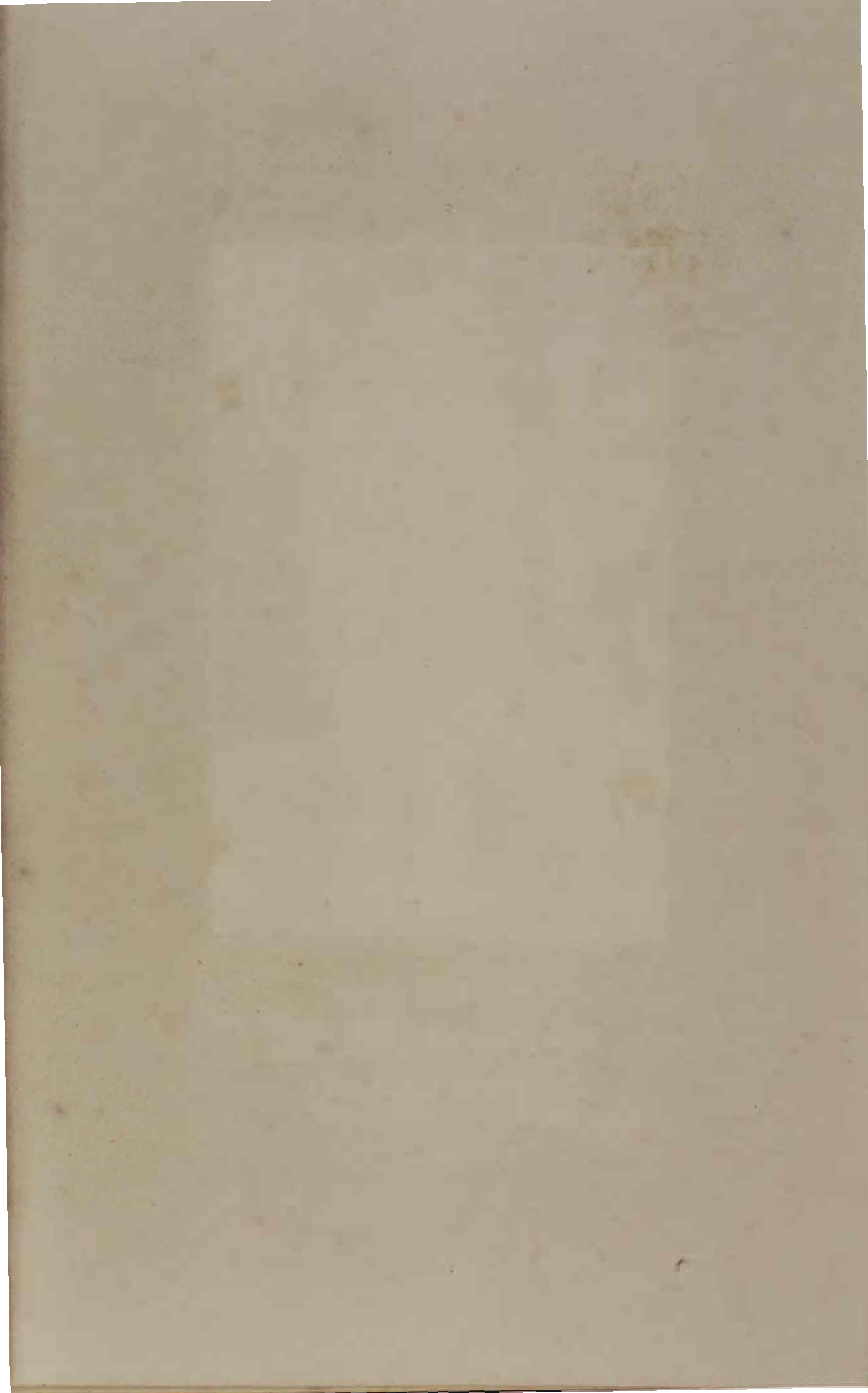
6. STAFF.—The Missionaries of the Station aided by five native assistants.

This scheme was approved by the Committee in England and Central became a College.

But Central had hardly entered on this, its new stage of development, when it was deprived of the services of its Principal. Mrs.

Central Loses Its Principal Rhodes died suddenly in 1870, and Mr. Rhodes was withdrawn from Central to do some lighter work for a time. That meant that Central was now without a Missionary Principal.

Representations were made to England asking for another Principal, and in the meanwhile the Chairman was asked to do the Principal's work also. But records show that this arrangement was nominal only. The Chairman had too much work to do, and a full-time Principal was needed. So a "Native Principal" was appointed—at least that was the name by which Mr. D. P. Niles was known during the three years (1870-1873) when he was in charge of Jaffna Central. And on Mr. Niles, more than on any other, fell the responsibility of justifying the forward step that Central had taken.





REV. D. P. NILES,

Acting Principal { 1870—1872.
 { 1886—1887.

Vice-Principal, 1869—1878.

Headmaster, 1886—1894.

CHAPTER IX.

DIFFICULTIES SURMOUNTED.

Mr. D. P. Niles was the son of Mr. Nathaniel Niles, one of the first converts among the Tamils in Jaffna, the first Licensed **Mr. D. P. Niles** Preacher in the American (1868-1878) Mission, and the first Head-master of the Uduvil Girls' School. D. P. Niles was educated at the Batticotta Seminary from where he graduated in 1854.

He joined the Wesleyan Mission in 1861, and was appointed to Point Pedro where he re-opened the Point Pedro English School, now called Hartley College. And it was from Point Pedro that he was called to Central. He came to Central in 1868, and by the time he left in 1878, he had joined the Wesleyan Ministry, having been ordained in 1875. During these ten years he exercised a decisive influence on the fortunes of Central, if not on the progress of the District as a whole.

Central being now a Collegiate Institution a change of staff was also found necessary. More men

were needed, and new men had to **The Staff** take the place of others who retired ; and to the members of the staff during this period is due the honour for their ability and devotion. They were :— William Nevins, Philip Tamber, Codman Appapillai, G. V. Williams, S. Jacob, Abraham Sittampalam, T. M. Tampoe, R. Sherrad, Rockwood, C. Arut Visuvalingam ; and John Koch and J. Ayampillai were in charge of the Preparatory School.

That the work done by these men was more than satisfactory is borne out by the fact that in the first year, the boy (S. Nagalingam, Advocate) who passed the Matriculation obtained first-class honours and also carried away the Mathematics prize, the first to do so in the whole of Ceylon. This attracted students from all quarters; even from the Roman Catholic Mission, large numbers came in, in spite of the higher rates of fees.

But as an index of the progress which the College made during this period, the story of the Boarding Department is of more significance than even the results of the examinations. For the sake of completeness it is best to refer to what has already been mentioned in connection with the boarding and also to continue the story up to 1895, when the Boarding Department became firmly established on its present site with its present name.

The Boarding Department (the Hostel) was first established by the Rev. Peter Percival in about 1834. From 1854 it was housed in 'Hope Cottage,' which stood on the present site of the Principal's bungalow. And from 1834 up to about 1870, the Principal was in direct and full charge of the Hostel.

In 1870, the Theological Institution for the training of ministers was started, and 'Hope Cottage' and its adjoining building (on the present site of the new College Hostel) became the residence both of the College boarders and the theological students. 'Hope Cottage' itself was renovated in 1870 and became the residence of the town minister who was also appointed Warden of the Hostel. The supervision of the Hostel under this arrangement was naturally slack and this period is perhaps best remembered in terms of an incident which those who still remember the period relate with relish,

J. Sitamparapillai, a student in the Hostel and a stammerer, was persuaded to jump over the Hostel wall and enter the compound across the road and cut a plantain leaf. He was caught by the owner of the compound who had been warned previously, and when taken before the minister, Sitamparapillai stammered out his excuse in words remembered even now. "Sir, I was tempted by a plantain leaf in a flourishing condition." In 1877, the Theological Institution was closed, and about three years afterwards a Teachers' Training School was opened. The Head-master of the Teachers' Training School was appointed Warden of the Hostel.

Mr. Niles left the College in 1878, and there were no further developments in the Hostel till he returned to Central again in 1886. By about 1889, the numbers in the College as well as in the Hostel had so increased that the old buildings were found inadequate. Besides, the Teachers' Training School also needed extension. Hence the Hostel was shifted to the buildings adjoining St. Paul's and the Preparatory School was transferred to a small building on the present site of the Tennis Court. The vestry of St. Paul's was used as the F. A. Class-room. It was at this time that Mr. Niles named the Hostel "Rigg Hall," in honour of the Rev. Edmund Rigg who after years of devoted service retired from the chair in 1888. The first Warden of 'Rigg Hall' as such was Mr. L. P. Spencer.

In about 1895, the Training School was removed to a building on the present site of Percival Hall, and Rigg Hall went back to its original site, where it has remained ever since. Ultimately the Training School was removed to Koddady and is now closed.

Other facts relating to this period which might be mentioned are ;—

**Other Facts Indicative
of Progress**

1. the erection of a gallery at the end of the College Hall (the present Kindergarten Hall of the Girls' English School) to provide sufficient accommodation. (This was done somewhere about 1871.)

2. the founding of the three District Scholarships to the memory of Messrs. Crowther, Kilner and Squance. (The Crowther-Scholarship was founded in 1875, and the other two in 1877.)

But while the progress that Central made during this period is thus remembered in terms of success in examinations and an increase in numbers and accommodation, it is right also to remember that the path of progress during this period was extremely difficult.

There was the difficulty caused by the withdrawal of the Missionary Principal and the inability of the Committee in England to send out

Difficulties another man immediately; the strenuous competition from schools and colleges belonging to other bodies of the Christian Church; and the propaganda of rival non-Christian institutions. In 1872, Arumuka Navalar opened a rival English School at Vannarponnai on the present site of the "Saiva Prakasa Vidyasalai" with Mr. Hughes who was for a time the Editor of the "Jaffna News," as Head-master. This rival school attracted many students from Vannarponnai and went a great way in reducing the number at Central. It was closed after four years of existence.

The various letters written to England by the Synods during this period are full of reference to these difficulties. There is for instance the following paragraph in the general letter of 1872, written during

the acting Chairmanship of Rev. E. Rigg. "No institution in the District has exerted the same power for good and yielded the same amount of fruit as the Central School, Jaffna. Our Educational Department there cannot be shaken without the shock vibrating through every branch of our District policy and operations. We, therefore, unanimously and solemnly feel that the Jaffna Central School must be maintained in efficiency at all hazards...We plead most earnestly for a second Missionary at Jaffna, to act as Principal of the Jaffna Central School. We are aware that this could not be granted without either an increase of the Committee's Grant for Foreign Agency, or the removal from the District of one of our present staff. Such a removal we should deprecate with all possible earnestness...We propose therefore that the Principalship of the Central School be connected with the Superintendency of the Point Pedro Circuit and that no Principal be appointed who has not completed his probation."

The reply from the Committee in England came immediately appointing a Missionary Principal—the Rev. Samuel R. Wilkin (1873-1874). He was followed by the Rev. William R. Winston (1874-1876), who was succeeded by Edward Strutt (1877-1878).

It is refreshing to read at this point what Mr. Rigg wrote to England at the end of that year (1873) when he found the first difficulty solved and the other difficulties solving themselves. "Lo ! the winter is past," he wrote, "the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth and the time of the singing of birds has come ; the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell." The very exuberance of this phraseology is an indication of the nature of the difficulties that Central had met and surmounted. That most of them are not mentioned here in any detail is because old wounds are now healed, and many of the old rivalries are now spent.

To quote a paraphrase from the general letter of 1874, written soon after the return of Dr. Kilner to the District is perhaps the best way of closing this chapter. "Christian Education," he writes, "has been crowned with marked success. The best of our agents and the most prominent and reliable of our Church members have come to us from this source. We have endeavoured to adapt the class of our schools to the wants of the population giving, English only where it is likely to be prudently used and paid for in some just proportion. Our schools are our hope of ultimate triumph. Some seventy-five per cent. of our members have come to us through this channel and the baptism of twenty-seven adults during the year with fifty such as candidates are facts which speak most unambiguously as to the spiritual power of our Educational Department."



REV. EDMUND RIGG.
(Manager, 1872—1888)

CHAPTER X.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

(1879-1886.)

Dr. Kilner's sudden removal in 1876, consequent on his election as one of the General Secretaries, left

**The Rev. Edmund
Rigg**

his successor with large arrears of Dr. Kilner's forward schemes for the District still to be completed. The task could not have fallen into better hands. Mr. Rigg was a pronounced adherent to and admirer of Dr. Kilner's policy and he had already acted for him in the chair from 1872 to 1874.

Were this a history of the Mission, the years of Rigg's Chairmanship would have to be dealt with in more than one chapter. The changes were many, the progress was rapid, and the mark he left on the District was enduring. But for our purpose it is enough to mention the connection between Mr. Rigg and Jaffna Central.

From 1872 to 1873, he was Principal of the College along with Mr. Niles. That was the time when there was no Missionary Principal and the Chairman acted as such. But he taught in the College from 1872 to 1876, and again for a few years from 1880 during which time he taught Latin. Latin was introduced into Central by Rev. J. O. Rhodes in 1867, but had been discontinued. It was re-introduced in 1880, with Mr. Rigg to teach it.

Thus as Teacher, Principal and Chairman, the Rev. Edmund Rigg was closely associated with Central and it remembers him as the man in whose memory its Hostel is named.

How great a man he was, and how valuable his term of service to the District was, may be gauged by the following minute which was recorded by the Synod on Mr. Rigg's return to the District for the last time in 1887. "This District Meeting rejoices to welcome back again to the District the Rev. Edmund Rigg after a brief visit to England. We are sure that his presence among us is an element of great strength. Our present position as a District with new phases of work opening out and with development of old plans going on all round makes his wisdom and courage particularly valuable. His perfect knowledge of the District, its history, its hopes, its possibilities; his intimate acquaintance with both persons and places in it; his thorough grasp of sound missionary principles have been obtained by long years of experience and we are thankful to God that these qualities are again to be exercised for the benefit of the Methodist Churches in North Ceylon."

During the intervals of Mr. Rigg's Chairmanship, i.e., when he was on furlough, the Rev. John Brown (1879-1880) and the Rev. William R. Winston (1886) acted for him. The Rev. John Brown is best remembered in connection with his visit to the District again in 1911, when he opened Kilner Hall at Chetty Street. And the Rev. William R. Winston is remembered as Central's Principal from 1874-1876, and as the first Chairman of the Methodist Mission in Upper Burma (1887).

The period under review in this chapter is from 1879 to 1886, and compared with the difficulties that had to be met and surmounted

Quiet Progress in the preceding period, these
1879-1886 seven years were a time of quiet progress and consolidation. The only cloud that appeared on the horizon was a Revised Code introduced by Mr. (late Sir) Charles Bruce, Director of Public Instruction. He suggested the discontinuation of the local examinations introduced by Sendal and

the taking up of the Cambridge examinations. But it was felt that these examinations were not as suitable as the Madras examinations, and those in charge of Central made up their minds that Central should continue to send in students for the Madras examinations in spite of the recommendation of the Director. That Central decided right, and did well is borne out by the fact that her numbers rose gradually, till there were 199 on the roll by the end of this period.

Perhaps at this point it is best to make detailed mention of the various extra-curricular activities that have already been referred to as
The Y. M. C. A., having been founded by one
 1885 Principal or another. And of these activities, the Y. M. C. A. takes pride of place and importance.

Sometime in 1882, Mr. Manickam, a clerk in the Friend-in-Need Society, and a keen Christian member of the Wesleyan Church, founded a little fellowship for the Christian young men of the Church, who were in this particular case, all of them students at Jaffna Central. This fellowship was called the "Society of Sacred Principles" and met regularly in a small pandal erected in front of Rev. Mr. Beebee's house which was situated at the junction of 1st Cross Street and the Hospital Road. The original members of this fellowship were Messrs. L. P. Spencer, George Beebee, Gillings Newton, J. W. Beebee and Paul Chellappah. The Rev. Mr. Bestall was President of the Society in 1883—the Presidentship being held either by the Principal of the College or by the Town Minister.

The meetings of the Society were both Literary and Religious, the programme consisting of debates, discussions, recitations and addresses on Literary and Religious subjects. Talks on Temperance were also given and the members urged to sign "Pledge Cards,"

Those who did so were privileged to wear a piece of blue ribbon on their coats. They were called "Blue Ribbonists" and were active temperance workers.

In 1884, Dr. Frank Saunders came to Jaffna and founded the first Student Y. M. C. A. in Asia at Jaffna College. The next year, the Student Y. M. C. A. at Central was organised. The Society of Sacred Principles lent itself naturally to this. The Principal at the time was Rev. A. E. Restarick and it was he who called Dr. Saunders to found the Y. M. C. A. at Central. The Y. M. C. A. now called the Student Christian Association, has remained at Central up to date and with varying degrees of success has endeavoured to be the centre of all the religious activities of the College.

The next important extra curricular activity that came into existence during this period was the College Literary Association. It has already been noticed that in 1855, a beginning had been made towards the formation of a Literary Association. That the Society of Sacred Principles (1882) served the purpose of a Literary Association as well as of a Y. M. C. A. is also evident. But when in 1885, the Y. M. C. A. was founded as such, it was found necessary to re-organise the literary activities of the College. The result was the formation of the College Literary Association with that name.

Last of all, but not least important in the history of Central, was the organisation of the sports activities of the College. The usual games of the students during the earlier years were Nondi, War, Kilithaddu and Padi Oddam. In 1881, the Rev. Mr. Webster, who was Principal at the time, introduced cricket for the first time into Jaffna.

CHAPTER XI.

THE CRISIS OF 1886.

On May 3rd, 1884, the Oriental Bank suspended payments, several of the Mission funds were involved and the financial position became very difficult. And then to make a bad situation worse, there visited the Peninsula a terrible cyclone on October 16th, 1884. Much damage was done to the Mission buildings on the Jaffna and Point-Pedro stations and money had to be found to restore them. A special grant of £250 was received but more was required. And added to this, there was also the collapse of the coffee industry, thus reducing even the local income.

All these naturally had their effect on the College. Money was scarce and fees had to be low. And then as if to make a difficult situation desperate, the Government adopted a policy which greatly reduced grants to English schools and closed many in the Jaffna Peninsula.

At this juncture Central's famous Head-master, Mr. William Nevins left; and that meant the establishment of a school in Jaffna Town which made the situation well nigh impossible. The numbers in the College dropped immediately and many classes were practically empty.

After an experiment or two, the Rev. E. Rigg, who was Chairman at the time called the Rev. D. P. Niles, who was then stationed at Point-Pedro, to come and take charge of the school. It was an old sphere of labour for Mr. Niles, for, as has already been mentioned, he had served at Central before, for ten

years (1869-1878) both as Principal and Vice-Principal: and now he was back again because of the confidence others had in his ability.

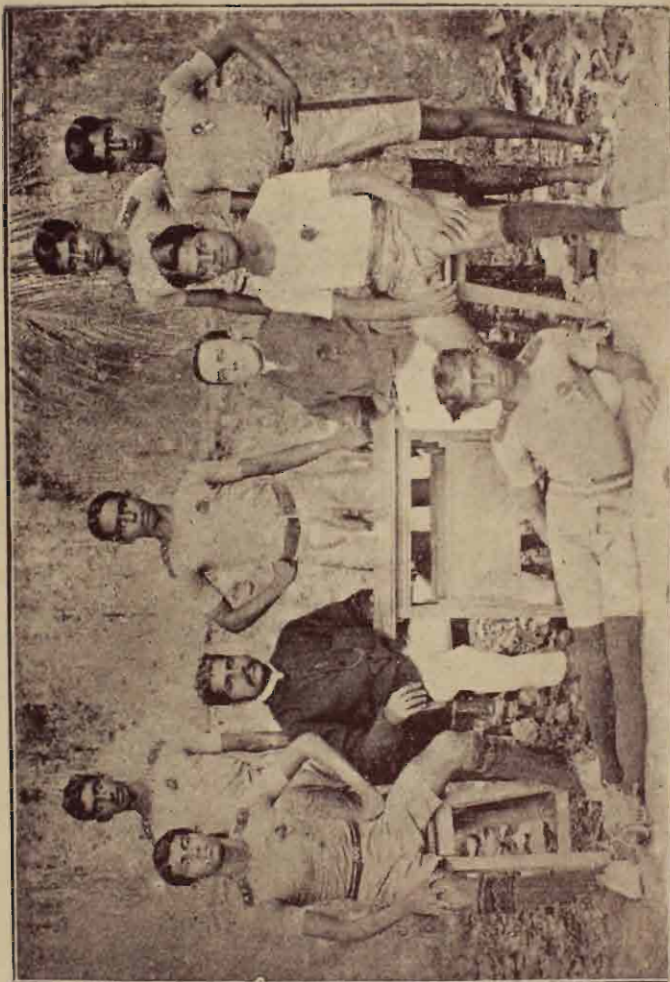
In the general letter to the Committee in England sent the next year, i.e., 1886, the Synod wrote as follows: "We have just

The Rev. D. P. Niles been passing through one of those periods of upheaval and division which are not uncommon. The removal of the Rev. D. P. Niles from Point-Pedro to the Principalship of the school probably saved it from further collapse. It has now begun to right itself and the recent application of eight old students to be received back and join the class in preparation for the Madras F. A. Examination shows that the tide is turning."

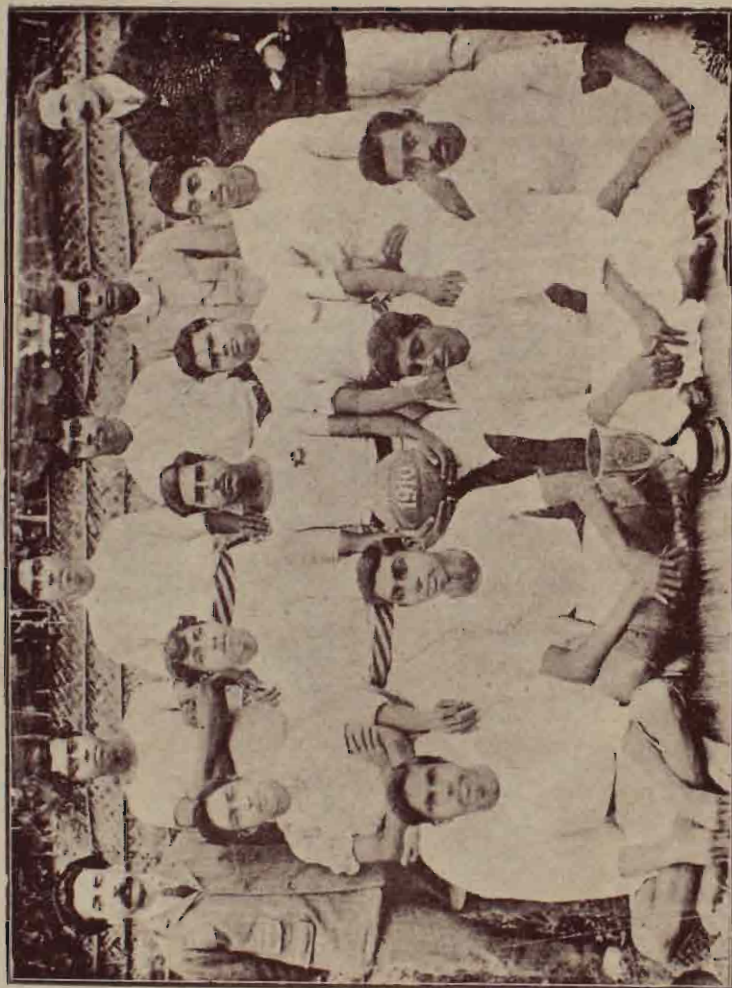
It was the victory of personality over circumstances. But this paragraph just referred to shows also something of Mr. Niles' method. He maintained the position of Central by increasing its efficiency. Affiliated to Madras University in 1869, it had contented itself by sending up students for the Matriculation; but now it began to send up students for the F. A. Examination, as well.

Messrs. L. P. Spencer and Thambi Cathiravelu, B. A., were put in charge of the F. A. Class;

The Staff Re- Mr. Niles also doing a good part of
organised the work. Messrs. G. V. Williams and Lawson James were put in charge of the Preparatory School; while the staff of the rest of the school consisted among others of Morgan Thambiah, Charles Tampoe, James B. John, V. Elyathamby, Pundit V. Tampoe, Samuel Rice, J. S. Stickney and H. Hoisington.



GYMKHANA TEAM, 1900.



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, 1910.

About 1888, Gymnastics was introduced into the College by one of the students, M. A. Arulanantham, and practice on the horizontal bar and other exercises were regularly carried on, in the present site between the Tennis Court and 'Hope Cottage.' But this activity was short-lived.

When the crisis came in 1886, and Mr. Niles was called to Central, he was appointed Principal of the College and was in full charge till things began to right themselves. **The Principals of this Period** Then from 1888, Missionary Principals were appointed again, the Rev. Sheldon Knapp being Principal from 1888 to 1889, the Rev. E. Middleton Weaver in 1890.

It has already been noted how the crisis came in 1886, and how it was met, and who the men were that met it; and reference has also been made to the general letter of **Central at Flood-Tide** 1887, which spoke of the tide having turned. Within three years, it was true that not only had the tide turned but that Central was at flood-tide. "It was one of my joys in returning to Jaffna (as Acting Chairman) in 1889-90", writes Rev. Mr. Restarick, "to watch the tide flow in numbers, finance and scholarship."

In 1890, the number of boys studying in the Jaffna Central College and the Chetty Street School was 335. In the Matriculation class which was then the only one in Jaffna there were 30 boys, and on the average 10 boys went in annually for that examination. It was the time when the affiliation of Jaffna with the Madras University was represented solely by Central College.

Mr. Niles retired from Central in 1897. We cannot better comment on Mr. Niles and his work than by quoting from an

Mr. Niles Retires article on Mr. Niles contributed by the Rev. A. E. Restarick, to the College Magazine of October, 1916.

“Soon after I left Jaffna in 1886, he was called back to the Jaffna Central School. It was in great straits. After an experiment or two, Mr. Niles was called to his old work and the present College owes itself to the courage, influence and ability of Mr. Niles more than to anyone else. It is true that the unfavourable circumstances passed away.....that many able men had a share in the work, but Mr. Niles took over at the worst stage and had to endure the hardest struggles.....

“A great teacher is not always a good Head-master, and a good Head-master is not always a good colleague to a Principal, but Mr. Niles was all three. He had to do with several Managers and Principals, and knowing them all I can confidently say that while he preserved his independence and initiative, he was a most courteous colleague. It often appealed to one's sense of humour to see how he managed to have his own way whilst deferring to Chairman, Superintendents and Principals. He was on the best of terms with them all.

“This is for the College Magazine, but it must not close without reference to other parts of his ministry. ‘He was a great Evangelist,’ said Mr. Trimmer. ‘He was a master of Tamil Literature and Classics’, said Mr. Appapapillai. ‘A sage adviser’, said Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathi. There are many who can bear testimony to his ability as a maker of sermons and his power as an orator. He was a first class debater: this was proved in many a memorable Synod; and his keenness never left a wound, for he was a true Tamil Christian gentleman.

His friends did not leave these things to be said till he was dead. We knew his powers and admired them and spoke of them often. Two small facts may help to finish the portrait of the ablest Tamil Minister of the past generation, one is the statement that he was an enthusiastic gardener, who did not disdain putting his hands to the work, the other is that he was a master of printing...the mind of a preacher, scholar, organiser and poet, cared much for flowers and the disposal of leaden type."

CHAPTER XII.

THE TRANSITION PERIOD (1891-1903.)

The appointment of Rev. W. Towers Garret, B. A., in 1891 as Principal marks the beginning of a new period in the history of the College. It was a period of calm and diligent work of consolidation after the storm and stress of the previous decade.

Rev. W. T. Garret
Appointed Principal

Mr. Garret really prepared the way for the new College which Mr. Wilkes later brought into being. He was the first long-term Principal after nearly twenty years, having held office for eight years—from 1891 to 1893, then from 1896 to 1898 and for a third time from 1901-1903. Thus in spite of the gaps during which he was away, there was some kind of continuity in policy and administration.

Mr. Garret was succeeded by Rev. Gabriel Leese as Principal in 1894. Mr. Leese might be remembered as the person who introduced

Rev. G. Leese football into Jaffna for the first time. He was at Central for two years from 1894 to 1896. During his tenure of office he took classes both at Central and Chetty Street School, and it was during this period that Chetty Street was raised to the position of a High School.

During the first year of the Principalship of Mr. Leese (1894), Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T.,

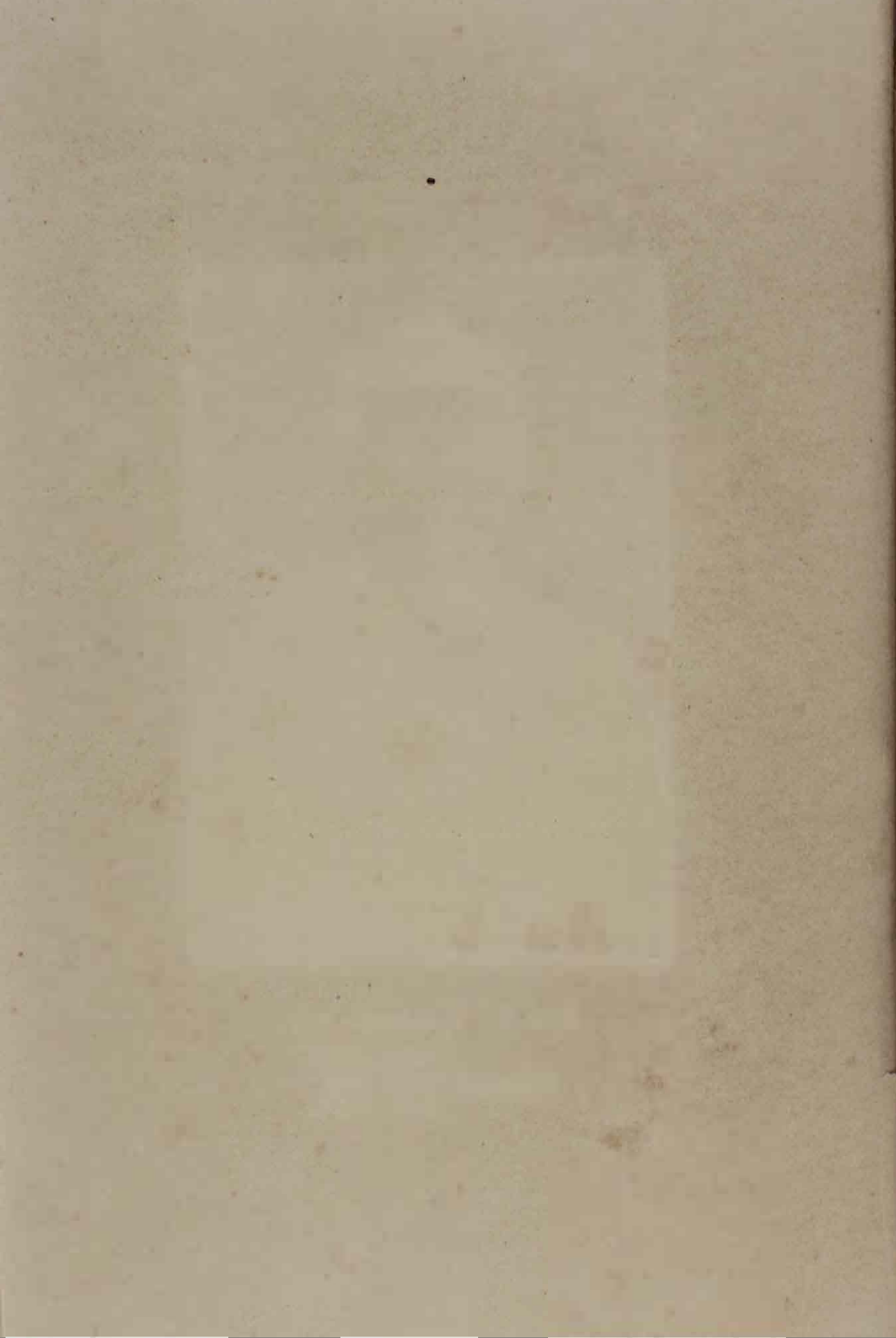
Mr. J. K. Chanmu-
kam Appointed
Head-master

was called from India to take up duties as Head-master. He came to Central after a brilliant scholastic and academic career and for over three decades his dynamic personality and keen intellect dominated the affairs of this Institution.



REV. W. T. GARRET, B.A..

Principal { 1891—1893,
 { 1896—1898,
 { 1901—1903.



The year 1894 was a memorable one for the Chetty Street School which at that time was something more than a branch of Central. This School had suffered by the opening of the Hindu College at close proximity. But Rev. J. T. Appapillai

**Chetty Street
School Re-orga-
nised**

who was then in charge, effected a coup in 1894 which turned the tide for this school. He took over from the Hindu College Staff Mr. R. Arulampalam an influential gentleman of Vannarponnai, who brought with him a large number of boys—over hundred. New teachers were employed and the school was re-organised. The fact that two English Missionaries, Messrs. Trimmer and Leese, took the English Classes also proved an additional attraction that helped to increase the number. It was at this time, in 1895, that Mr. S. A. Edward, B.A., L.T., was taken on to the staff as Head-master. Mr. Edward was a man of ability and character and he slowly and steadily built up the institution and raised it later to the level of a Secondary School.

Mr. Garret returned to Central in 1896 and took charge of the College and was Principal till 1898.

Rev. W. T. Garret The notable events of this period were the affiliation to
Returns the Calcutta University in 1897, and the winning of the Jaffna Gymkhana Cup for proficiency in Athletics.

Since 1896, Central had been affiliated to the Madras University and was the only institution enjoying this privilege till 1892.

Affiliation with But in 1892, the first change of
Calcutta the old order began by the Church Mission High School affiliating to Calcutta University. They were followed in 1893 by the Jaffna College and in 1895 by the Hindu College. The Calcutta Examinations were said to be easier. But Central kept true to Madras

and continued to present students for the Madras Examinations with conspicuous success. The weight of circumstances was against continuing this lone affiliation and Central followed suit by affiliating with Calcutta in 1897 while retaining the affiliation with Madras, as well, till 1900.

The Indian University Commissioners sent in a report to the Indian Government in 1901, urging the disaffiliation of all the

The Cambridge Examinations Ceylon Colleges by the Calcutta University. Central had by this time ceased to be affiliated to Madras, so that it had either to re-affiliate with Madras, or cease to have any connection at all with an Indian University. It chose the former alternative and was re-affiliated with Madras in 1905. But this affiliation was not for long, for the Ceylon Government was strongly opposed to Ceylon Colleges being affiliated to any of the Indian Universities and were determined to make them take up the Cambridge Local and the London University Examinations. Mr. Garret viewed the attitude of the Government with considerable apprehension and commented as follows : "The Cambridge Local and the London University Examinations are not at all suited to our needs. We are therefore looking to the future with considerable apprehension fearing that the result may be the loosening of the grip which English Education has at present upon the student youths of our Peninsula."

But ultimately Central too had to fall in line, and in 1907 began to send in students for the Cambridge and London Examinations. (The circumstances connected with this episode are dealt with exhaustively in the next chapter.)

The proficiency of the College at Examinations during this period may be judged by the fact that between the years 1900 and 1903, no less than 14

candidates passed the F. A. (First in Arts) Examination of the Calcutta University.

The Silver Cup, presented by the Jaffna Gymkhana, an association that existed in the nineties of the last century with the Government Agent as President, was the first trophy offered for Inter-Collegiate competition in Athletics. It, therefore, roused keen competition among the leading Colleges of the Peninsula and incidentally gave a great impetus to track and field athletics in Jaffna.

The Jaffna College won this Cup successively in 1895 and 1896. Central won this cup for the first time in 1898 under very trying circumstances. Vadivelu, our outstanding athlete at the time, was brought to the field almost from his sick-bed. He contracted fever two days before the Meet, and on the day previous to the Meet the temperature had gone up to 103°F. A gloom was cast over the whole College, but Mr. Garret and Dr. Grenier—later First Physician, General Hospital, Colombo—were determined to fight the fever and put the lad on the field. They kept a night-long vigil by the sick-bed of the youth, applying cold blankets—Eau de Cologne and ice were perhaps not known or available then—and on the morning the fever was brought down to normal. Vadivelu went to the field and was the hero of the Meet. Central won the Cup after a keen fight with Hindu College by the rather narrow majority of five points.

The Cup was again won by Central in 1900 by a broad margin. Mr. E. O. Martin was then Principal, and Mr. L. P. Spencer was Acting Head-master and Athletics-coach. T. R. Nalliah was the Champion Athlete of the Meet and R. R. Nalliah, J. T. Thambirajah, W. S. Tambiah, S. Kandiah, Edwards and R. R. Beadle were among those who obtained places. The Cup is now in our possession as one of our permanent trophies of victory.

Rev. W. T. Garret retired from the Principalship in 1898, and was at Batticaloa till 1900. Revds.

**A Series of
Principals**

George B. Robeson, Edward O. Martin and Arthur Lockwood successively acted for the three years till 1901. Mr. Garret went on furlough in 1900, and returned in 1901, and was Principal till 1903. When Mr. Garret went on furlough, the following minute was recorded of him by the Synod: "Brother Garret had during his term of service shown great vigour and evangelistic fervour. In the Educational Department especially his attainments and capacity have had scope in a field for which he had proved himself particularly adapted. The College school under his direction have been markedly successful in attracting numbers of students and in passing examinations. Some students have been converted from Saivism, and a considerable number have been recognised as full members of our Church."

A College Sunday School meeting every Sunday morning and the pupil teacher method of training teachers were among the special features introduced into the school by Mr. Garret.

Mr. Edward O. Martin inaugurated the College Magazine entitled, "The Central"

**The College
Magazine**

in 1900. It was published as a monthly till 1902, when it ceased publication.

The year 1901 saw the advent of Mr. W. Romaine Cooke, who will ever be remembered as one of the "builders of the school." A

**Mr. W. R. Cooke's
Advent**

man of singular ability, impressive personality and varied talents, he enriched and adorned the life of the school for nearly seventeen years. Almost the year after his arrival, the Science



W. ROMAIN COOKE, ESQ.,
Vice-Principal, 1901—1917.

Laboratory fitted up by him was highly commended by the late Mr. S. M. Burrows, the Director of Public Instruction.

The symbol of honour and loyalty, the College Crest and Colours, were introduced in 1901 by Mr. W. R. Cooke. He designed and made the crest all by himself and painted it in Chocolate and Blue. On the upper arc of the crest was inscribed the name of the College—Jaffna Central College—and on the lower arc the motto *in gloriam dei optimi maximi*. Two significant emblems, a key, symbolising the College as an instrument that unlocks doors leading to knowledge and a musical instrument (guitar), denoting the Historic Yazl associated with Jaffna (the city founded by the blind Minstrel who came from India singing to the accompaniment of the melodious Yazl), were also inscribed in gold on the two upper corners of the Shield at the centre. A golden orb of the rising sun, symbolising the light of learning that radiates from the School, was placed above the Shield. The beautiful crest, the elegant colours, and the inspiring motto embodying the most sublime and lofty sentiment, all reflect great credit to Mr. Cooke.

Cricket had become a regular feature of the sports activities during this period. Mr. Garret took great interest and instilled into the boys the spirit and technique of the game. Matches were played with Jaffna College and Hindu College and victory was more often than not on the side of Central. The Jaffna Town Club had also come into existence during the nineties and they too helped considerably to create interest in the game in these early days.

Football was also played regularly since its introduction in 1894.

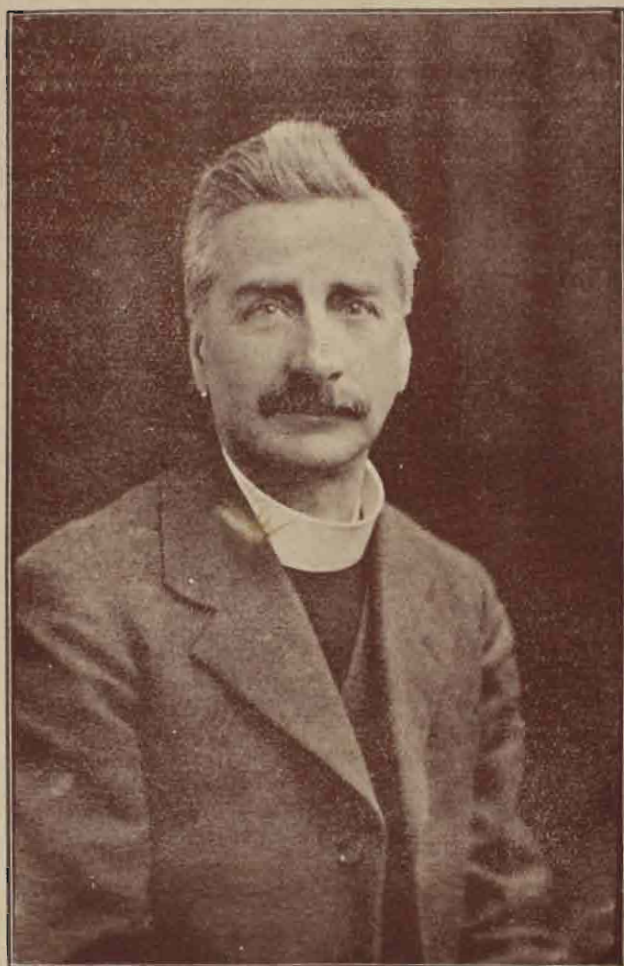
In 1901, a Swimming Club was organised and claimed as many as 37 members.

Mr. (later Sir) S. M. Burrows, Director of Public Instruction, visited the College on 10th November, 1902, and expressed his appreciation of the work of the

**Distinguished
Visitors**

school in a note in the Log Book as follows: "It has given me real pleasure to go over this fine College to-day, as almost the last visit to a school that I shall pay as Director. The first thing one looks for in a College of this kind is, signs of progress and they are abundant here: especially the Laboratory, the only one of its kind in Jaffna, well-equipped and evidently made full use of, and the various helps to the teaching of Geography, a subject in my opinion of the first importance. I congratulate the management on the good work, the good name and undoubted future of the Jaffna Central."

General Joubert, one of the Boer-Generals, visited the College in 1901. He delivered an address to the students which was interpreted into English by the Irish Interpreter who accompanied him.



REV. W. M. P. WILKES, B.A., L.C.P.

Principal { 1903—1908.
 { 1910—1916.

CHAPTER • XIII.

THE NEW COLLEGE (1903-1910.)

Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., L.C.P., arrived in 1901, and was appointed Principal in 1903. Mr.

Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes Arrives Wilkes found in Mr. W. R. Cooke, the Vice-Principal, and Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, the Head-master, two able lieutenants for the re-building and re-moulding of the school in its present form. This triumvirate was at the helm of affairs for thirteen years and re-shaped the College so that it compared favourably with the first-rate schools of the Island. The College at this period had acquired a reputation of its own, achieved distinctions in the field of sport and study, and was forging ahead as one of the premier Educational Institutions of North Ceylon. The main task of Mr. Wilkes was to organise the resources at his disposal to meet the increasing demands of the expanding institution and to provide greater opportunities for its development on the highest and the best Public School traditions.

He was ably fitted for this great task, and was admirably assisted by Mr. W. R. Cooke, Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, Mr. L. P. Spencer and the other members of the staff.

A tribute is also due to the Rev. G. J. Trimmer, who was Chairman at this period. He took a keen interest in the affairs of the College and was always a source of strength and inspiration to the Principal and Staff in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the College.

Early in 1904, Mr. Wilkes revived the publication of the College Magazine entitled, "The Central," the chief object of which, according to him, was "to chronicle Early Acts of Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes the varied events of school-life and so to strengthen the feeling of continuity and heritage of the school." The magazine was issued as a quarterly and by means of it, the Old Boys and friends were kept informed of the achievements of the school and its most pressing needs.

The same year, attempts were also made to shift the school from "the old barns" of Vembadi to the more wholesome atmosphere of its present habitat. Mr. Wilkes persuaded the Home Committee to give a grant of fifteen thousand rupees and a new College Building Fund was inaugurated to find the additional money. Distinguished old boys and friends among whom were the late Mr. T. M. Tampoe, the members of the family of the late Dr. William Paul, the late Messrs. T. S. Cooke, R. C. Alexander and T. P. Olagasegaram contributed liberal donations.

The College at this period had over 400 pupils—403 in 1905, and 434 in 1906. The Staff consisted of two European Missionaries, five Tamil graduates and eighteen others. Mr J. K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T., was Head-master, and Mr. L. P. Spencer, B.A., the first assistant. Messrs. W. A. Walton, B.A., S. S. Kanapathipillai, B.A., R. R. Gunaratnam, B.A., G. W. Tamber, E. S. Ripley, H. C. Champion were among the other members of the Staff.

The students were prepared for the Calcutta Entrance and F. A. Examinations and later for similar examinations of the Madras University. Twelve out of 17 students passed the F. A. Examination in 1904, 9 out of 20 in 1905, and 9 out of 18

in 1906. The unique distinction obtained by T. Saravanamuttu in securing a First Class and coming sixteenth in order of merit in the Calcutta F. A. Examination of 1905, brought honour to the College.

The curriculum at the time included such subjects as Geography, History, Latin, Logic, Physics and Chemistry. The aids to the teaching of Geography and Science were often commended by visiting educationists and officials of the Department of Education.

The College came off with glowing colours on the field of sports. Cricket and Football received much encouragement. Mr. Wilkes, himself a sportsman of outstanding ability, spared no pains in training the young men and instructing them on the finer points of these games. His instruction and example inspired the young sportsmen to aspire for perfection in these games. Mass Drill and Gymnastics under the supervision of Mr. Cooke were provided for those who showed no aptitude for Cricket or Football. Mass Drill, Gymnastic Displays and Musical items were features of Prize-days and other College functions.

Music obtained an important place among the extra-curricular activities of the College, chiefly through the efforts of Mr. Cooke. The First English Duet in Jaffna was said to have been sung by two boys of Central, and the College at this time had a Hymn Book of its own with 57 English Hymns and 14 Tamil Lyrics.

The Y. M. C. A. was an important activity which helped the religious life and work of the school. The Bible Study Classes, the Sunday School and the Devotional Meetings of the Y. M. C. A., went a great way to make up the religious background on which education was imparted in the College.

The curriculum of the school at this time had to undergo a re-adaptation. The Director of Public Instruction supported by some of the South-Ceylon Educationists **The Banning of Indian University Examinations** was endeavouring to compel schools to give up all connections with Indian Universities and to take up the External Examinations of the Universities of Cambridge and London. As early as 1904, the Director mooted the idea of what he described as a scheme for the "Unification of Education." There were some schools particularly in Colombo, that were preparing students for the Cambridge Locals and London Matriculation Examinations. Most of the Jaffna Schools prepared students for examinations of Indian Universities—Calcutta and later Madras. The scheme of unification introduced by the Director was that all schools should prepare for Cambridge and London Examinations.

The subject was set about in a rather strategic and somewhat arbitrary manner. State patronage was given to the examinations of the English Universities. The Government of Ceylon, and even of the Federated Malay States, refused to recognise the Madras Matriculation as sufficient to exempt students from the various preliminaries for public examinations and required a Junior Local Certificate of the Cambridge University. The Cambridge Senior Local was most arbitrarily placed on a par with the Madras F. A. Examination, and the Scholarship to England was awarded on the results of the London Intermediate Examinations. This policy of unfair discrimination against the Indian Universities and the patronage afforded to the examinations of the English Universities were strongly opposed by all those who had the best interest of education at heart.

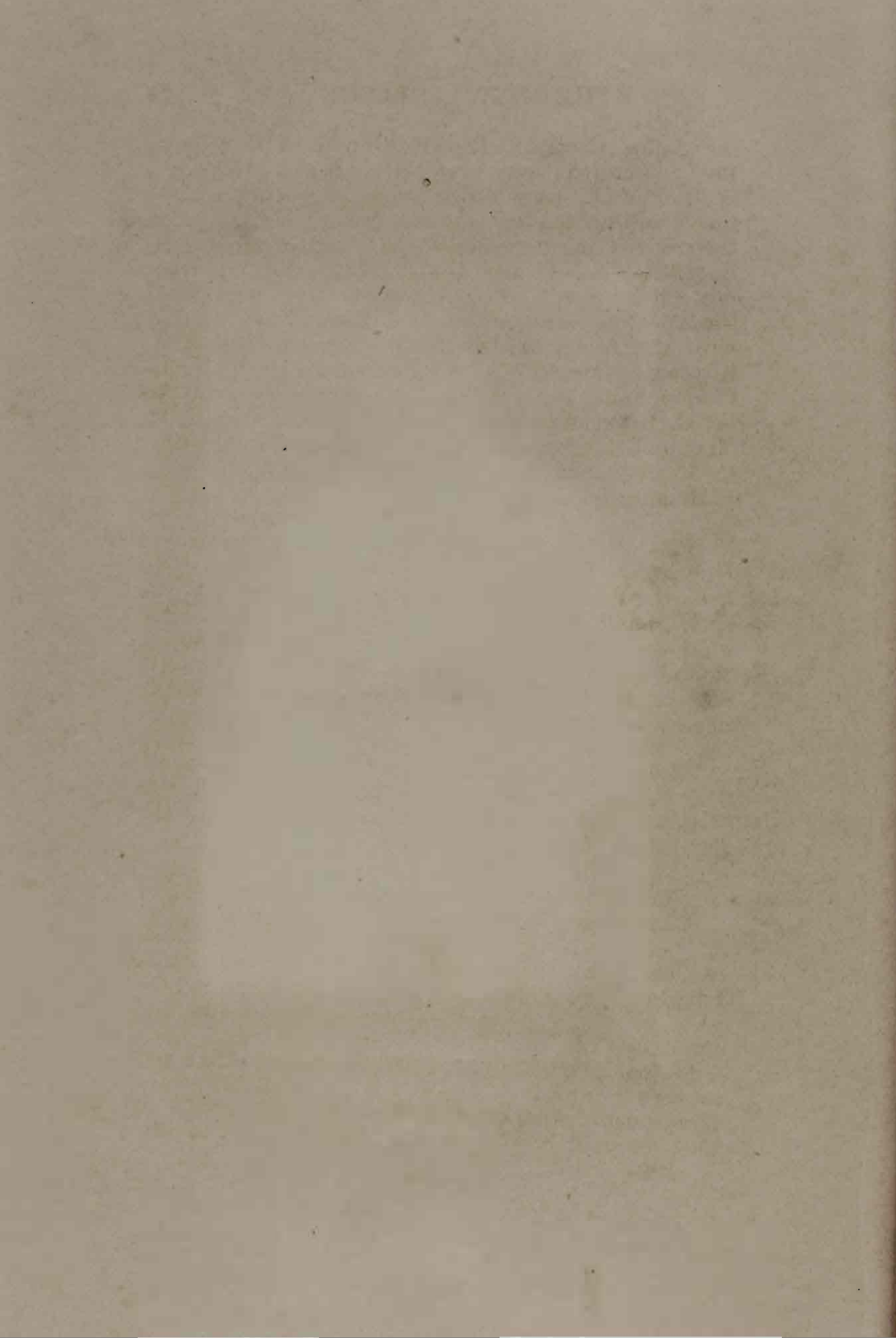
The Jaffna educationists and public men denounced this policy. A Public Meeting held at



R. H. LEEMBRUGGEN, ESQ., J.P.,

Inspector of Schools.

(Old Boy)



the Jaffna Central College Hall on the 14th August, 1905, presided over by Mr. James Hensman, B.A., F.M.U., passed resolutions protesting against this short-sighted educational policy and embodied their views in a memorial to the Governor—His Excellency Sir Henry Blake. The following leading public men and educationists were present at the Meeting and associated themselves heartily with the proceedings: Sir A. Kanagasabai, B.A., Advocate, Messrs. S. A. Paulpillai, B.A., J. K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T., J. N. Sandrasegara, B.A., W. E. Hitchcock, M.A., S. A. Edwards, B.A., L.T., Nevins Selvadurai, B.A., S. Somasundaram, B.A., C. K. Swaminathan, B.A., Rev. J. Bicknell, B.A., B.D., and the Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A.

The Jaffna Memorialists argued that the Madras University Examinations were more adapted to help the development of Tamilian Culture and as such would be specially beneficial to the people of Jaffna. They stated with prophetic vision that the abandoning of the Madras University in preference to the English Universities would result in the neglect of Tamilian culture.

But memorials and protests were of no avail. The Colleges in Jaffna were indirectly compelled to abandon Madras Examinations and take up the Cambridge Locals.

Mr. Wilkes, compelled by circumstances, started a Cambridge Junior Local Class in 1906. Two

students sat for the Examination and both were successful. **At the Cambridge Locals (1906-1910)** The same year three passed the Matriculation Examination and one passed the F.A. of the Madras University. The following year (1907) the Matriculation class was converted into the Senior Cambridge Local class. The students who sat for the Cambridge Locals in 1907 brought honour to the College. Out of the

seventeen presented for the Senior Local, fifteen passed, and in the Junior Local, T. Cooke Jayaratnam created a record for Jaffna by obtaining a First Class, with distinctions in three subjects and coming out eighth in order of merit in the whole Island. He sat for the Junior Local in 1908 as well, and passed out fourth in order of merit obtaining a First Class Honours and distinction in English, Mathematics and Physics. He also had the unique honour of obtaining the first distinction in Physics from Ceylon. On the results of the Junior Local Examinations, he was awarded a Scholarship at the Royal College, Colombo, from where he later won the Government Scholarship to England.

The College preserved its Collegiate character by retaining the F. A. Class and prepared students for the Madras F. A. Examination till it was dis-affiliated.

Mr. W. R. Cooke went on furlough in July, 1906, and Mr. W. R. Watson, B.A., was appointed Science Teacher. Mr. Cooke, during his furlough, placed the order with British manufacturers for the steel girders which

Mr. Cooke on Furlough now support the floor of the upper storey of the School Assembly Hall. He returned in September, 1907.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Old Boys' Association was held on the 25th December, 1906, in the College Hall, presided over by Mr. Wilkes. Mr. L. P. Spencer acted as Secretary *pro-tem*. Mr. Nevins Selvadurai moved

Old Boys' Association the chief resolution relating to the formation of the Association, which was seconded by Rev. W. M. Walton, and was unanimously carried. A Sub-committee consisting of Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., Messrs. N. Selvadurai, B.A., C. Muttiah, M. A. Arulanandam, B.A., S. Thambiahpillai, J. K. Chanmukam, B.A.,

L.T., L. P. Spencer, B.A., and S. A. Edward, B.A., L.T., was appointed to draft the constitution and rules of the Association. The Office-Bearers and Committee elected at the Inaugural Meeting were as follows :—

President : Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., Principal, Central College. (*Ex-officio*)

Vice-Presidents :

The Hon. Mr. Joseph Grenier, Acting Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

R. H. Leembruggen, Esqr., Retired Chief Inspector of Schools.

A. Mailvaganam, Esqr., J.P., U.P.M., of Copay.

Dr. S. C. Paul, F.R.C.S., M.D.

N. Selvadurai pillai, Esqr., B.A., Principal, Hindu College.

Rev. R. M. Sethukavalar, M. A.

Secretary : M. A. Arulanandam, Esqr., B.A., Advocate.

Treasurer : L. P. Spencer, Esqr., B.A., of the Central College Staff.

Committee : Rev. J. T. Appapillai.

K. C. Kadirgamar, Esqr.

R. Kandiah, Esqr., Secretary, D. C., Jaffna.

A. Mc G. C. Tampoe, Esqr., I. C. S.

C. Mudliar Muttiah, Esqr., Merchant.

J. K. Chanmukam, Esqr., B.A., L.T., Head-master, Central College.

W. Duraiswamy, Esqr., B.A., Advocate.

A. Sabapathy, Esqr., Editor, "Hindu Organ."

G. N. H. Tampoe, Esqr., Proctor, D. C., Jaffna.

C. S. Rajaratnam, Esqr., B.A., Advocate.

V. Kathiravelupillai, Esqr., B.A.,
Proctor.

K. Chelliah, Esqr., Proctor, D. C.,
Colombo.

D.F.Tampoe, Esqr., Broker, Colombo.

W. A. Walton, Esqr., B.A.

M. Abdul Cader, Esqr., B.A., Advoca-
cate.

Dr. C. Sittambalam, L.M.S., Kayts.

S. Thambiahpillai, Esqr., Proctor.

The first Old Boys' Day was held in November, 1907, on a grand scale. The celebrations terminated with a Dinner at which covers were laid for fifty. The Secretary reported at the General Meeting that 600 of our Old Boys, holding high positions in Ceylon and abroad, had been traced.

Mr. Wilkes and the Jaffna Central College were considerably responsible for creating a greater interest in cricket in Jaffna. The College team trained by him was highly proficient in the game and acquitted itself creditably in matches against other Colleges and teams. Inter-Collegiate fixtures were not organised at the time, but friendly matches with St. John's College were almost annual events.

Matches were also frequently played with quite a number of scratch teams got together by local cricketing enthusiasts, among whom might be mentioned the names of Mr. A. E. Geddess and Mr. V. VanCuylenberg.

A Challenge Shield was offered by the Jaffna Bar in 1909 for the College obtaining the first place in the cricket competition. Central obtained the second place beating St. John's College and Jaffna College. St. Patrick's College won the shield.



NEVINS SELVADURAI, ESQ., B.A., J.P., M.B.E.,

Principal, Jaffna Hindu College,
1891—1909, 1914—1925.

Member, State Council, 1934.

(Old Boy)

S. Rajaratnam, N. Rajaratnam, (R. R. Nalliah), R. R. Alexander, L. R. Alexander, R. C. Thambiah, N. Thamotheram, S. Sivasubramaniam and Victor A. Paul were among the leading cricketers of the period.

Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes was for a long time cricket Captain of the Jaffna Town Club. His popularity in sporting circles brought in considerable support and encouragement to the activities of the College. Mr. Wilkes referring to the cricket of the time writes: "In the bad old days of my first term, the rule seemed to be that schools waited till they had a team that was likely to win and began issuing challenge. It can be said of the Centralities that they never shirked a challenge."

"In the early days, our cricket matches were played on turf and often towards the end of the game the pitch was bumpy and dangerous. It required courage to stand up to fast bowling, consequently scores ruled smaller and bowling feats were not uncommon. Several of these stand to the credit of L. R. Alexander who was regarded as a "terror." In his first match against St. John's, he took 6 wickets for 3 runs, the whole side being dismissed for 12 runs. In another match he took 4 wickets for 0, all in one over, after which he fainted and fell full length on the pitch. I myself once had 8 for 2, J. R. Nicholas getting the other 2 for 8. On the whole, our best bowler was R. R. Alexander (no relation), who kept a beautiful length and used his head."

Football was also a regular feature of the sports activities of the College. Mr. Wilkes, who was a smart and skilful player of the game, trained the College team to a high degree of individual efficiency and combined action. St. John's College used to give us annual fixtures, and St. Patrick's College played

with us occasionally. We rarely suffered defeat, but the excitement of the game sometimes lasted too long on account of after-math incidents.

Great impetus was given to Inter-Collegiate Football by Mr. F. H. Price, Government Agent of the period, who offered in 1908, a Challenge Cup for competition. The Cup was to become the permanent trophy of the College that won it for three years in succession. Central won the Cup in 1908, beating on points St. Patrick's, St. John's and Jaffna Colleges. The following team captained by S. Amoothalingam represented the College:—S. Amoothalingam (goal), S. T. Sivasubramaniam and Herbert Jansen (backs), K. M. Poniah, V. Cumaraswamy and M. Samuel (half-backs), T. Kanagasabai, S. Ameer, R. R. Tamber, V. Somasundaram and V. A. Paul (forwards).

The cup was again won in 1909 by the College. The team was captained by V. A. Paul.

In 1910, we tied with St. John's College for the first place, and it was decided that we should re-play with St. John's College. The match was a very exciting one, and we scored a brilliant victory by shooting a goal almost at the blast of the final whistle. The following team captained by S. Nagalingam represented the College:—C. W. A. Beebee, V. Cumaraswamy, V. Muttiah, S. T. Sivasubramaniam, C. Kanagaratnam, R. D. Silva, T. Ponnudurai, G. Manuel, D. Bastian and G. Singanayagam. Thus having won the cup for the third year in succession, it became our permanent trophy.

L. R. Alexander, S. Amoothalingam (famous goal-keeper), R. C. Thambiah (full-back), R. R. Tamber (centre-forward), V. Cumaraswamy, S. T. Sivasubramaniam and V. A. Paul were among the leading players of the period.

It was somewhat unfortunate that at a time when the College was forging ahead, the Mission deemed it prudent to remove

**Mr. Wilkes
Transferred**

Mr. Wilkes who was so ably guiding its destinies. But the pressing need of finding an able Station Superintendent for Pt. Pedro necessitated the transfer, and Mr. Wilkes left Central in March, 1908. Rev. H. A. Meek, B.A., succeeded him as Principal.

The all-round success achieved by the College encouraged the management to venture upon the

**New College
Building**

New College Building project, and on 25th September, 1908, much to the joy of numerous old boys and friends the foundation stones were "well and truly laid" for the magnificent two-storeyed edifice, the present Assembly Hall. Rev. G. J. Trimmer laid the first stone on behalf of the Missionary Committee and the North Ceylon Wesleyan District. Other stones representing donations of Rs. 250 and upwards were then laid by the following:—T. M. Tampoe, Esqr., J.P., T. P. Olagasegrampillai, Esqr., T. S. Cooke, Esqr., Proctor, Mr. Victor Paul on behalf of Dr. S. C. Paul, F.R.C.S., M.D., R.C. Alexander, Esqr., Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., Mrs. Thambiah on behalf of the family of the late Dr. Wm. Paul, Mrs. Trimmer on behalf of W. Jordon, Esqr. (a friend of the Mission and a donor) and Mr. W. R. Cooke, Esqr., Vice-Principal. Rev. J. A. Barker and Rev. P. Middleton Brumwell of the Southern District at the time, also participated in the function. The event marked a new epoch in the history of the College, and the 25th September is observed annually as a holiday in commemoration of this Foundation Day.

Rev. H. A. Meek, the Principal, Mr. W. R. Cooke and Mr. J. K. Chanmukam set themselves to the task of successfully accomplishing the building

scheme in record time. Mr. Cooke, the architect and engineer, supervised and directed the building operations. Mr. Meek assiduously collected the donations promised by the Old Boys and realised for the Building Fund Rs. 3,000. The enterprising Mr. J. K. Chanmukam toured the Federated Malay States and collected Rs. 6,000 towards the Fund.

The Assembly Hall was completed early in 1910. Mrs. Trimmer performed the opening ceremony in April, 1910. The building was at that time unique in Jaffna—being the only one where reinforced concrete and iron girders were employed. The night following the opening function was memorable for the staging of an English play completely for the first time at Central. The masters and students who staged Shakespeare's "The Twelfth Night" on the occasion were said to have displayed commendable histrionic talents.

A Science Laboratory and four Class-rooms were also built during this period.

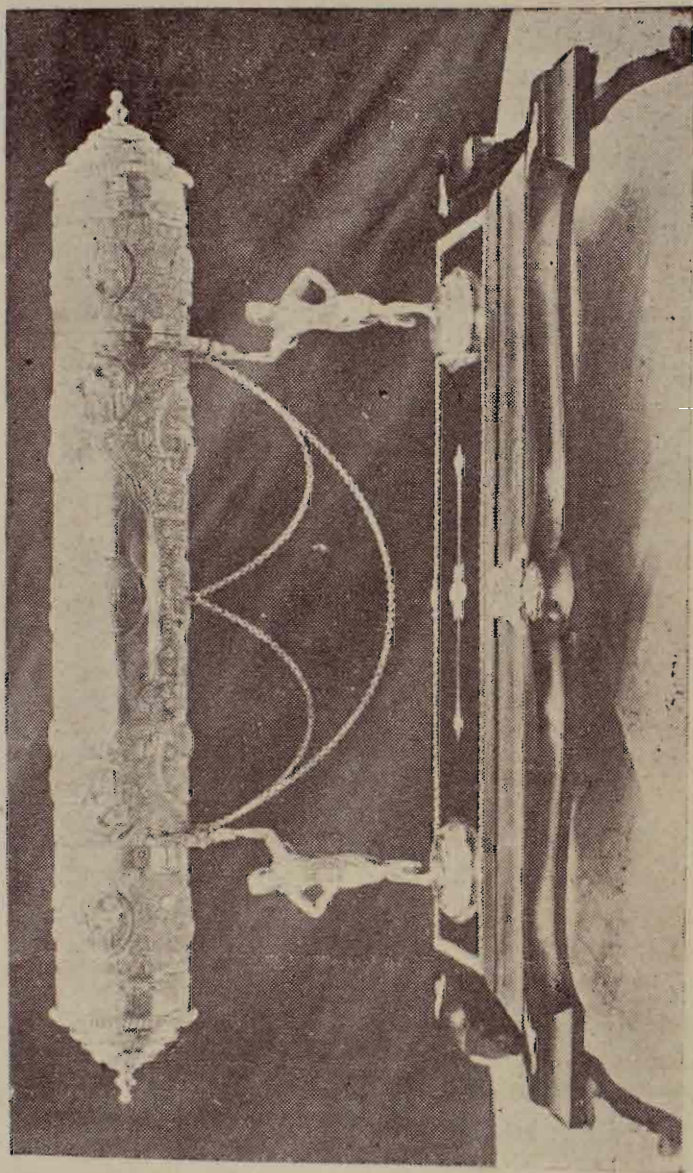
His Excellency, Sir Henry Blake visited the College on 22nd August, 1905. He went round the school and observed the work of the various departments. He made a note in the Log Book as follows : "I visited the Jaffna Central College on the 22nd instant, and was pleased with what I observed of the work of the school, and arrangement of which was excellent."

Distinguished Visitors

Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy, the Archaeologist, Geologist and celebrated Indologist, who is now Curator of the Indian Section of the Boston Museum, visited the school on 12th June, 1906. He was much impressed by the good work done, and made a commendatory note in the Log Book as follows : "I took great interest in visiting this College, affiliated to Madras and in which the study of Tamil is not neg-



Opening of the Assembly Hall (1910)
by
MRS. G. J. TRIMMER.



SILVER CASKET.

Presented to J. K. CHANMUKAM, ESQ., B.A., L.T.

lected. This may be compared with the state of affairs in another Jaffna College where the Senior Cambridge Local Class who were studying Tennyson, on being asked to give their ideas on the poetical qualities of Tennyson and of the Ramayana, were all unable to reply, as none of them had read the latter work either in originals or in translations. So far as I could see, a broader education is given at the Central College, and its connection with Madras will always ensure the teaching of Tamil and Tamil Literature. I wish the College success."

His Excellency, Sir Henry McCallum, Governor of Ceylon, visited the College on 5th June, 1908, and addressed the students. He made a note in the Log Book as follows: "Made a flying visit to the school. Good work is evidently being done and the cause of Education being advanced."

Prize-days were an annual feature of this period. Mr. J. P. Lewis, Government Agent, Northern Province, presided at the Prize-

Prize-days and Other Functions day on 5th July, 1904. Mr. R. H. Leembruggen, retired School Inspector and an Old Boy of the College, was the chief speaker. Sir William Twynam, K.C.M.G., was among those present on the occasion. The function was preceded by a Mass Drill display under the direction of Mr. W. R. Cooke. The first English duet sung in Jaffna was rendered on the occasion by W. A. N. Chanmukam and Victor A. Paul. A scene from Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' English and Tamil songs and recitations were other features of the function.

The next Prize-day was held on 22nd June, 1905. It was preceded by a Gymnastic display, Mass Drill and an Exhibition of School Work and Teaching Apparatus. Sir William Twynam, K.C.M.G., presided and gave away the prizes. Mr. Edward Hensman of

Madras, was the chief speaker. T. Saravanamuttu (later M.A., M.Sc.), won all the prizes in the F. A. Class, and V. Gulasegaram (Mr. F. H. V. Gulasegaram) won all the prizes of the Entrance (1905) Class.

Mr. T. M. Tampoe presided and distributed the prizes at the function held on 20th July, 1906. Mr. S. Nevins, B.A., Principal, Hindu College (Mr. Nevins Selvadurai) was the chief speaker on the occasion.

The Prize-day held on 5th July, 1907, was a red letter day for Central. The Hon. Mr. Joseph Grenier, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court, one of the distinguished Old Boys, presided over the function, and paid a warm tribute to his Old School and to the eminent men who were its founders.

Rev. G. J. Trimmer, the Chairman of the North Ceylon District, presided at the Prize-day, held on 28th September, 1908, and Rev. P. M. Brumwell was the chief speaker.

The Old Boys' Day was also celebrated annually from the year 1906. The programme generally consisted of matches between the past and present boys, a public meeting and a garden party or dinner.

Laurels were won for the College not only within its walls but also outside. The achievements of

Achievements of Old Boys reflected glory to their *alma mater*. The Scholarship awarded on the results of the Proc-

tors' Intermediate Examination for three successive years 1904, 1905, and 1906 was won by three Old Boys of Central :—Messrs. J. T. Thambirajah, R. R. Nalliah and E. Murugesampillai. Mr. R. R. Nalliah is the Chairman of the Jaffna Urban District Council, and Mr. E. Murugesampillai, a Justice of the Peace,



M. A. ARULANANTHAM, Esq., B.A.,
District Judge, Chilaw, 1925—1929.
(Old Boy)

Mr. M. S. Kandiah of Pt. Pedro, passed the Proctors' Final Examination, obtaining a very high percentage and coming first out of thirty successful candidates. Mr. Kandiah is now a leading member of the legal profession in this Province. Messrs. S. Cumaraswamy, S. Retnasamy, J. T. Thambirajah, R. R. Nalliah, E. Murugesampillai, Chas. Niles, F. T. Proctor and R. Tharmalingam were among those who passed out as Proctors during this period.

Messrs. S. D. Tampoe and W. Duraiswamy, B.A., passed the Advocates' Examination in 1903. Mr. Tampoe, second son of the late Mr. Tampoe, Police Magistrate, Jaffna, is by far the most leading criminal lawyer in Jaffna. For nearly three decades he had almost held a monopoly of the criminal sessions of the Northern Circuit Assizes and his forensic skill and powers of eloquence still continue to enliven the dull drab and monotony of the Assize Court.

Mr. M. A. Arulanandam, B.A., had the unique distinction of obtaining the first place in the Preliminary, Intermediate and Final Advocates' Examinations and passed out in 1905. He was a leading Advocate of the Metropolitan Bar for several years, and later mounted the Bench as District Judge. He also took a prominent part in the political activities of the country, and was Secretary of the Ceylon National Congress during the early years when this organisation was a power in the land. Messrs. W. D. Niles, B.A., N. M. Abdul Cader, B.A., C. S. Rajaretnam, B.A., and C. C. Hannibalz, B.A., M. Rajaretnam, T. R. Nalliah, B.A., and S. Rajaretnam were among those who passed out as Advocates during the period.

Dr. S. C. Paul, M.D. (Madras), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), was appointed First Surgeon of the General Hospital, Colombo, in 1908. He was Ceylon's most eminent surgeon for the last twenty-five years. Dr. S. C. Paul was the son of the late Dr. William Paul of the Jaffna

Friend-in-Need Society Hospital. After receiving his early education at Central during the eighties of the last Century, he proceeded to Madras and obtained the M.B. and C.M. Degrees. Later he went to England and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He was conferred the M.D. degree of the Madras University in 1904. Since his retirement in 1930, he has been taking a leading part in the public affairs of the country. He was a member of the Banking Commission appointed by the Governor in 1934.

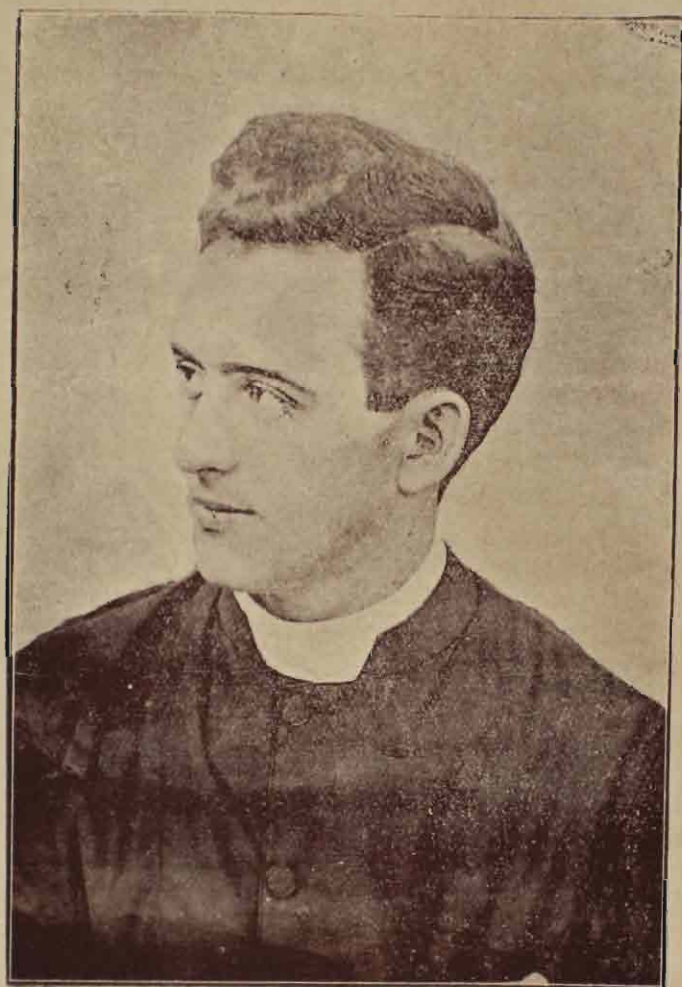
Dr. E. V. Ratnam obtained British qualifications in 1908, and became an F.R.C.S. (Edin.) He has been for many years a member of the Colombo Municipal Council, and is the proprietor of a large Private Hospital in Colombo.

Mr. T. Saravanamuttu passed the B.A. Examination of the Madras University, obtaining a First Class and coming first in Latin and second in Mathematics in the whole Presidency. Messrs. N. Ramalingam, J. C. Chinnappah, F. H. V. Gulasegaram, were among the others who passed the B.A. Examination of the Madras University, and Messrs. W. R. Watson, J. W. Arudpragasam and R. R. Alexander were among those who passed the B.A., Calcutta, during this period.

Mr. A. Mc G. C. Tampoe, son of the late Mr. T. M. Tampoe, passed the Indian Civil Service Examination in 1904. He was the first Ceylonese to achieve the distinction, and brought honour not only to Central but also to Jaffna. He is now Inspector of Municipalities in the Madras Presidency, an important office under the Government of India.

Messrs. W. A. Walton, B.A., R. R. Gunaretnam, B.A., S. S. Kanapathipillai, B.A., W. R. Watson, B.A.,





REV. H. A. MEEK, B.A.,
Principal, 1908—1910.

Staff during this Period F. H. V. Gulasegaram, B.A., C. P. Thamotheram, F.A., and V. Muttucumaru, F.A., were among those who served on the staff during this period. They were all Old Boys and evinced keen interest in the activities of the College.

Mr. Walton who left Central in 1906, and Mr. R. R. Gunaretnam, who succeeded him, were both very able teachers of English Literature and Latin. Mr. Walton has now retired after a long and strenuous career in the teaching profession, where his histrionic talents and teaching ability were exploited to the fullest to advance the cause of education. Mr. Gunaretnam had in him an element of poetic genius, and his verses and poems have often adorned the pages of our College Magazine, "The Central." He was transferred to Chetty Street High School in 1909, and later joined Hartley College in 1919. But his career in the teaching profession was cut short by an early death in 1924.

Mr. S. S. Kanapathipillai was on the staff till 1905. He was also in charge of the Rigg Hall, and took great interest in the sports activities. He later became an Advocate, and had a bright but short career.

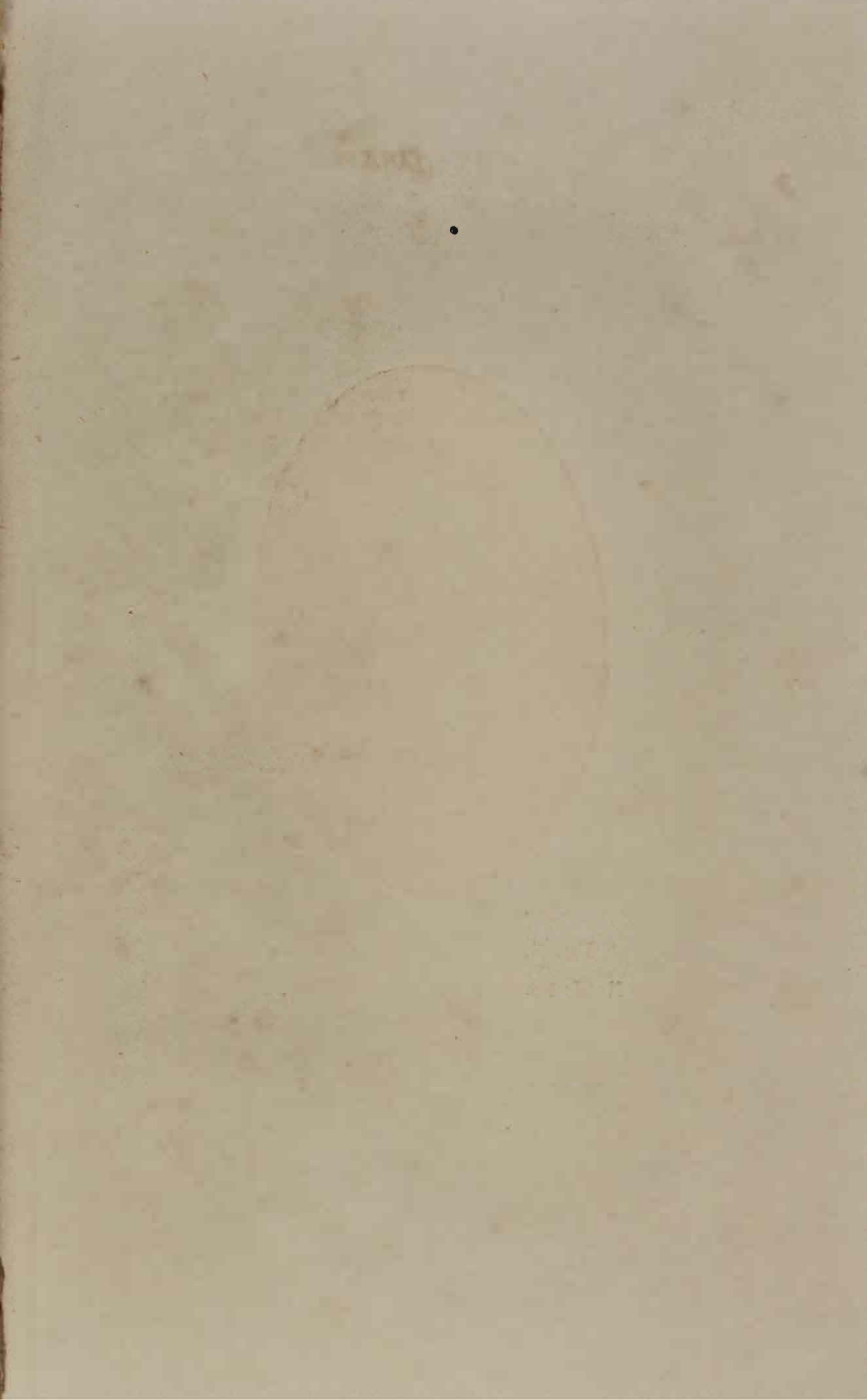
Messrs. C. P. Thamotharam, F. H. V. Gulasegaram and V. Muttucumaru joined in 1909.

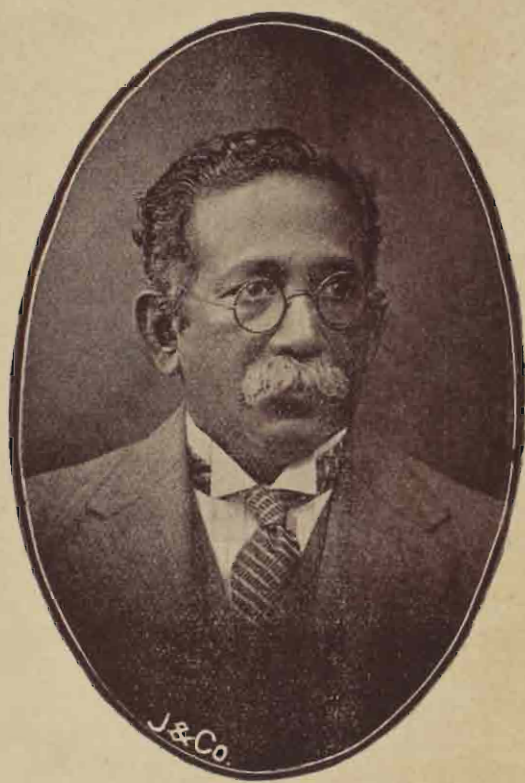
Messrs. W. M. S. Adams, J. K. Kanapathipillai, R. R. Beedle, S. S. Thambipillai and G. K. Mailvaganam also joined during this period. Messrs. G. K. Mailvaganam and S. S. Thambipillai are still with us.

Rev. H. A. Meek, B.A., was Principal during a short but eventful period of two years. He assumed office in March, 1908, and before he returned home early in 1910, on account of ill-health, the spacious two-storeyed Assembly Hall, a Science Laboratory

and four Class-rooms had been built and completed. During his Principalship a sum of Rs. 9,000 was collected towards the Building Fund.

His meek and unassuming ways and his diligent and unostentatious work in the cause of the College had won for him the affection of his pupils and the esteem and regard of the Staff and Old Boys. "He laboured very earnestly," wrote Mr. Wilkes later, "not only in the regular work of this institution but also in the gathering up of sums promised towards the Building Fund."





DR. S. C. PAUL, M.D., F.R.C.S.,
Retd: 1st Surgeon, General Hospital,
Colombo.
(Old Boy)

CHAPTER XIV.

THE NEW COLLEGE (1910-1916.)

(Continued.)

Mr. Wilkes, who was transferred to Pt. Pedro in 1908, went on furlough in 1909. When Mr. Meek gave up the Principalship in

Mr. Wilkes 1910, Mr. Wilkes was again
Returns appointed to succeed him at Central. This appointment was

hailed with great satisfaction by the Old Boys and friends of the College. Mr. Wilkes arrived early in 1910, and was accorded a splendid welcome. A large number of Old Boys, friends and students assembled at the Railway Station on the night of his arrival, and Mr. Wilkes and his family were taken to the College with a torch-light procession, his carriage being drawn by the boys of Central.

A few days after the arrival of Mr. Wilkes, the New College Building was declared open. His main task during the second term of office was to give the finishing touch to the building scheme and complete the buildings.

Many improvements and additions were made to the New College Buildings during this period. A

Building and Belfry Tower and two additional
Equipment Class-rooms on the northern side of the well in the College quadrangle were built (those Class-

rooms have now been demolished, but traces of the cement floor are still found). A Science Lecture Room was converted into the Physics Laboratory. Mr. V. S. S. Cumaraswamy, B.A., an Old Boy of the College and student of Mr. W. R. Cooke, gave a generous

donation of Rs. 500 towards this laboratory extension. The money for the other additions and improvements was mainly raised through fancy bazaars and concerts.

There was also considerable addition to the furniture and equipment. The Science Laboratory was provided with a gas plant and service. A force pump fitted to the well in the garden solved the problem of water supply. A special grant for the Science Department from the Government helped towards the equipment of the Laboratory.

The College made steady progress during the period. The number on roll was always over 400—in 1912, it was 420. The staff

Progress and Success

consisted of five graduates (six in 1913), a Licentiate in Teaching, a Tamil Pundit, an Art Master and eleven others. The Science Department was recognised by the Government for special Grant in 1912. The general Government Grant towards the College was increased within the three years from 1910 to 1913 by Rs. 1,000 (during this period, grant was assessed on the results of Examination). The College was accepted in 1914 as a fully equipped "Secondary School" the highest class of school registered at the time.

The results of Cambridge Locals were exceedingly good. The Junior Local result of 1911 was the best obtained in Jaffna at the time. Fourteen out of 18 candidates presented were successful, one obtained First Class Honours, 2 Second Class Honours and one Third Class Honours and 8 Distinctions were secured. (Three in Mathematics and one each in Religious Knowledge, Arithmetic, English, Chemistry and Physics). J. A. Nalliah (J. N. Arumugam) obtained First Class Honours and distinction in Arithmetic, Mathematics and Physics. The distinction in Arithmetic was the only one obtained in Ceylon that year.

W. R. Chanmukam and K. Rasiah secured Second Class Honours, the former with distinction in English and Mathematics and the latter in Religious Knowledge and Mathematics. C. Sittampalam obtained Third Class Honours with distinction in Chemistry.

Out of the 14 presented for the Senior Local in 1912, 10 passed, one gaining First Class, and 3 Third Class Honours. Among those who passed the Junior Local, P. Gurunathapillai (P. G. Thambiappah) secured a Third Class—this was the only class obtained at the Jaffna Centre that year. A. R. Rasiah, secured the Hewavitarne Science Prize of Rs. 100, awarded annually to the Junior student obtaining the highest number of marks in Experimental Science.

The results of the Senior Local Examination of 1913 was the best obtained in Jaffna at that time. Two obtained First Class Honours, one Second and 2 Third Class Honours. Three students obtained distinction in Mathematics, and 6 did sufficiently well to secure exemption from the London Matriculation. A Junior student obtained Third Class Honours and distinction in Arithmetic and Mathematics.

The Kilner College (Chetty Street High School) continued to be closely associated with Central during this period as well. Students

Connection with of the Cambridge Local Classes
Kilner College used to go to Kilner for their Mathematics, which Mr. Edward taught with conspicuous success. Distinctions in Mathematics were secured almost every year. The Kilner students came to Central to learn their Science from Mr. Cooke. Mr. Wilkes also took classes at Kilner.

The Kilner College was itself doing very well at this time, and some of its most distinguished alumni were turned out during this period. S. M. Abu-

bucket, now a Proctor and Member of the Jaffna Urban District Council, passed the Senior Local in 1911. S. S. Navaratnam, who is now a Civil Servant, passed his Senior Local in 1912, securing a First Class Honours and distinction in Mathematics. A. Cumaraswamy, now Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, also passed the Senior Local in the same year. V. Kandiah (Dr. V. Kandiah, Professor of Chemistry, University College) and A. R. Packianathan passed their Junior Local from Kilner in 1912.

An Athletic Sports Meet was held on 22nd June, 1911, to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King George the Fifth. Central

Achievements in Sports swept the board at this Meet, winning the Union Jack offered as a trophy by Mr. E. T. Girdwood, and securing 13 out of 18 prizes, and 27 out of a possible 36 points. St. Patrick's and St. John's Colleges shared the remaining 9 points. T. Chinniah, M. Chelliah and G. Singanayagam distinguished themselves on the occasion and helped the School to win many points. Mr. Wilkes writes : "If ever there was a fine natural runner, Chinniah was he."

Cricket continued to be a popular game and matches with local and visiting teams were frequently played. The College came out victorious in most of these encounters. G. Singanayagam, S. E. N. Nicholas, F. A. S. Hoole, C. W. A. Beebee, V. S. Karthigesu and J. R. Nicholas were among the leading cricketers of the period from 1910 to 1914.

An effort was made to introduce regular Inter-Collegiate Fixtures in 1915, and in 1916, Mr. R. Doraisamy, son-in-law of Mr. Nevins Selvadurai, offered a Challenge Cup for the competition. St. John's College and Central, Jaffna and Hindu Colleges entered for the competition, and we succeeded in winning the Cup. The following team captained by B. R. M. Chinivasagam represented the College in this competition :—





DR. E. V. RATNAM, F.R.C.S.

(Old Boy)

B. R. M. Chinivasagam, R. Ponnudurai, W. R. Spencer, C. D. Paul, W. G. Spencer, A. E. Alexander, M. R. Navaratnam, C. Navaretnam, K. Kanagaretnam, K. Vaitilingam and N. Rasalingam. The outstanding batsman of the season was B. R. M. Chinivasagam, and the best bowler was W. R. Spencer. A. E. Alexander, a fast bowler, a breezy batsman and a good fielder, was the best all-rounder.

The College did exceedingly well in Football during the period and defeats were very rare. Mr. Wilkes stated with pride on a Prize-day in 1913, "In the last six years we have lost only one match, a memorable encounter with the Wesleyan District Synod." G. Singanayagam, T. Chinniah, C. Kanagaratnam, V. S. Karthigesu, W. G. Spencer and A. E. Alexander were the leading players of the period.

The Y. M. C. A. was a very useful and powerful organisation at this period. The Association held a public celebration of its annual

Other Activities meeting in 1913, during the Secretaryship of Mr. A. C. Caralasingam, and the report describes a wide and varied range of activities. The main association was divided into two sections, religious and literary, and the work of each section was carried on by four sub-committees. The religious section had:

1. A personal piety and religious work Committee. The members of this Committee were nominated by the President. They conversed with other students and stimulated and guided their religious life. Lantern lectures and prayer meetings were some of the methods adopted by this Committee for evangelical work.
2. A Sunday School Membership Committee canvassed students to attend Sunday Schools.

3. A Social Service Committee interested itself in humbly serving the sick, the poor and the needy.

The Literary branch consisted of :

1. A Literary Committee that arranged the debates and other literary programmes for the meetings.
2. A Membership Committee to canvass members.
3. A Financial Committee to look after the financial side of the work.
4. A Garden Committee to provide a healthy hobby for the students who did not play cricket or football. This Committee maintained two gardens, one in the College and the other in Rigg Hall. The money realised by the sale of the products of the garden was given to the Financial Committee.

The College Garden under the supervision of Mr. W. R. Cooke developed into a beautiful ornamental garden, with a separate section for economic produce. The officers of the Agricultural Department annually inspected the garden and gave valuable hints.

Many of our Old Boys in Colombo desired the formation of a branch of the Old Boys' Association there, in order that they might

Colombo Branch of the Old Boys' Association keep in touch with one another and their alma mater. Mr. Wilkes proceeded to Colombo at their invitation, and on 26th

July, 1913, a splendid Re-union was held at the Wesley College. Group photograph taken on the occasion contained no less than seventy old boys. Mr. Wilkes presided at the public meeting that inaugurated the Branch Association and the chief speakers on the occasion were, Mr. Joseph Grenier, K.C., Rev. H. Highfield, M.A., Dr. E. V. Ratnam, F.R.C.S., and Rev. A. E. Restarick, B.A.

K. Sivapragasam, of the Registrar-General's Office, who later became an Appraiser of the Customs, was the first Secretary of this Branch. His interest and enthusiasm contributed not a little towards its early success. Mr. Sivapragasam had prospects of a great future in the Government Service but an early death cut short what might have been a bright career.

His Excellency, Sir Robert (now Lord) Chalmers, Governor of Ceylon, visited the College on 3rd March, 1915, and made the following

Distinguished Visitors observation in the College Log Book: "The Wesleyans of Ceylon have recently (1914) celebrated their Centenary in the Island. Among their most significant achievements in that hundred years has been their educational work, and in this work no institution of their Communion can point to greater public usefulness in the past or the greater promise of continued usefulness in the future than can the Central of Jaffna."

Rev. Marshall Hartley visited the College on 23rd March, 1916, and made the following note in the College Log Book: "I have been glad to see the Central College again and to find it so much improved everyway. The boys seem to me specially intelligent and bright. My last act on the Station was to congratulate them on a great cricket victory. I leave Jaffna with their cheers ringing in my ears. May the College continue to flourish."

An Old Boys' Day was held on 11th June, 1911. The programme included a Cricket Match, an "At Home" and a Public Meeting.

Prize-days and Other Functions. Mr. R. H. Leembruggen, Mr. M. S. Pinto, District Judge, Jaffna (later M. S. Shresta, Postmaster-General, Ceylon) and Messrs. W. Duraiswamy and W. D. Niles, Advocates, were the speakers

at the Public Meeting. A similar Old Boys' Function was held in 1912, and Messrs. J. C. W. Rock, C. S. Rajaretnam, J. N. Sandrasegara, F. N. Bartholomeusz and Hon. Mr. A. Kanagasabai were the speakers at the Public Meeting.

Mr. J. Harward, M.A., Director of Public Instruction, presided at the Prize-distribution held on 22nd June, 1912. He advocated a broadening of the curriculum providing for such subjects as Music and Painting, and suggested the organisation of an Inter-school Music Competition. Mr. M. S. Pinto was the chief speaker on the occasion.

At the Prize-day held on 3rd July, 1913, Mr. G. J. Trimmer presided, and Miss N. Twynam gave away the prizes. Mr. Sanjiva Rao, the Principal of Jaffna Hindu College, was the chief speaker.

An Old Boys' Day was held on 30th September, 1916. Messrs. F. H. V. Gulasegaram and G. J. Trimmer were the speakers at the Public Meeting.

Many "sales of work" and fancy bazaars were held to raise money for the Building Fund. The staging of plays also became a feature of this period. Shakespeare's "The Twelfth Night" was staged in 1910, and again in 1915. In 1914, Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and in 1916, "Julius Cæsar" were also staged.

The Old Boys of Central claimed during this period a record of achievements of which any College might well be proud of. Forty

Achievements of candidates were selected for
Old Boys appointment at the Govern-
 ment Clerical Service Examina-
 tion of 1912, and no less than nine—Messrs. D. S. Gasperson, C. W. A. Beebee, A. Saravanamuttu,



T. COOKE JAYARATNAM, ESQ., I. C. S.,
J. M. ARUNACHALAM, ESQ., B.SC., (Hons.,
Lond.) and DR. GUNARATNAM COOKE,
M.D., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

(Old Boys)

K. Chellappah, A. Ambalavanar, M. S. Seevaretnam, C. Sandrasegaram, M. Arumugam and E. Ayampillai, were Old Boys of Central.

Nine Old Boys completed their legal education and entered the profession—four Advocates, Messrs. M. Rajaretnam, P. Vaithilingam, B.A., J. W. N. Hensman, B.A., and S. S. Kanapathaipillai, B.A., and five Proctors: J. A. J. Tisseverasinghe, V. Ramalingam, T. V. Kanagarayer, K. Somasundaram and S. T. Spencer. Mr. Thamby Ramanathan qualified as Barrister-at-Law, and was admitted to practise at the English Bar in 1912.

Three Old Boys—K. Poothathamby, V. Sirinivasagam and V. Kathirgamathamby completed their course and joined the Medical profession. Messrs. A. N. Cumaraswamy and C. Sabapathy obtained the M.B. and C.M. (Madras). Dr. A. N. Cumaraswamy is now Superintendent of Anchylostomiasis Campaign of the Island. Dr. C. Sabapathy is the District Medical Officer of Karawanella. Mr. N. R. Nalliah a brother of Messrs. R. R. Nalliah and T. R. Nalliah—obtained the M.R.C.S. (Eng.) and L.R.C.P. and S. (Lond.) Dr. N. R. Nalliah has settled down in England, and is now a Panel Doctor under the Sheffield Municipality.

Mr. J. M. Arunachalam passed the Engineering Final Examination of the London University with Honours from King's College. He, unfortunately, died in England a few days before his expected return to Ceylon.

Mr. J. C. Thamotheram passed the Calcutta B.A. Examination winning the Gold Medal for English Essay. Mr. V. Muttucumaru passed the B.A. (Calcutta) with Honours in English. Mr. T. Saravanamuttu was successful in the B.Sc. Examination of the same University, and was placed second in order of merit. Messrs. F. H. V. Gulasegaram,

C. P. Thamotheram, S. Periathamby, V. S. S. Cumaraswamy, T. Subramaniam, J. C. Amarasingham and V. Ambalavanar passed the B.A. Examination of the Madras University.

The appointment of Mr. Joseph Grenier as a permanent Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court in 1911 was the greatest of all the achievements of Old Boys during this period.

Joseph Grenier, a younger brother of Mr. Samuel Grenier, a former Head-master of Central, had his early education till his fifteenth year at the Jaffna Wesleyan Central School. He afterwards went to Colombo, completed his education at St. Thomas' School, Mutwal (St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia), and became a teacher in the same Institution. Later he joined the legal profession, and mounted the Bench as District Judge of Colombo in 1903. He was made a Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court in 1911, and was compelled to retire in 1912 as he had reached the age limit. He reverted to his practice at the Metropolitan Bar, and a few years afterwards was honoured by being made a King's Counsel. He was also a nominated member of the Old Legislative Council.

He has left behind an autobiographical sketch entitled "Leaves from my Life." The book vividly portrays his life and achievements, and is an excellent pen picture of contemporary men and matters.

Mr. Joseph Grenier always evinced a keen interest in the affairs of his alma mater. He presided over a Prize-distribution in 1907 (when he was acting as Commissioner of Assizes in Jaffna) and was for a long time a Vice-President of the Old Boys' Association and a prominent member of its Colombo Branch.

Messrs. C. P. Thamotheram, B.A., R. R. Alexander, B.A., J. C. Thamotheram, B.A., T. Sara-





T. SARAVANAMUTTU, Esq., M.A., (Madras)
M.Sc., (Calcutta.)
(Old Boy)

vanamuttu, B.A., B.Sc., were among those who were Staff during in charge of the Upper Forms of this Period the College.

Mr. C. P. Thamotheram, an Old Boy of the College, was on the staff from 1910 to 1912. He left Central and proceeded to Madras where he graduated. He is now Principal of another leading Methodist Institution, the Hartley College. Mr. J. C. Thamotheram succeeded his brother, and was a teacher at Central for a year.

Mr. R. R. Alexander, B.A., another of our alumni, was on the staff from 1911 to 1914. He later joined the Excise Department as an Assistant Superintendent, but what might have been a bright career was cut short by his death.

Mr. T. Saravanamuttu, B.A., B.Sc., one of our Old Boys who had a most scholastic and academic career obtained the M.A. Degree of the Madras University and the M.Sc. of Calcutta, and later obtained the B.Sc. Honours Degree of the London University. He gave up teaching and was undergoing a course of legal education with a view to qualify as an Advocate, when death snatched him away in 1923. By his death, Jaffna lost one of its greatest intellects and the College, one of its most distinguished alumni.

Mr. G. W. Tamber, who left in 1909 to take up law, returned to the College in 1913. Messrs. S. Amoothalingam, R. Sabapathy, B.A., M. Chittampalam, J. V. Dharmarajah, F. A. Hoole, V. S. S. Coomaraswamy, B.A., V. S. Karthigesu, K. S. Arulnandy, S. H. D. Selvamanicam, Misses E. Dassanayake and Loos were also on the staff during this period. Mr. V. S. S. Coomaraswamy left in 1917. Mr. V. S. Karthigesu left in 1917 to qualify for the legal profession. Mr. K. S. Arulnandy left in 1916 for higher studies. Mr. S. H. D. Selvamanicam left in 1916.

A review of the period of the Principalship of Mr. Wilkes will be most incomplete without a reference to his unbiassed and liberal outlook on matters educational and the part he played in his attempt to help the progress of education in this country on right lines. As

Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes and Education in Ceylon

mentioned earlier, he was a stout opponent of the Cambridge and London Examinations, and considered them "very unsuitable" to Ceylon. Though he always used dignified and restrained language he minced no words to condemn the manner in which those responsible for education in this country compelled the Jaffna Central College and other Jaffna Colleges to give up the examinations of the Indian Universities. He always held that the question papers of the Indian Universities to be much more suitable to Ceylon conditions than those set by English Syndicates. "England, as an examination centre is much too far away," he complained, and deplored that they were compelled to submit to a curriculum that was necessarily adapted to English conditions, and hence unsuitable to Ceylon. During his time the languages of the country were not even alternative subjects. The authorities of the Royal College and the South Ceylon schools believed in implanting English Public Schools in Ceylon and gave over much prominence to European Classical and Modern languages, even at the sacrifice of Science. Latin and Greek were the hall-marks of culture, and French and German went a great way towards making up the additional accomplishments of an educated lad.

Such a state of affairs was revolting to Mr. Wilkes. He and the Rev. A. G. Fraser of Trinity College, Kandy, were some of the earliest to protest against this policy of education which was highly detrimental to the best interests of the country. This led to some kind of a mild "agitation" for a reform of the educational system, and in 1911, a





A. MC. G. C. TAMPOE, ESQ., I.C.S.,
Inspector of Municipalities, Madras.
(Old Boy)

Commission with Mr. Bridge, an expert from England, as Chairman, was appointed. This Commission was to investigate into "the provision for a Secondary and Higher Education", and make their recommendations. Mr. Wilkes reviewing the terms of reference to the Commission appealed for provision for the teaching of the "vernacular" in English schools and for the inclusion of the Eastern classical languages—Sanskrit and Pali—among second languages, optional for higher examinations. He argued that it was unnecessary to teach Greek in Ceylon, and that Latin, if necessary, might be taught as a third language. He was in favour of making provision for the teaching of French and German "but these," he said, "should be regarded as of much less importance than Eastern Languages."

Mr. Wilkes, as early as 1911, suggested that there should be provision for a course of commercial education for the students who complete the secondary school course, and who thereafter are not likely to go in for higher University education. He even suggested that there should be provision for a two-year course of manual training in the middle forms of the College.

He always strongly favoured the establishment of a Ceylon University. This, he considered, would solve the problem of the unsuitable Cambridge and London Examinations, and further held that "such a University should co-ordinate the Medical, Legal, Engineering, Arts, Science, and other courses, and the usefulness of such a co-ordination is one of the arguments for the establishment of the University."

Mr. Wilkes and other educationists made representations on the above lines to the Education Commission. The Commission made its recommendations, and those of us who have anything to do with Education in this country know how much progress has been made since the Education Commission of 1911,

Mr. Wilkes went home on furlough in April, 1916, and did not return partly owing to the Great War and partly for family reasons.

Mr. Wilkes Retires Central lost a great Principal, whose administrative ability and grasp of educational matters

assisted its growth and development during a period in which the Institution was virtually rebuilt and re-established. Jaffna lost an able and courageous advocate of the true ideals of Education, and one who had strenuously opposed the imposition on this country of a system of education that was not adopted to our needs and conditions. A farewell address described him as "a devout servant of God, an upright gentleman, a friend of the Tamils and an admirer of their language and literature," and one who identified himself heartily "in all their legitimate aspirations." The great contribution of Mr. Wilkes for the development of the College was in no small measure supplemented by the whole-hearted co-operation of Mrs. Wilkes. Her interest in all the activities, and her presence and assistance at the functions of the College were always a source of encouragement.

Rev. E. T. Selby, acted as Principal for about a year from the retirement of Mr. Wilkes till the arrival of Rev. H. Bullough. A man

Rev. E. T. Selby of deep culture, an inspiring speaker and a facile writer, he ably administered the affairs of the College during his short tenure of office. He revived the "Central," which had been dormant since 1913 owing to financial difficulties, and adorned its pages with articles from his pen. He also inaugurated the Scout Movement in 1916.

Mr. Selby will long be remembered as a great Christian personality, in whose person was blended a singularly striking admixture of life, thought and action. His inspiring and thought-provoking ad-

dresses from the pulpit and the platform, his devout and contemplative Christian life, and his sincere devotion to duty, made him an asset to the school and a power for evangelical work. Mr. Bullough, writing about him later says, "He threw himself heart and soul into the activities of the two Colleges (Central and Kilner) and had left his mark both on individual character and on College life in general."

CHAPTER XV.

A PERIOD OF EXPANSION (1916-1922)

Rev. Harold Bullough, M.A. (Cantab), B.Sc. (Lond.), who succeeded Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes as Principal, arrived early in

Rev. H. Bullough 1917. He came to us with a record of academic distinctions, having obtained a First Class in the Natural Science Tripos at Cambridge and the B.Sc. Degree of London in Chemistry, Physics and Botany. He was also an experienced Science Teacher and had done eight years of ministerial work in North of England Circuits.

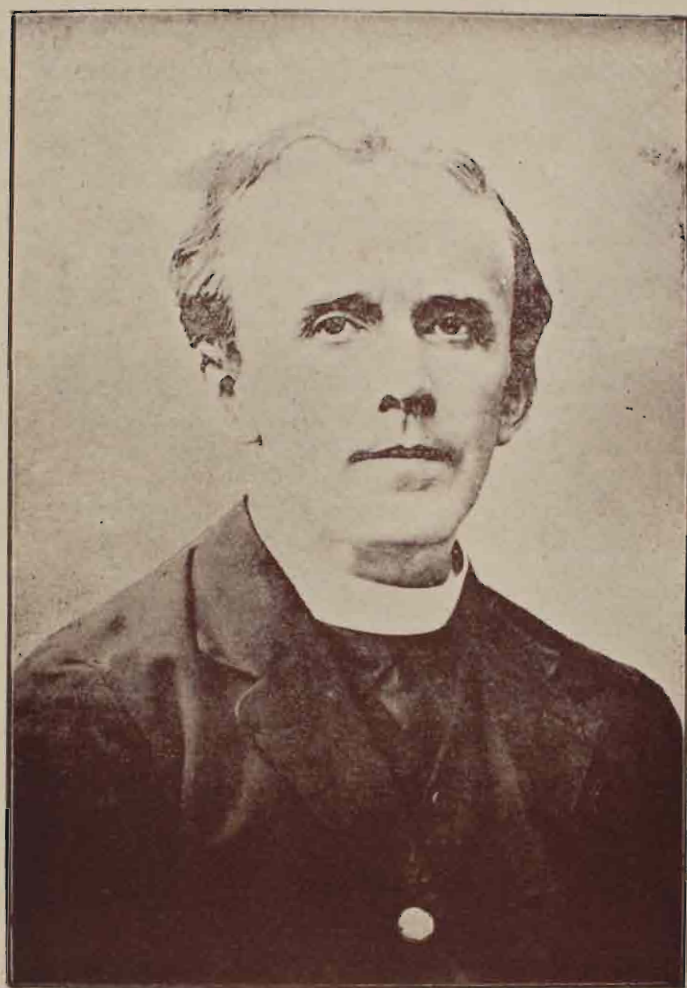
Mr. Wilkes had left the school in a financially sound and educationally efficient condition. The task before Mr. Bullough was to consolidate this position and build towards further expansion.

Mr. W. Romaine Cooke whose genius and work had been the pride of Central for nearly seventeen years, laid down his mantles of

The Departure of office and took to planting
Mr. W. R. Cooke in 1917. The void created by his departure has not been adequately filled even unto this day.

Mr. Cooke who came to Ceylon in 1900, with just an idea of spending a year or two in Mission work, was attached to our College. He soon fell in love with the work and the web of circumstances trapped him and converted him into a lay Missionary attached to the regular staff of the College as Vice-Principal and Lecturer in Science.

Mr. Cooke threw himself heart and soul into the work. Science was his scholastic speciality and the teaching of this subject was a labour of love with him. He would keep his students late in the evening,



REV. H. BULLOUGH, M.A. (Cantab.) B.Sc. (Lond.)

Principal 1917—1921.



awaken their interest with his lucid exposition and practical demonstrations, and successfully instill into their minds the principles of Chemistry and Physics in those good old days when text-books were few and laboratory equipments meagre. The laboratory itself was designed by him and built under his direct supervision. The gas plant, water system, and all internal fittings and furniture were products of his skilful efforts.

Mr. Cooke's usefulness to the College was not confined to the class-room and the laboratory. He was the architect and engineer of almost all the Wesleyan Mission buildings erected during his tenure of office. The two-storyed Assembly Hall of this College, the Kilner College Hall, the pulpit of St. Peter's Church, the Punnalaikadduvan Methodist School buildings, the Puttur Methodist Training School Hall and Dormitory, the Vembadi Girls' Boarding School Hall and Dormitory, the Wesley-house,—the quarters of the Principal of this College—are all enduring monuments that bear ample testimony to his skill and ability.

He was, besides, blessed with great musical and artistic gifts, which he used to the advantage and benefit of the College. He always presided at the school piano and the Church organ, and the College choir trained by him, enlivened the school functions and the devotional services in the Church. During dramatic performances, he would paint scenes, design costumes, build up the stage and generally assume the role of director and dictator. The beautiful maps he painted for the Geography Department and the ornamental garden set up by him in the College quadrangle bear further testimony to his artistic talents.

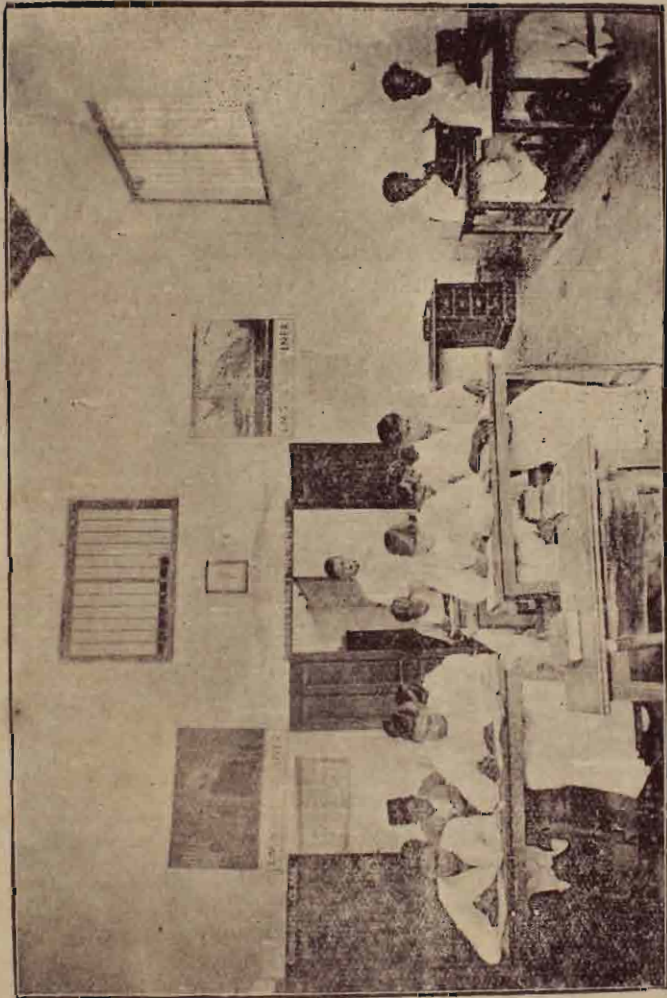
Mr. Cooke was also a power for order and discipline. But Mr. Cooke, the man, was greater than all these. Behind the exterior of the stern dis-

ciplinarian there was concealed a large-hearted personality. He was a noble Christian worker ever willing to afford solace and comfort to his pupils in distress and affliction. He would nurse the sick with tenderness and kindness, he would comfort and encourage the grief-stricken and would ungrudgingly give all financial and personal help to those in need; he would serve with humility.

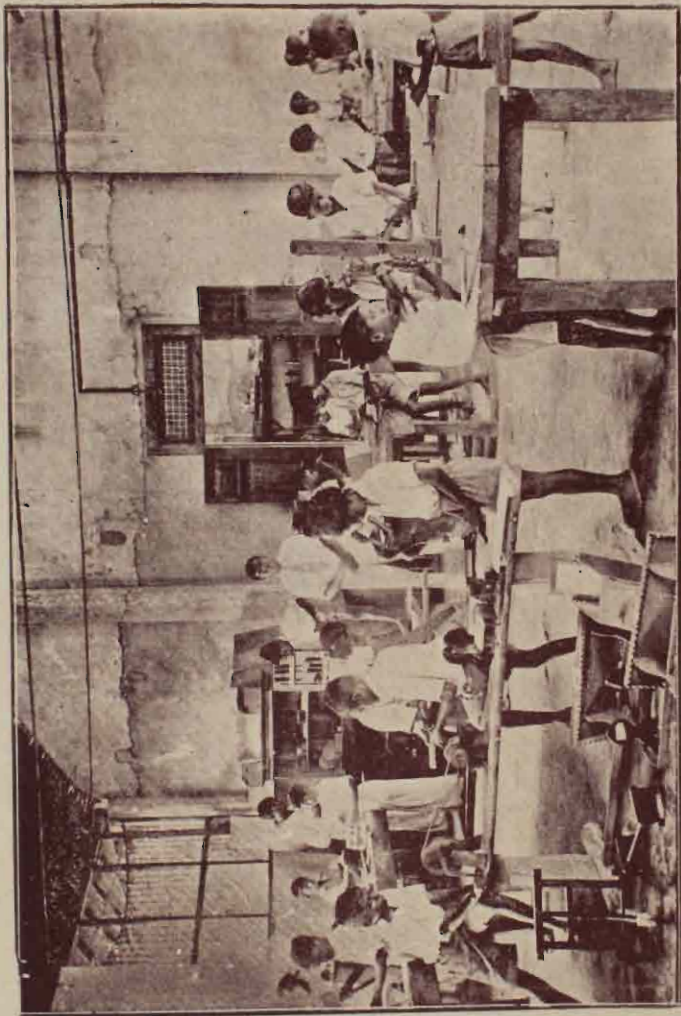
He is gone from Central but his name and contribution live in the annals of its history.

Mr. Bullough found that there was inadequate provision in the curriculum of studies in Ceylon Schools for Nature Study and Biological Sciences. Rev. Fr. **Changes in the Curriculum** Le Goc and he emphasised this defect at the first All-Jaffna Conference of teachers organised by the Department of Education. Mr. Bullough sought to remedy this defect at Central and started in the middle forms a course of Nature Study which included simple lessons in Botany and Zoology. He himself took these classes and made them very interesting to the pupils. As aids to these classes, he also started a miniature museum of biological specimens and housed it in the library (the present Teacher's room). Later Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam who was interested in the study of Ancient History of Ceylon added to this museum a collection of old coins and other relics of historical importance. This museum and a number of pictorial sketches drawn by Mr. Bullough have been absorbed into the Botanical Laboratory and are still being made good use of.

Mr. Bullough also gave practical shape to the wish of Mr. Wilkes and introduced a course of commercial education in the College. He set apart a portion of the newly erected Percival Hall for the Commercial Class rooms and appointed in 1920 the present Commercial Instructor Mr. K. Navaratnam,



COMMERCIAL CLASS, 1934.



MANUAL TRAINING CLASS, 1934.

F.C.I. (B'ham), F.C.T.S. (Inc.) The School is now equipped with a well-organised Commercial Department which is the only one of its kind in this part of the Island. Students in this department are taught Book-keeping and Accountancy, Commerce and Finance, Theory and Practice of Commerce, Office Routine, Shorthand, Typewriting, Income Tax (Theory and Practice), Commercial Arithmetic, Commercial English, and Commercial Geography. They are prepared for the Commercial and Higher Commercial Education Certificate Examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce. As practical aids to this course the students run a Co-operative Books and Stationery Stores, and keep the accounts of the Wesleyan Mission Agents Co-operative Credit Society.

The Commercial Education imparted in this College provides an easy avenue for employment in our country, where the problem of unemployment among educated youths has not so far been satisfactorily solved. This great step of providing a useful course of vocational education is further evidence to the fact that those who were in charge of our College were men of far-sighted vision and readily made adjustments to suit the needs of the country.

The building fund accumulated by Mr. Wilkes encouraged Mr. Bullough to venture upon a building programme. The ancient build-

Extensions under ings of the Rigg Hall were
Mr. Bullough found inadequate to house the
increasing number of resident
students. A spacious hall to be used as a dormitory (the present study and dining hall) was therefore built. This was opened in 1918 and the opening function was followed by a concert and dinner.

The block of buildings behind St. Peter's Church were put up to meet the increasing demands for accommodation in the day-school. This was christened the "Percival Hall" and the Com-

mercial Department was housed in 1920 in a portion of this building. The remaining rooms were used for other classes.

A class-room adjoining the Science Laboratory (the present Science Lecture Room) was also put up by Mr. Bullough and the Matriculation class was accommodated in it. Another room with the Jordan Tower, designed by Mr. Cooke, was built adjoining this new class-room wherein were housed the Library and the Nature Study Museum. The Old Boys' Association donated Rs. 1,000 towards the extensions.

Mr. Bullough also persuaded the Home Committee to provide the Principal of the premier Methodist Educational Institution of Ceylon with a bungalow. The "Wesley-House," the present Principal's bungalow, was built during this period on a grant by the Missionary Society.

If success at examinations is an index of the efficiency of a school then the position of Central was very encouraging during this

Progress and Success period. During 1918, nine students passed the London Matriculation Examination, one being placed in the First Division; five passed the Senior Cambridge Certificate Examination and eight the Junior, one obtaining First Class Honours with two distinctions, and another Second Class with one distinction. In 1919, eleven students were successful at the London Matriculation, two being placed in the First Division; out of nineteen students presented for the Senior Cambridge Certificate Examination, sixteen passed with two Honours and four distinctions, and eleven got through the Junior with one Honours and four distinctions. During 1920, six passed the London Matriculation with one in the

First Division; fifteen were successful in the Senior, five obtaining Honours with four distinctions and fifteen got through the Junior with one First Class Honours and three distinctions.

The Y.M.C.A. continued to be the most important extra-curricular activity of the College.

Extra-curricular Activities

During this period it was divided into two sections, the Senior and the Junior. The students from the Second Form downwards were eligible for the membership of the Junior Branch and the others for the Senior. The Association maintained its dual character and was both literary and religious. Debates on current topics, speeches and essays by the members, addresses by distinguished outsiders and the editing of a paper entitled "The Herald," were the activities of the Literary Section. Prayer meetings, study classes, open air propaganda meetings and evangelistic campaigns to the neighbouring islands, Mandativu, Allapiddy and Mancumpan, constituted the religious activities of the Association. Special Bible Classes conducted by the Principal on Sundays were a new feature of the religious side of the work since 1917.

The Scout Movement, inaugurated in September, 1916, was organised and developed during this period. In 1917, there were as many as five patrols and great keenness was reported to have been evinced in qualifying for and obtaining badges in quite a number of hobbies and handicrafts of practical value. The movement was made use of to place before the students noble ideals of life and to train them in the arts and crafts of every day importance. Lessons in self-reliance and self-control were unconsciously instilled into the young minds by means of numerous activities that generally captivated their interest. Scouters of the period derived benefit from the movement and made it a great success at Central. K. Kanagaratnam, a Patrol Leader, almost risked

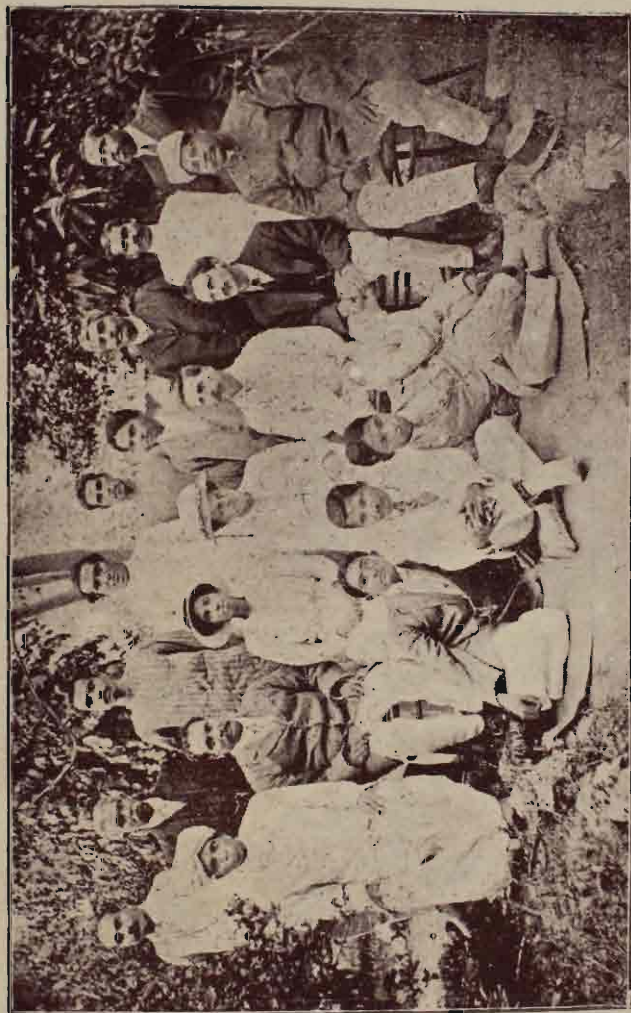
his life and saved a fellow student from drowning in the sea. This Scout and M. Christodas were two of the first King's Scouts from Jaffna. Mr. S. C. Thevathasan who was Scout Master since the inception of the movement at Central and Mr. I. Rasanayagam rendered yeoman service and contributed considerably towards the early success.

A Cub Pack organised in 1920 widened the scope of the movement and extended its activities even among the little ones of the College.

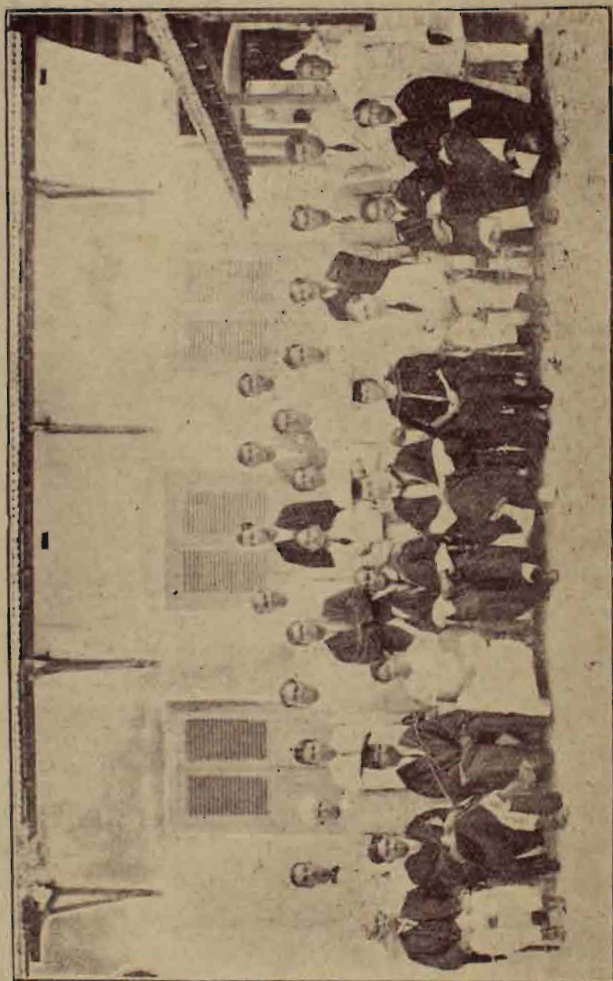
All-round success characterised the sports activities of the period. Central at this time was a factor to be reckoned with in Athletics,

**On the Field of Cricket and Football.
Sport**

The Cricket team of 1917 was one of the strongest ever put on the field by Central. It consisted of I. Rasanayagam (Captain), C. Navaratnam (Vice-Captain), A. E. Alexander, K. Kanagaratnam, V. Nadarajah, A. Kanagarajah, A. Thiagarajah, G. Joseph, J. S. Amarasingam, S. C. Alagaratnam with A. S. Philips or P. K. Chanmukam, or S. Sithamparapillai as eleventh man. This team swept everything before them and came top in the Inter-Collegiate Competition, but on account of a technical error in one of the matches the Championship for the year was not declared. I. Rasanayagam, the Skipper was very successful with the bat and twice scored centuries during the season, and K. Kanagaratnam and A. Kanagarajah performed many bowling feats. Mr. A. Kanagarajah is one of the star bowlers of the Tamil Union, Colombo, and has met with considerable success in first class cricket in Ceylon. Mr. I. Rasanayagam has also figured in first class cricket and played in the Tamil Union and Nondescripts Cricket Club first teams. He is a leading member of the Ceylon Cricket Association and has been its Secretary.



THE STAFF, 1916.



THE STAFF, 1926.

The Doraisamy Cricket Cup won by Central in 1915 was retained in 1917. It was again won by us for the third time in 1919 and became our permanent trophy. R. R. Arunachalam captained the team in 1919 and S. C. Alagaratnam, A. Kanagarajah, V. Nadarajah, A. Philips, A. P. Selvaratnam, A. Sidney Philips, and Ronald Jayatilaka were among its members.

The leading batsmen of the period were I. Rasamayagam, A. E. Alexander, V. Nadarajah, C. Navaratnam and S. C. Alagaratnam. The chief bowlers were A. Kanagarajah, K. Kanagaratnam and A. P. Selvaratnam.

During the year 1918, the (now defunct) Jaffna Sports Club organised a Gymkhana Meet. Gate Mudlr. T. Karalapillai offered a Challenge Shield for competition. We were among the five Colleges that competed and on the number of points scored Central and Manipay Hindu College tied for the first place. The Judges ruled that Manipay Hindu College should be awarded the Shield as they had obtained more first places than we. The name of Central which had tied for the Championship was not even to be inscribed on the Shield. Someone had blundered and we put up with the decision in the name of sport. M. Chinniah and J. S. Amarasingam did well for the College in the Meet. G. K. Joseph and V. S. A. Ratnam who obtained the First and Second places in the last event—the mile race—created a sensation in obtaining just the number of points that Central required to tie for the Championship.

The College again obtained the Championship in the Inter-Collegiate Athletics Meet held in 1921 in connection with the King's Birthday Celebrations. A. Dharmaratnam and T. Nadarajah did well for Central in this meet.

The Muttucumaru Football Challenge Cup (offered by Maniagar V. M. Muttucumaru) was won by us in 1917. The team consisted of R. R. Arunachalam (goal), N. Rasalingam, A. E. Alexander or T. Nagarathnam (backs), A. Thiagarajah, I. Rasanayagam, R. Kanagasabai (half-backs), S. C. Alagarathnam, C. Navarathnam, J. S. Amarasingham, S. Thangarajah and K. Kanagarathnam or G. Joseph (forwards).

A. E. Alexander captained the team during the early part of the season and later K. Kanagarathnam. The Cup was again won in 1919 and 1920 and became another of our permanent trophies. A. E. Alexander, N. Rasalingam, R. Kanagasabai, (R. Kandiah), C. Navarathnam, J. S. Amarasingham, G. Joseph, R. R. Arunachalam and S. C. Alagarathnam were the leading players of the period.

His Excellency, Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon, visited the College in 1919. He addressed the students and
Distinguished commended the work of the
Visitors institution.

Sir John Randles, a prominent Methodist and a Member of Parliament, visited the College in 1920. He delivered a public lecture in the College Hall on "The Houses of Parliament." Sir Anton Bertram, the Chief Justice of Ceylon, presided and Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai who was present on the occasion offered comments.

A meeting of the Colombo Branch of the Old Boys' Association was held on 2nd March, 1912.

The business Meeting was followed by a Football Match on
Prize-days and the Tamil Union Grounds, and
other Functions a Public Meeting at the Wesley College Hall. Rev. H. Bullough presided, and the speakers were Messrs. W. Wadsworth, B.A., District

Judge, Colombo, Leigh Smith, M.A., Principal, Government Training College, W. R. Watson, B.A., B.Sc., and Rev. A. E. Restarick, B.A.

The Prize-day and the Old Boys' Day of 1919 were both held on 22nd February. The cricket match between the Old Boys and the College was followed by a business meeting and a garden party. Mr. E. B. Denham, Director of Education, presided at the Public Meeting and distributed the prizes. The chief speaker was Rev. K. C. McPherson, Principal, St. John's College. A poem on the "Armistice" composed by the late Mr. R. R. Gunaratnam and recited by a student was highly commended by the Director.

The Colombo Branch of the Old Boys' Association met again on the 28th November, 1920. After a soccer match and a garden party, a Public Meeting was held. Mr. Bullough presided, and Rev. A. E. Restarick, B.A., was the chief speaker.

A Prize-day was held on the 13th November, 1920. Rev. J. A. Barker presided, and Mrs. B. Constantine, wife of the Government Agent, distributed the prizes. Mr. W. Goudie, the Wesleyan General Secretary for India and Ceylon and Mr. Robert Simpson, a prominent English Methodist, addressed the meeting.

A successful Old Boys' Day was held on 11th February, 1921 at Jaffna. After a cricket match and a garden party a Public Meeting was held. Messrs. H. Peto, Principal, St. John's College, W. G. Spencer, Science Master of the College, and Nevins Selvadurai, Principal, Hindu College, spoke on the occasion.

The Prize-day held on 7th October, 1921, during the Acting Principalship of Rev. H. R. Cornish, was presided over by Rev. J. Eagle of Kingswood College,

Kandy. The chief speakers were Mr. R. H. Leembruggen, J.P., retired Inspector of Schools, and Mr. H. Vanderwall, the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Northern Province.

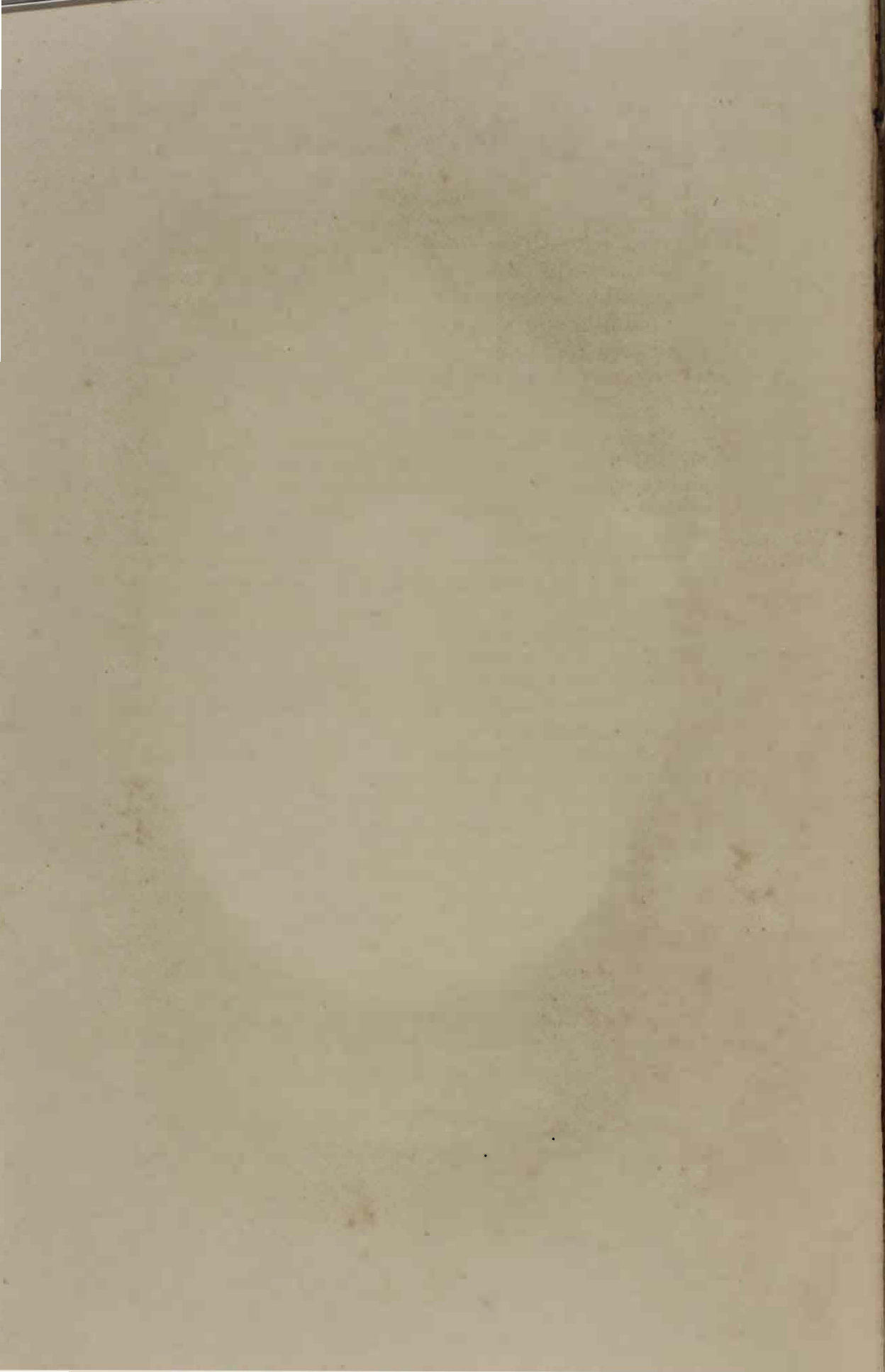
Central and Kilner Colleges and the Methodist Education Department sustained in 1920 an irreparable loss in the death of **Mr. S. A. Edward**, **Mr. S. A. Edward, B.A., L.T., B.A., L.T.** Head-master and later Principal of Kilner College (sometime known as Peter's School and Chetty Street High School).

Mr. Edward, who was born at Kopay in 1867, received his early education at the Kopay Church Missionary Society School and the Anglo-Vernacular Training School. He then proceeded to India where his brother Mr. Paulpillai was a teacher and passed his Matriculation from the Tranquebar Lutheran Mission High School obtaining a First Division and coming out third in the whole University. He passed the F.A. from Negapatam Wesleyan College again securing a First Division and being placed seventh in the whole University. He graduated from the Madras Christian College. He also received a course of training at the Government Training College, Saidapet and obtained the L.T. Diploma. He was appointed Head-master of the Wesleyan Mission Chetty Street High School, Vannarponnai, in 1895, and for twenty-five years he arduously laboured in the cause of education. A gentleman of high intellectual quality and character, simple and unassuming in his ways, conscientious and thoroughly efficient in service, Mr. Edward will go down to posterity as one of the great landmarks in the educational progress of this country.

As a very able teacher of Mathematics, Mr. Edward won the esteem and regard of his pupils. Among the more brilliant of his pupils, who later distinguish-



S. A. EDWARD, ESQ., B.A., L.T.,
Principal, Kilner College,
1895—1920



ed themselves with the help of the sound earlier training in Mathematics they received from Mr. Edward, might be mentioned the names of Messrs. T. Saravanamuttu. M.A., M.Sc., F. H. V. Gulasegaram, M.A., and S. S. Navaratnam, B.Sc., C.C.S., Mr. Edward also published a series of well-graded text-books in Arithmetic for the Primary Classes which are still in use in many of the Ceylon Schools.

An extract from an appreciation written by Mr. Bullough bears further testimony to the life and the work of this great teacher and devout servant of God. "His career is a sign of the times ; he has set a standard of conscientiousness of absolute integrity, of splendid reliability and loyalty which will have a direct influence on his students and on a wider public, and will be a constant rebuke to those in Jaffna who plead custom, tradition, and general usage when they would justify financial crookedness." One who followed him at the Madras Christian College says truly—"He was pre-eminently a straight man . . . absolutely genuine and honourable, a Christian to the core . . . loyal to his Master to the end of his life.' Mr. Vanderwall, Inspector of Schools, says 'I considered him one of the best types of Tamil gentlemen I met at Jaffna'. His influence on the character of boys placed in his charge must have been invaluable. There was something quiet and reserved about Mr. Edward, which, however, on further experience was found to blossom into a sweet sincerity. It was a means of grace to visit him, it was inspiring to witness his quite courage and unselfish steadfastness to duties which were become too heavy for him. And the source and spring of all this loyalty, trueness and sweetness, are to be found here—Christ was in him 'the hope of glory.' "

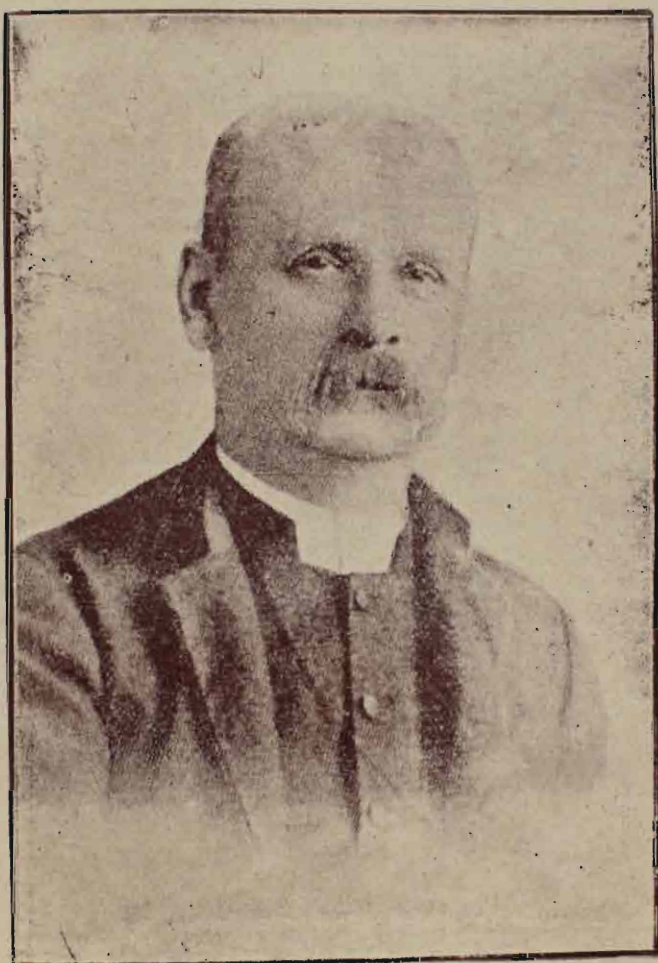
During the year 1920, the North Ceylon District and the College lost in the person of the Rev. G.

Rev. George J. Trimmer J. Trimmer a great 'Christian soldier.' He had gone home on furlough and though weary of work and worn out with sickness, he was confidently hoping to return. But that was not to be, the sudden call came and one of the great pro-consuls of the Mission Field was no more.

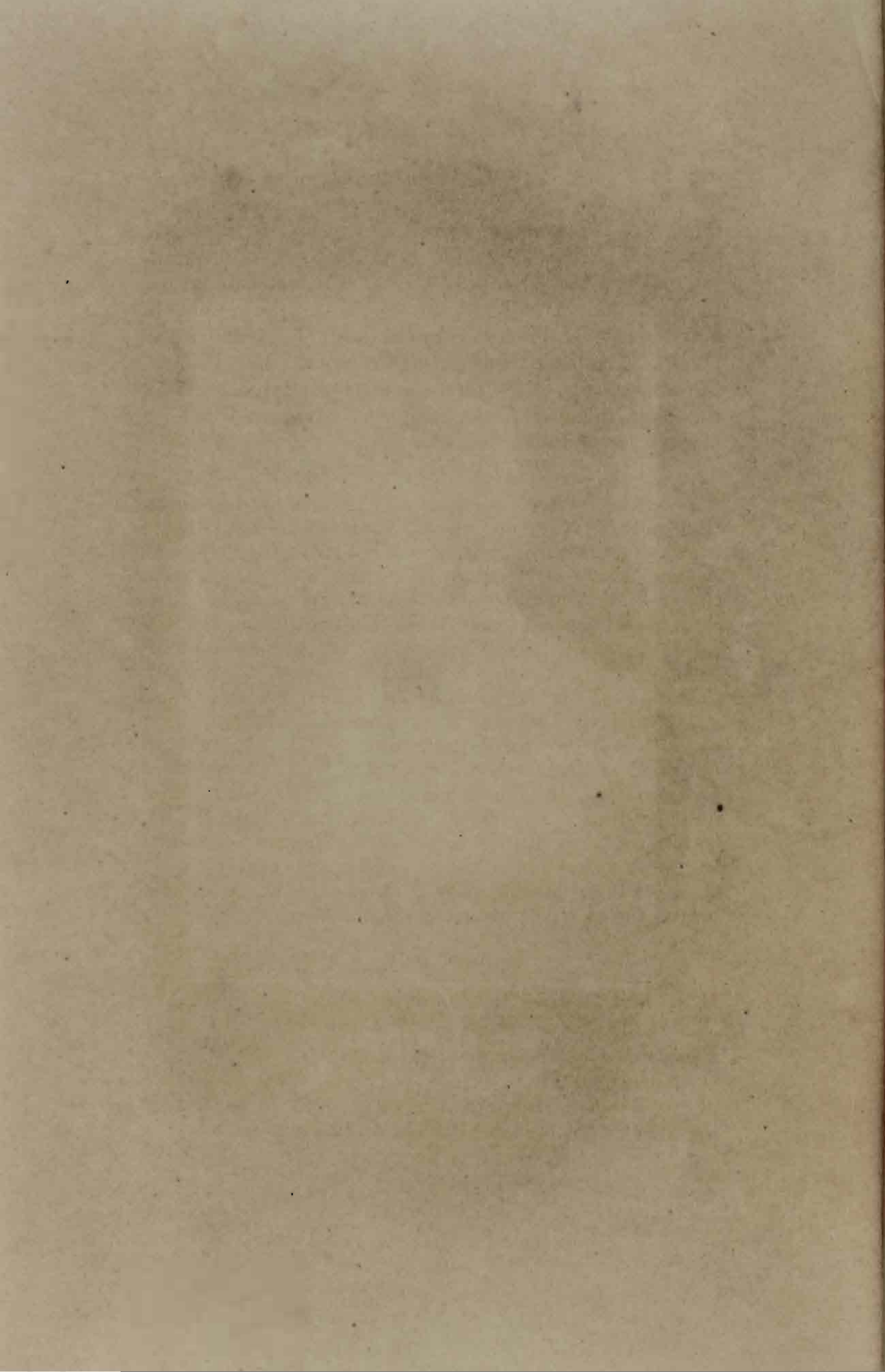
The Rev. Mr. Trimmer came out to Ceylon in 1877, and was appointed Chairman of the North Ceylon District in 1890. He followed in the wake of his two illustrious predecessors, Rev. John Kilner and Rev. Edmund Rigg and set himself to the task of 'building up a living Church, extending the network of well-tested mission agencies to cover the area occupied and adapting them to meet the needs of the day as they arose.' He brought to his task the very qualities it needed, singleness of purpose, a devotion that seemed never to flag or feel discouraged, superb judgment and common sense.' 'His business capacity and administrative gifts found ample scope in the work of organising the growing churches of the District and extending its educational institutions.' His evangelistic fervour and spirited advocacy of Christian ideals made him a power in the land for the Mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Trimmer lived in this country for over 30 years, laboured for the welfare of the people of their fold and were held in high esteem by both Christians and Non-Christians. Their labour of love was abruptly brought to a close in 1920 and the Mission and its institutions were all the poorer for it.

The achievements of the Old Boys during the period continued to bring credit to the sound early education they received from their alma mater. Mr. V. Thambirajah won the Proctors' Intermediate Scholarship com-



REV. G. J. TRIMMER.
Manager, 1890—1920.



ing first in order of merit and secured the prize for the first place in Jurisprudence. Messrs. V. A. Paul, T. Arumainayagam, P. Casipillai, R. C. Carpenter, M. Kanapathipillai, S. C. Watson, A. Retnasabapathy, A. Pasupathy, P. K. Somasundaram, K. Kasipillai, K. Thambiah, J. Kanagarayer, V. S. Karthigasu, M. Cooke Thurairatnam, C. A. Niles and H. P. N. Ropes passed out as Proctors. Mr. V. S. S. Cumaraswamy. B.A., qualified as an Advocate. Mr. P. Vaitilingam, Advocate, was appointed Police Magistrate of Point Pedro in 1918.

At the Medical College First Professional Examination in 1919, three out of the four Gold Medals were won by Old Boys of Central. Mr. V. Sivalingham passed in the First Division winning the Gold Medals for General Proficiency and Chemistry and Mr. N. Sinnadurai passed in the First Division winning the Gold Medal for Biology. In 1921 at the second Professional Examination Messrs. Sinnadurai, T. Thamo-therampillai and V. Sivalingham came out first, second, and third in order of merit and each secured a first class. Messrs. Cyril Hoole and S. C. Thurairajah obtained a First Division in the First Professional Examination, the latter winning the 'De Silva Medal for Physics.' Messrs. W. A. N. Chanmukam, R. R. Tamber, V. Sivapragasam, T. Guruswamy obtained the Diploma of Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery (L.M.S., Cey.) during this period. Dr. V. A. Hoole graduated as a Veterinary Surgeon.

Dr. Gunaratnam Cooke who had obtained the M.S. and L.R.C.P. (London) and the M.R.C.S. (England), returned to Ceylon in 1919. He later obtained the M.D. (London) and specialised in Gynaecology. He is now acting as the First Physician of the General Hospital, Colombo, and is a leading member of the Medical Profession in Ceylon.

Mr. T. Cooke Jayaratnam passed in 1917 the Indian Civil Service Examination and was placed third in order of merit. Mr. Jayaratnam had a brilliant scholastic career at Central where he received his education up to the Cambridge Junior Local which he passed with First Class Honours. He went to the Royal College, won the Mathematics Prize and later the Scholarship to England. He obtained the Cambridge Tripos in Mathematics and Natural Science and passed the London B.Sc. He is now occupying a high position in the Indian Civil Service under the Government of India.

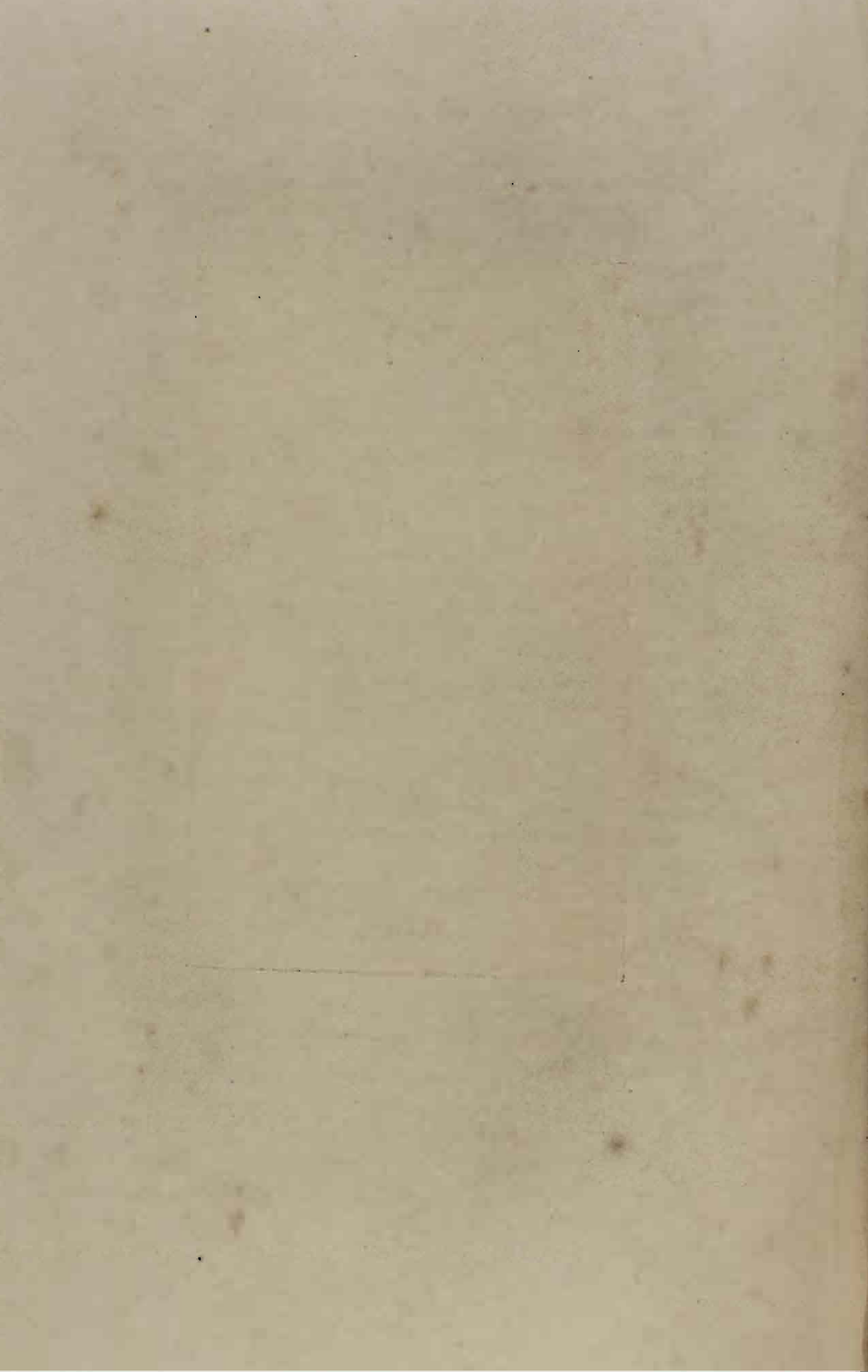
Mr. A. Sabapathy, a Vice-President of our Old Boys' Association, was nominated Second Tamil Member of the Legislative Council in 1918. He was Editor of the "Hindu Organ" (the only newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus), President of the Jaffna Association (the oldest political association in Jaffna), and Manager of the Jaffna Hindu College. His work in the Legislative Council was characterised by sobriety of judgment and a mastery of facts and figures.

During this period a number of our Old Boys secured academic qualifications. Mr. C. Sittampalam won the Scholarship to England in 1916 and obtained a Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge. Messrs. F. H. V. Gulasegaram, and J. C. Chinnappah passed the Madras M.A. Examination. Messrs. V. Muttucumaru and A. Cumaraswamy passed the Calcutta M.A. Examination. Mr. Saravanamuttu obtained a First Class in the Calcutta M.Sc. and also passed the Madras M.A. Examination. Messrs. S. S. Navaratnam, J. N. Arumugam and K. S. Arulnandy passed the London B.Sc. Examination.

Centralites rendered their quota of service for the Empire during the Great War. Mr. Nell was associated with the Flying Corps. Mr. A. Paramanathar who went to England as an engineering student



HON. MR. A. SABAPATHY,
Member, Legislative Council, 1918—1921,
Editor, "Hindu Organ," 1891—1924.
(*Old Boy*)



enlisted in the Royal Bach Hussars and was sent to the Dardenelles and to Egypt. He developed tuberculosis and succumbed a victim to the fell disease. Rev. H. A. Meek, once Principal of our College, served at the Western Front and won the Military Cross. Mr. P. Sambander served in the Army in France, Greece, Egypt and Palestine. Mr. Sambander is now Salt Superintendent, Jaffna, and an enthusiastic member of the Old Boys' Association.

Messrs. V. Rajaratnam and P. G. Thambiappah (P. Gurunathapillai) were successful at the examination for selection as Assistant Superintendent of Surveys.

Messrs. W. R. Watson, B.A., B.Sc., and F. H. V. Gulascgaram, M.A., were appointed to the staff of the Royal College in 1919 as Lecturers in Science and Mathematics. Mr. T. Saravanamuttu, M.A., M.Sc., joined the same year the staff of St. Thomas' College as Mathematics and Science Teacher. Mr. Retnasamy was appointed in 1921 as acting Lecturer in Tamil at the Ceylon University College.

Mr. Nevins Selvadurai, Vice-President of the Old Boys' Association was made a Justice of the Peace in 1921 in recognition of his services to the cause of education as Principal, Jaffna Hindu College.

Mr. W. Duraiswamy, B.A., Advocate, another Vice-President of our Old Boys' Association was elected Member for the Northern Province electorate in the Reformed Legislative Council in 1921. (His rival candidate was also another Old Boy of Central, Mr. A. Canagaretnam). Mr. Duraiswamy is the foremost leader of the Tamil community at the present time. He has been a member of the Legislative Council from 1921 to 1930. He declined to enter the State Council in 1931 for political considerations. He was the President of the Jaffna Association, the

Hindu Board of Education, the Saiva Paripalana Sabai and is now the Manager of the Jaffna Hindu College.

Mr. Julius F. Philips who was on the staff during the previous period left at the end of 1916 to study law. After completing his course of lectures at the Law College he returned to Central again as a teacher in 1918 and left in 1919. During his short stay Mr. Philips proved himself an able teacher of Mathematics and his histrionic talents were availed of with advantage by the College during dramatic performances and concerts. He is now practising at the Jaffna Bar as an Advocate.

Mr. S. C. Thevathasan joined the staff in 1915 and remained at Central till 1919. He was the first Scout Master of the College. He went to Trincomalee as Head-master of the Wesleyan Mission English School. He was later Head-master of Kilner College and Vambadi Girls' High School. From Vambadi he was transferred to Kingswood College, Kandy, and died there in 1933.

The present Vice-Principal, Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam, Mr. J. C. Charles (J. C. Durairajah), Mr. C. K. Sathasivam, and Mr. T. A. Karalakulasinghe, all Old Boys, were appointed as teachers in 1916. "Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam is developing on the same lines" (as Messrs. J. K. Chanmukam and L. P. Spencer), wrote Mr. Bullough in 1920 and the forecast was fulfilled not many years later. Mr. Charles went to the Training College at the end of 1916. Mr. Sathasivam did not stay long at Central and Mr. Karalakulasinghe left in 1918. The latter afterwards obtained the B.Sc. Degree of the London University and is now on the staff of Trinity College, Kandy.

Messrs. P. G. Thambiappah (P. Gurunathapillai), S. Veerasamipillai, G. C. Lee, A. V. Somasundaram, J. P. Tisseverasinghe, H. R. Ariacutty and Mrs. C. C. de Zilva joined the staff in 1917. Mr. Thambiappah, an Old Boy of the College succeeded Mr. W. R. Cooke in 1917 as Science Master. He left in 1917 and secured an appointment under Government as Assistant Superintendent of Surveys. He later resigned this job and graduated as a B.Sc. (London), and is now a Science Master at St. Joseph's College, Colombo. Mrs. de Zilva, a Dutch Burgher Lady from Galle, was a teacher of English in the middle forms till 1919. The others left in 1918.

Mr. W. M. S. Adams who was Art Master of the College for nearly 12 years left in 1918. Messrs. S. Sivaprakasam, B.Sc., and Sam Seevaratnam joined the Staff in 1918. Mr. Sivaprakasam left in 1919. Mr. Seevaratnam continued on the Staff till 1923.

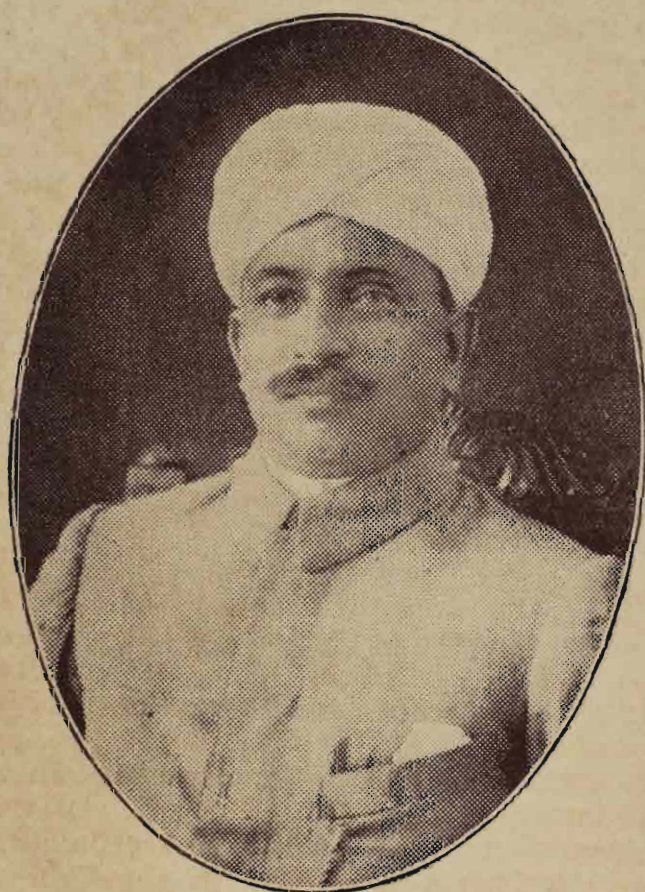
Messrs. W. G. Spencer, N. S. Samuel, B.A., S. J. V. Chelvanayagam, B.Sc., and S. A. C. L. Abdul Azeez were also taken on the staff in the middle of 1918. Mr. Spencer succeeded Mr. Thambiappah as Science Teacher. A keen sportsman and an enthusiastic Old Boy, he took much interest in the sports activities. As a successful teacher and a genial personality he won the affection of his pupils and the esteem of his colleagues during his short stay. He left in 1922 and proceeded to the University College where he graduated as a B.Sc. (London). Messrs. Samuel and Chelvanayagam left in 1919. Mr. Samuel is now an Assistant Inspector of Schools, Northern Division, and Mr. Chelvanayagam is practising as an Advocate at the Metropolitan Bar. Mr. Abdul Azeez who was Art Master and Scout Master rendered useful service during his short stay and left in 1919.

Mr. J. C. Charles came back to Central in 1919 after undergoing a course at the Government Training College. He is still with us and is now the First

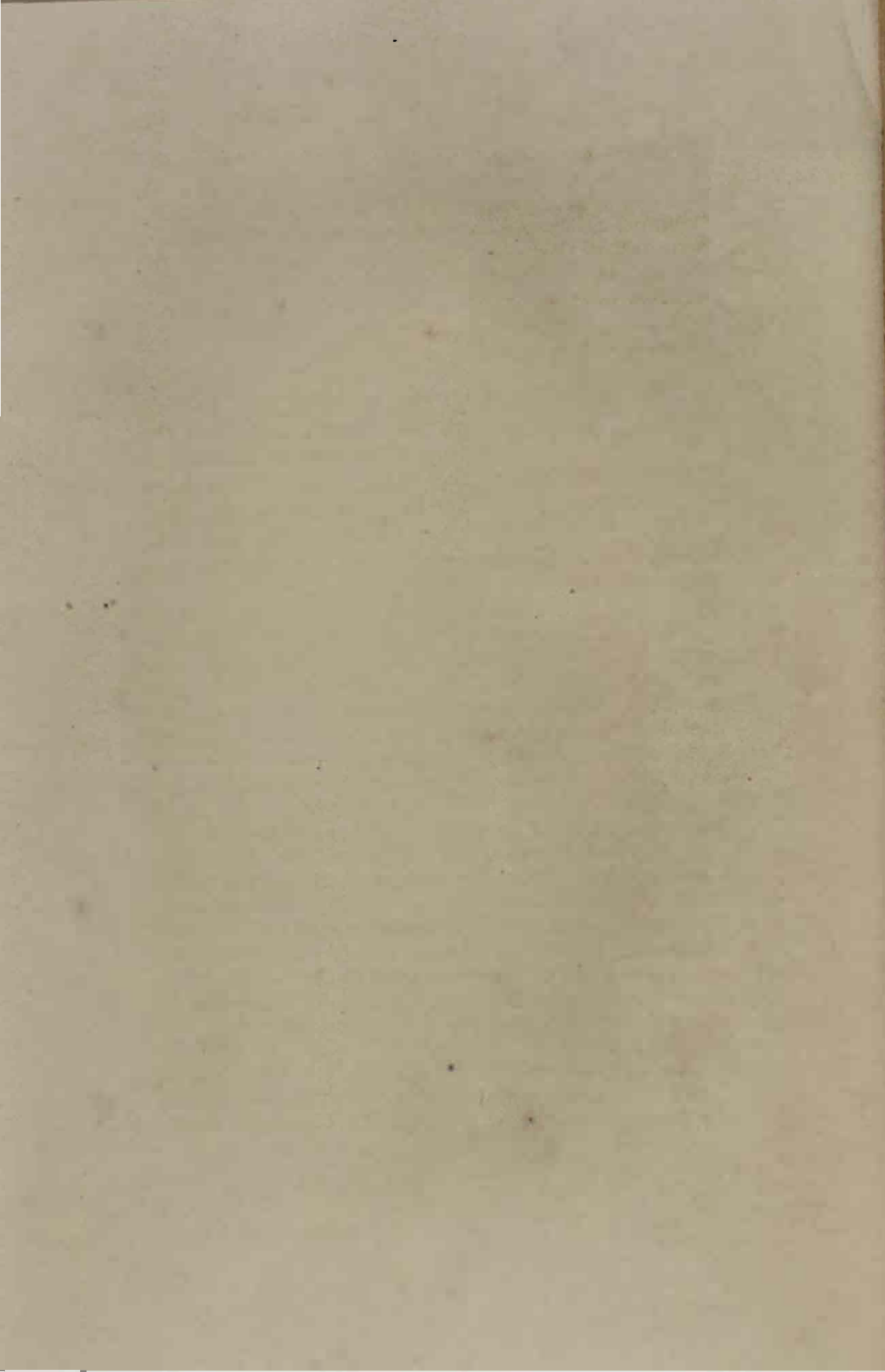
Assistant Master of the College. Messrs. H. P. N. Ropes, M. M. Kulasegaram, and K. Ayadurai were also appointed to the staff in the same year. Mr. Ropes left a year later and took to the legal profession. He was much respected during his short tenure of office, as a good teacher of his subject (English) and as a gentleman of amiable ways. Mr. Kulasegaram graduated as a B.Sc. (London) while at Central. He stayed with us for three years till 1922, and took a keen interest in sports and other College activities. As an able teacher of his subjects (Mathematics and Physics) and as a gentleman of noble qualities who heartily mixed up with the life of the School, he was held in high esteem and regard both by his pupils and his colleagues. He left Central to take up work at Royal College, Colombo, as Mathematics and Science Master. Mr. Ayadurai was a Chemistry and Mathematics teacher for nearly two years. A genial personality of winsome ways and a capable and conscientious teacher, he was much respected by his students and his colleagues. He left us in 1921 to take up to the more lucrative profession of the law.

Mr. V. Ramalingam (Thampoe) the Tamil Pundit, who joined the staff of the College during the eighties of the last century left in 1920. He served Central for nearly forty years. An able teacher and learned scholar of simple and unassuming ways, he was a typical Hindu gentleman of the last generation. He was for a long time the most senior member of the staff and was always given the honour of receiving and garlanding distinguished visitors to the College. His retirement and death removed from our midst a respected personality who was connected with the College for many years—a veritable land-mark in its history.

Mr. M. S. Chinniah who was a teacher in the Lower Department (1915-1920) left in 1920, after rendering useful service as teacher and Boarding Master. He



W. DURAISWAMY, ESQ., B.A.,
Crown Advocate.
Member, Legislative Council (1921—1930)
Manager, Jaffna Hindu College.
(Old Boy)



has since then taken to the Methodist Ministry. Messrs. V. S. Alagaratnam, A. Veerakathipillai, G. K. Joseph, K. Navaratnam, S. Kulandram, B. C. W. Jehoratnam, S. Amoothalingam, K. S. Rajaratnam, Navaneetha Krishna Bharathiar (Tamil Pundit) and F. D. Saminathan joined the staff in 1920. Mr. Navaratnam, the Commercial Instructor, is still with us. Messrs. Jehoratnam, Kulandram and Bharathiar left in 1921.

Mr. Bullough could not possibly stay long at Central. Mrs. Bullough was unable to stand the tropical climate of this coun-

Rev. H. Bullough try. Her health broke down
Retires and for that reason Mr. Bullough was compelled to return to England. He departed from Central on 21st February, 1921.

During his short tenure of office, Mr. Bullough contributed considerably towards the expansion and progress of this College. He provided for the increasing demand for accommodation by putting up useful extensions to College and hostel buildings, and widened the curriculum on lines that provided greater scope for the acquirement of scientific knowledge and vocational training. He also strove to set up a higher standard of education and to raise the intellectual level of the teaching profession, and with these aims he always took a leading part in organising and assisting educational conferences and associations. His students will remember him as a kind and interest-awakening teacher, whose simple exposition and encouraging words always kept even the most backward pupil interested in the lessons. He was to many a student a friend and confidant and many of them now engaged in various walks of life continue to be in touch with this father-like Principal of theirs whose advice and guidance they still receive in the form of inspiring epistles. In Christian Evan-

gelical work Mr. Bullough believed in the transforming influence of an intimate personal contact. His own words on this subject may be quoted with advantage "The Principal who, at the close of the working day, turns father, enters the dormitory before bedtime, and chats here and there, in English, or better still in Tamil, none the worse possibly for being laughed at by reason of his English dress, who sits with a cluster of youths round it may be, the bed of a little 'tamby' with chubby cheeks, and so enters into their lives, is a happy man, and I am sure, never more truly an evangelist than in those five or ten minutes. Of the aches of the pastoral spirit, the longing to be more free for such intimate fellowship and be-friending, to be more facile in pulling out the 'leisure stop and shutting off the Official!'"

Rev. H. Rupert Cornish acted as Principal for about a year till the arrival of Rev. P. T. Cash, the present Principal. He carried

Rev. H. R. Cornish on the policy adumbrated
(1921-1922) by Mr. Bullough. The Boarding House Extensions were completed during his tenure of office. The room for the library (the present Masters' room) built by Mr. Bullough was furnished and provided with the necessary equipments. Mr. W. R. Cooke's gift towards a school library, of the purse presented to him by the staff and students, was utilised for the purpose and the library was named 'Romaine Cooke Library.' It was placed under the able supervision of Mr. L. P. Spencer, assisted by Messrs. J. W. Arudpragasam and J. C. Charles.

Mr. Cornish also paid special attention to English Essay and elocution. The Literary Association was revived during his principalship and a period was allotted for it in the school time table. He would be present at every meeting of the Association and encourage and instruct the students in the art of writing well and speaking eloquently.

Mr. Cornish had a personality and charm of his own. He was endowed with sound common-sense and superb judgment. Though possessed of no academic distinctions, he was yet a man of deep culture with a high conception of the true ideals of life. Eloquent in speech and impressive in writing, his personality and life of simplicity were a source of inspiration to Central during his brief tenure of office.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE MODERN PHASE (1922-1927.)

The arrival of Rev. Percy T. Cash, B.A. (Lond.), B.Sc. (London), on the 12th May, 1922, marked the beginning of a new chapter in

Rev. Percy T. Cash the progressive expansion of the College during this century.

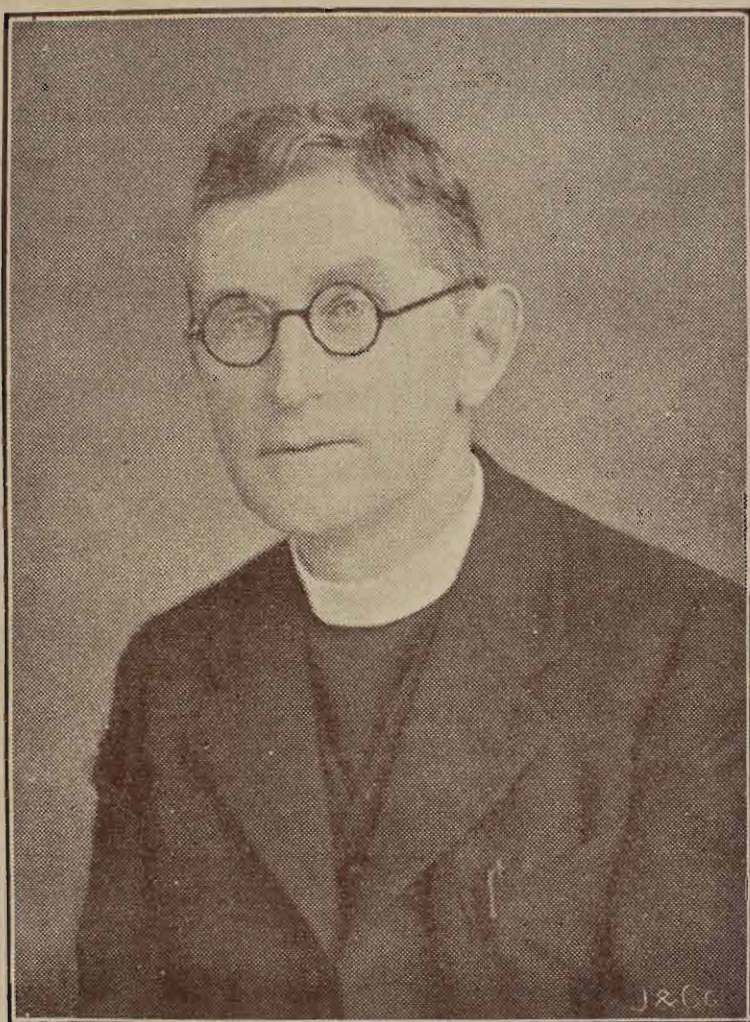
He came to us equipped with high intellectual attainments and considerable teaching and administrative experience.

Mr. Cash was an alumnus of the same school—Woodhouse Grove—as the Rev. A. Lockwood and the Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, and the latter was a junior master when Mr. Cash was a school boy there. After leaving school, he spent a year in business and then studied for three years at the University College, Nottingham. He was an Exhibitioner and Prizeman of the College in Biology and Geology and obtained the B.Sc., London, in Geology, Botany and Zoology, in 1904. He then spent two years at Richmond Theological College, Surrey.

In 1906, Mr. Cash was appointed Vice-Principal of Wesley College, Colombo, and continued as such till 1921. During this time—between 1906 and 1921—for two periods he was Acting Principal of Wesley College, and for two other periods, Acting Principal, Richmond College, Galle. He was also for some time a Lecturer at the Ceylon Medical College.

In 1921, he obtained the London B.A. Honours degree with First Class Honours in Philosophy.

Almost a month after the arrival of Mr. Cash, Central had to bid farewell to one of its great teachers



REV. PERCY T. CASH, M.A., B.SC., (Lond.)

Principal, 1922—

Member, Ceylon University College Council.

Mr. L. P. Spencer in the person of Mr. L. P.
Transferred to Spencer. But the loss to
Kilner College Central was a gain to Kilner
 College. This institution had

fallen on hard times after the death of Mr. S. A. Edward, and was in need of a personality to step into the breach and carry on the work. Mr. Spencer was selected for this onerous duty. He was equal to his task and for over six years skilfully managed the affairs of that institution and restored it to a state of security and efficiency.

The progress made by this country during the last one hundred years is in no small measure due to the unostentatious work

Mr. L. P. Spencer, of nearly five generations of
B.A., J.P. illustrious teachers. Among
 the great teachers of the last generation, Mr. L. P. Spencer occupied a place of honour.

Mr. Spencer comes of a respectable family of Chankuvily in the Uduvil Parish. He was born on 5th July, 1865, and had his early education at the Wesleyan Mission Preparatory School, Vannarponnai, popularly known as Peter's School. He first came to Central College in 1876, but soon after left for Batticaloa and returned again in 1879. He passed the Madras Matriculation in 1883, and proceeded to Nagapatnam College in South-India and passed his F.A. Examination as a student of that institution in 1884.

He joined the staff of Jaffna Central College in July, 1887, and was put in charge of the F.A. Class, preparing for the Madras F.A. Examination, in 1888. Messrs. S. Shivapadasundaram, B.A., W. Duraiswamy, B.A., M. M. Abdul Cader, B.A., Advocate, Batticaloa, C. S. Rajaratnam, B.A., Advocate, Kandy, Rev. K. S. Murugesu, B.A., L.T., and the late Mr. A. Canagaretnam, Editor, "Ceylon Patriot," were among his students at this period.

Mr. Spencer graduated in 1900, and was the First Assistant Master of this Institution for nearly 35 years. During his long tenure of office, he gave of his best to the College and contributed not a little towards its progress and development. He wielded considerable influence among the students, in whose welfare he always evinced a fatherly interest. He was held in high esteem and regard not only by his pupils but also by his superiors. His high sense of duty, his capacity for work, and his noble qualities as a man, won the appreciation and regard of a series of Principals.

Mr. Spencer had on many occasions acted as Head-master and displayed considerable ability for efficient administrative work. During the year 1900, under the Principalship of Mr. E. O. Martin, he acted as Head-master for over six months. The winning of the Gymkhana Cup at this time was due not a little to the enthusiastic efforts of Mr. Spencer.

When in 1922, the Mission was in need of a personality to set things aright at Kilner, Mr. Spencer was chosen and his six and a half years of work in that institution stands as a testimony to his administrative skill and organising ability.

He finally retired from the teaching profession in 1928, and the Government of Ceylon honoured him by making him a Justice of the Peace, in recognition of his services in the cause of education for over four decades.

Mr. Spencer was not a mere pedagogue. He took a leading part in all the public activities of this peninsula. He was Secretary of the Jaffna Association, the Tamil Maha Jana Sabai, and the Christian Provident Association. He is still with us and it is fervently hoped that he will be spared many more years to continue his life of service to this country.



L. P. SPENCER, ESQ., B.A., J.P.

Teacher, 1887—1922

The Protestant Missionary Educational Bodies in Jaffna had been endeavouring for a long time to establish a Union College to

Union College conduct Collegiate Classes. The Authorities of the Jaffna Central College and St. John's College ventured upon an experiment in this direction in 1922, and established a Union College at Chundiculy. The staff of the Institution was recruited from the staffs of the two Colleges, and students were prepared for the London Matriculation Examination. The success of the experiment was not encouraging and the project was abandoned after a year.

Central had discontinued collegiate classes along with the abandoning of Indian University Examinations about the end of the first decade of this century.

London Intermediate Classes But in 1923, Mr. Cash tried to re-introduce collegiate classes to prepare students for the London Intermediate Examination. He held that Intermediate classes were a great asset to the College as they retained (some of the most useful seniors in the School for an additional eighteen months, and their services in matters of discipline and *esprit-de-corps* was of the utmost value.)

During the first year, two—W. A. V. Sinnathamby and A. E. Tamber—out of the three students presented were successful in the Inter-Science Examination and the third one—M. Canagasundaram—was referred in one subject. The next year, another student—P. Cooke Selvaratnam—passed the Inter-Arts Examination.

But the classes had to be discontinued later owing to financial difficulties. The Government gives no assistance to Secondary Schools conducting Intermediate Classes. This is somewhat unfortunate in

view of the fact that even the Akbar Commission on the Ceylon University admitted the usefulness of provincial Secondary Schools conducting Intermediate Classes.

Mr. Cash excelled his predecessors in his zeal to so adapt the curriculum as to make the College always serve the true ideals of

Widening of the Curriculum education and the needs of the country. He held that a wide and varied curriculum pro-

vided greater opportunities to bring out the latent faculties of the young mind. "It is part of the present aim of Jaffna Central College," he wrote reviewing his work during his early years, "to endeavour to develop a curriculum which will emphasize matters that are practical as well as matters that are academic by means of a curriculum which is varied and comprehensive enough to appeal to different types of boys and to find out as far as possible what every boy's gifts really are."

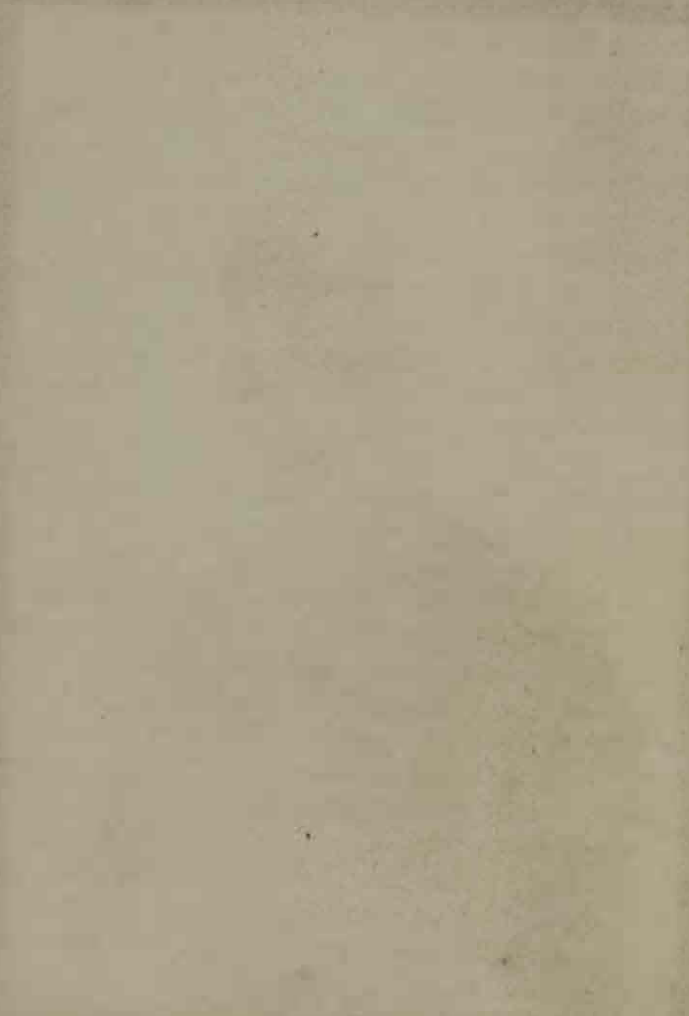
Tamil, the mother tongue of the children of this province, was struggling for a place in the curriculum. Mr. Cash made Tamil a compulsory subject throughout the College in 1923. He further felt that to the Tamil boy, whose language and culture had an intimate relationship with the Sanskrit language and literature, Sanskrit must necessarily be taught as the classical language. He lost no time in making provision for the teaching of Sanskrit as an optional subject and appointed in 1925 the present Tamil Pundit, Vyakarana Mahopadhyaya V. Ramaswami Sarma, who held high Diplomas from the Travancore State for proficiency in Sanskrit, to be in charge of Tamil and Sanskrit. But the utilitarian-minded Jaffna parent and an unsympathetic Department of Education made it difficult for him to continue the teaching of Sanskrit as a permanent feature of the curriculum.



MRS. P. T. CASH, A.R.C.M., L.L.C.M.

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Mr. Cash was also quick to realise that in a pre-eminently agricultural country like Ceylon, Botany with an agricultural bias would be a subject of great value. He promptly made provision for the teaching of Botany in the College, and in 1923, placed Mr. S. C. Gunaratnam, B.A., a graduate in Botany of the Madras University, in charge of the subject. Mr. Gunaratnam organised this department with enthusiasm and ability and created a taste for the subject among the pupils. The Botanical Association and the expeditions he organised went a great way to kindle interest and rouse the enthusiasm of the students towards the study of this Science. The first Jaffna boy to win the Sir Marcus Fernando All-Ceylon Agricultural Scholarship was a pupil of Mr. Gunaratnam. Master V. Kandiah who won the Scholarship declined to accept it, and it was awarded to Master V. Kulanayagam another student of Central who came second.

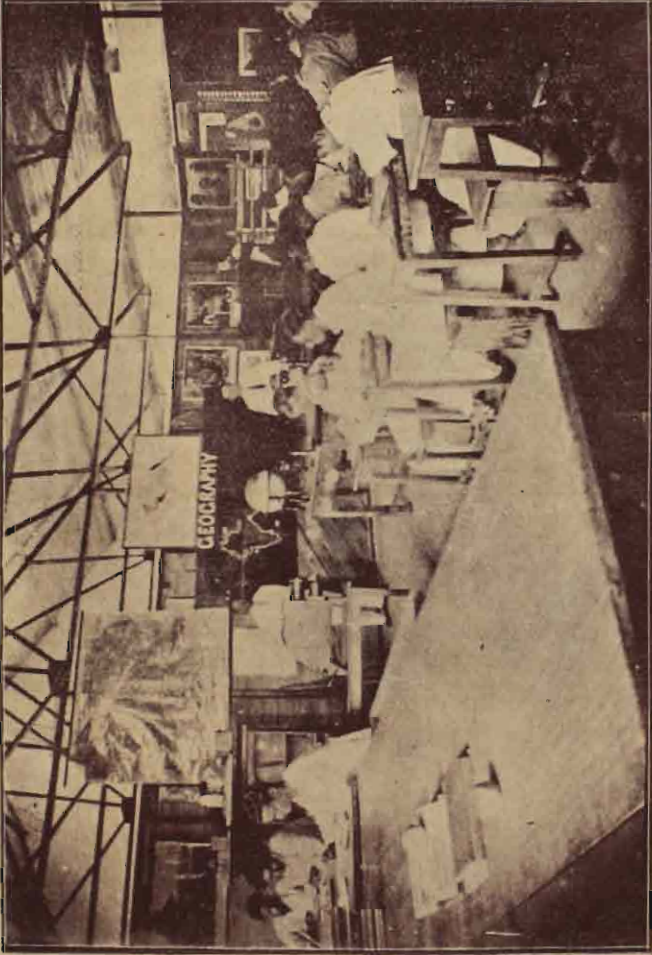
Geography was taught at one time at Central on fairly progressive lines, but Mr. Cash found that the subject was beginning to be neglected and treated as a subject of third-rate importance. He felt that this subject which was of great value to the commercial and industrial development of the country, should be restored to its proper place. He made Geography a compulsory subject in the Middle Forms and an optional subject in the Upper Forms, and provided facilities for the teaching of this subject on modern lines. Mr. J. C. Charles, the Senior Trained Teacher at the time, was placed in charge of the subject and, under this enthusiastic and energetic teacher, the Geography Department has developed into a unique feature of our educational work and has won the encomiums of visiting educationists and officials of the Department of Education.

Manual training is a subject of considerable vocational importance. It teaches the youth, besides the rudiments of carpentry and handicraft, the

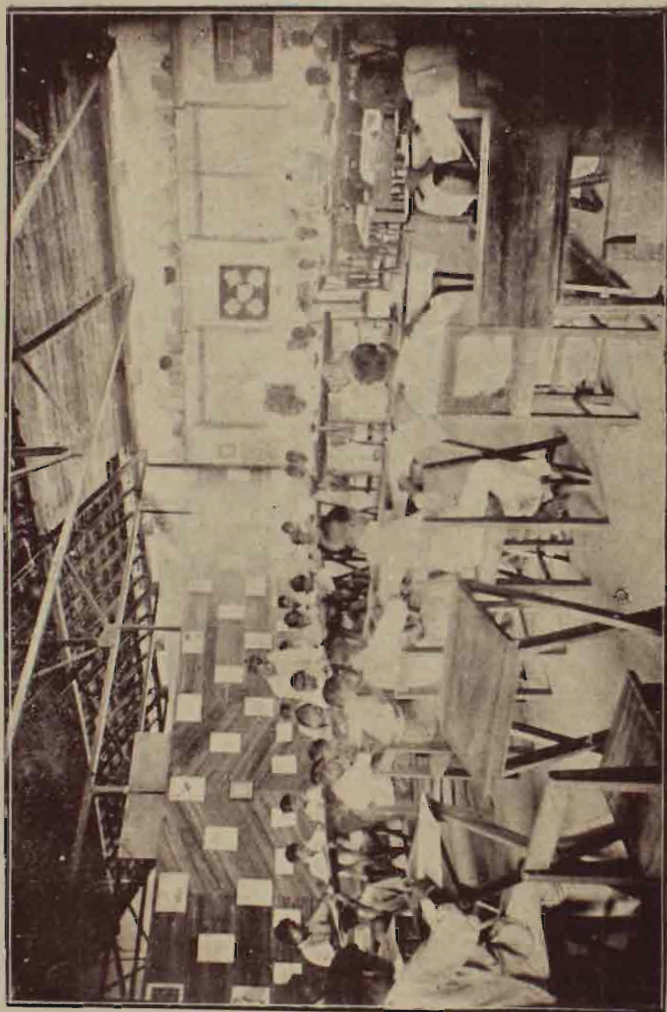
dignity of labour. Mr. Cash made provision for the teaching of this subject in the Middle Forms of the School. A Manual Training Department was opened on 9th March, 1925, by Miss Twynam, daughter of Sir William Twynam. Mr. Sam Seevaratnam, a Trained Teacher, holding the City and Guilds Certificate in Woodwork, was placed in charge of the Department. Mr. Seevaratnam who is an energetic and enterprising teacher, has conducted these classes on useful lines and the articles turned out by this department have adorned many an exhibition of school work and won the praise of visitors and educationists.

Music had been an important feature of the extra-curricular activities of the College in the days of Mr. Romaine Cooke. Since his departure, the musical activities were languishing for lack of encouragement and support. Mrs. Cash, an Associate of the Royal College of Music and a Licentiate of the London College of Music, revived the musical activities of the College. She re-organised the College choir and imparted special instruction to a few talented youths, some of whom reached such a degree of proficiency as to be able to preside at the College organ during the devotional exercises of the morning Assembly. Music has also been taught for some years from 1925 onwards, as a subject in the lower school. A few students, who showed an aptitude for music, were selected by Mrs. Cash and prepared for the Examinations of the Trinity College of Music, London. Master K. Mahendram passed the Preparatory examination in 1925, and Master George A. Chinniah, the Senior Examination in 1926 of the Trinity College of Music, London.

The teaching of Art also received a great impetus under Mr. Cash during this period. Mr. L. W. Ponnudurai was placed in charge of the Art Department and instruction in Drawing and Painting was given in the



GEOGRAPHICAL LABORATORY, 1934.



ART ROOM, 1934.

Art Room specially furnished and provided for the purpose. Since the organisation of this department, students are prepared annually for the examination of the Royal Drawing Society, London.

Mr. Ponnudurai, who is a First Class Certificated Drawing Teacher, has by his unostentatious and conscientious efforts organised this department so well, that it constitutes one of the special features of the College.

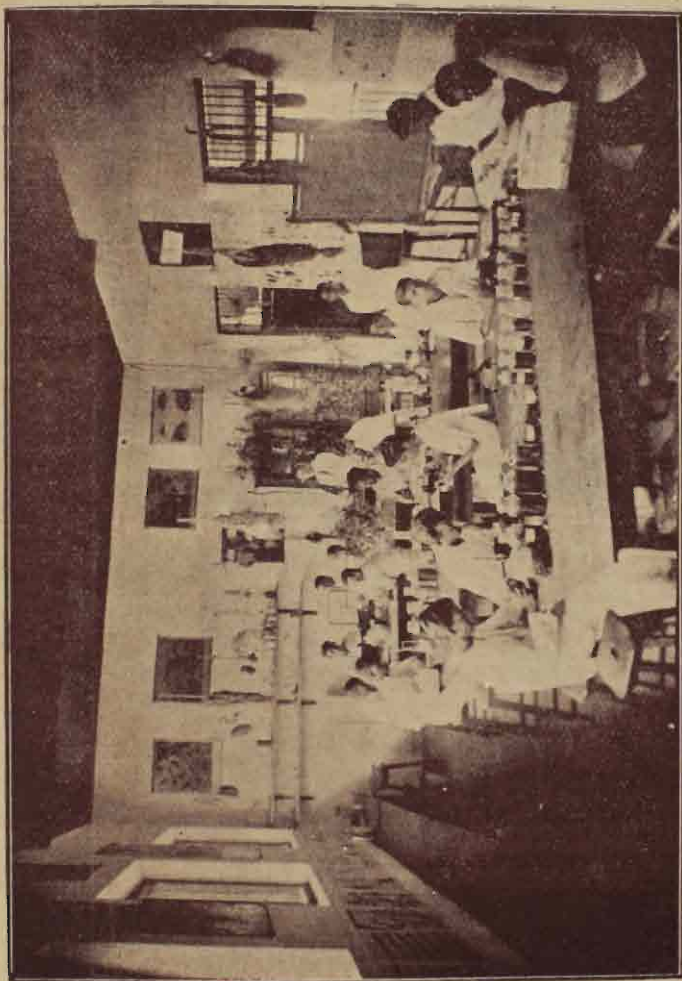
Mr. Cash did not merely widen the curriculum, but sought to provide adequate and spacious accommodation for the teaching of

Extensions the subjects in laboratories and classes. He initiated in 1924 an extension scheme to provide additional classrooms, laboratories, and offices for the College and the Principal. He persuaded the Home Committee to give a generous grant of Rs. 25,000, and secured from the Old Boys and friends of the College, donations amounting to Rs. 8,000. The major portion of the money was spent in putting up the magnificent two-storeyed structure on the Northern side of the College quadrangle. The foundation for this building was laid on 9th March, 1924. Rev. J. A. Barker, who was then about to retire from the Acting Chairmanship of the North Ceylon District, presided over the function. Rev. A. Lockwood, the permanent Chairman, was the Chief Speaker on the occasion. Special stones to commemorate the occasion were laid by the following :—Mrs. E. T. Selby, Rev. A. Lockwood, Mr. W. D. Niles (on behalf of the Old Boys), Mrs. Cash, the Principal (Rev. P. T. Cash), Mr. J. K. Chanmukam (on behalf of the Staff), Percival House (laid by Mr. C. I. Mathews, House Master), Wilkes House (laid by Mr. J. C. Charles, House Master), Romaine House (laid by Mr. S. A. Mann, House Master), and Bullough House (laid by Mr. G. K. Joseph, House Master).

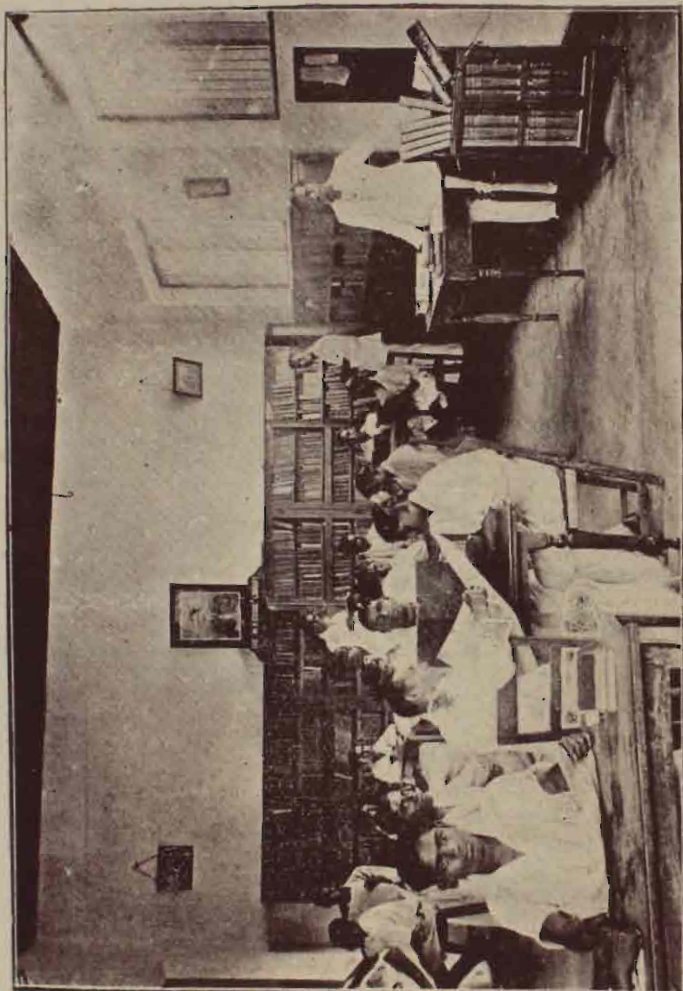
The buildings were completed and opened on 10th June, 1926. His Excellency, Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Ceylon, performed the formal opening. Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai, Mr. W. Duraiswamy, B.A., Dr. A. N. Cumaraswamy and the Rev. A. Lockwood, were among the others who took part in the function.

A re-arrangement of the class-rooms and laboratories was effected with the opening of the New Block of buildings. The "William Paul Botanical Laboratory" and the "Romaine Cooke Library" were housed in the two spacious rooms of the upper storey. The remaining rooms were used for the London Matriculation and Cambridge Certificate Classes. Two rooms were set apart as offices, one for the College and another for the Principal. The upper storey of the Assembly Hall was vacated of all class-rooms and converted into the "D. P. Niles Memorial Hall," wherein was housed the Art Room and the Geographical Laboratory. The room originally used for the Romaine Cooke Library was converted into the Masters' Reading Room and is being used now as such.

The newly-formed departments were also equipped and furnished at this time. The Botany Laboratory was furnished and provided with the necessary apparatus and other requisites. The Art Room was provided with suitable furniture, drawing models, art pictures, books and apparatus. The Geographical Laboratory was fully furnished and equipped with apparatus, maps, charts, picture albums and a library. The recent addition of an epidioscope has further improved the equipment of this department which compares most favourably with the best of its kind in the Island. There were also additions to the general furniture and equipments of the College.



BOTANICAL LABORATORY, 1934.



THE LIBRARY, 1934.

Mr. Cash has always been a great believer in organising and encouraging plenty of extra-curricular activities to stimulate

Extra-Curricular interest and enthusiasm in
Activities the youths and to provide healthy hobbies.

The Scout Movement received his warm encouragement and support. This movement with its ramifications of Cubs and Rovers has been a great success at Central. Among the four scouts chosen from Jaffna to represent Ceylon at the International Jamboree held at Wembley in London in the year 1924, three—T. M. Z. Mahamooth, P. Cooke Selvaratnam, and V. A. Wijayaratnam—were from Central and the other S. S. Selvanayagam was an Old Boy of Central.

The House System in its present form was also organised under the guidance of Mr. Cash in 1923. The College was divided into four houses—Percival, Romaine, Wilkes, Bullough, and were assigned colours as follows :—Percival—purple, Romaine—chocolate, Wilkes—blue and Bullough—gold. This system brings the masters into more intimate touch with the pupils, provides means of rousing healthy competition among groups of students and offers opportunities to discover and encourage their talents. The House Socials, Concerts and Annual Inter-House Sports Competitions are great occasions for the youths to display their diverse talents, to develop interest and enthusiasm and to cultivate the spirit of loyalty.

Mr. H. E. R. Goonawardene, a student of Rev. N. P. Campbell, of Trinity College, Kandy, who was well-known as a Social Service organiser, was on the Staff of this College in 1923. He had all the fire and enthusiasm of his teacher for social service and inaugurated in 1923 a Social Service League. This

League ran a dispensary and distributed medicine free to the sick. Jail and hospital visiting were some of the other features of its manifold activities.

A Tamil Literary Society known as the 'Tamil Kalagam' was also inaugurated in 1923 to work on the lines of the English Society. It held fortnightly meetings and provided opportunities for the students to develop the art of speaking eloquently and writing well in the Tamil Language.

A Temperance League was organised in the same year, 1923, under the inspiration and guidance of our great Head-master, Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, to educate the youth and to create public opinion against the evils of Drink. The League rendered yeoman service to the Jaffna Central Temperance League which secured by 'Local Option' the closing of all liquor shops and taverns in the Jaffna Peninsula.

The College Y. M. C. A. affiliated itself to the student Christian Movement of India, Burma and Ceylon in 1923. Bible study circles, fortnightly meetings, open air propaganda meetings and evangelistic campaigns to the neighbouring islands continued to be the chief features of its activities. The Sunday Bible Classes conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Cash, and the propaganda lectures at Vannarponnai constituted some of the other religious activities of the College.

A Teachers' Guild was inaugurated in September, 1925, to promote intellectual comradeship among the teachers. Mr. S. C. Gunaratnam, B.A., who was the first Secretary, in his own inimitable way, made the Association very popular among the teachers. Socials and lectures on educational topics constituted the main activities of the Guild.

An Association, called the Masters' Fellowship was inaugurated in 1923, to provide opportunities for the Principal and the teachers to meet and discuss religious topics, as aids to their religious life. Mr. S. C. Gunaratnam, B.A., was the first Secretary of this Association, and was later succeeded by Mr. K. C. Jacob, B.A.

Success did not always crown the sports activities of this period and Championships were more often lost than won. But we

Sports Activities held our own and many a valiant effort characterised the achievements of these years.

In Cricket, the College tied for the Championship with St. John's College in 1924. During the previous year, 1923, we won two out of the three Inter-Collegiate matches played. The leading cricketers of the period were S. Muttiah (bowler), P. Cooke Selvaratnam (bowler), S. P. Soundranayagam (batsman), and T. M. Z. Mahamooth (wicket-keeper and batsman).

The College always entered for the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Sports Meet held annually. In 1922 and 1923, we obtained the second place. Our Scouts obtained the first place in the Inter-Collegiate Sports Competition held in 1925. T. Nadaraja, T. M. A. Mahamooth and V. Arambu were some of the leading athletes of the period.

We were not always victorious on the Football Field and often obtained the second or third place in the Inter-Collegiate Competition. Our teams, however, always gave a good account of themselves and though beaten, were never vanquished. A. Dharmaratnam, N. Sithamparapillai, K. N. Subramaniam, S. P. Soundranayagam, S. Alagaretnam, S. Selvadurai, G. Manuel and M. Subramaniam were the leading players of the period.

The number on roll at this period was always above four-hundred pupils (411 in 1923, 416 in 1926).

The staff consisted of six graduates (two in honours), a Licentiate Teaching, two Trained Teachers (three in 1926), a Science Trained Teacher, well-qualified Commercial and Art Instructors, a Tamil Pundit and seven others.

The College acquitted itself creditably at examinations during this period. In 1922, seven students passed the London Matriculation, and the College headed the list in the Jaffna peninsula. Eleven passed the Cambridge Senior Certificate, three obtaining Honours and 13 the Cambridge Junior Certificate, two obtaining Honours and seven the Ceylon English School-Leaving Certificate Examinations. In 1924, our results in the Cambridge Senior Certificate Examination were the best in the peninsula—fourteen students passed, three securing Honours. In 1926, three students passed the London Chamber of Commerce Junior Examination, ten, the Cambridge Senior Certificate, one securing Honours and eleven the Junior Certificate, two securing Honours.

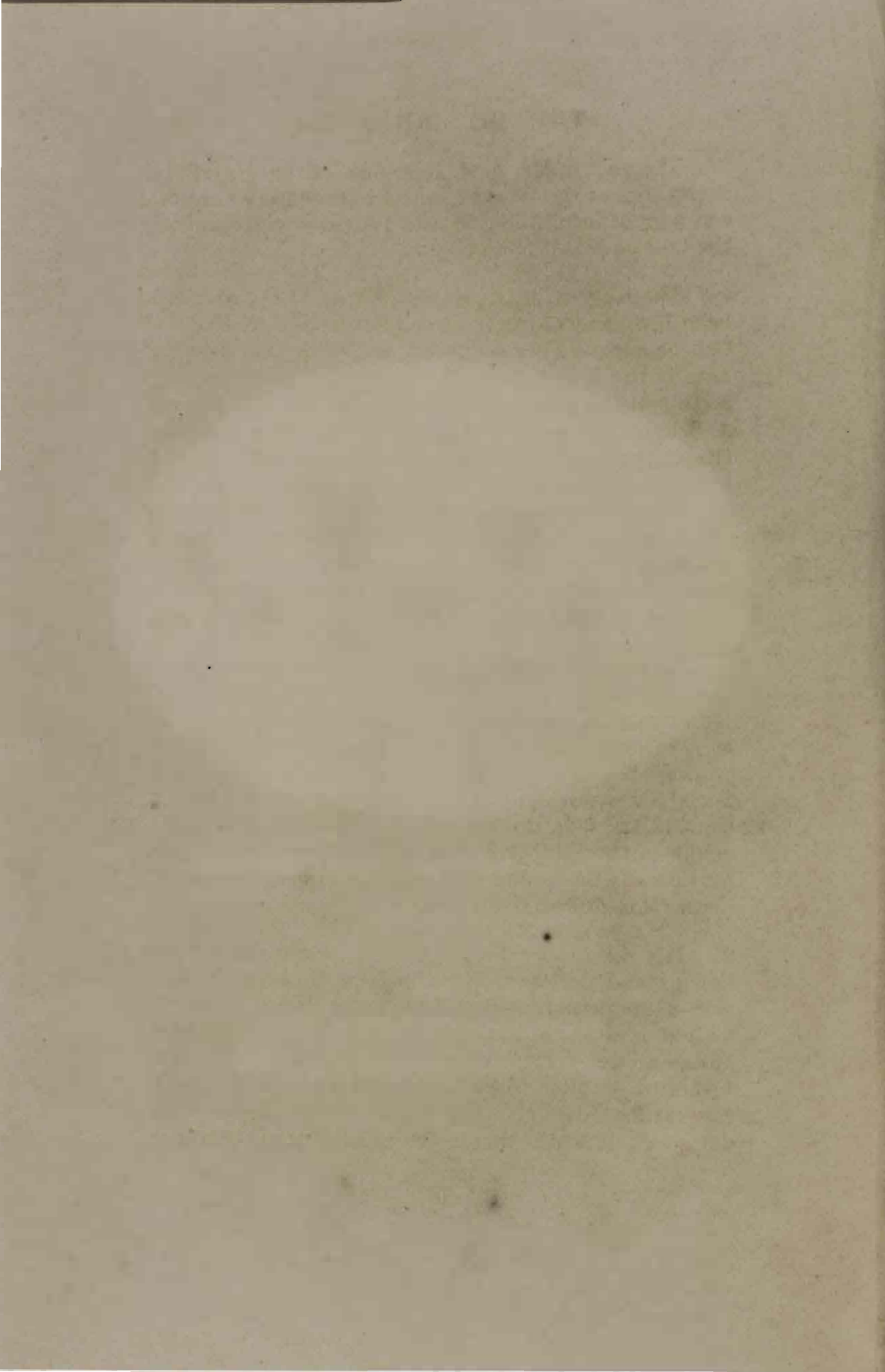
His Excellency, Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon, visited the College for the second time on 15th June, 1923. He went

Distinguished round and saw the classes at
Visitors work. He addressed the students later in the Hall, and exhorted them not to follow the beaten track and seek to enter the already overcrowded professions, but to venture upon Industrial and Agricultural enterprise. He made a note in the College Log Book as follows: "I was pleased to note that the College is taking up Science as applied to Agriculture."



TROPHIES WON BY THE COLLEGE.

1. Gymkhana Cup, 1898.
2. Price Football Cup, 1910.
3. Union Jack, 1911
4. Duraiswamy Cricket Cup, 1915.
5. Muttucumaru Football Cup, 1918.



The visit of Mr. A. Z. Koo, one of the travelling Secretaries of the World Christian Student Federation was a great inspiration to the religious activities of the College.

The Rev. W. T. A. Barber, M.A., D.D., who had been President of the Wesleyan Conference, visited the College on 20th February, 1925, and made the following note in the Log Book: "I visited the place of my birth two-thirds of a century after I left it. It was a delight to see the College of which my father (Rev. Barber) was Principal (1853-1858,) and I rejoice not only in its honourable past but in the obvious efficiency of its present. I have met honourable sons of this alma mater in the West and especially at Cambridge, and have always been proud to claim them as my fellow-countrymen. May the future be as successful and useful as the past and the present".

Sir Cecil Clementi, who acted as Governor of Ceylon, paid a visit to the College on 12th June, 1925. He went round and saw the laboratories and classes at work and expressed special appreciation of the work of the Manual Training Department and the Social Service League. He made the following comment in the Log Book: "The School reflects great credit on the Staff and I wish it all success. I was particularly interested to notice the inauguration of instruction in Social Service."

His Excellency Sir Hugh Clifford who visited the College and declared open the New Building Extension of the period expressed his appreciation thus: "I visited and inspected the Central College on June 10th, and was very favourably impressed by all I saw. I venture to offer to the Principal and the Staff my congratulations upon the work which they are all doing in this Institution in the cause of education".

"It gave me pleasure to formally open the new Block and the D. P. Niles Memorial Hall—excellent and up-to-date buildings—that form important extensions to an institution which has rendered great service to the people of Jaffna".

Mahatma Gandhi, the saintly leader of Modern India, who toured Ceylon in 1927, visited the College on 29th November. He was reverently welcomed by the Acting Principal, Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, and was presented with a generous purse by the Staff and students. At the special request of Mr. Chanmukam, he delivered an address on "The Place of Jesus among the Great Teachers of the World". The address contained many significant pronouncements, and is reproduced below:—

"I am deeply grateful to you for the generous purse that you have given me on behalf of the semi-starving millions of India.

"You, Sir, sent me due notice yesterday of the very important question that you have repeated this morning, viz: the place of Christ among the great teachers of the world. I have many engagements between now and 10-30. Therefore, and also for other reasons into which I do not want to enter, I would fain have avoided this question. But on the principle that has guided my life that I must take things as they come to me, unless I find it utterly impossible to cope with them, I propose to devote the very few minutes that I have at my disposal to answering that question.

"I say in one sentence that for many years I have regarded Jesus of Nazareth as one amongst the mighty teachers that the world has had, and I say this in all humility. I claim humility for this expression for the simple reason that this is exactly what I feel. Of course, Christians claim a higher place for Jesus of Nazareth than as a Non-Christian and as



A. CANAGARATNAM, ESQ.,
Proctor,
Member, Legislative Council,
1924—1928
Chairman, Jaffna Urban District
Council, 1921—1926
(*Old Boy*)



a Hindu I have been able to feel. I purposely use the word 'feel' instead of 'give', because I consider that neither I, nor anybody else can possibly arrogate to himself the claim of giving place to a great man. The great teachers of mankind have had the places not given to them, but the place had belonged to them as a matter of right, as a matter of service that they have rendered, but it is given to the lowest and humblest amongst us to feel certain things about certain people. The relation between great teachers and ourselves is somewhat after the style of relation between a husband and wife. It would be a most terrible thing, a tragic thing, if I was to argue out intellectually for myself what place I was to give to my wife in my heart. It is not in my giving, but she takes the place that belongs to her as a matter of right in my heart. It is a matter purely for feeling. Then I can say that Jesus occupies in my heart the place of one of the great teachers who have made a considerable influence on my life. Leave the Christians alone for the present. I shall say to the 75 per cent Hindus receiving instruction in this College that your lives will be incomplete unless you reverently study the teaching of Jesus. I have come to the conclusion, in my own experience, that those, who no matter to what faith they belong, reverently study the teaching of other faiths, broaden their own instead of narrowing their hearts. Personally, I do not regard any of the great religions of the world as false. All have served in enriching mankind and are now even serving their purpose. A liberal education to all should include, as I have put it, a reverent study of other faiths, but I do not want to labour this point, nor have I the time to do so.

"There is one thing which, as I am speaking to you, occurs to me which came to me in my early studies of the Bible. It seized me immediately I read the passage "Make this World, the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything will be added unto". I tell you that if you will understand,

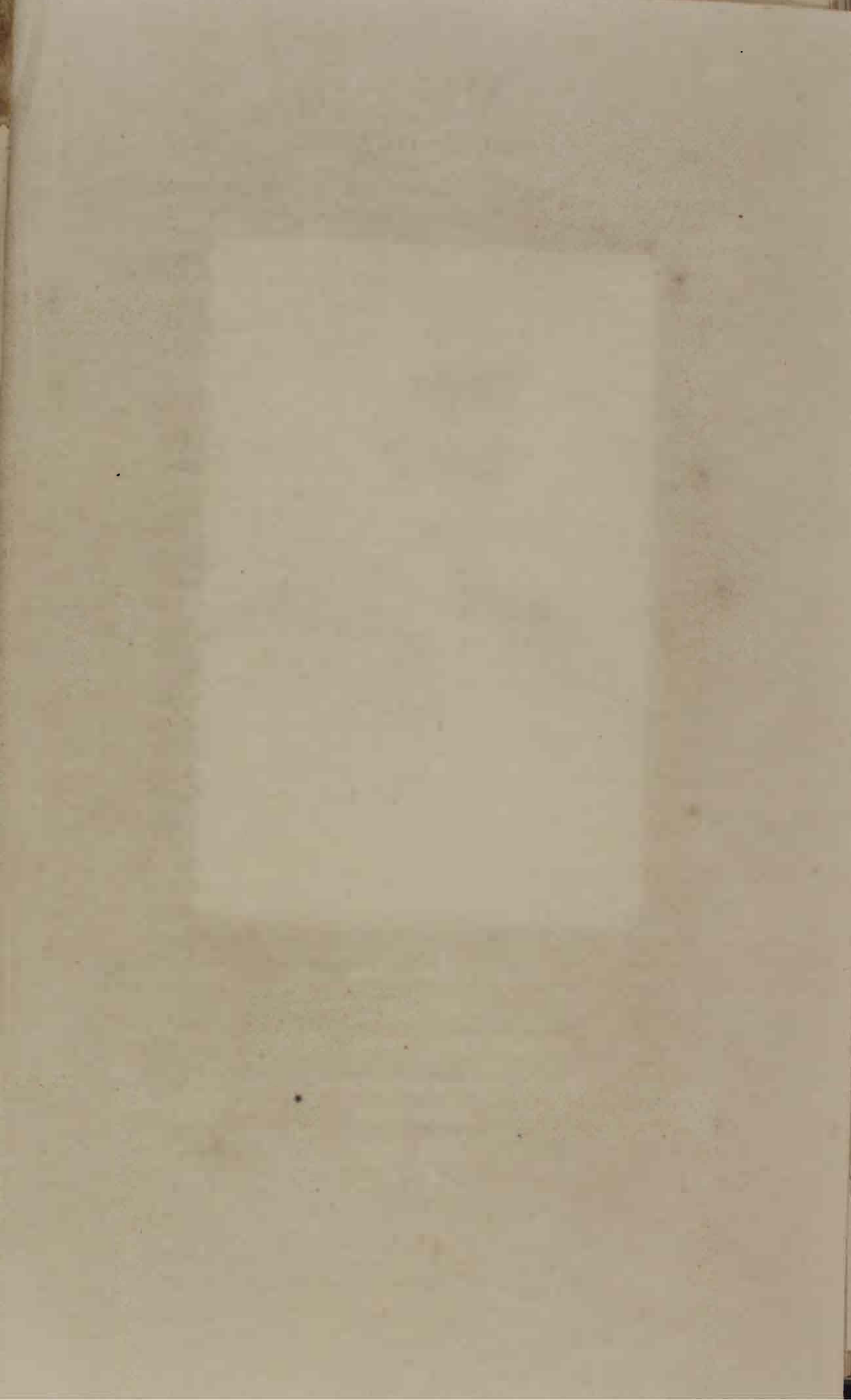
appreciate and act up to the spirit of this passage, you won't even need to know what place Jesus or any other teacher occupies in your heart. If you will do the proper scavenger's work, clean and purify your hearts and get them ready, you will find that all these mighty teachers will take their places without invitation from us. That to my mind, is the basis of all sound education. Culture of the mind must be subservient to the culture of the heart. May God help you to become pure".

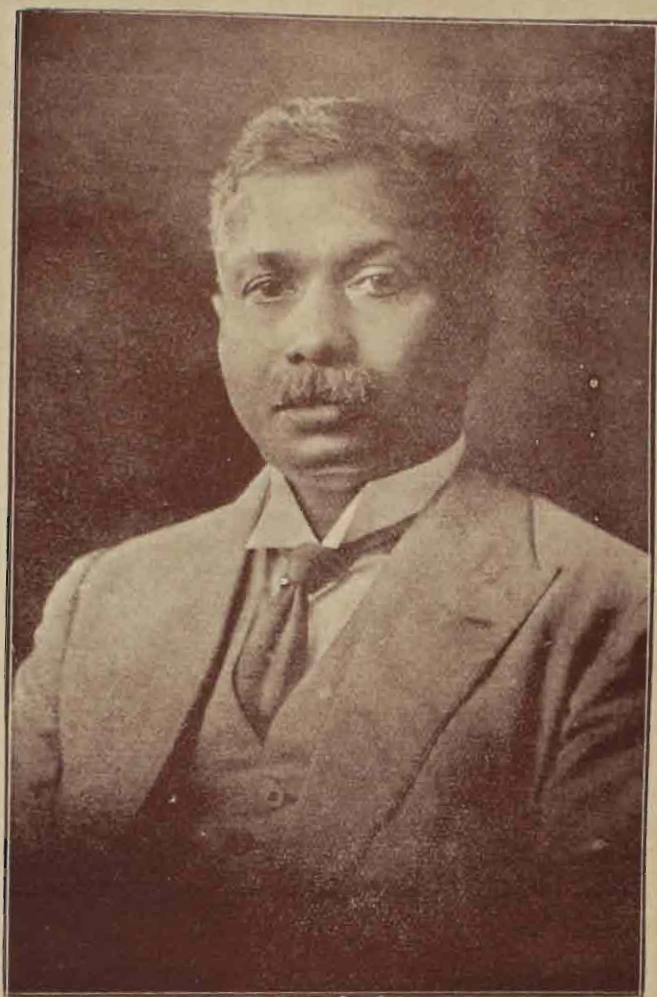
A Prize-day was held on 21st March, 1923. The function was preceded by an exhibition of school-work. The beautiful drawings

Prize-days and and paintings of the Art Room,
Other Functions the maps, charts, picture albums and apparatus of the Geographical Laboratory, the experiments demonstrated in the Physics and Chemistry Laboratory, the biological specimens and apparatus in the Botanical Laboratory, the appliances and equipments of a modern office exhibited in the Commercial Class Room, the handwork exhibits of the Scouts, all testified to the efficient and many-sided education imparted in this Institution. Mr. B. Constantine, the Government Agent, presided at the distribution of prizes, and Rev. A. E. Restarick, B.A., and Mr. W. D. Niles, B.A., were the speakers.

The programme of the Old Boys' Day celebrations of 29th September, 1925, included a reception to the Old Boys by the Principal and a Public Meeting. Rev. W. J. T. Small, M.A., B.Sc., of the Peradeniya Training Colony and Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, the Vice-Principal were the chief speakers.

Prof. Marrs, Principal of the Ceylon University College, presided at the Prize distribution on 5th October, 1925. The function was preceded by an exhibition of school-work similar to the one in 1923. The exhibits of the Manual Training Department and





W. D. NILES, ESQ., B.A.,
Advocate,
District Judge, 1925—1928,
Commissioner of Requests, Colombo,
1928—1933.
(*Old Boy*)

other demonstrations of the Social Service and Temperance Leagues constituted additional features. The Rev. A. Lockwood unveiled a photograph of the late Rev. D. P. Niles and paid a tribute to his life and work at Central. Mrs. Workman, wife of the Principal of Westminster School of which Prof. Leigh Smith was an Old Boy, distributed the prizes and Prof. Marrs made a spirited plea for the encouragement of the study of the Oriental languages.

A Musical and Variety Entertainment including Oriental and Occidental musical items held in 1924, and the staging of John Drinkwater's "Abraham Lincoln" and some scenes from Shakespeare's "As You Like It", in 1926, were some of the other functions held in the College during this period.

The all-round success of the Old Boys brought honour to the alma mater. J. H. P. Vijayaratnam passed out as a Proctor in 1922,

Achievements of and Mr. C. Ponnampalam as
Old Boys an Advocate in 1927. Messrs.

W. D. Niles and M. A. Arulandam were appointed District Judges. Mr. Niles later became the Commissioner of Requests, Colombo, and retired in 1933. He has now reverted to his practice, and is now a leading member of the Jaffna Bar. Mr. Niles, one of our most distinguished Old Boys and a Vice-President of the Old Boys' Association, takes great interest in all the activities of the College, and the Methodist Mission. His counsel at meetings of the North Ceylon District Synod and other meetings connected with the Mission has been of great help and value. He also takes a leading part in the public affairs of this country.

At the Ceylon Medical College, S. C. Thurairajah and Ernest T. Samuel secured the Jeejee Bhoy Scholarship in 1922 and 1924 respectively. The latter also won the Chalmer's Gold Medal for proficiency in Anatomy. Messrs. N. Sinnadurai, K. Kanagaratnam,

V. Sivalingam, V. Nadarajah, P. K. Chanmukam and S. C. Thurairajah obtained the Licentiate Degree in Medicine and Surgery, the first four passing out in the First Division. Messrs. Nadarajah and Thurairajah were awarded the Rockefeller Scholarship to America for a course of study and training in Public Health. Mr. S. E. N. Chinniah passed the Calcutta M.B. Examination. Dr. Gunam Cooke secured the M.D., London, specialising in Midwifery and Gynaecology. Drs. W. A. N. Chanmukam and R. R. Tamber obtained British qualifications.

Messrs. V. M. Asaipillai, A. W. R. Mailvaganam and A. V. Richards won Scholarships at the Ceylon University College during the year 1922, 1924, and 1926 respectively, and Mr. J. C. Chanmukam was awarded an exhibition in 1924. Four out of the six students who passed the B.Sc., London, in 1922, from Ceylon were Old Boys of Central:—Messrs. A. Karalakulasinghe, S. Thangarajah, V. Kandiah and T. Saravanamuttu. T. A. Karalakulasinghe obtained first division and won the Sir Muttucumaraswamy Memorial Science Prize. Mr. V. Kadirgamanathan obtained the degree of B.A., London. Mr. J. V. Dharamarajah was the first student to pass the M.A. Examination of London from the Ceylon centre. Messrs. W. G. Spencer, C. Navaratnam, K. Vaithianathan, V. M. Asaipillai, A. W. R. Mailvaganam, J. C. Chanmukam, W. A. V. Sinnathamby and A. E. Tamber also obtained the B.Sc. degree of London during this period. Mr. Asaipillai won the Engineering Scholarship to England in the year 1924, and Mr. A. W. R. Mailvaganam won the General Scholarship to England in 1926. Mr. J. C. Chanmukam was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of Surveys in 1927. Mr. W. R. Chanmukam was sent by the Government on a Scholarship to England and became an Associate of the Institute of Chemistry. Mr. A. Nadarajah (A. Thiagarajah of the Postal Department) was also selected and sent on a Scholarship to England for training. Messrs. V. C. Manicam, S. Subrama-



S. RAJARATNAM, ESQ.,
Advocate,

Member, Legislative Council, (1924—1930)

Manager of Schools, Hindu Board of
Education, Jaffna.

(Old Boy)



niam, D. G. Singanayagam, M. S. Seevaratnam, and J. V. Dharmarajah were appointed Chief Audit Examiners and Mr. P. T. Sambandan, Assistant Superintendent in the Salt Department. Messrs. K. Kanthapoo and K. Paramoo obtained Engineering Scholarships in Kuala Lumpur. Mr. F. H. V. Gulasegaram, M.A., was appointed Lecturer in Mathematics at the Ceylon University College in 1921. In 1923, Mr. J. V. Chelliah, M.A., was appointed Vice-Principal of Jaffna College, the oldest Missionary Educational Institution in Ceylon, founded by the American Missionary Society. Rao Bahadur K. Chinnatambipillai, B.A., F.M.U., was appointed Principal of the Pachaiyappah's College, Madras, a constituent College of the Madras University, in 1927. He was for a long time Professor of Mathematics at the Christian College, Madras, and an Examiner for the Madras University in the same subject.

Mr. S. Shivapathasundaram, B.A., was appointed Principal of Victoria College, Chulipuram, in 1924, which office he held with conspicuous success till 1933. He is a great Tamil and Sanskrit Scholar and is considered as one of the foremost Hindu Leaders. He has published many books on Hindu Religion which are used in most of the Hindu Schools as text-books and his recent book entitled, "Saiva School of Hindu Philosophy", published in England is the only one of its kind in the English language. As President of the Hindu Board for the Promotion of Education, he has rendered valuable service to his country.

Among the five who passed the Civil Service Examination held in Ceylon in 1922, three were Old Boys of Central. The success of Messrs. J. N. Arumugam, S. S. Navaratnam and K. Vaithianathan was a unique honour to Central. Mr. C. Sittampalam passed the Civil Service from England in 1923.

Six out of the ten unofficials in the first Urban District Council, Jaffna (1921-1924) were Old Boys of Central :—Messrs. A. Canagaratnam, R. R. Nalliah, J. A. J. Tisseveerasinghe, K. Somasuntharam, V. S. S. Cumaraswamy, A. M. M. Abdul Cader and A. Sabapathy. Mr. A. Canagaratnam was Chairman of the Urban Council from 1921-1924. Mr. J. K. Chanmukam was nominated to the Urban District Council in 1925 and became its Vice-Chairman.

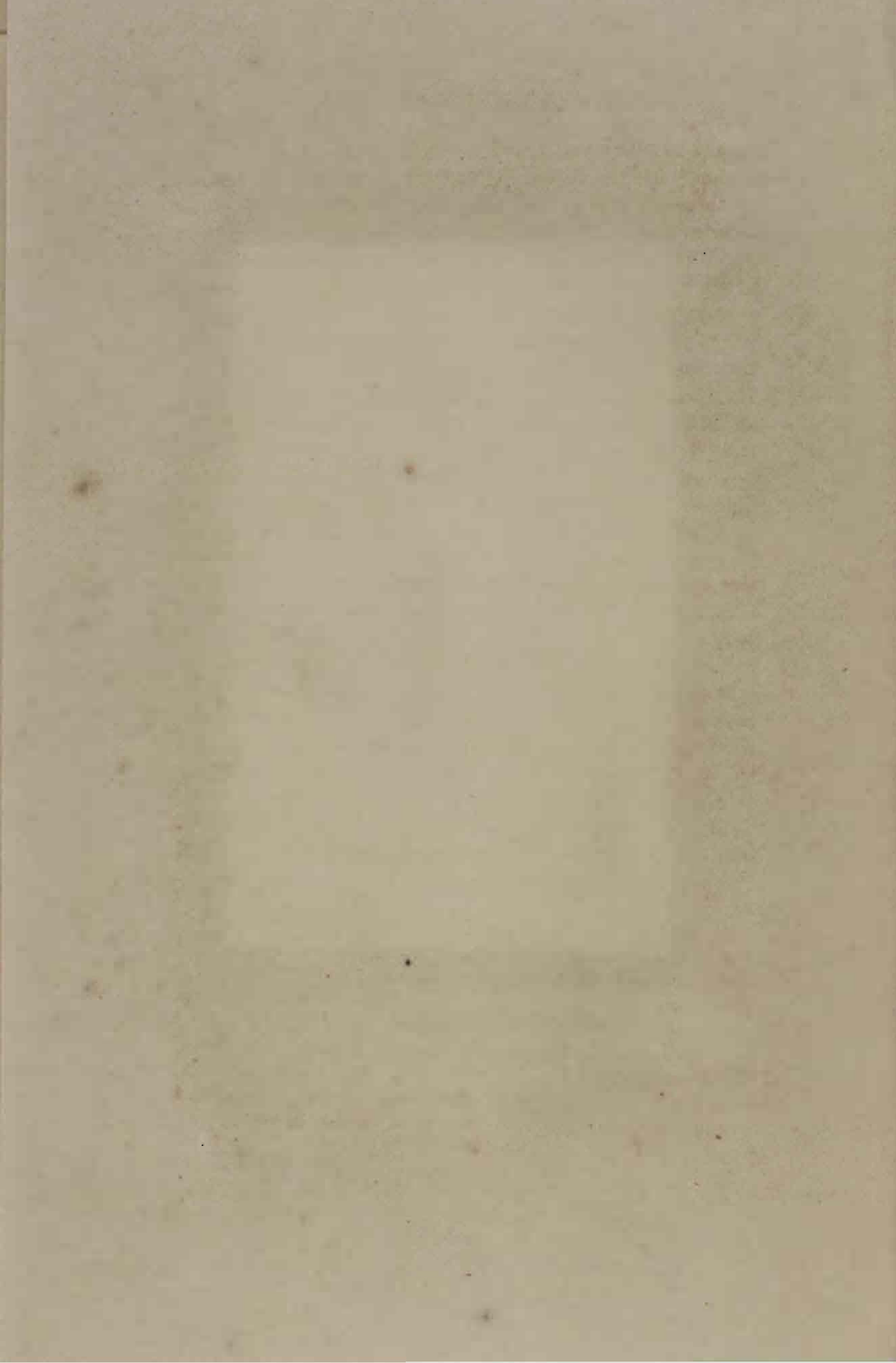
Three out of the five constituencies of the Northern Province, returned Old Boys of Central to the second Reformed Legislative Council. Mr. W. Duraiswamy, B.A., was elected to represent the Western Division, Mr. A. Canagaratnam, the Southern Division and Mr. S. Rajaratnam, the Central Division of the Northern Province.

Mr. J. K. Chanmukam was made Vice-Principal in 1924. The departure of Mr. L. P. Spencer to Kilner College caused some changes on the staff. Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam became the First Assistant and later the Head-master. Mr. C. I. Mathews, B.A. (Hons.) succeeded Mr. L. P. Spencer as teacher in History and English. Mr. Mathews was a man of varied capabilities and as Scout Master, Boarding Master and House-master of Percival House, he played an interesting part in the life of the school for about five years. Mr. S. C. Gunaratnam, B.A., was appointed Science master in 1922. He was later placed in charge of the Botany Department which was more after his own heart. Mr. Gunaratnam organised and developed the Botanical Department with skill and efficiency and when he severed connection from this Institution on being appointed Head-master of the Government Agricultural Farm School, he had succeeded in making Botany a permanent feature of the curriculum and a source of honour and distinction to the College. Mr. K. C. Jacob, B.A. (Madras) succeeded Mr. M. M. Kulase-



F. H. V. GULASEGARAM, Esq., M.A.,
Registrar, Ceylon University College and
Lecturer in Mathematics.

(Old Boy)



garam as Mathematics Master in 1922. He still continues with us rendering efficient service as Senior Mathematics Teacher. He has also rendered commendable assistance to the extra-curricular activities as Volley-ball Master and President of the Social Service League. Mr. H. E. R. Goonawardene was in charge of Chemistry and Physics during the year 1923. He will be best remembered as the founder of the Social Service League. He was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Jacob, B.A. (Madras). Mr. G. K. Joseph, an Old Boy of the College, was on the staff from 1923-1926. He qualified as a Science teacher at the Ceylon Technical Schools and was assisting the Science Department. He was a keen sportsman and was in-charge of the Sports activities of the College. His enthusiastic training went a great way towards the success of the College in the field of sport during this period. Mr. S. Amoothalingam, another Old Boy of the College and a former football captain, joined the staff in 1921 as a Trained Teacher. He stayed with us till 1927, and was a source of inspiration in the class-room and in the field of sport. Mr. Sam. Seevaratnam, an Old Boy, who was earlier on the staff from 1918-1922, returned to Central in 1925, after a course of training at the Ceylon Government Training College. As an enthusiastic teacher and loyal Old Boy, he threw himself heart and soul into the activities of the College.

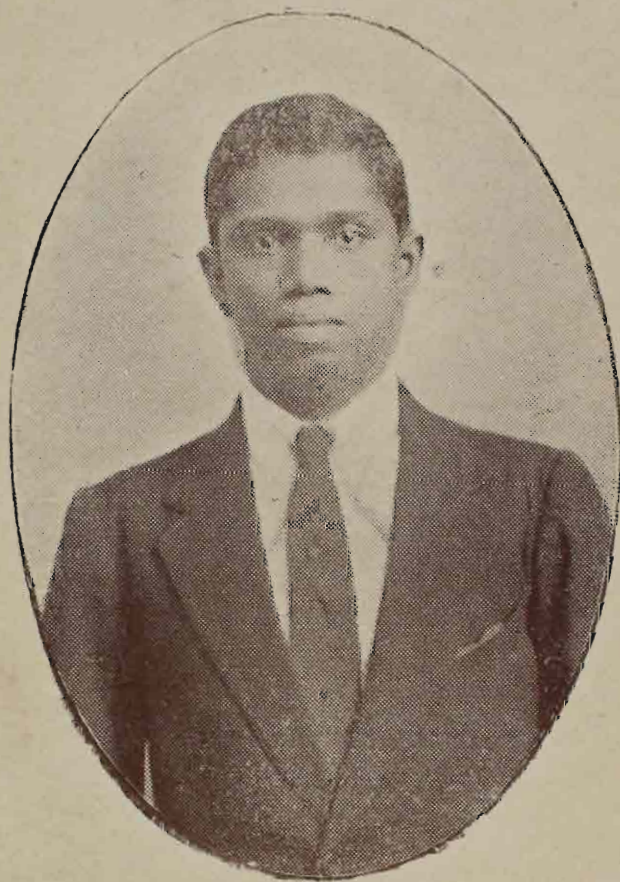
Mr. K. Kanagasabai, the Head-master of the Preparatory Department was appointed in 1922. He has rendered conscientious and useful service in his department.

Mrs. M. P. Moses, the Senior Lady Teacher of the Preparatory Department, was appointed in 1925. She is an experienced teacher and has contributed a great deal towards the success of this Department.

Her assistance at Committees and other functions of the College has been of much value.

Mr. K. S. Rajaretnam, Trained Teacher, accompanied his old teacher, Mr. L. P. Spencer, and took up work at Kilner College in 1922. His capability as a teacher and capacity for administrative work later found ample scope when he was appointed Head-master of the Hindu English School at Karainagar. He is now Head-master of Urumpirai English School, and is ably managing that Institution. Mr. V. S. Alagaretnam, an Old Boy of the College, was on the staff from 1920-1924. A good athlete and a sportsman, he assisted considerably the sports activities. He later underwent a course of Training at the Government Training College, and is now Head-master of Karainagar American Mission English School. Mr. A. S. Veeragathipillai, another Old Boy of the School, was on the staff from 1920-1926. He was an efficient teacher of English in the lower school. He left us to take up the ministry, and is now diligently serving the cause of Christ in one of the Methodist Mission circuits at Batticaloa. Miss M. Rodrigo who was a teacher in the Preparatory Department from 1919, left in 1923 for reasons of health. Messrs. S. A. Mann, A. Ariaratnam and N. Navaratnam joined in 1923. Messrs. Ariaratnam and Navaratnam left in 1924 to join the Law College. Mr. V. Chelladurai, a brother of Mr. J. C. Charles, was on the staff from 1925-1926. A young and enthusiastic teacher, he rendered considerable support to the extra-mural activities of the College. Rev. P. T. Thorne joined the staff in 1925. He rendered valuable assistance to the Scout and Sports activities of the College. He left in 1926. Mr. O. L. Gibbon, M.A. (Cantab.) and Mrs. Gibbon and Mr. J. V. Gunaretnam joined the staff in 1926. Mr. A. E. Tamber, B.Sc. (Lond.) joined in 1927, and still continues as teacher of Science and Mathematics.

The apathy of the State and the indifference of the Public had denied the teaching profession a



J. N. ARUMUGAM, Esq., C.C.S.,
Asst. Government Agent, Anuradhapura,
(Old Boy)



**Teachers' Salaries
and Pension
Scheme**

living wage for a very long time in this country. The great teachers of the last hundred years, who had laboured in the cause of education, raised the intellectual level of the people, and contributed not a little towards the advancement and progress of this country, had denied themselves the amenities of life and subsisted on the meagre remuneration doled out by impecunious school managers. They were a long suffering lot, they toiled in a labour of love.

But even pedagogic patience has a limit. The teachers of the Twentieth Century were too shrewd to be content with the lip-service of opportunist politicians and officials of the State. They roused themselves and made an organised effort towards self-preservation. Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, our Vice-Principal, and Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam were among the leaders of this campaign in North Ceylon. Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam's organising ability and tenacity of purpose brought the Jaffna Teachers' Union—the forerunner of the Northern Province Teachers' Association—into existence. Mr. Chanmukam's intelligent propaganda and powerful advocacy compelled the Government to pay heed to its insistent demands. The just claims of a much wronged lot of public servants were recognised. A scheme of enhanced salaries was formulated. Mr. Chanmukam was selected to represent the Jaffna Teachers' Union in the Advisory Committee constituted for the purpose. He watched the interests of his profession and his splendid work was much appreciated by the Government and the teachers. The Salaries Scheme was passed by the Legislative Council in 1925, and the teacher was guaranteed a living wage. It raised the status of the teacher and attracted qualified men into the profession. A Pension Scheme on a contributory basis was also evolved and put into operation in 1927.

Rev. and Mrs. P. T. Cash went on furlough in October, 1926. Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, was appointed to act as Principal

Mr. J. K. Chan- during the absence of Mr. Cash
mukam acts for over fourteen months. Mr.
as Principal Chanmukam who had been
Central's Head-master for thirty

years brought to bear on his task his vast experience and administrative ability. He was ably assisted by Messrs. O. L. Gibbon and J. W. Arudpragasam. Mr. Gibbon was Bursar and Warden of the Hostel, and Mr. Arudpragasam was Head-master. During this period the Elementary Department was abolished and pupils were put into the Secondary Department. The College and all its activities were successfully maintained in a state of efficiency.



J. K. CHANMUKAM, Esq., B.A., L.T.,

Head-master, 1894—1923.

Vice-Principal, 1924—1928.

Acting Principal, 1927.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE MODERN PHASE (1928-1934.)

(Continued.)

Mr. Cash made use of his furlough to acquire additional academic distinctions and to obtain first hand knowledge of the working

Mr. Cash back from Furlough of some of the great educational institutions in England and America. While in England he sat for the M.A. Degree in Philosophy of the London University and the Cambridge Secondary Teachers' Certificate Examination. He passed the London M.A., and came out first in the Cambridge Diploma and won the distinction of being the only one to be placed in the First Class.

He visited many schools of different grades in England and studied the various educational experiments carried on in those institutions. He toured the eastern part of the United States of America and Canada and visited literary and historical centres such as Concord, Salem, Plymouth and Boston, the High Schools in Toronto and New York and the University of Toronto, the Columbia University in New York and the Mc Gill University in Montreal.

He returned to Ceylon in January 1928. The additional academic distinctions he had acquired and the benefits he derived from the educational tour equipped him better for his task as the Principal of one of the leading educational institutions of this country. He was therefore welcomed back to Central most heartily.

The retirement of Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, consequent on the coming into operation of the Teachers'

**The Retirement
of Mr. J. K.
Chanmukam**

Pension Scheme, removed from Central a personality that had dominated the affairs of the College for over 34 years. Mr. Chanmukam was Central's man of destiny during the most eventful period of its history. His keen intellect and dynamic personality guided the development and progress of this Institution during the last three decades, when it was virtually 'rebuilt' and re-adapted on the lines of the best Public Schools. He was Central's greatest Headmaster, and his retirement left the College all the poorer for it.

**J. K. Chanmukam,
B.A., L.T., his
Life and Work**

Joseph Kadingamar Chanmukam was born at Pandateruppu in the year 1863. He had his early education at the Araly East American Mission Vernacular School, from where he passed the Eighth Standard in Tamil. He later underwent a course of English education at the Araly English School and joined the Batticotta (Vaddukoddai) English School. He was found fit to undergo Collegiate education at the early age of fourteen and in 1877 he joined the Jaffna College. He had a brilliant Collegiate career, graduated in 1882 with distinction and was awarded the 'blue ribbon' for having maintained the first place in his Collegiate life for the record period of five years. While at the College he came under the inspiring influence of the celebrated American Christian Missionary, Dr. E. P. Hastings and Rev. B. H. Rice, the well-known Tamil pastor. He was deeply touched by the Gospel of Jesus and accepted the Christian faith.

He was a teacher under the Ceylon Government for a period of one year and left Ceylon and took up work in India as the Head-master of the High School Department of the Canadian Mission School, Indore. He was also Lecturer in Mathematics for the Collegiate

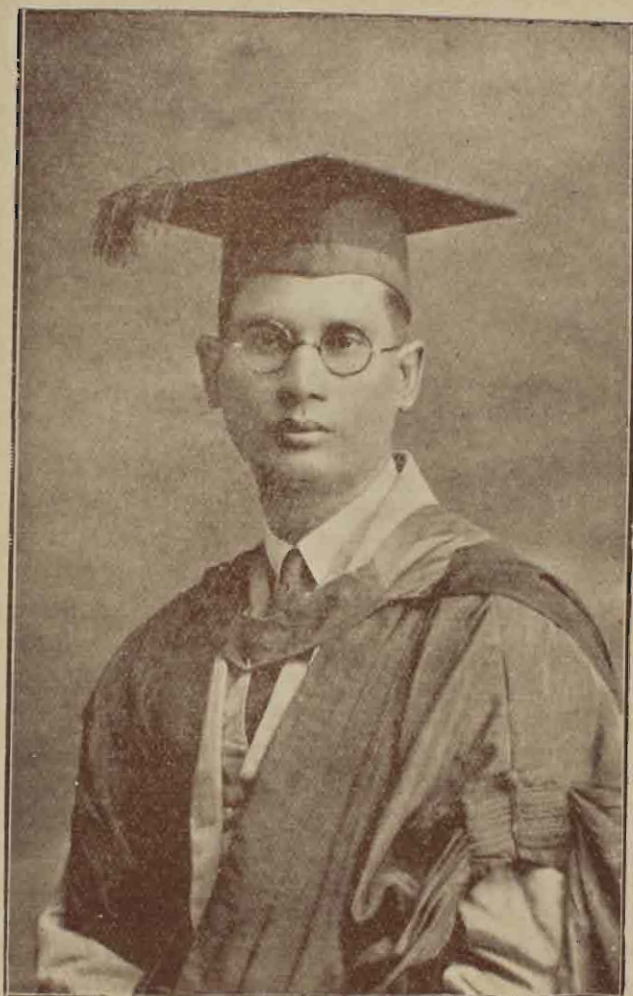
Department. During this period he passed the Calcutta Entrance Examination coming out fourth in order of merit and secured the first place in English and Mathematics. He later became Lecturer in English and Mathematics at Bishop College, Nagpore. He passed the B.A. Examination of the Calcutta University in 1890, and in 1893 obtained the Degree of Licentiate in Teaching (L.T.) of the Madras University.

He was appointed Head-master of Central in 1894. Mr. Chanmukam had a predilection for the vocation of teaching. A man of his intellectual calibre and ability might easily have had a more lucrative career in the legal profession or the Government Service. But he was a man of strong likes and dislikes, and chose deliberately this humbler calling of imparting knowledge to the young.

Mr. Chanmukam is still remembered by his old pupils with awe and respect. He was a teacher essentially of the 'Old School' type. He had not recourse to the Dalton Plan or the Montessori Method but had his own thorough and efficient method of explaining the problems of Mathematics and instilling the fundamentals of this subject into the minds of his pupils. Clear in thought and precise in expression, Mr. Chanmukam's teaching of Mathematics was an education in accuracy and relevancy. His students—among whom might be mentioned the names of Messrs. F. H. V. Gulasekaram, M.A., W. R. Watson, B.A., B.Sc., T. Saravanamuttu, M.A., M.Sc., T. Cooke Jayaratnam, B.A., I.C.S., C. Sittampalam, B.A., C.C.S.,—who have all attained positions of eminence chiefly through their prodigious ability in Mathematics, owe not a little to the early training they had received under Mr. Chanmukam. He was also a very successful teacher of English. He rightly held that the Tamil boy ought to learn a little grammar to master the intricacies of the English Language, and always gave Grammar an important place in his scheme of instruction in English Language and Literature.

Mr. Chanmukam was an administrator par excellence. A man of discerning intelligence, he penetrated and saw through things and quickly arrived at conclusions. An iron will stood him in good stead for firm and decisive action. A man of strong independence and indomitable courage he would fight to the last and yield to no man in upholding causes which he deemed worthy of support. "He was a man to be reckoned with and could fight if needs be," Rev. A. Lockwood wrote of him. "He had been the Autocrat of the Time Table" said Rev. Mr. Cash "and without his wonderful knowledge and subtle wisdom in affairs of administration, there would have been danger to the good ship 'Central' as she ploughed her way through the stormy waters of reduced grants and threatening Inspectorial demands."

A dynamic personality, intensely active, spirited and vigorous, Mr. Chanmukam possessed great qualities for leadership. "He had not an idle bone in his body, nor an idle corner in his brain," Rev. Mr. Lockwood did truly say of him. He had strong and definite views on educational, political, and other topics of public importance and was at his best when he engaged himself in journalistic controversies with his geometrical logic and grammatical diction. He took a leading part in the public organisations of the country, and some of them he even organised and brought into existence. He was Vice-President of the Jaffna Association, Vice-Chairman of the Jaffna Urban District Council, and Secretary of the North Ceylon Educational Association, the Central Temperance League and the Jaffna Christian Union. He contested the seat in the Second Reformed Legislative Council for the Southern Division of the Northern Province, and was the first teacher in this part of the country to venture, in that manner, into the field of politics. He was one of the leaders of that Anti-drink crusade that ten years ago succeeded in securing the closure by 'Local Option' of all the liquor shops



J. V. DHARMARAJAH, ESQ., M.A., (Lond.)

Visiting Lecturer,
Ceylon University College.

(Old Boy)



and taverns in the Jaffna Peninsula. He fought for the rights and prospects of the teachers and contributed not a little towards securing the Teachers' Salaries Scheme of 1925.

But the best part of Mr. Chanmukam's life was spent in the service of Central. Principals came and Principals went but Mr. Chanmukam went on for thirty-four years. He was the soul of the Institution during the last three decades and under his inspiring guidance as Head-master and Vice-Principal the College grew up to a position of honour and repute as one of the leading Secondary Colleges of this country. He laboured whole-heartedly for the welfare of the school. During the early years when attempts were made to shift the School from Vembadi to the present site, he toured the Federated Malay States and brought a large sum of money, which helped not a little towards the making of the New College.

"He did not seek worldly gain," Rev. Mr. Cash wrote of him, "there was nothing of the materialist about him; whilst in this commercial age many have wasted their higher powers in the vain search for material advancement, this was far from Mr. Chanmukam; he lost himself in great service for the College, the Church and the Mission."

A feature of Mr. Chanmukam's public life was his fearless and outspoken attitude in all matters. He could never be on the fence or be carrying things up his sleeve. He engaged his adversaries always in the open and was undaunted by opposition. There were occasions when he ranged himself against the popular side and great personalities. But he never fled from the field nor yielded to powerful opposition. "His place in civic life was an important one," Mr. Cash wrote, "and we need more such fearless advocates of justice and righteousness."

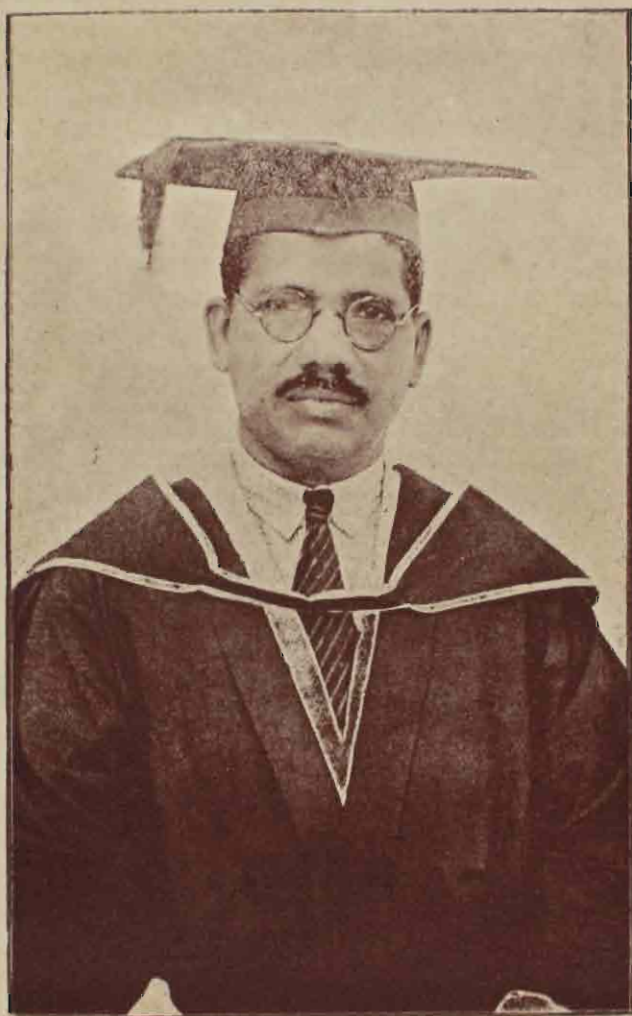
He retired in December 1928. The College gave him a hearty farewell and presented him with an address of appreciation of his 'untiring and self-sacrificing labour of love in the cause of Education.' The address was enclosed in a silver Casket of exquisite Kandyan craftsmanship. Rev. A. Lockwood, Rev. P. T. Cash and Messrs. W. Duraiswamy, B.A., Advocate, M.L.C., S. Rajaratnam, M.L.C., and J. V. Chelliah, M.A., took part in the function and a large number of distinguished Old Boys and friends were present on the occasion.

Mr. Chanmukam did not live long after his retirement. He was one of those men who lived on the inspiration of their vocation in life. He died on 12th March, 1930. His death removed from Jaffna, a great citizen and a courageous advocate of worthy causes.

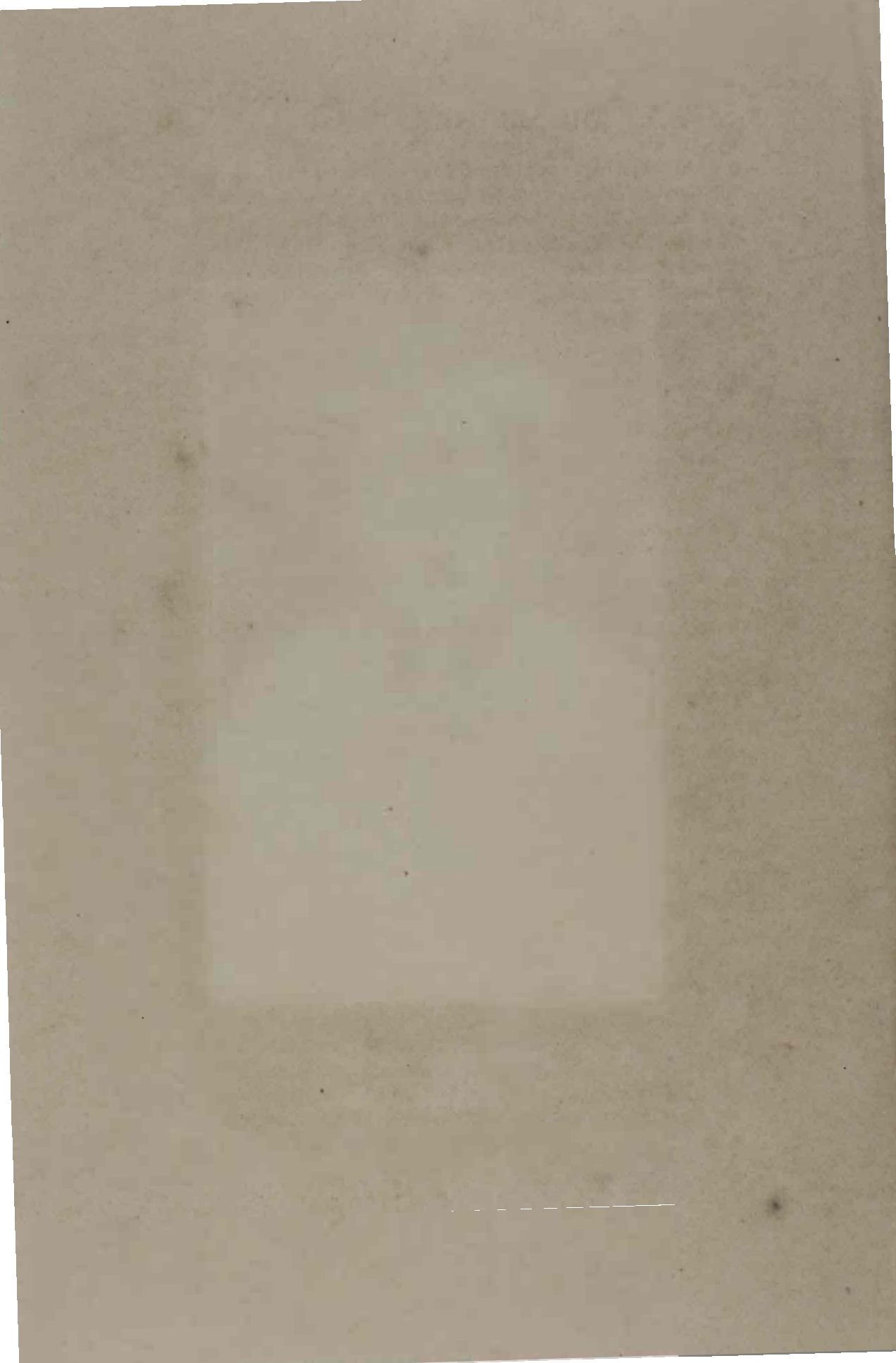
On the retirement of Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam was appointed Co-Vice-Principal in 1929 with Mr. O. L. Gibbon, M.A. But Mr. Gibbon left for Kingswood College, Kandy, a few months later, and Mr. Arudpragasam continued as Vice-Principal.

Mr. Arudpragasam, an Old Boy of this College, started his career as a teacher in 1906 as Assistant Master of Copay English School. In 1908 he was appointed Head-master of Drieberg's English School, Chavakachchery. He left for St. John's College, Panadura, as First Assistant, and later became Head-master of the Institution. He joined the Staff of Jaffna Central College in 1916.

As Assistant Master and Vice-Principal he has worked whole-heartedly for the welfare of the College, and his strenuous and conscientious efforts have contributed not a little towards its efficiency. Mr. Arudpragasam has also taken a leading part in



J. W. ARUDPRAGASAM, ESQ., B.A.,
Vice-Principal, 1929—



organising the teachers of this province and agitating for the betterment of their status and prospects. He was one of the founders of the Jaffna Teachers' Union of which he was Secretary for a long time. He was the President of the Northern Province Teachers' Provident Society and is now the President of Northern Province Teachers' Association.

Mr. O. L. Gibbon, M.A. (Cantab), Diplomate in Education and Mrs. Gibbon, an Associate of the Royal College of Music, came out to Ceylon and joined the Staff of Central in 1926. Mr. Gibbon came to us with a record of teaching experience.

Mr. O. L. Gibbon,
M.A., and Mrs.
Gibbon

He was a teacher for twenty-five years, twelve of which he had spent in a London Secondary School. A genial personality with high intellectual attainments, he enriched the work and activities of this Institution for four years. He assisted the Principal in re-adapting the schemes of work and reforming the methods of assessing the knowledge of the students. His knowledge of modern educational practice, and his keen intelligence helped him to understand the difficulties of the child mind. During his short tenure of office he was a source of inspiration and ennobling influence in the College. He acted as Bursar during Mr. Cash's furlough in 1927, and was appointed Co-Vice-Principal in 1929. He left us in 1929 to take up work as Principal of Kingswood College, Kandy.

Mrs. Gibbon heartily participated in the activities of the College and as Cub-Mistress and teacher contributed her best towards the work of this Institution.

The schemes of work in all subjects were re-adapted introducing more of the practical element into them.

Educational Changes

Mr. Cash brought to bear on the problem his knowledge of psychology and educational practice and effected changes

of value. The methods of assessing the efficiency of pupils were also reformed during this period. Provision was also made for the supervision of the work of the school by the Principal and Vice-Principal. "The organisation of the work is excellent. The Principal was in direct touch with all the departments and activities of the College," wrote the Divisional Inspector in his Triennial Inspection Report of 1934.

Mr. Cash also adopted a practical and humane attitude towards tackling the problem of moral delinquency in the School. He despised the traditional punitive methods and sought to introduce methods of reform that would save the erring lad. He set up a Committee called the Moral Education Committee composed of the Principal, Vice-Principal, Messrs. J. C. Charles, Sam Seevaratnam, K. Navaratnam, J. S. Selvaratnam, J. M. Singanayagam, Rev. C. A. Smith, and Mr. K. T. Abraham with Mr. Abraham as Secretary. The members of this Committee were expected to gain the confidence of the students and guide them during their period of conflict. Pamphlets, specially written to educate the students on the moral problem, were made use of by the Committee to educate the adolescent youth on the real aspects of the problem and to help them and guide them out of their conflicts and difficulties during their period of adolescence.

Some important extensions and improvements to buildings, and acquisition of property for the further expansion of the College were

Extensions and Improvements made during this period. The extensions were mainly to the hostel buildings. They consisted of a two-storeyed block providing dormitories to accommodate a hundred students, a sick-room and two rooms for resident masters, and a kitchen block consisting of a kitchen and servants' room.



C. SITTAMPALAM, ESQ., B.A., C.C.S.,
Asst. Government Agent, Batticaloa.
(Old Boy)

The work was commenced in August, 1929, and the stone laying ceremony in connection with the building took place in 1930. Mr. J. D. Brown, Government Agent, Northern Province, presided over the function. Stones were laid by the Rev. and Mrs. A. Lockwood, Dr. A. N. Cumaraswamy, Dr. R. R. Tamber in memory of the late Mr. Philip Tamber, Mr. C. Sittampalam, C.C.S., in memory of the late Mr. A. Canagaretnam, Mr. C. Ponnampalam, Advocate, in memory of the late Mr. A. Cathiravelu, Mr. J. N. Arumugam in memory of Mr. W. Romaine Cooke, the Principal and Mrs. Cash, the Staff of the College, the Old Boys, the Present Boys and the Students of the Hostel. Those who laid these stones paid a donation of Rs. 100 towards the Extension Fund. The building was completed in 1931. The opening function was held on 24th July, 1931. Mr. E. T. Dyson, Government Agent, Northern Province, presided and Dr. S. C. Paul, one of our most distinguished Old Boys, declared the Hostel open.

The cost of this building amounting to nearly Rs. 30,000 was met mainly out of the generous grant of the Home Committee amounting to Rs. 26,000 which was secured chiefly through the efforts of Mr. Cash during his furlough. A sum of Rs. 5,000 which was in hand at the commencement of the scheme, was also made use of. Rs. 2,000 was also spent at this time to improve the compound and make small additions to the old buildings. The "Hope Cottage," the old parsonage, was also purchased at this time with a view to converting it into a hostel for the smaller children. The present Principal graciously loaned a sum of Rs. 8,000 towards meeting the deficit.

The English and Tamil Literary Societies were amalgamated in 1928 into one body called the Literary, Scientific and Debating Society. Some of the meetings of this body are held in Tamil. All the office-bearers

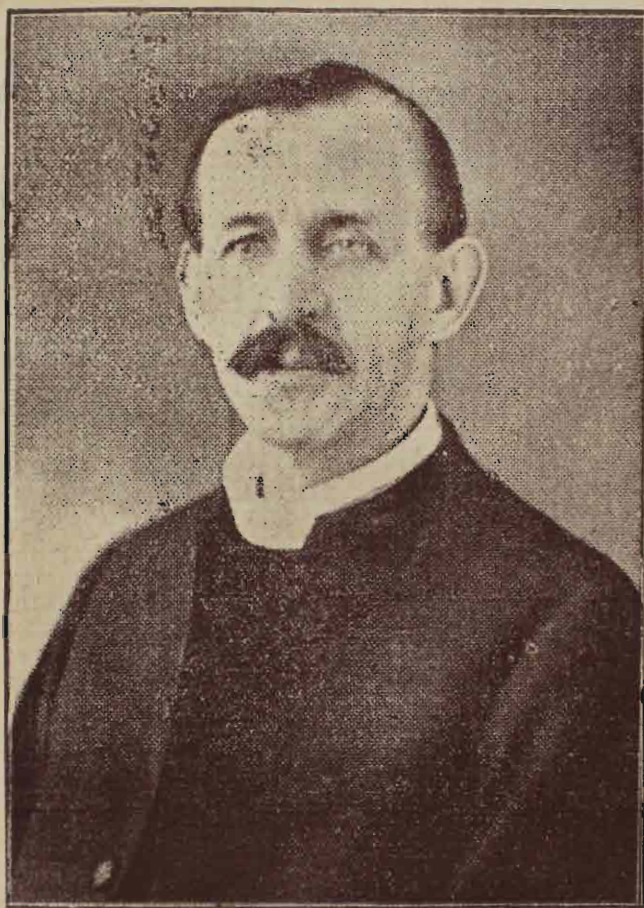
Extra-Curricular Activities

including the chairman are students. Two teacher Vice-Presidents guide and supervise the proceedings of the meeting.

The meetings of the Student Christian Union and the Y.M.C.A. continued to be a source of strength to the religious activities of the College. The Christian members are divided into groups under different leaders and Bible study classes are conducted once a fortnight. Jail visiting and open air meetings on Sundays are some of the other activities. The delegates of the Union derived much inspiration from the annual camps of the North Ceylon and All-Ceylon Christian Unions. The evangelistic campaigns to the islands of Mancumpam and Allapidy continue to be a feature of the propaganda work carried on by the Association.

The Social Service League continues to do useful work under the guidance of Mr. A. V. Richards, B.Sc., who succeeded Mr. K. C. Jacob as President of the League.

The Scout Movement was more fully developed during this period with Mr. Sam Seevaratnam as Group Scout Master. A Cub Pack was added in 1928 with Rev. B. Holland in charge of it. Mr. P. T. Charles succeeded him and was in charge of the Pack till he left for the Government Training College. The Pack was more fully organised in 1933, and is flourishing under the enthusiastic guidance of Mr. R. Aseervatham, B.A. A Rover Crew was also added to the troop with Mr. A. V. Richards, B.Sc., as Master in charge. The hand-work exhibits of two Scouts, Masters P. Rajagopal and N. Shanmugarajah, were awarded medals and certificates at the Jaffna Health and Handicrafts Exhibition, and at the Youth Congress Industries, Handicrafts and Art Exhibition in 1931 and 1932. Master P. Rajagopal also won the Medal for the best Handicraft at the All-Ceylon Students' Art and Handicrafts Exhibition. Master S.



REV. A. LOCKWOOD,
Manager, 1927—1930.

Kandiah was the only Scout from North Ceylon who attended the International Jamboree held at Budapest.

The Teachers' Guild enlarged its activities by taking in as members, the teachers of the Vembadi Girls' School, and the Association was re-named the Vembadi-Central Teachers' Guild in 1928. This body holds meetings periodically and discusses topics of educational importance.

A Vembadi-Central Recreation Club was also formed in 1930 to provide recreation for the teachers of the two schools. This Club runs a tennis court and provides indoor games for those who do not play tennis.

An Association called the "Teachers' Reading Room Association" was formed in 1928 to provide magazines and newspapers for the Teachers' Common Room. The teachers pay a small percentage of the salary as subscription for maintaining the reading room and meeting the expenses of the social functions of the Teachers' Guild.

The Masters' Fellowship was revived in 1934, with Mr. D. T. Niles, B.D., as the Secretary. Its main object is to bring together the teachers to discuss topics of spiritual importance and thereby help the religious life of the teachers and students. This body meets periodically at the Principal's bungalow.

The achievements in the field of sport have not been quite to our satisfaction though the College has sometimes come very near
Sports Activities to obtaining the Championship.

On the Cricket Field, from 1928 to 1930 the results were disappointing and often disastrous. From 1930 onwards there has been a slow and steady

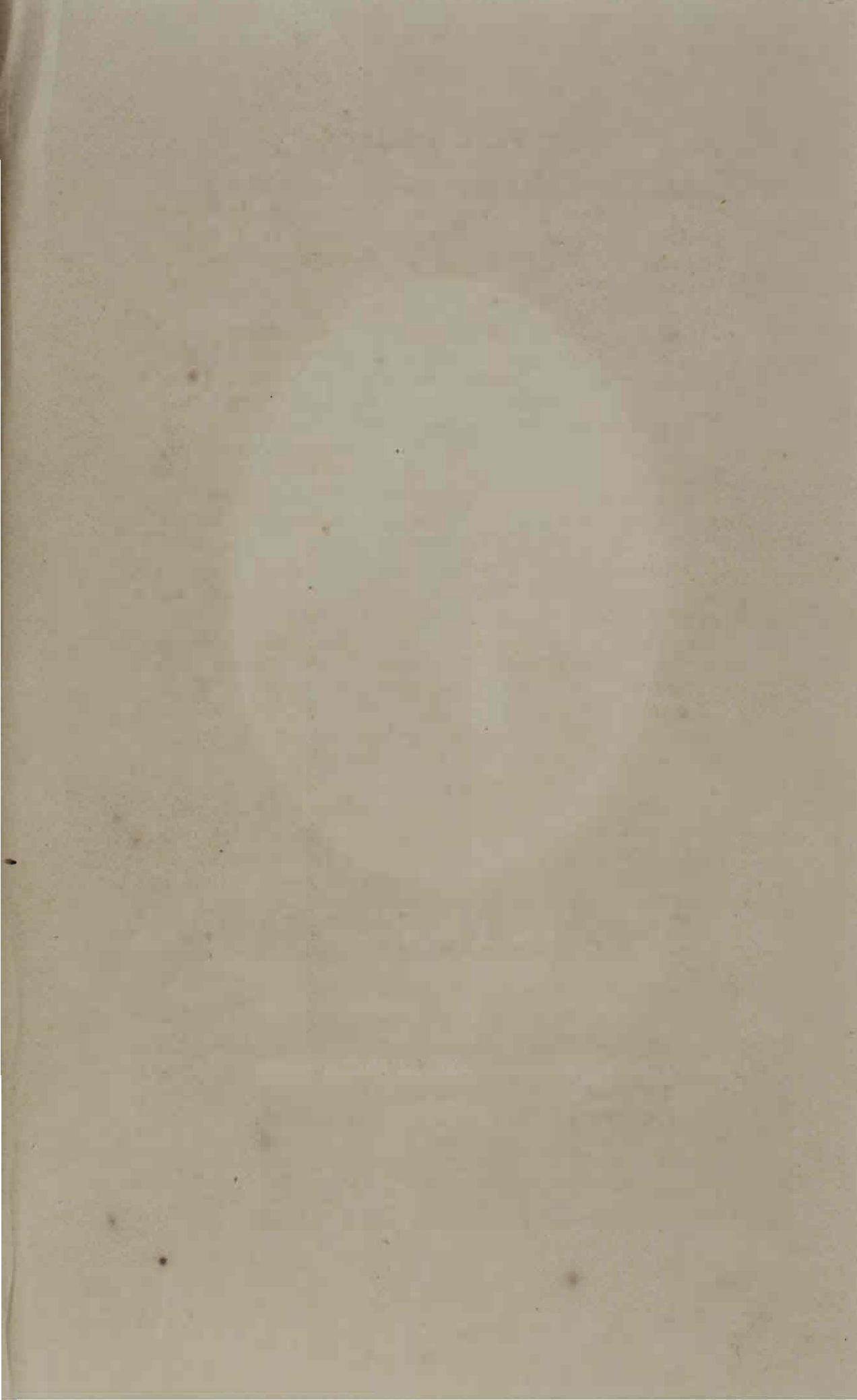
regaining of the old form. The leading cricketers of this period were T. M. S. Mahamooth, S. Navaratnam, B. S. N. Selvadurai, K. Theivanayagam, D. J. Rajasingam, D. Rajendra, L. P. Rajasuriyar and C. Selvanayagam.

In the Annual Athletic Competitions, the College has been doing fairly well. Twice we missed the first place by a very narrow margin. We obtained the second place in 1928 and came third in 1930. Our leading athletes of this period were V. Arambu, G. C. T. Rasanayagam, B. S. N. Selvadurai and R. Rajendra—B. S. N. Selvadurai created a record for Ceylon by running the 100 yards in 10 seconds, and R. Rajendra was the Intermediate Champion for 1933.

From 1928 to 1930 we met with more reverses than success in Football. But from 1930 onwards we have met with greater success. In 1933 we lost only one match and were runners-up for the Championship in 1934. Our leading Football players during this period were V. Arambu, S. Sivasubramaniam, T. M. S. Mahamooth, G. C. T. Rasanayagam, P. Subramanian, S. Thambimuttu, S. Vasuthevan, P. Selvaretnam, V. Kandiah, and Percy Joseph.

The intensive efforts of the Masters who were in charge of games in recent years contributed not a little towards the increasing success shown in all departments since 1930. A word of appreciation is due to Mr. J. M. Singanayagam, Rev. R. J. M. Wilkes, and Messrs. J. S. Selvaretnam, Hector A. Fernando, K. C. Jacob and R. Aseervatham, all of whom have done yeoman service in coaching successfully the young sportsmen for proficiency in their games.

Progress and Success	The number on roll during this period fluctuated in the neighbourhood of four hundred (416 in 1927, 409 in 1929 and 450 in 1932).
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REV. N. K. NALLIAH,
All-Ceylon Representative to the Conference
of the Union of Wesleyan Churches,
London.
Chairman, Provincial Synod, 1934.
(Old Boy)

The Staff consisted of nine graduates (two in honours) a Diplomate in Education (two in 1928 and 1929) a Diplomate in Agriculture (since 1933), three First Class Trained Teachers, qualified Commercial and Art Instructors, a highly qualified Tamil Pundit and eight others.

The educational efforts of the College were crowned with considerable success at examinations during this period. In 1928 eight students passed the Cambridge Senior Certificate Examination three obtaining Honours and twenty the Junior with two Honours. Twelve students passed the Ceylon English School Leaving Certificate and one the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Examination. Twelve students were successful at the Junior London Chamber of Commerce Examination and twelve passed the Royal Drawing Society's Certificate with three Honours. In 1930 nine passed the Cambridge Senior Certificate and seven the Junior, three obtaining Honours and seven the Royal Society's Drawing Certificate with five in Honours. In 1933 we obtained the best percentage on Cambridge Senior results and five students passed the London Matriculation and one was placed in the First Division. T. M. C. Karunaratnam passed the Transitional Examination of the Trinity College of Music, London, in 1933. The Marcus Fernando Agricultural Scholarship for the two years 1932 and 1933 was won by two students of Central—Masters W. R. N. Nathaniel and V. S. Ariaretnam.

True to the maxim, "Once a Centralite always a Centralite," our Old Boys in Malaya have always remained loyal to their alma mater and by their integrity, perseverance and devotion to duty have brought credit to their College. The vast distance between Ceylon and

**The Malayan
Branch of the
Old Boys'
Association**

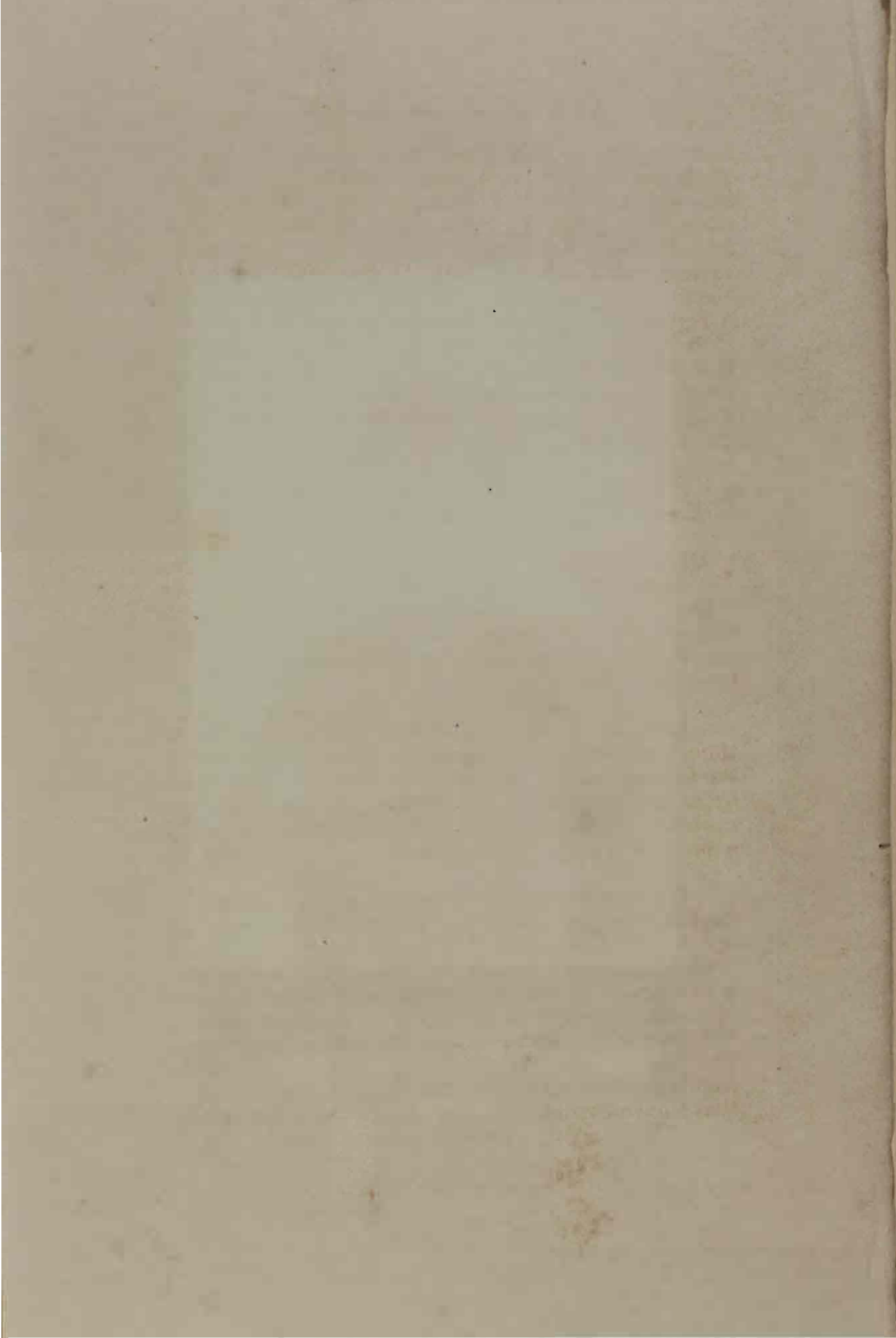
Malaya, and the absence of visits from members of the parent Association to those in Malaya made it impossible for several years to form a branch of the Old Boys' Association in Malaya. However, Mr. Sam Seevaratnam, a Secretary of the Parent Association, availed himself of his pleasure trip in 1932 to form with the help of several enthusiastic Old Boys, a branch of the O.B.A. in distant Malaya with Kuala-Lumpur as its head-quarters. Mr. A. Thambirajah of the Hydraulic Department, Mr. S. Veerasingham of the Federal Treasury, Messrs. E. A. Dutton, V. Thalayasingam, N. Ponnambalam and R. Rajasingam took a leading part in the inaugural function which was preceded by a Dinner at the Great Eastern Hotel, Kuala-Lumpur, with Mr. S. Seevaratnam as the chief guest. The following were elected Office-bearers at the inaugural meeting:—President, Mr. A. Thambirajah; Vice-President, Mr. S. Veerasingham; Hony. Secretary, Mr. E. A. Dutton; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. N. Ponnampalam.

Our Old Boys in Malaya have always responded admirably to the needs of their alma mater. In 1909, long before the formation of the Branch Association when the late Mr. J. K. Chanmukam went on behalf of the College to collect funds in aid of the 'New College Building Fund' the Old Boys rallied round him enthusiastically and within a very short time he returned home with the magnificent sum of Rs. 6,000.

The Tamil Ministers of the Methodist Mission with very few exceptions received their early education at Central. Revds. R. A. Winslow, K. S. Murugasu, B.A., L.T., N. K. Nalliah, D. N. Muttiah, V. R. Samuel, J. W. A. Kanagasabai, G. W. Gnanamuttu, A. S. Veerakathipillai, M. I. Newton, T. S. Vethanayagam are all Old Boys of the College. Rev. N. K. Nalliah had the honour of being selected as the sole representative



S. CANDIAH, ESQ.,
Retired Supervisor of Tamil Education.
(Old Boy)



from Ceylon to the Conference of the Union of Wesleyan Primitive and United Methodist Churches held at the Guildhall, London, in 1932. Messrs. J. V. Gunaretnam, D. T. Niles, B. C. D. Mather, S. A. Selvaretnam, J. M. Singanayagam and S. T. Aseervatham obtained the B.D. Degree of Serampore. Messrs. Singanayagam, Mather, Selvaratnam and Aseervatham are now working in the South-India United Church Field. Mr. D. T. Niles passed the B.D. Examination in the First Class and was awarded the George Howell's University Prize for History of Religions, the Highfield Greek Testament Prize and the Alexander Scripture Prize.

Rev. W. J. Noble, General Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society visited the College on 6th February, 1929,

**Distinguished
Visitors**

and in a note of appreciation in the Log Book states: "It (College) continued to take a high place in the Christian and educational life of the country and to produce men who do credit to their training."

Hon. Mr. R. W. Lyall-Grant, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon with Mrs. Grant visited the College, on 8th August, 1929 and expressed his appreciation thus: "I was greatly impressed by the evidence of an excellent and up-to-date education which were everywhere apparent."

His Excellency, Sir Herbert Stanley, Governor of Ceylon, who presided at the College Prize-giving on 3rd March, 1930 said: "The exhibition of School work afforded evidence of the interesting and intelligent manner in which instruction is imparted and received. I was specially impressed by what I saw in the Science Department and the Geography room. The Scouts and Cubs showed a very creditable standard of keenness and efficiency. I am confident that this movement is now firmly established and

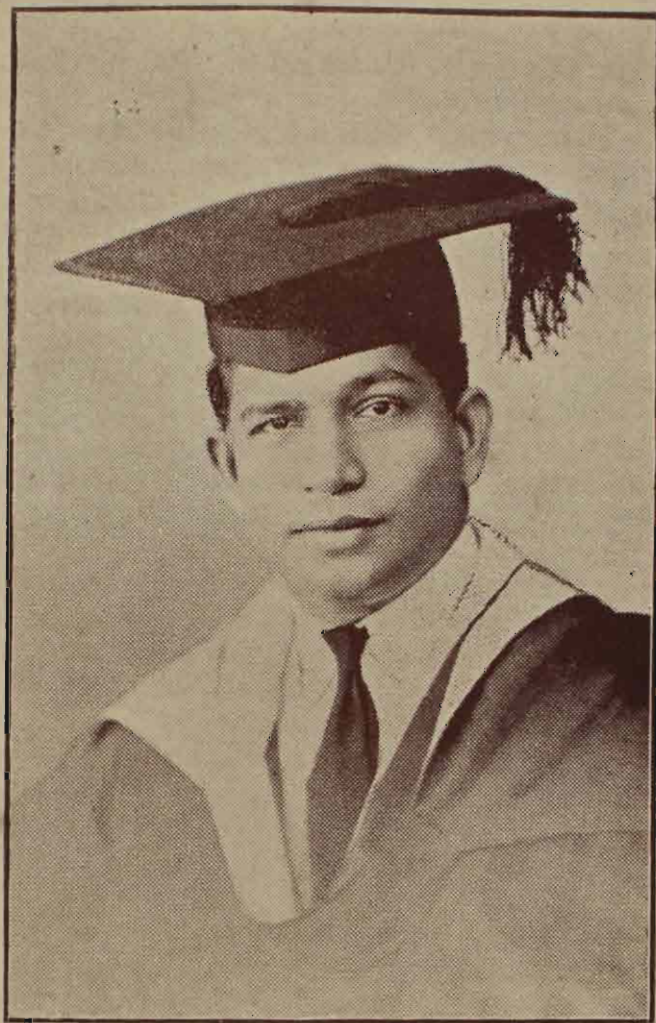
that it will prove a highly beneficial element in the life of the School. I congratulate Mr. Cash and his Staff on their good work and on the success which is attending it."

Hon. Mr. M. T. Akbar, K.C., Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon, who visited the College on 6th August, 1930, paid a high tribute to the work of the College, "I must admit, I was surprised at the very good work being done by the Staff. I was very particularly pleased to see Mr. Cash experimenting on the development of several original lines, viz., his Manual Training Department, his Commercial Class, the Botanical Laboratory, the Art Class and the Geography Class. I wish Mr. Cash every success on the original lines he is taking and I hope he will get every support from the people of Jaffna in developing on these lines."

Hon. Sir P. J. Macdonell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon and Lady Macdonell visited the College on 10th November, 1932 and made a note as follows in the College Log Book: "It was a great pleasure to us to have seen a place which is evidently of great educational value and wide scope in every respect. We were much impressed by the space and cheerfulness of the College and its buildings and courts. We were very glad indeed to have had the privilege of seeing over it."

Rev. W. J. Noble, Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society for India and Ceylon, was the Chief speaker on the Prize-days and Prize-day in 1929. Mr. R. W. other Functions White, a distinguished Methodist layman from England, presided on the occasion, and Mrs. J. K. Chanmukam distributed the prizes.

The Prize-day held on 3rd March, 1930, was a memorable one. It was the first time in the history



A. KANDIAH, ESQ., D.Sc., PH.D., (Lond.)

Professor of Chemistry,
Ceylon University College.

(Old Boy)

of the College when a Governor of Ceylon presided at the Prize Distribution. His Excellency, Sir Herbert Stanley went round the College and saw the exhibition of school-work. With His Excellency the following were also accommodated on the platform :— Hon. Mr. E. W. Jayewardene, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. Mr. K. Balasingham, Member of the Legislative Council, Hon. Mr. W. Doraiswamy, Member of the Legislative Council, Mr. J. D. Brown, Government Agent, Northern Province, Mr. R. R. Nalliah, Chairman, Jaffna Urban District Council, Rev. A. Lockwood, Dr. A. N. Cumarasamy and Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam, B.A.

Sir D. B. Jayatilake, M.A. (Oxon), Leader of the State Council, and Minister of Home Affairs, presided at the Prize-day in 1934. Mr. K. S. Arulnandy, M.Sc. (London), Divisional Inspector of Schools, and Rev. H. R. Cornish were the speakers.

The Staff and Students of the College staged Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in 1928, "Henry V." in 1930 and "The Twelfth Night" in 1932. A musical and Variety Entertainment, consisting of Oriental and Occidental musical items, was held in 1933. A high degree of histrionic talents were displayed in the dramatic entertainments.

The Colombo Branch of the Old Boys' Association met almost annually during this period. The programme of the Celebrations of the Old Boys' Day in Jaffna usually included cricket and football matches between the Old Boys and the College, a Tennis Tournament between the Old Boys and the Staff, an "At Home" by the Principal, a Public Meeting and Lunch or Dinner. Dr. S. Subramaniam, Provincial Surgeon, and Mr. D. H. Balfour, District Judge, addressed the Public Meeting in 1931. Mr. G. C. S. Corea, Member of the State Council, and Mr. W. R. Watson, Divisional Inspector of Schools were the speakers at the Public Meeting in 1932. A photograph

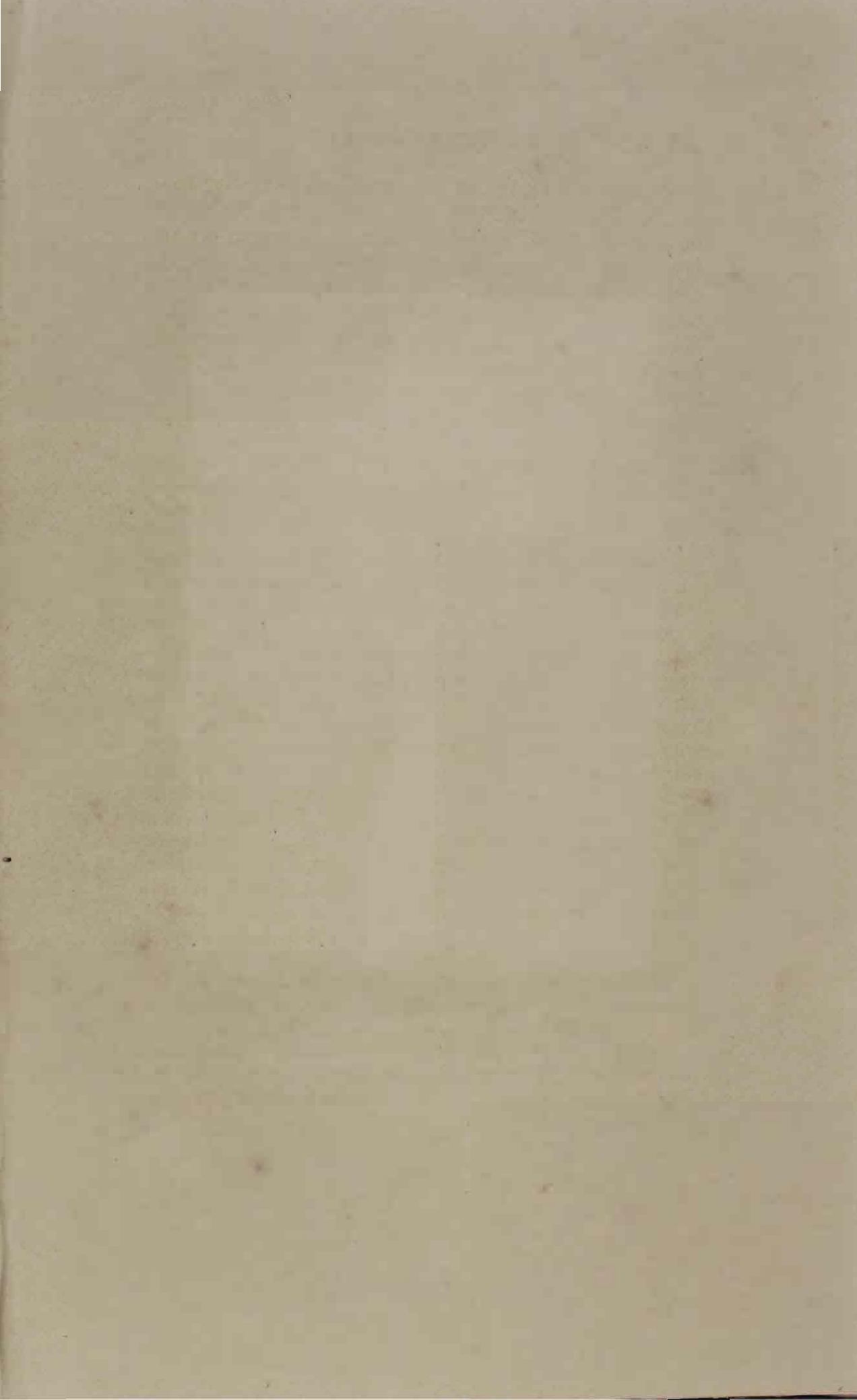
of the late Mr. G. W. Tamber was unveiled by Rev. E. M. Weaver on the Old Boys' Day in 1933. Mr. R. J. Seal, Acting Principal, presided at the Dinner on the same day and Messrs. V. Joseph, Advocate, R. R. Nalliah, Chairman, Jaffna Urban District Council, W. R. Waston, B.A., B.Sc., W. G. Spencer, B.Sc., Advocate, Rev. E. M. Weaver, Chairman, North Ceylon District, and H. Peto, M.A., were among those who proposed and responded to the toasts.

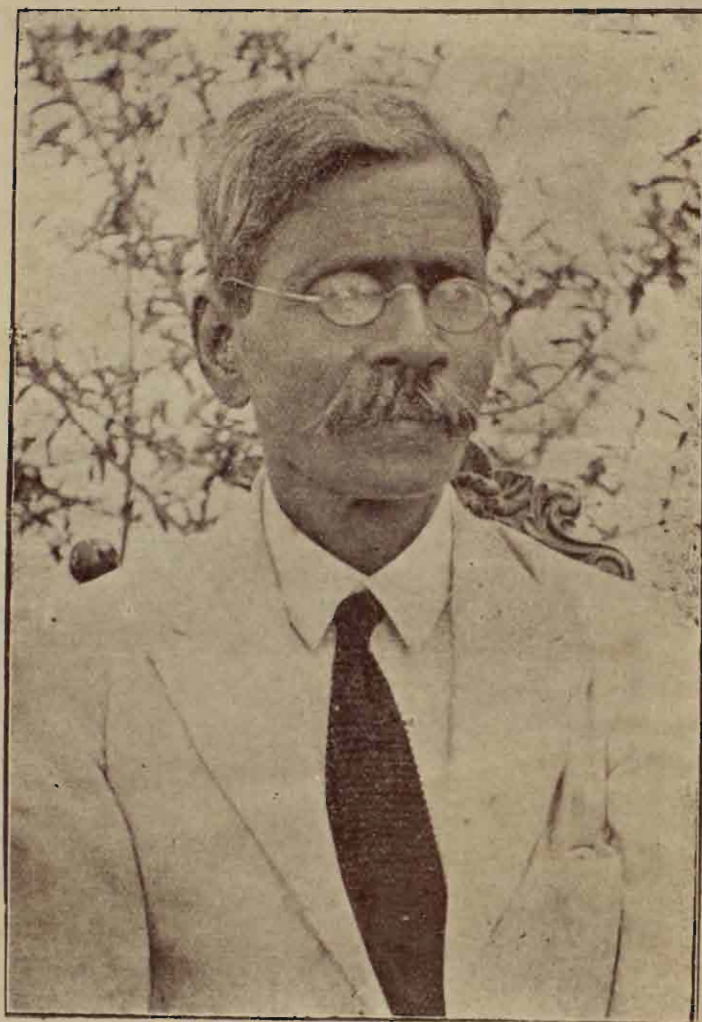
Rev. J. Bicknell and Mr. R. C. Proctor were the speakers at the Public Meeting held on the Old Boys' Day in 1934.

Many Old Boys of the College achieved distinctions and rose to positions of eminence during this period. Messrs. W. M. S. Tampoe, R. Sabanayagam, K. V. Nadarajah and H. V. Rameshwara passed out as Proctors.

Achievements of Old Boys

Mr. Tampoe, a grandson of the late Mr. Mc Gown Tampoe, is practising his profession in Jaffna. He was the Secretary of the Old Boys' Association and takes good deal of interest in the affairs of his alma mater. Mr. R. Sabanayagam is Assistant Shroff of the National Bank of India, Colombo. Mr. Nadarajah is practising at Badulla. Mr. Rameshwara won the Scholarship at Proctors' Final Examination and is now practising in Colombo. Messrs. W. G. Spencer, B.Sc., P. Sriskandarajah, B.Sc., M. Kanagasundaram and H. W. Tambiah, B.Sc., L.L.B., passed out as Advocates. Messrs. Spencer and Sriskandarajah are practising at the Jaffna Bar. Mr. H. W. Tambiah won the Scholarship at the Advocates' Final Examinatin in 1934. Mr. R. P. S. Rajasooriyar qualified as a Barrister-at-Law and is practising his profession in the Federated Malay States. Mr. P. Vaithilingam, Police Magistrate, was appointed District Judge.





DR. S. SUBRAMANIAM,
Retired Provincial Surgeon, N. P.
(Old Boy)

Drs. E. T. Samuel and P. Thiagarajah were awarded scholarships to England for higher studies. Dr. Samuel returned to Ceylon after obtaining British qualifications and was House Surgeon of the Jaffna Hospital. But death cut short his bright career. Dr. Thiagarajah also obtained British qualifications. Drs. J. M. Chittampalam, J. S. Amarasingam, V. D. Seevaratnam, V. Sivalingam, P. K. Chanmukam, K. Kanagaratnam, R. Kandiah and N. Rajendram obtained British qualifications and are employed in the Medical Department. Messrs. T. M. Z. Mahamooth, A. Philip Selvaratnam, K. N. Subramaniam, qualified as Veterinary Surgeons of the Bombay and Bengal Veterinary Colleges. Mr. Mahamooth won the Sir Dinshaw Peter's Gold Medal for General Proficiency in the Third-year Examination. He has been employed under the Ceylon Government and is now gone to England on a Scholarship to obtain higher qualifications. Mr. Subramaniam is employed under the Colombo Municipality.

Dr. V. Kathiragamathamby, C. Sapabathy, A. N. Cumaraswamy and K. Ponniah are among the First Grade officers of the Medical Department. Dr. S. Subramaniam was Provincial Surgeon, Jaffna, and retired in 1932. He is now running a private dispensary and enjoys a wide practice.

In the sphere of education, Old Boys of Central occupy positions of honour. Mr. W. R. Watson, B.A., B.Sc., Dip. Ed., who was an Assistant District Inspector of Schools, was appointed a Divisional Inspector. Mr. Watson later became Chief Inspector of Schools, and is now the Third Assistant Director of Education. Mr. K. S. Arulnandy, B.Sc., who was a District Inspector of Schools, proceeded to England on study leave and obtained the M.Sc., degree in Psychology and the Diploma in Education of the London University. His research work was highly commended by that eminent Psychologist, Dr. Spearman of the London University. On his return to Ceylon he

was appointed to act as Divisional Inspector of Schools and is now functioning in that capacity in the Northern Division. Mr. S. Candiah, another District Inspector of Schools, was promoted to act as Divisional Inspector of Schools, Northern Division. Mr. Candiah later held the important office of Supervisor of Tamil Education. He retired in 1932. Mr. V. K. Nathan, B.A., was made an Assistant Inspector of Schools, and is acting as District Inspector of Western Division. Messrs. N. S. Samuel, B.A., S. Thiagarajah and J. T. Vairamuttu are Assistant Inspectors. Mr. A. Coomaraswamy, M.A. (Calcutta), obtained the M.A. Degree and the Diploma in Education of the London University and was admitted to the English Bar. He was appointed Principal of the Jaffna Hindu College in 1933. He is Vice-President of the Northern Province Teachers' Association and takes a keen interest in the educational activities of the province. Mr. F. H. V. Gula-segaram, M.A., Lecturer in Mathematics, was made Registrar of the Ceylon University College in 1927. Mr. A. Kandiah obtained the Doctorate in Science of the London University and was appointed Lecturer, Ceylon University College, in 1933, and is now Professor of Chemistry. Mr. A. W. R. Mailvaganam, B.A. (Cantab), B.Sc. (London), was appointed Lecturer in Physics. Mr. J. V. Dharmarajah, M.A., is a Visiting Lecturer in Philosophy.

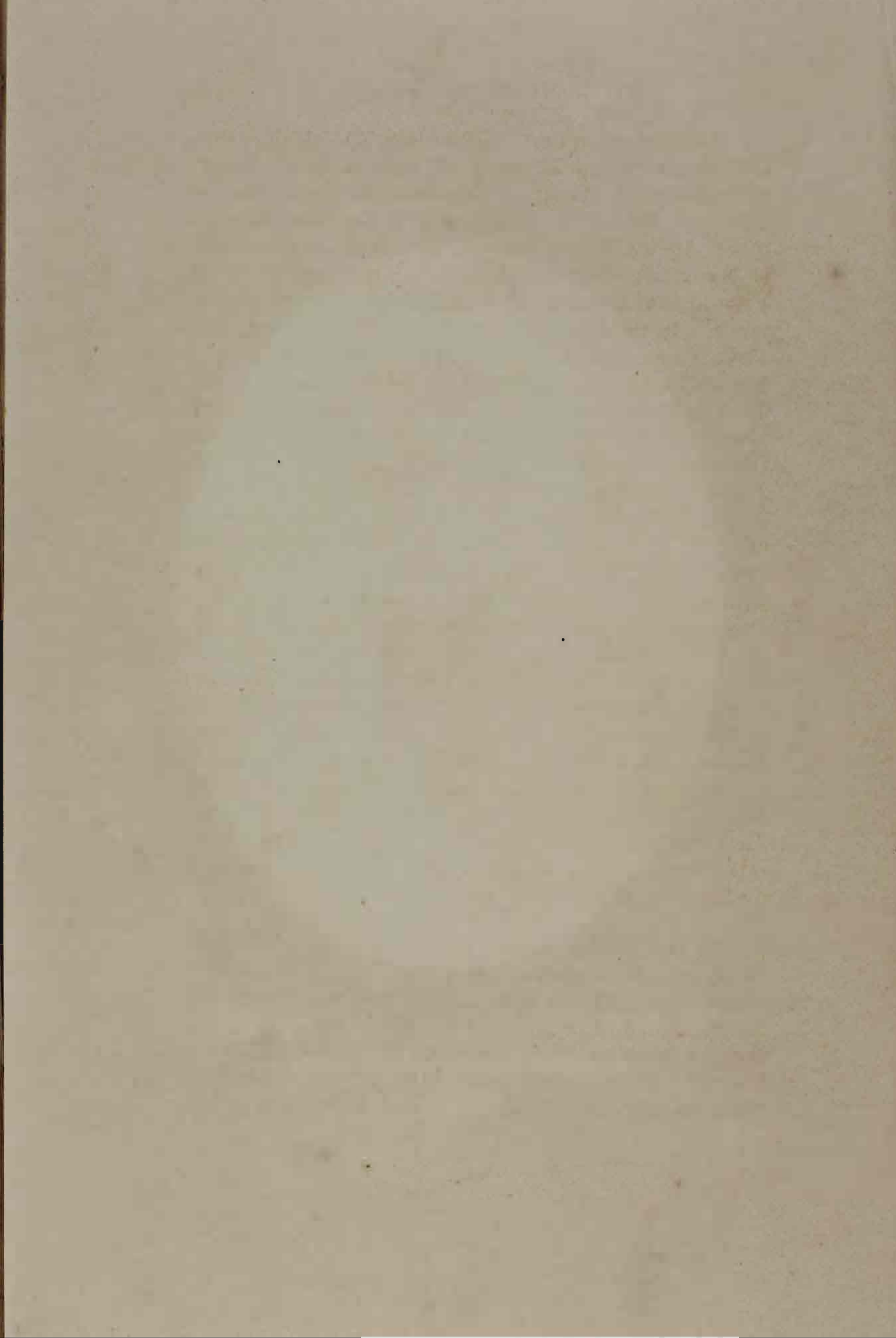
Messrs. A. Rajadurai, H. W. Tambiah, A. V. Richards, S. Karalu, S. Canagalingam and J. V. Appapillai passed the London B.Sc. Examination and Mr. K. Kanagaratnam obtained the B.A. (London) and Mr. S. Thangarajah, the B.A. Honours. Mr. A. V. Richards won the Agricultural Scholarship in 1928 and proceeded to Cambridge where he obtained the Post Graduate Diploma in Agriculture. From there he proceeded to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad and obtained the Associateship. Messrs. J. V. Gunaretnam and S. V. Vairamuttu passed the Calcutta B.A. Examination.



W. R. WATSON, ESQ., B.A., B.SC., DIP: EDU:

Assistant Director of Education.

(Old Boy)



In the Ceylon Civil Service, Mr. K. Vaithianathan is Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. C. Sittampalam is Assistant Government Agent, Eastern Province, Mr. J. N. Arumugam is Assistant Government Agent, Anuradhapura, Mr. S. S. Navaratnam is Assistant Land Settlement Officer, and Mr. V. Visvalingam is extra-Office Assistant, Northern Province. In the Government Audit Department, Mr. V. C. Manicam is Assistant Auditor for Railways, and Messrs. D. G. Singanayagam, M. S. Seevaratnam and J. V. Dharmarajah are Chief Audit Examiners. Messrs. N. N. Thamotheram, Chief Interpreter to the Governor and Chief Tamil Translator, W. T. Jegasothy, Chief Clerk, Land Settlement Office, S. Periathamby, B.A., Chief Clerk, State Council, are in the special class of the Clerical Service. Mr. M. S. Tiruvilangam is Investigating Officer of Office Systems and Mr. I. Rasanayagam is an Assessor of the Income Tax Department. Mr. O. D. Chanmukam is an Engineer in the Government Press. Mr. A. Nadarajah is Telephone and Telegraph Divisional Engineer. Mr. A. A. Cooke is an Engineer in the Government Electrical Department. Mr. V. Rasaratnam is Superintendent of Surveys and Mr. J. C. Chanmukam, Assistant Superintendent of Surveys. Messrs. A. S. Philips and P. Cooke Selvaratnam are Assistant Superintendents of Police. Mr. Selvaratnam has been sent on a Scholarship to England for Training at Scotland Yard.

In the Public life of Jaffna Old Boys of Central continued to play a leading part. Mr. Nevins Selvadurai, B.A., J.P., M.B.E., was elected Member of the State Council in 1934. Mr. R. R. Nalliah, J.P., has been twice elected Chairman of the Urban District Council. He is also the Secretary of the Friend-in-Need Society and the Flood Relief Committee. Mr.

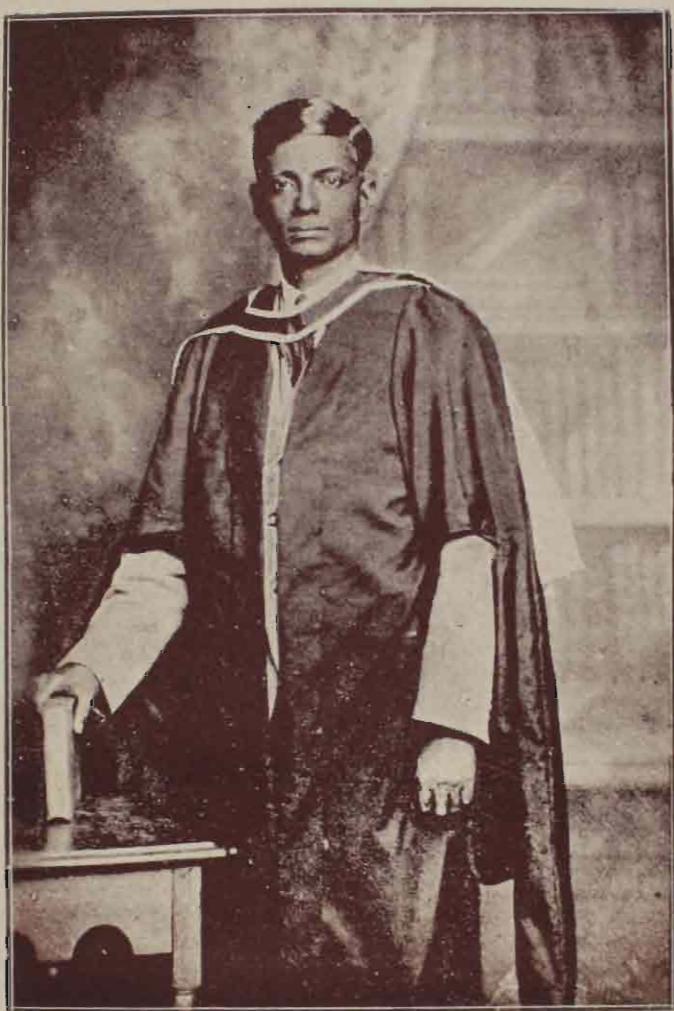
S. Rajaratnam, Advocate, is Manager of Schools of the Hindu Board for the Promotion of Education and President of the Jaffna Bar Association. Mr. V. Ramalingam, Proctor, S.C., is Secretary of the Hindu College Board of Management, the Jaffna Association, the Jaffna United Club, the Jaffna Public Library and the Law Library.

Messrs. K. T. Abraham, B.Sc., and J. S. Selva-retnam joined the staff in 1928. Mr. Abraham who

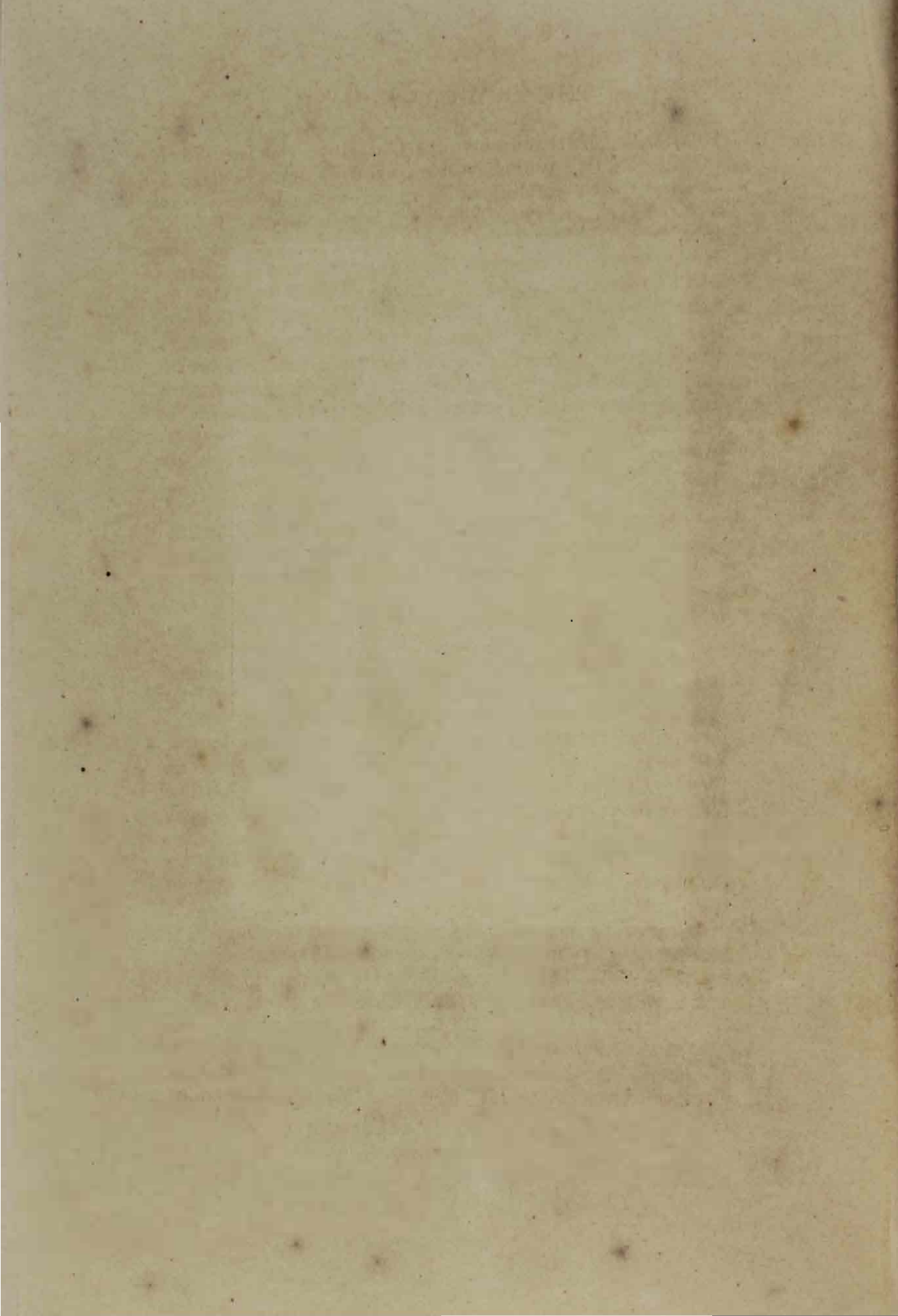
**Staff at this Period
(1928-1934.)**

succeeded Mr. S. C. Guna-ratnam as teacher in Botany came to us with considerable teaching experience.

He specialised in Botany and did some work in the Bose Research Institute, Calcutta. His efforts in the Botany Department have met with considerable success. Mr. Selvaretnam is an Old Boy who underwent a course at the Government Training College for teachers. His interest in the varied activities of the school and his work as Boarding Master and Prefect of Games have been of great value to the College. His histrionic talents have also been usefully exploited to the advantage of the College. Mr. S. A. Mann left in 1928 and took to business. Mr. Mann had been a source of strength to the extra-curricular activities of the College. His varied talents were of great value in the field of sport and during dramatic entertainments. Mr. O. L. Gibbon left in 1929 to take up duties as Principal of Kingswood College, Kandy. Mr. Samuel Jacob was also transferred to Hartley College in the same year. Mr. Jacob was called from India in 1923 to be in charge of the Chemistry and Physics of the Intermediate classes. After these classes were abandoned he was in charge of these subjects in the Upper School. An able teacher of his subjects, he did good work during his stay at College. He was also a Boarding Master and Sports Master. Messrs. V. Muttucumar, M.A., H. N. Saunders, B.Sc., J. M. Singanayagam, B.D., V. Thuraisingam and Miss D. E. Thomas joined in



K. S. ARULNANDHY, Esq., M.Sc., (Lond.)
Divisional Inspector of Schools, N. P.
(Old Boy)



1929. Mr. Muttucumaru, an Old Boy, was in charge of the English and History of the Upper Forms. A teacher with considerable experience, he was an asset to the school during his short stay. He left in 1931 to take up work as Principal of the Kanterodai Institute. Mr. Saunders was in charge of Chemistry for eight months and left in 1930 to take up work as Vice-Principal of Kingswood College, Kandy. During his short stay, he took much interest in all the activities of the College and rendered useful assistance on the field of sport. Mr. Singanayagam during his stay at Central rendered useful service in the Boarding House and in the College. As Sports-master he helped considerably to improve the sports activities of the College.

Mr. V. Thuraisingam left us after a year of enthusiastic work and joined the Government Training College. He is on the staff of the Royal College Preparatory School. Miss D. E. Thomas left us and joined her Old School in 1931.

Rev. C. A. Smith and Mr. W. G. Spencer joined the staff in 1930. Rev. C. A. Smith during the four years he stayed at Central threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the School. His simple and unassuming ways and his conscientious labours for the College won for him the esteem and regard of his pupils and his Colleagues. Rev. Smith had a very high sense of duty and considered no work below his dignity. He was an asset to the College and its extra-curricular activities. He is now Principal of the Batticaloa Central College. Mr. W. G. Spencer a former teacher of this College, came in again as a Science teacher in 1930 and rendered useful service till 1932. He left us and joined the Legal Profession and is practising at the Jaffna Bar.

Mr. E. Winslow Vijayaratnam who was a teacher of English, Latin and History in the Middle Forms of the College left in 1930. Mr. Vijayaratnam

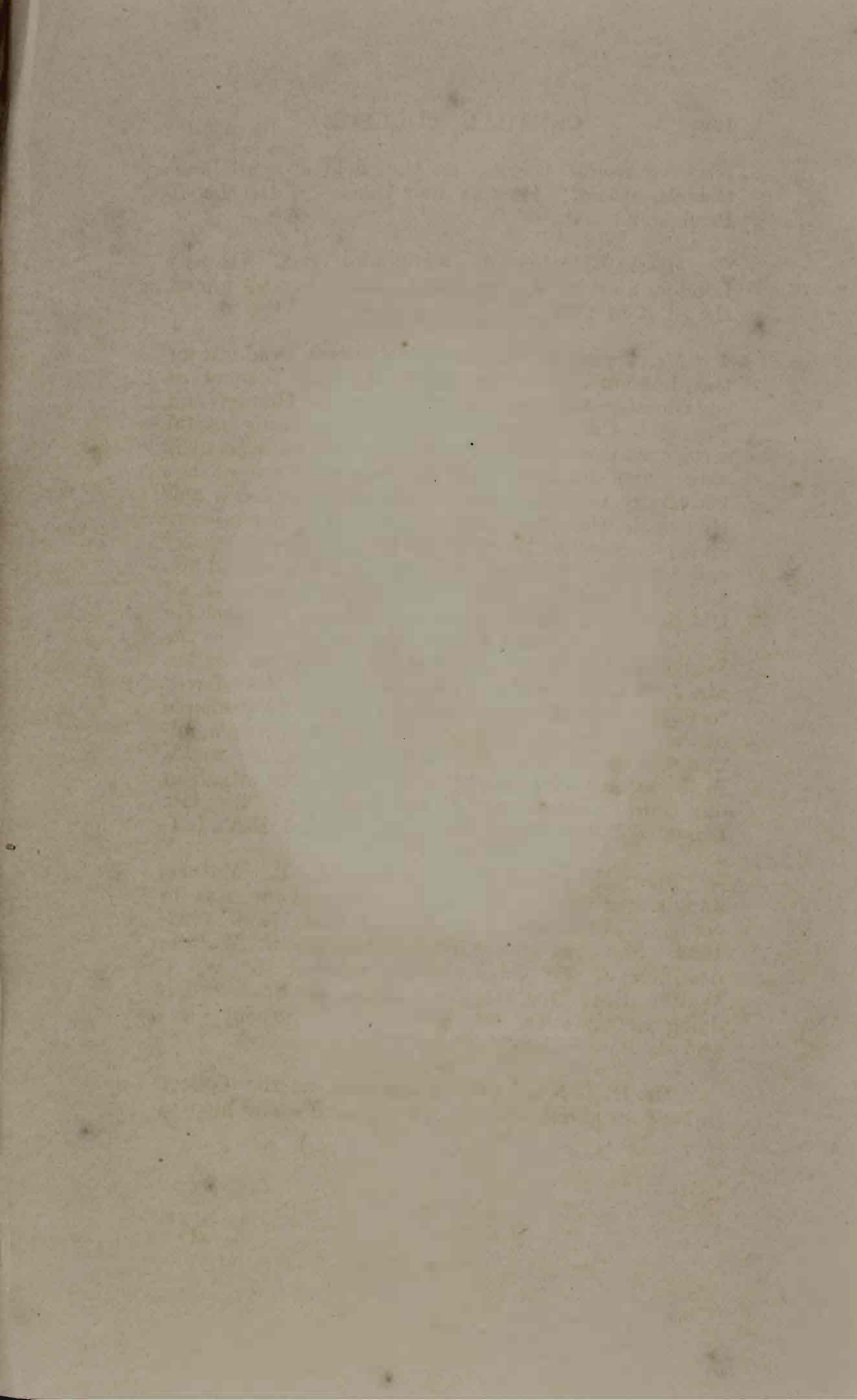
rendered useful service on the field of sport and the class-room. He has now taken to the Legal Profession.

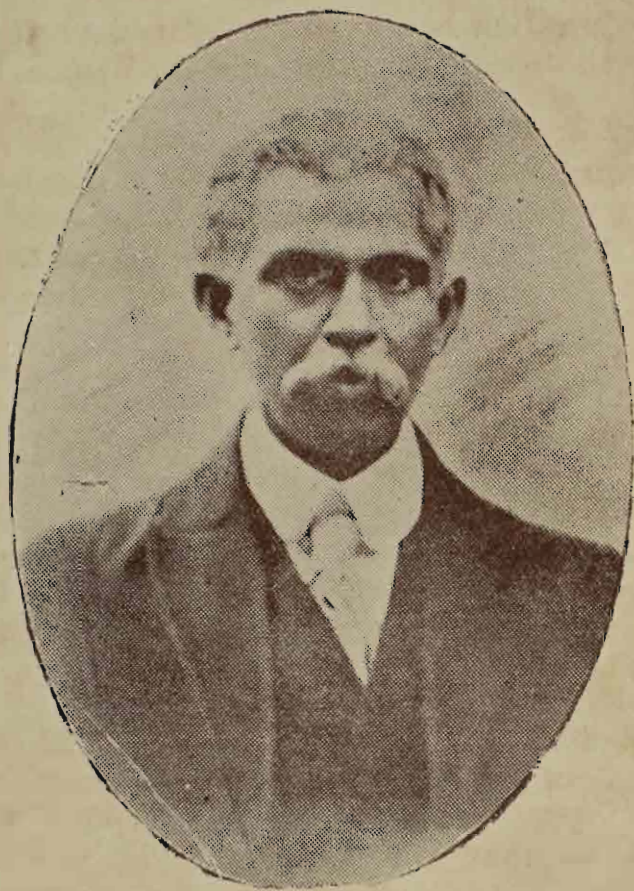
Messrs. Hector A. Fernando, B.A. (Hons.) London and R. Aseervatham, B.A. (Lond.) joined the staff in 1932.

Mr. Fernando who is an Honours Graduate of the London University and a Trained Teacher of considerable teaching experience takes History and English in the Upper Forms. He is rendering useful service as Cricket Master. Mr. Aseervatham was the only Tamil to have won the English Prize at the University College. He teaches English, Latin and History in the Upper Forms. He is also rendering useful service as Boarding Master and Cub-master and Athletics Master. Mr. A. V. Richards, B.Sc., joined the staff in 1933. Mr. Richards who is an Old Boy was a Government Agricultural Scholar. He is in charge of Chemistry and General Science in the School and is doing very good work as Rover Leader. Mr. J. V. Gunaretnam, B.A., B.D., was transferred to Kilner College in 1933 and was appointed Principal of that institution in 1934. Mr. Gunaratnam's administrative ability and the influence he wields in the locality are assets to the institution which at one time flourished under the guidance of his late lamented father-in-law, Mr. S. A. Edward, B.A., L.T.

Miss N. Chanmukam, (Mrs. J. T. Mather) daughter of the late Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, was in charge of the Second Year Special Class from 1932-1933. She was succeeded by Miss F. S. Walton, daughter of the veteran school master, Mr. W. A. Walton, B.A. Miss Walton is still on the Staff and is doing useful work in the Second Year Special Class and the lower school.

Mr. D. T. Niles was on the staff of the College in 1928 for about a year. He rendered useful help in





G. W. TAMBER, ESQ.,
Asst. Master, (1894—1932).

the religious activities of the College and left in 1929 to join the Bangalore Theological College. He has now joined the ministry and is at present on the staff of this College. The scheme of religious studies drafted by him for use in Methodist Schools, his assistance to the College Students' Christian Union and the Masters' Fellowship are some of the many ways in which he has sought to stimulate the religious activities of the College and the Mission.

Rev. C. W. Marriot, B.A., (Cantab), was on the staff during 1934. An able teacher of English and Classics, a person of more than ordinary intellectual ability and a gentleman of noble qualities, Mr. Marriot was held in high esteem by his colleagues.

The Veterans of the Staff, Messrs. S. S. Thambipillai and G. K. Mailvaganam are still with us in charge of the First Year Preparatory and Special Classes. They have served Central for nearly thirty years and have seen generations of Centralites come and grow up to manhood and become distinguished Old Boys. They are veritable land marks in the history of the College and their loyal service to Central has been of much value.

The death of Mr. G. W. Tamber in 1932, almost on the eve of retirement removed from Central a link with the past and a teacher

G. W. Tamber who had loyally served the Institution for a period of thirty-five years.

Mr. George Washington Tamber was born on 4th January, 1873 and received his education at Central where his father, Mr. Philip Tamber, was a teacher for many years. He followed in the wake of his father and became a teacher at Central during the early

nineties of the last century. He continued as a teacher in the middle forms of the College till the time of his death.

Mr. Tamber will always be remembered as a teacher of outstanding merit who spared no pains to make the lessons interesting to his pupils. He was at his best in his History classes and his old students cannot forget the genial personality that kept them spell-bound and enraptured in events long past, made living and real by their teacher. He was a friend and adviser to his pupils and many an Old Boy will testify to the help and fatherly care he bestowed on them during their early school-days.

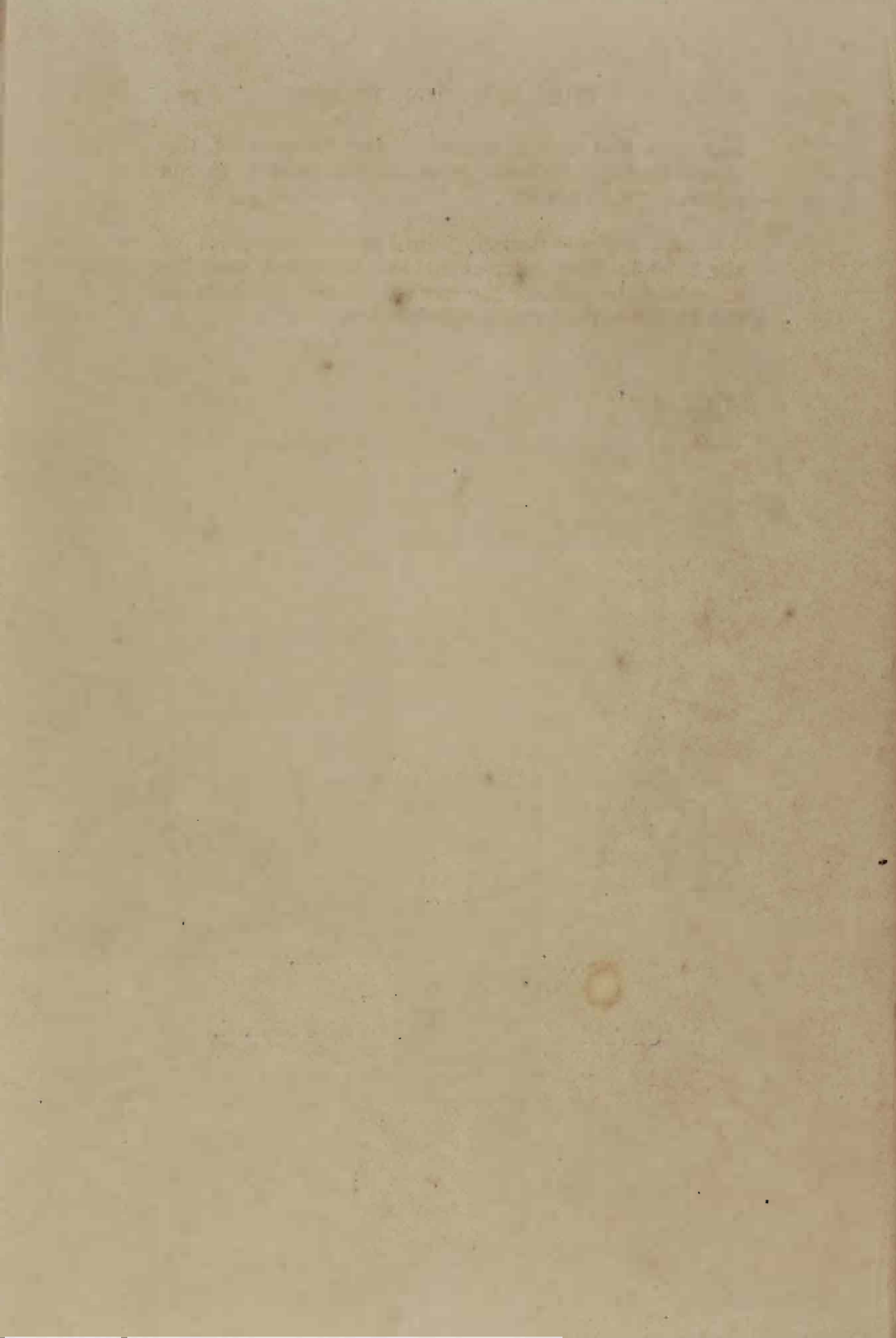
Mr. Cash writing about him says: "The removal by death of a teacher so greatly respected and loved has made a great gap in our midst. Mr. Tamber was a good teacher, capable of presenting a subject in an interesting manner. He was a valued adviser also at all times when Extension Schemes were to be considered. Mr. Tamber possessed much influence in his own locality and was a great friend of the poor and needy".

Rev. and Mrs. Cash went on furlough in December, 1932 and Mr. R. J. Seal, M.Sc., A.I.C. acted as Principal during the year 1933.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Seal His brief tenure of office was characterised by enthusiastic work and efficient administration. As an able teacher of Science, Mr. Seal re-adapted the scope of the subject beyond the purely academic and included things of practical and every day importance. Youthful and enthusiastic, he was a source of encouragement to the extra-curricular activities. The Scout Movement received his special attention and it was re-organised and fully developed during his tenure of office. His interest and encouragement contributed not a little to the success on the field of sport during the year. His business-



R. R. NALLIAH, ESQ., J.P.,
Proctor, S. C.,
Chairman, Jaffna Urban District Council.
(Old Boy)



like and able management of the finances of the school during a difficult year was a tribute to his administrative ability.

Mrs. Seal too heartily joined in the activities of the school. Her interest in the Cub Pack and the attention she paid for the welfare of the students of the Hostel cannot easily be forgotten.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE CENTENARY.

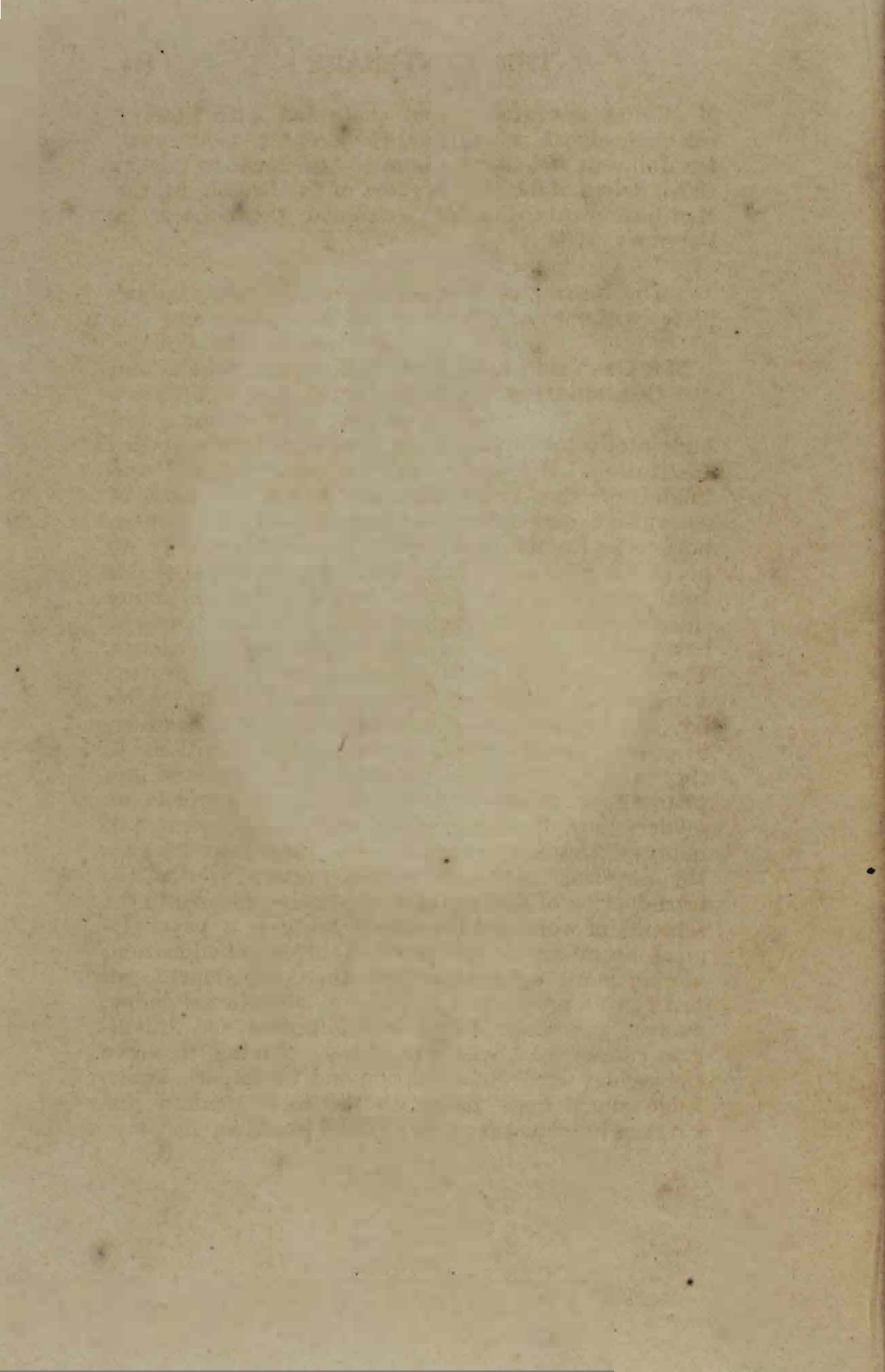
Rev. and Mrs. Cash converted their journey home on furlough in 1933 more or less into a geographical and educational tour

Mr. Cash on round the world. From Colombo
Furlough they proceeded to Australia and spent twenty days in that

island-continent visiting Perth, Adelaide, Western Victoria, Melbourne and Sydney. They crossed over to New Zealand, visited South and North Islands, stayed in Wellington, Westport, Hokatika, Christchurch, Wairakei, Rotorua and Auckland, and spent quite an interesting time in the volcanic and geyser regions of the North Island. They went across the Pacific visiting Fiji, Samoa Islands, Honolulu and the University of Honolulu. They arrived in the United States of America, landed at San Francisco and saw Longbeach soon after the earthquake of April, 1933. At San Francisco they visited Berkeley University which has twelve thousand students. They went over to Salt Lake City, the great Mormon centre, visited the Mormon Tabernacle and the State Capitol. They crossed the Rockies, reaching a height of ten thousand feet, travelling by the smaller canons of the Colorado River to Colorado Springs and walked amongst the snows at Maniton under the shadow of Pike's Peak. They went over to St. Louis crossing the Mississippi and Hannibal and then over to Washington, saw the Senate and House of Representatives in session, visited the White House, the Pan-American House, the Lincoln monument and Mount Vernon, the old Home of George Washington. They proceeded to New Haven, visited the Yale University and thence to Boston and sailed to Glasgow. They spent seven months in England in North Wales, Birmingham, London and Yorkshire.



A. COOMARASWAMY, Esq.,
M.A., (Cal.) M.A., (Lond.)
Dip., Edn., Bar-at-Law,
Principal, Jaffna Hindu College.
(Old Boy)



Mr. Cash also visited places connected with literary celebrities like Gray, Milton, the Brontes, Goldsmith, Dr. Johnson and Charles Lamb. En route to Ceylon they visited Malta, the keypost of the British in the Mediterranean. Central welcomed them back in February, 1934.

The history of this period will be most incomplete without a reference to Mr. Cash and his contribution to the College.

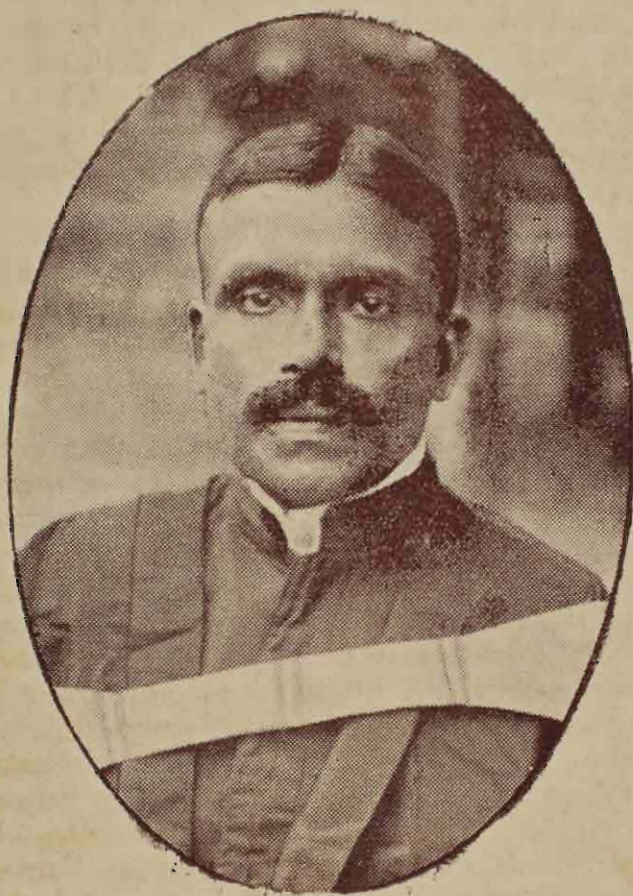
Mr. Cash and his Contribution Poet, Philosopher, Scholar and Educationist, Rev. P. T. Cash's academic distinctions and

high intellectual attainments have been assets to this Institution. His poetic compositions, "Elijah" and "Land of the Fairy Haunted Lawn," (a book of descriptive and reflective verses) and his contributions to English and Ceylon periodicals testify to his poetic gifts and scholarship. As Principal of this Institution who has guided and directed its many sided development on sound and up-to-date lines, he has proved himself an educationist par excellence. The widening of the curriculum so as to provide a wide range of subjects useful to the Ceylon school-boy, the extension to the College and hostel buildings to provide greater accommodation, the additions to the equipment in the form of apparatus and appliances to facilitate the teaching of subjects on modern lines, the organisation and encouragement of many extra-curricular activities that help towards the physical and moral development of youths, the introduction of modern and progressive ideas into the schemes of work and the efforts towards a psychological approach to the problem of moral education, aiming more towards reform than punishment, all testify to a progressive and liberal educational policy, evolved and adopted by a well-informed and intelligent educationist, who was always striving to serve the greater ideals of education and to impart knowledge along lines based on the most modern discoveries in educational theory and practice.

A special feature of the educational work of Mr. Cash was the endeavour made to understand and help the individual boy in his difficulties. Besides organising the Moral Education Committee and the House System which brought the teachers into direct touch with the pupils, Mr. Cash and the Vice-Principal—Mr. Arudpragasam—visited the homes of the students and obtained first hand knowledge of the conditions and difficulties under which they were being brought up. These visits also afforded opportunities to understand the parents' point of view and to secure their co-operation towards helping the backward boy.

Mr. Cash has always endeavoured to give education in this country a cultural and practical bias. He has condemned the over much partiality shown to mathematics and mathematical sciences in the Jaffna Schools. He holds that more attention should be paid to Classics and the Arts and to the practical Sciences of importance to the agricultural, industrial, and commercial development of the country. His plea that educated lads should take to rural reconstruction has found response in some of the rural reconstruction schemes adopted in South Ceylon. As a practical educationist he has not been slow to realise the difficulties involved in imparting knowledge in Ceylon schools through a foreign medium of instruction. He has advocated a scheme of Bi-lingualism as a measure likely to help towards a solution of the difficulty. He has advocated the immediate establishment of a residential University, as an absolute necessity to co-ordinate and develop higher education in this country.

The interest taken by Mr. Cash in the educational organisations of the country has been of great value and a source of honour to the College. He is the President of the Geographical Association (Northern Branch) and a Member of the University College Council since 1931.



V. MUTTUCUMARU, ESQ., M.A.,
Principal, Skanda Varodaya College,
Chunnakam.
(Old Boy)



Mr. Cash's noble work in this Institution has been considerably helped by the assistance of Mrs. Cash. The care with which she looks after the welfare of the students of the Rigg Hall (hostel), the willing support and assistance she gives towards dramatic and musical entertainments and the interest she evinces in the other activities of the College are instances of the commendable service she renders. Her generous gift, the harmonium that has replaced the old piano, will long remain a memento of her generosity and affection for the College.

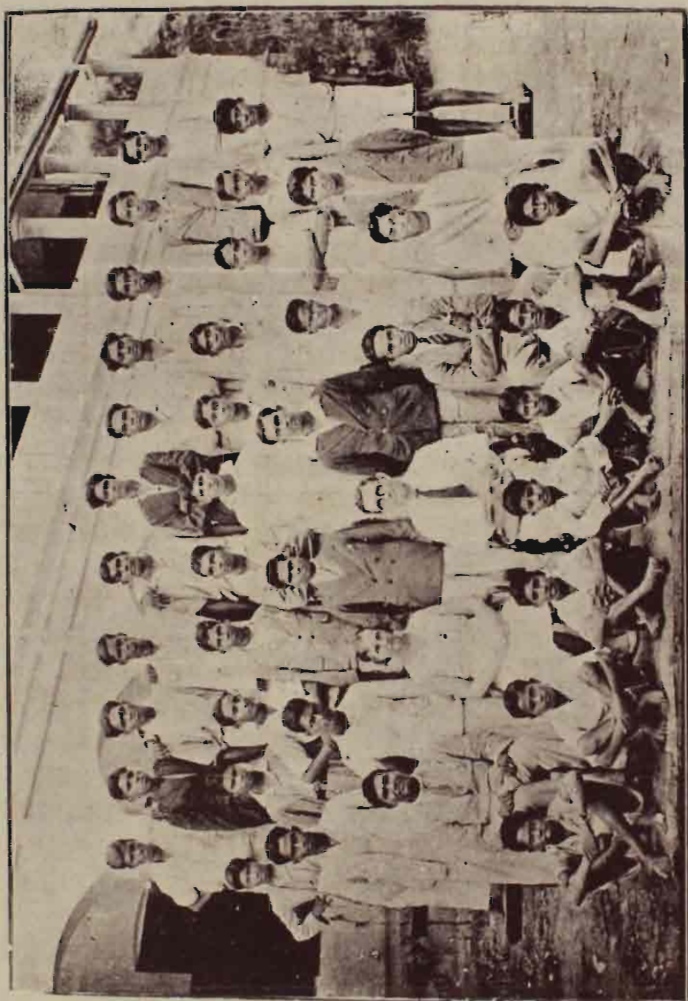
The present position of the College is due not a little to the united effort of the teaching Staff.

The Staff Cordial among themselves and ever-willing to co-operate for the good of the College, the present Staff have contributed their best towards its success and well-being. Reviewing his Staff, Mr. Cash writes: "At present we have a strong and highly qualified Staff including nine graduates—three in Honours, and four First Class Trained Teachers, one Diplomat in Education and one Diplomat in Agriculture. We have highly Trained Commercial and Art Masters also and our Tamil Pandit holds very high qualifications. The Staff gives generously of its out of school time to the training of the boys in such activities as Sports, Athletics, Scouting, Rovering and Cub-work. A member of the Staff is usually the President of the Student Christian Union and devotes much of his time to it. House masters exercise oversight also and nearly all the masters are connected with one or other of the four houses. Principal, Vice-Principal and Staff work together in harmonious and enthusiastic co-operation for the interests of the School, and one important feature of our school life is the pleasant relationship which exists between all the members of the Staff."

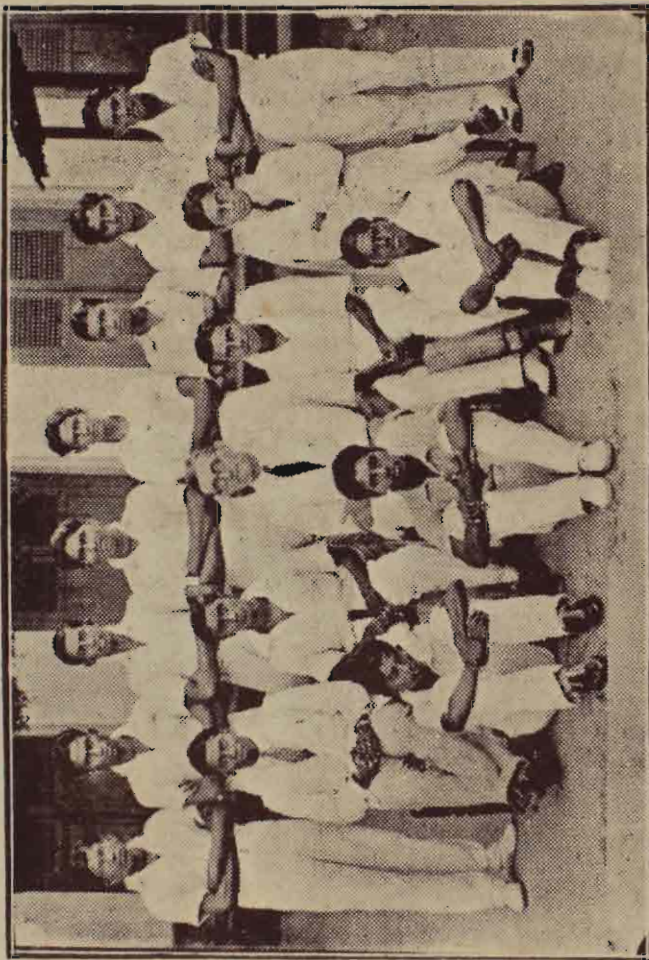
No review of the personnel and contribution of the Staff of this College will be complete without a reference to Mr. S. Vaitilingam the Chief Clerk. An Old Boy of the College, he was appointed to his job in 1911. Intelligent and endowed with sound common sense, conscientious and capable, thoroughly dependable and loyal to the College, he has been an invaluable asset to his alma mater during these many years. His able organisation of the office and his knowledge of office routine and Departmental regulations have earned for him the encomiums of many visiting Inspectors of Schools.

The College completed in 1934, a hundred years of service in the cause of education. Age and the lapse

of time are not in themselves factors that make up greatness but they offer opportunities for aspiration and efforts towards creating and establishing great traditions. The history of the hundred years of this institution is therefore a chronicle of the noble endeavours of great Missionaries and Teachers who set up high ideals of life before the youth of this country, and of great traditions handed down to posterity as the accumulated treasure of a century of religious and educational effort. The fire and the fervour that urged the pioneer Methodist Missionaries to carry the Gospel of Christ to this distant land, led to the establishment of the mother school of this Institution as early as 1817. The educational and scholastic work of the scholar-missionary Peter Percival who founded the Central School in 1834, laid the foundations of a great educational institution on the background of Christian Ideals. The efforts of a long line of Missionary Administrators—Walton, Griffith, Kilner, Rigg, Trimmer, Lockwood and Weaver, the labours of the noble Missionary Principals, Barber, Mitchell, Garret, Wilkes, Bullough and Cash, the contributions of the great Head-masters and Vice-Principals, Brown Sinnatamby, Samuel Grenier, William Nevins, D. P. Niles, W. R. Cooke, J. K.



“RIGG HALL” HOSTEL, 1934.



CRICKET TEAM, 1934.

Chanmukam, and J. W. Arudpragasam, and the unstinted co-operation of a loyal and devoted band of teachers, past and present, have all contributed towards the distinctions achieved, the traditions established, and the ideals aspired for.

On the threshold of an unknown future we look back with thankfulness to Providence upon the known past of a century of glorious achievements. The future is in the hands of God and it is our fervent hope and prayer that the beneficent Power that guided and directed the men and affairs of this Institution through the vicissitudes of time for the last hundred years, will be the "Kindly Light" that will lead 'the good ship Central' through the vast expanse of the ocean of the future. Good deeds and noble efforts never go in vain, and the prayers and the labours of the saints and scholars who lived and died for this Institution have ensured for it a great future full of hope and promise. May Central therefore prosper long to continue in the service of this country.

"In Gloriam Dei Optimi Maximi."

The church is a building of stone and brick, with a steep gable roof and a small bell tower on the left side. The windows are small and square, and the door is a simple wooden one. The church is surrounded by a low wall and a path leads to the entrance.

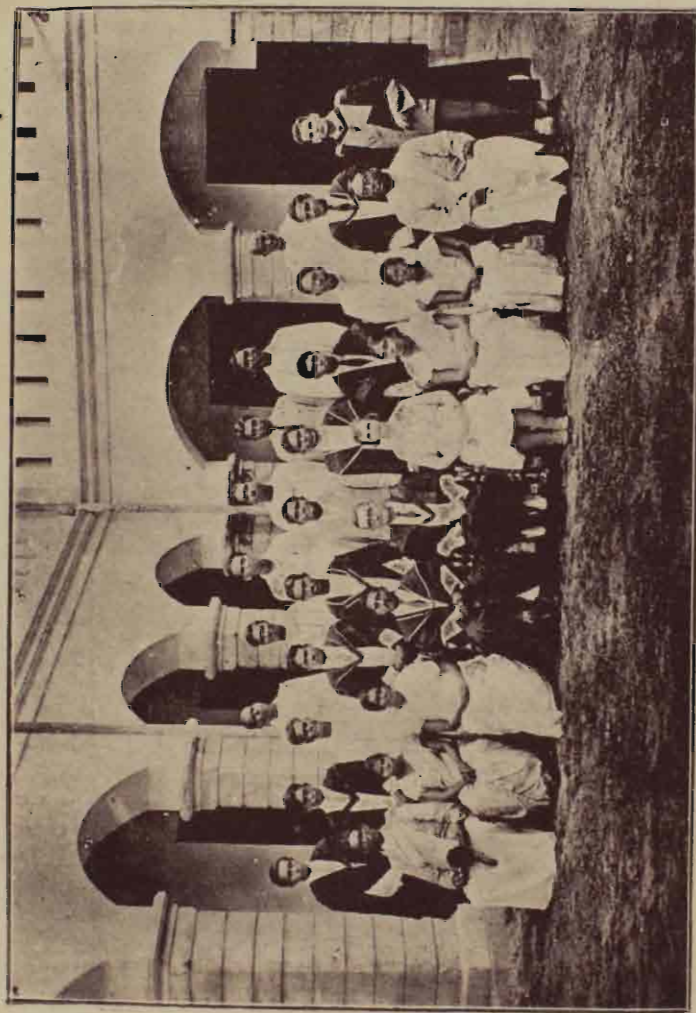
The church is a building of stone and brick, with a steep gable roof and a small bell tower on the left side. The windows are small and square, and the door is a simple wooden one. The church is surrounded by a low wall and a path leads to the entrance. The church is a building of stone and brick, with a steep gable roof and a small bell tower on the left side. The windows are small and square, and the door is a simple wooden one. The church is surrounded by a low wall and a path leads to the entrance.

The church is a building of stone and brick, with a steep gable roof and a small bell tower on the left side.

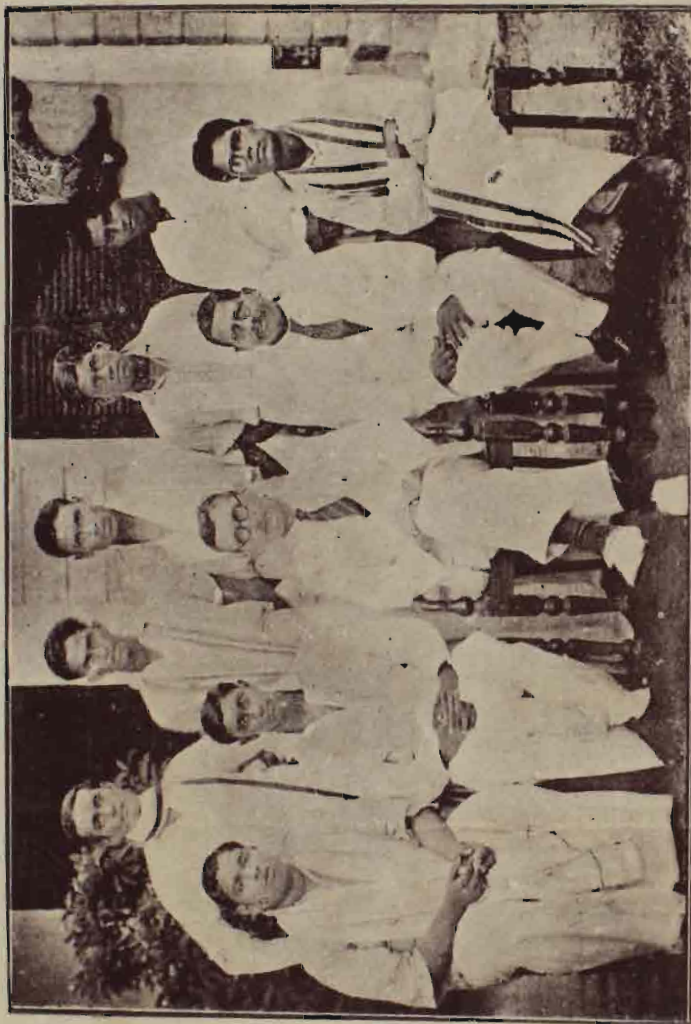
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THE STAFF, 1934.



COLLEGE PREFECTS, 1934.

APPENDIX I.

THE STAFF (1934.)

Principal.

REV. Percy T. CASH, M.A., B.Sc. (LOND.)
 First Class Honours at B.A. (London)
 First Class and Distinction in the Cambridge
 Secondary School Teachers' Diploma
 Member of the Ceylon University College
 Council

(ENGLISH)

Vice-Principal.

MR. J. W. ARUDPRAGASAM, B.A. (CALCUTTA),
 Member of the Tamil Text-Book Committee
 (LATIN)

MRS. P. T. CASH, A.R.C.M., L.L.C.M.
 (MUSIC)

MR. K. C. JACOB, B.A. (MADRAS)
 (MATHEMATICS)

MR. A. E. TAMBER, B.Sc. (LOND.)
 (PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS)

REV. C. W. A. MARRIOT, B.A. (CANTAB AND LIVER-
 POOL) DIP. ED. (LIVER.)
 (ENGLISH AND LATIN)

MR. K. T. ABRAHAM, B.Sc., (CALCUTTA)
 (BOTANY)

MR. H. A. FERNANDO, B.A. (HONS.) (LOND.)
 First Class Trained
 (HISTORY.)

MR. RAJA ASEERWATHAM, B.A. (LOND.)
(ENGLISH)

MR. A. V. RICHARDS, B.Sc. (LONDON), DIP. AGRI.
(CANTAB)
Associate of the Imperial College of Tropical
Agriculture, Trinidad.
(CHEMISTRY)

REV. D. T. NILES, B.D. (SERAMPORE)
(RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE)

MR. J. C. CHARLES,
Trained Teacher (First Class),
Physical Drill Certificate.
(ENGLISH AND GEOGRAPHY)

MR. SAM SEEVARATNAM,
Trained Teacher (First Class),
City and Guilds Certificate in Woodwork (Lond.),
Physical Drill Certificate,
2nd Class Drawing Certificate.
(ENGLISH, NATURE STUDY, HISTORY AND
MANUAL TRAINING)

MR. J. S. SELVARATNAM,
Trained Teacher (First Class),
Physical Drill Certificate,
2nd Class Drawing Certificate.
(ENGLISH, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY)

MR. K. NAVARATNAM, F.C.I. (BIRM.), F.C.T.S. (INC.)
Commercial Teachers' Diploma (Inst. of Comm.,
Birm.)
Teachers' Diploma (Phonetic Institute, Bath).
(BOOK-KEEPING AND ACCOUNTANCY, COMMERCE
FINANCE, & SHORTHAND & TYPEWRITING)

MR. L. W. PONNUDURAI,
First Class Drawing Certificate.
(DRAWING AND PAINTING)

MR. V. RAMASWAMY SARMA,
Vyakarana Mahopadhyayar.
(TAMIL AND SANSKRIT)

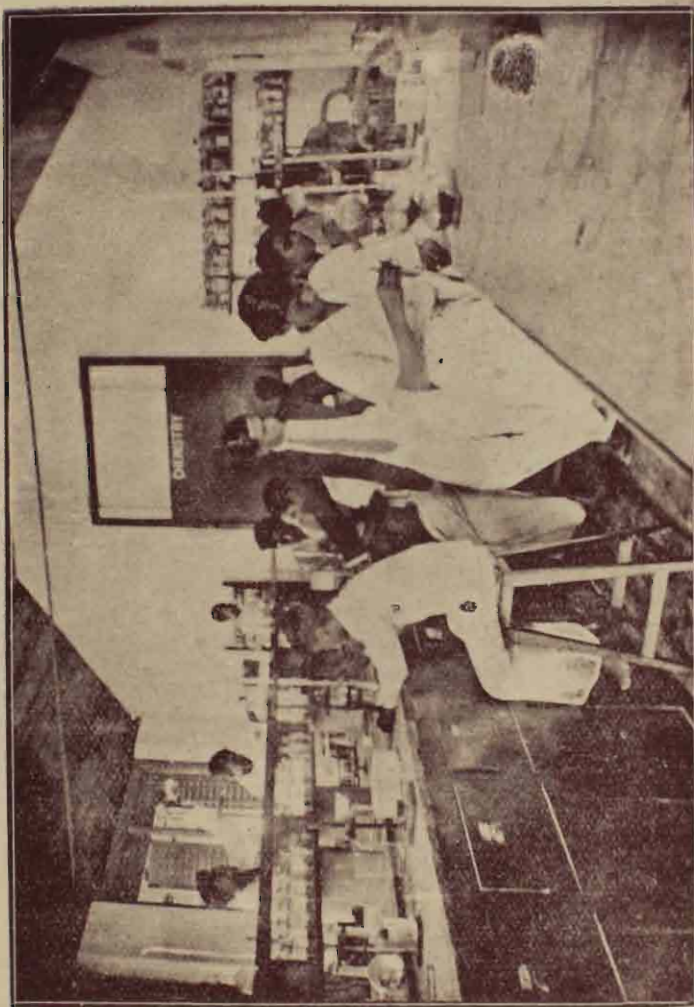
MR. G. K. MYLVAGANAM,
MR. S. S. THAMBYPILLAI,
MISS F. S. WALTON,
Provisional Certificate,
MR. K. KANAGASABAI,
Tamil Trained Teacher (First Class).
MISS D. THAMBYPILLAI,
Tamil Teachers' Preliminary Examination,
MRS. V. T. MOSES,
MISS D. CHELLADURAI,
English Teachers' Preliminary Examination,
MR. S. VAITILINGAM,
Chief Clerk,
MR. E. A. WILLIAM,
Asst. Clerk,
MR. A. ARUMUGAM,
Librarian,

APPENDIX II.

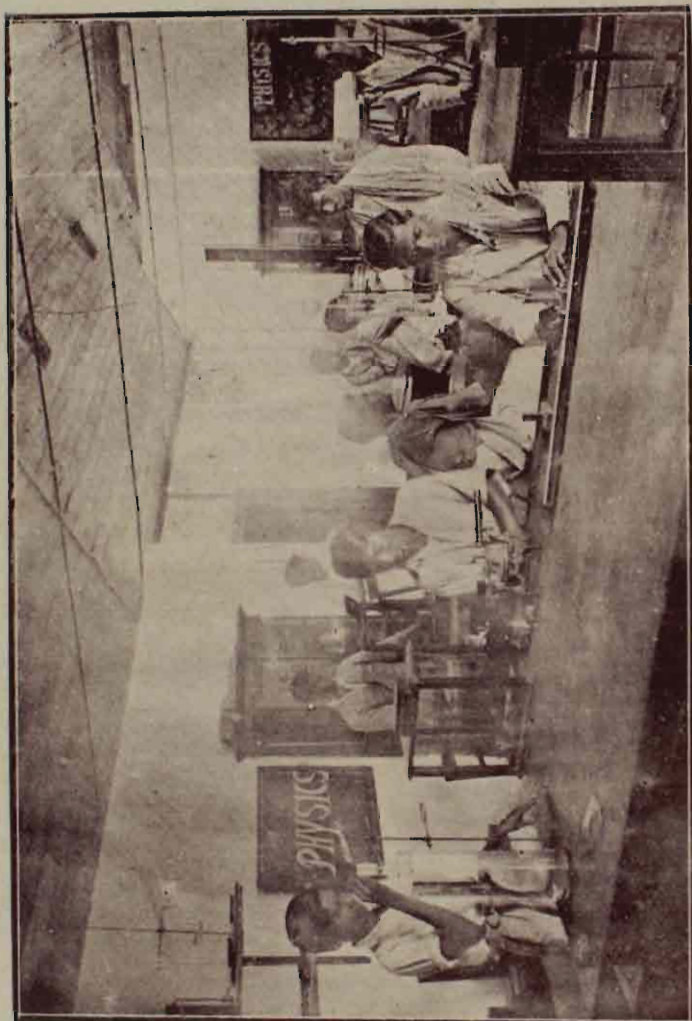
PRINCIPALS, VICE-PRINCIPALS AND HEAD-MASTERS (1834-1934)

PRINCIPALS :

1834-51	Rev. Peter Percival
1852-54	Rev. John Walton
1855	Rev. William Barber
1859-61	Rev. William Talbot
1862-66	Rev. John Mitchell
1867-70	Rev. John O. Rhodes
1870-72	Rev. D. P. Niles (Acting)
1873-74	Rev. Samuel R. Wilkin
1874-76	Rev. William R. Winston
1877-78	Mr. Edward Strutt
1879-81	Mr. Frederick M. Webster, B.A.
1882	Mr. Thomas Little
1883	Mr. William J. G. Bestall
1884	Mr. Joseph West
1885-86	Rev. Arthur E. Restarick, B.A.
1886-87	Rev. D. P. Niles (Acting)
1888-89	Rev. Sheldon Knapp
1890	Rev. E. Middleton Weaver
1891-93	Rev. W. T. Garret, B.A.
1894-95	Rev. Gabriel Leese
1896-98	Rev. W. T. Garret, B.A.
1899	Rev. George B. Robeson (Acting)
1900	Rev. E. O. Martin
1901	Rev. Arthur Lockwood
1901-3	Rev. W. T. Garret, B.A.
1903-8	Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., L.C.P.
1908-10	Rev. H. A. Meek, B.A.
1910-16	Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., L.C.P.
1916	Rev. E. T. Selby (Acting)
1917-21	Rev. H. Bullough, M.A., B.Sc.
1921	Rev. H. R. Cornish (Acting)
1922-26	Rev. P. T. Cash, B.A., B.Sc.
1927	J. K. Chanmukam, Esq., B.A. L.T., (Acting)



CHEMISTRY LABORATORY. 1934.



PHYSICS LABORATORY, 1934.

1928-32 Rev. P. T. Cash, M.A., B.Sc.
1933 Mr. R. J. Seal, M.Sc., (Acting)
1934 Rev. P. T. Cash, M.A., B.Sc.

VICE-PRINCIPALS :

Rev. D. P. Niles (1869-78)
W. R. Cooke Esq., (1901-16)
J. K. Chanmukam, Esq., B.A., L.T. (1924-1928)
O. L. Gibbon, Esq., M.A. (1929)
J. W. Arudpragasam, Esq., B.A. (1929—)

HEAD-MASTERS :

Mr. Brown Sinnatamby
Mr. Samuel Grenier (1855-60)
Mr. William Nevins (1860-86)
Rev. D. P. Niles (1886-94)
Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T.
(1894-1923)
Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam, B.A. (1924-1928)

APPENDIX III.

CAPTAINS (1900-1934.)

CRICKET

1900
 1901 R. R. Nalliah
 1902 R. R. Nalliah
 1903 R. R. Nalliah
 1904 L. R. Alexander
 1905 R. C. Thambiah
 1906 R. C. Thambiah
 1907 S. T. Sivasubramaniam
 1908 S. T. Sivasubramaniam
 1909 S. T. Sivasubramaniam
 1910 V. A. Paul
 1911 G. Singanayagam
 1912 S. E. N. Nicholas
 1913 F. A. S. Hoole
 1914 J. R. Nicholas
 1915 B. R. M. Cheenivasagam
 1916 B. R. M. Cheenivasagam
 1917 I. Rajanayagam
 1918 C. Navaratnam
 1919 R. R. Arunachalam
 1920 S. C. Alagaratnam
 1921 C. Sithamparapillai
 1922 S. Muttiah
 1923 A. D. Sellathurai
 1924 P. C. Selvaratnam
 1925 M. Subramaniam
 1926 R. P. Charles
 1927 M. Kanagaratnam
 1928 F. Denis
 1929 F. Denis
 1930 T. M. S. Mahamooth
 1931 M. Kanagaratnam
 1932 S. Navaratnam
 1933 B. S. N. Selvadurai
 1934 B. S. N. Selvadurai

FOOTBALL

T. R. Nalliah

 R. R. Alexander
 R. R. Alexander
 R. R. Alexander
 R. C. Thambiah
 R. C. Thambiah
 R. R. Tamber
 S. Amoothalingam
 S. T. Sivasubramaniam
 V. Cumaraswamy
 G. Singanayagam
 G. Chinniah
 K. Kanagaratnam
 V. S. Karthikesu
 W. G. Spencer
 A. E. Alexander
 K. Kanagaratnam
 R. R. Arunachalam
 R. Kanagasabai
 C. Arasaratnam
 A. Dharmaratnam

 A. P. Savundranayagam
 T. Nadarajah
 M. Subramaniam
 V. R. E. Nicholas
 V. Arambu
 V. Arambu
 S. Kandiah
 T. M. S. Mahamooth
 P. T. Orantiz
 G. C. T. Rajanayagam
 S. Thambimuttu
 S. Vasuthevan

APPENDIX IV.

COLLEGE ORGANISATIONS (1934)

SPORTS DEPARTMENT.

Prefect of Games :

MR. J. S. SELVARATNAM.

Masters in charge of :—

Cricket	... MR. H. A. FERNANDO, B.A.
Football	... MR. J. S. SELVARATNAM
Volley Ball	... MR. K. C. JACOB, B.A.
Athletics	... MR. RAJA ASIRWATHAM, B.A.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN UNION.

President	... REV. D. T. NILES, B.D.
Secretary	... MAST. R. T. ARIARATNAM

THE SCOUT MOVEMENT.

Group Scout Master	... MR. SAM SEEVARATNAM
Cub Master	... MR. RAJA ASIRWATHAM, B.A.
Scout Master	... MR. SAM SEEVARATNAM
Rover Leader	... MR. A. V. RICHARDS, B.Sc.

HOUSE SYSTEM.

Percival House.

Senior Master	... MR. SAM SEEVARATNAM
Secretary	... MAST. W. NADARAJAH

Romaine House.

Senior Master	... MR. K. C. JACOB, B.A.
Secretary	... MAST. A. Z. T. MARTIN

Wilkes House.

Senior Master	... MR. J. C. CHARLES
Secretary	... MAST. T. BALACHANDRAN

Bullough House.

Senior Master...MR. K. NAVARATNAM
 Secretary ...MAST. V. KANDIAH

BOARD OF PREFECTS.

President ... THE PRINCIPAL
 Secretary ... J. D. RAJASINGAM
 Members { K. SOMASUNDARAM
 C. SELVANAYAGAM
 J. D. RAJASINGAM
 S. VASUDEVAN
 A. G. HOOLE
 B. S. N. SELVADURAI (Senior Prefect)
 A. M. Z. MARTIN
 A. KANDASAMY

VEMBADI CENTRAL TEACHERS' GUILD.

Joint Secre-) MR. A. E. TAMBER, B.Sc.
 taries { MISS A. N. SITHAMPARAPILLAI

VEMBADI CENTRAL RECREATION CLUB.

President ...MR. SAM SEEVARATNAM
 Joint Secre-) MR. K. T. ABRAHAM, B.Sc.
 taries { MISS T. D. SILVA

TEACHERS' READING ROOM.

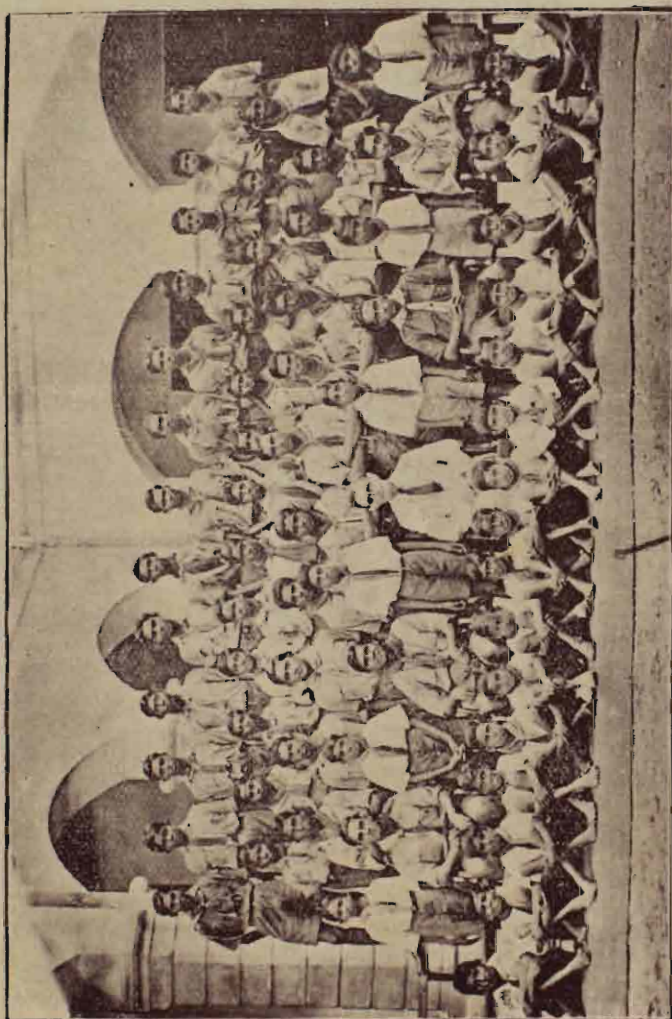
President ...MR. S. S. THAMBYPILLAI
 Secretary ...MR. K. C. JACOB, B.A.
 Treasurer ...MR. S. VAITILINGAM

MASTERS' FELLOWSHIP.

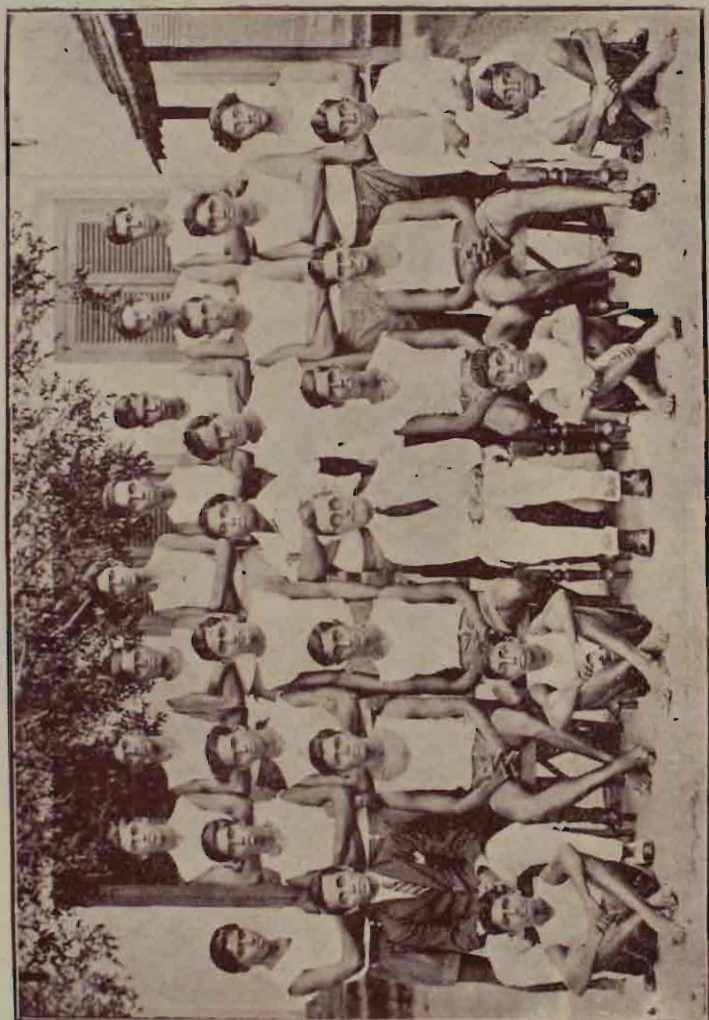
Convener ...REV. D. T. NILES, B.A.

RIGG HALL (THE COLLEGE HOSTEL)

Warden ...REV. PERCY T. CASH, M.A., B.Sc.
 Caterer ...MRS. P. T. CASH



1ST JAFFNA SCOUT GROUP, 1934.



ATHLETICS TEAM, 1934.

Masters in charge	{ MR. SAM SEEVARATNAM MR. RAJA ASIRWATHAM MR. S. A. SARAVANAMUTTU
Prefects	{ MAST. C. THAMBIMUTTU MAST. C. SELVANAYAGAM MAST. V. R. THANGARAJAH MAST. S. DEIVANAYAGAM MAST. V. KANDIAH

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC AND DEBATING
SOCIETY.

President	...THE PRINCIPAL
Vice-Presidents	{ MR. A. E. TAMBER, B.Sc. MR. H. A. FERNANDO, B.A.
Chairman	...MAST. K. SOMASUNDARAM
Secretary	{ MAST. R. T. ARIARATNAM (Jan. June) MAST. A. M. Z. Martin (July Dec).
Editor	{ MAST. A. BALACHANDRAN (Jan. June) MAST. C. SELVANAYAGAM (July Dec.)

APPENDIX V.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

President :

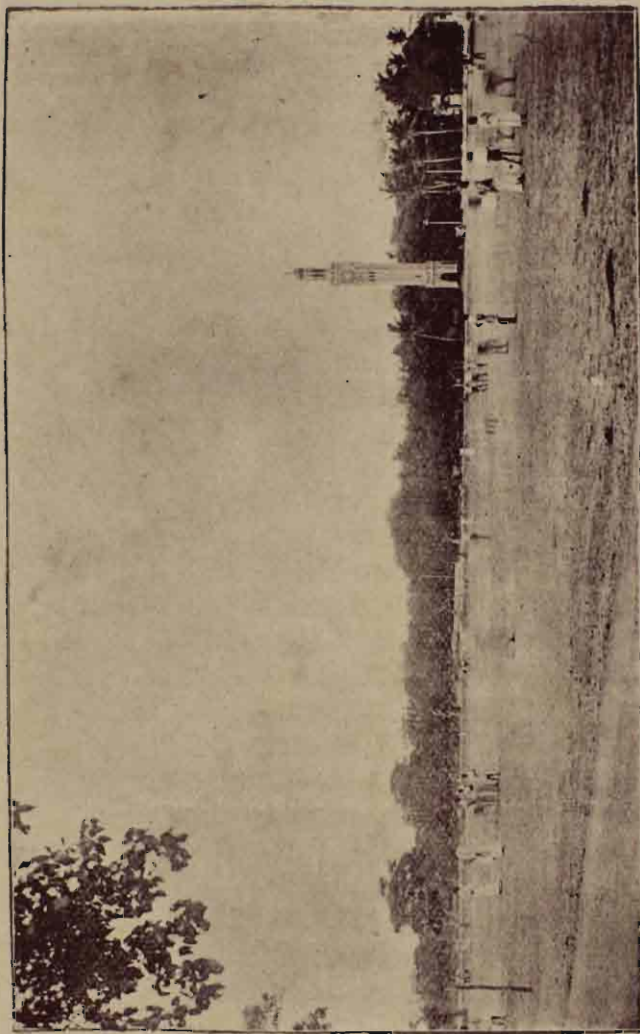
The Principal

Vice-Presidents :

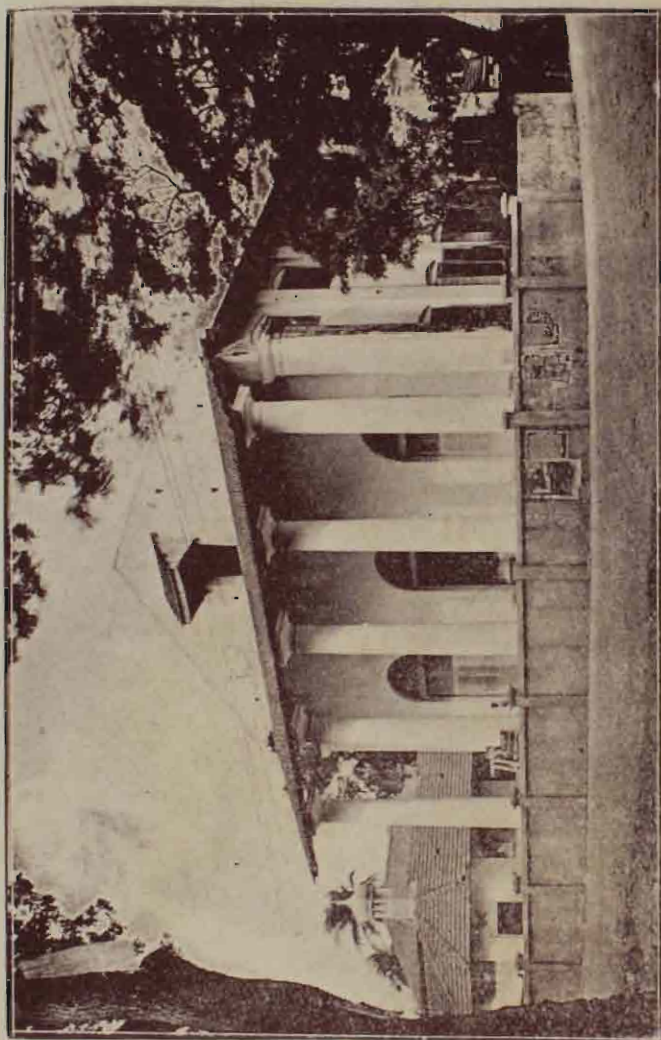
- Mr. N. Selvadurai, B.A., J.P., M.B.E., (1906-1912)
(1916—)
Mr. R. H. Leembruggan, J.P. (1906-1907)
Mr. Joseph Grenier, K.C. (1906-1926)
Mr. A. Mailvaganam, J.P., U.P.M. (1906-1910)
Mr. R. N. Sethukavalar, M.A. (1906)
Dr. S. C. Paul, F.R.C.S., M.D. (1906-1929)
Mr. W. Mudlr. Muthuvelupillai (1907-1909)
Rev. D. P. Niles (1908-1915)
Mr. A. Sabapathy (1908-1923)
Mr. W. R. Cooke (1912-1917)
Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T. (1912-1929)
Mr. S. A. Edward, B.A., L.T. (1912-1920)
Mr. W. Duraiswamy, B.A. (1913—)
Mr. S. N. Nelson, B.A. (1921-1922)
Mr. W. D. Niles, B.A. (1923-1925) 1932—)
Mr. L. P. Spencer, B.A., J.P. (1923—)
Mr. S. Rajaratnam (1924-1929)
Dr. A. N. Cumarasamy (1927-1931)
Mr. T. R. Nalliah, B.A. (1930—)
Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam, B.A. (1930 —)
Dr. S. Subramaniam (1931-1932)
Mr. W. R. Watson, B.A., B.Sc. (1933)
Mr. K. S. Arulnandhy, M.Sc. (1934—)

SECRETARIES :

- Mr. M. A. Arulanandam (1906-1910)
Mr. W. D. Niles (1911-1922)
Mr. V. Ramalingam (1921-1922) Co-Secretary



THE PLAY GROUND.



COLLEGE FRONT VIEW, 1934.

Mr. S. Rajaratnam }
 Mr. M. Cooke Thurairatnam } 1923
 Mr. P. K. Somasundaram (1924-1926) Co-Secretary
 Mr. J. C. Charles (1924-1929)
 Mr. T. R. Nalliah (1927-1929) Co-Secretary
 Mr. W. M. S. Tampoe (1930-1933) Co-Secretary
 Mr. S. Seevaratnam (1930—)
 Mr. W. G. Spencer (1934—) Co-Secretary

ASST. SECRETARIES :

Mr. C. P. Thamotharam (1908-1912)
 Mr. A. S. Hoole (1913)
 Mr. S. Karthigesu (1914-1915)

TREASURERS :

Mr. L. P. Spencer (1906-1922)
 Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam (1923)
 Mr. K. Navaratnam (1924—)
 Mr. M. Cooke Thurairatnam (1927) Co-Treasurer.

EDITORS: 'THE CENTRAL'

The Principal (1904-1907)
 Mr. M. A. Arulanandam }
 Mr. S. Rajaratnam } (1908-1909)
 The Principal (1908-1920)
 Mr. J. C. Charles (1921-1924)
 Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam (1924)
 Mr. S. Seevaratnam (1925-1930)
 Mr. O. L. Gibbon (1928) Co-Editor
 Mr. E. W. Wijayaratham (1931) Co-Editor
 Mr. A. E. Tamber (1931—)
 Rev. C. A. Smith (1932) Co-Editor
 Mr. W. G. Spencer (1933) Co-Editor
 Mr. R. Aseerwatham (1934—) Co-Editor

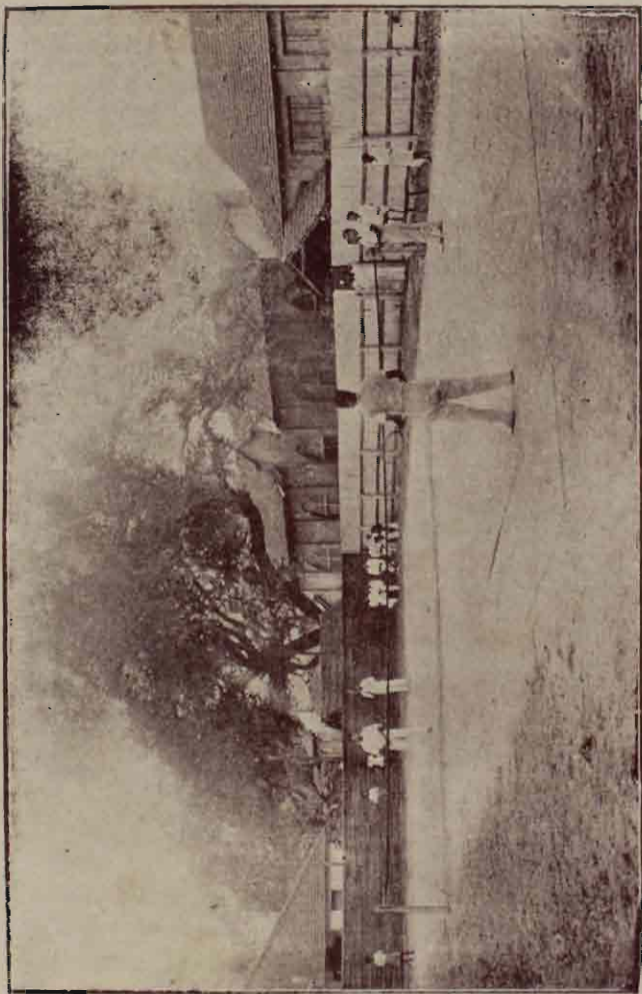
APPENDIX VI.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

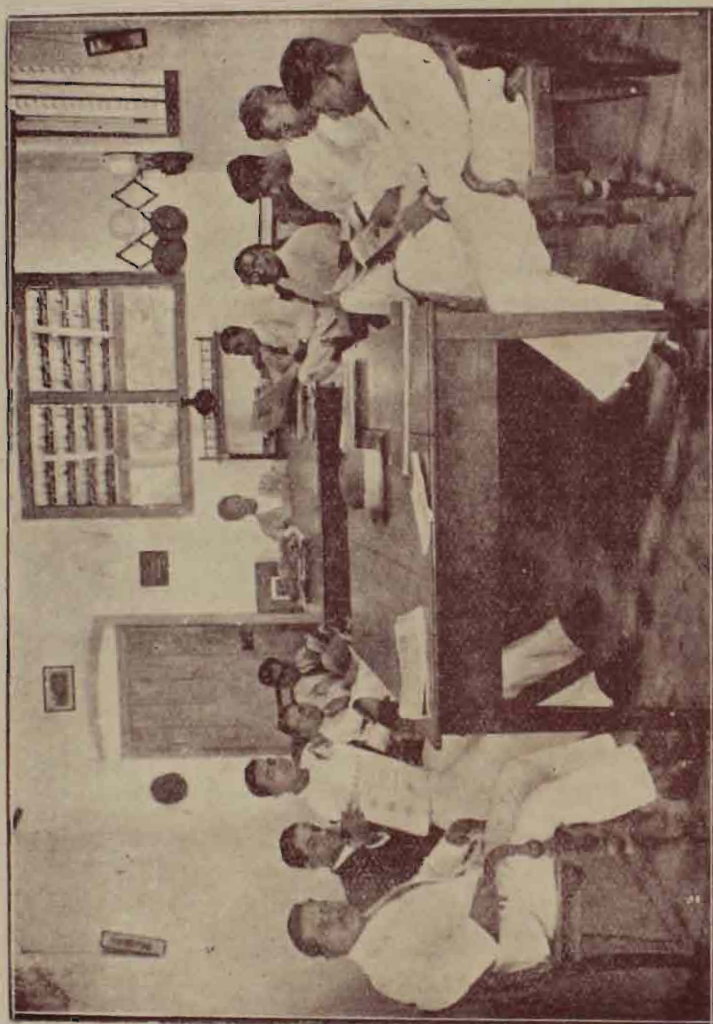
29th June	{	Landing of the Methodist Missionaries in
1814		Galle
10th Aug.	{	Arrival of Messrs. Lynch and Squance in
1814		Jaffna
1817		Jaffna Wesleyan English School founded
1825		The School transferred to Vembadi site
1826		Arrival of Rev. Peter Percival
1834		Re-named the School, "The Jaffna Central School"
1839		Visit of His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. J. A. Stewart Mackenzie
		Receipt of First Government Grant of £150
1851		Rev. Peter Percival retired
1852		Preparatory Department opened at St. Paul's, Chapel Street
1853		Vannarponnai English School started
1854		Boarding Department housed at "Hope Cottage" (the present site of "Wesley House")
1855		Mr. Samuel Grenier appointed Head- master
		Rev. William Barber appointed Principal
1859		The First Public Examination and Prize- Giving
1860		Rev. William Talbot appointed Principal
		Mr. William Nevins appointed Head-master
1862		Rev. John Mitchell appointed Principal
1867		Mr. John O. Rhodes appointed Principal
		Latin introduced as a subject
1869		Affiliated to the Madras University
1870		Collegiate Department formed
		Rev. D. P. Niles acted as Principal
1873		Rev. S. R. Wilkin appointed Principal
1874		Rev. William R. Winston appointed Principal
1877		Mr. Edward Strutt appointed Principal

- 1879 Mr. F. M. Webster, B.A., appointed
Principal
Cricket introduced into Jaffna
- 1882 Thomas Little, Esqr., appointed Principal
- 1883 Mr. William J. G. Bestall appointed
Principal
Society of Sacred Principles formed
- 1884 Joseph West, Esqr., appointed Principal
- 1885 Rev. A. E. Restarick appointed Principal
College Y.M.C.A. founded
College Literary Association inaugurated
- 1886 Mr. William Nevins retired
Rev. D. P. Niles returned
- 1888 Rev. Sheldon Knapp appointed Principal
- 1890 Rev. E. M. Weaver appointed Principal
- 1891 Rev. W. T. Garret, B.A., appointed
Principal
- 1894 Rev. Gabriel Leese appointed Principal
Football introduced
Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T.,
appointed Head-master
- 1896 Rev. W. T. Garret, B.A., returned as
Principal
- 1897 Affiliation with the Calcutta University
- 1898 Won the Gymkhana Cup
- 1899 Rev. G. B. Robeson acted as Principal
- 1900 Rev. E. O. Martin acted as Principal
- 1901 Rev. A. Lockwood acted as Principal
Rev. W. T. Garret, B.A., returned as
Principal
Mr. W. R. Cooke arrived
- 1902 Visit of Mr. (Sir) S. M. Burrows, Director
of Public Instruction
- 1903 Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., L.C.P.,
appointed as Principal
- 1904 College Magazine "The Central" published
The College Crest and Colours designed
Inauguration of a College Building Fund

- 1905 T. Saravanamuttu passed the F.A. of the
Calcutta University obtaining First
Class Honours and coming 16th in
order of merit
Visit of Sir Henry Blake, Governor of
Ceylon
- 1906 Visit of Dr. and Mrs. A. K. Coomaraswamy
Mr. W. R. Cooke went on furlough
Cambridge Junior Local Class formed
- 28th Dec. } Old Boys' Association inaugurated
1906 }
1907 Mr. W. R. Cooke returned
First Old Boys' Day Celebrations
Cambridge Senior Local Class formed
T. Cooke Jayaratnam obtained a First
Class in the Cambridge Junior Local,
coming 8th in order of merit in the
Island
- 1908 Won the Price Football Cup
Visit of Sir Henry McCallum, Governor
of Ceylon
Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes transferred to
Point Pedro
Rev. H. A. Meek, B.A., appointed Principal
- 25th Sept. } Foundation laid for the present Assem-
1908 } bly Hall
- 1909 Price Football Cup won 2nd time
- 1910 " " " " 3rd time
Rev. H. A. Meek, B.A., retired
Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B.A., returned as
Principal
Opening of the New Buildings by Mrs.
G. J. Trimmer
Staging of the First English Play com-
pletely at Central
- 1911 A. R. Rasiah won the Hewavitarne
Science Prize
- 1911 Won the Union Jack at the Sports Meet
- 1913 Colombo Branch of the O.B.A. formed



VEMBADI-CENTRAL RECREATION CLUB, 1934.

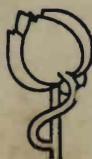


TEACHERS' READING ROOM, 1934.

- 1915 Won the Doraiswamy Cricket Cup
Visit of Sir (Lord) Robert Chalmers,
Governor of Ceylon
- 1916 Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes retired
Rev. E. T. Selby acted as Principal
Scout Movement inaugurated
Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam, B.A., joined
- 1917 Rev. H. Bullough, M.A., B.Sc., arrived
W. R. Cooke, Esqr., retired
Muttucumaru Football Cup won
- 1918 Opened a New Dormitory (the present
Dining Hall)
Bracketted Champions in the Inter-
Collegiate Gymkhana Meet
- 1919 Visit of Sir William Manning, Governor
of Ceylon
Visit of Sir John Randles, M.P.
Death of Mr. S. A. Edward, B.A., L.T.
Cub Pack organised
Muttucumaru Football Cup won (Final)
- 1920 Percival Hall opened
Commercial Class formed
- 1921 Inter-Collegiate Athletics Championship
won
Rev. H. Bullough retired
Rev. H. R. Cornish acted as Principal
- May 1922 Rev. P. T. Cash, B.A., B.Sc. (Lond.) arrived
- 1922 Mr. L. P. Spencer, B.A., transferred to
Kilner College
Union College started
- 1923 London Intermediate Classes formed
Botany introduced as a subject
House System organised
New Building Scheme inaugurated
Foundation laid for the Two Storeyed
Building
A. Kulanayagam won the Sir Marcus
Fernando All-Ceylon Agricultural Scho-
larship

- The Tamil Kalagam inaugurated
Y.M.C.A. affiliated to the Student Christian Movement of India, Burma, and Ceylon
Social Service League inaugurated
The Masters' Fellowship formed
The Temperance League inaugurated
Visit of Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon
- 1924 T. M. Z. Mahamooth, P. C. Selvaratnam, and W.A. Wijayaretnam, chosen to represent Ceylon at the International Scout Jamboree held in Wembley, London.
- 1925 Sanskrit and Music introduced as subjects
Teachers' Guild inaugurated
Visit of Rev. W. T. Barber, M.A., D.D.
Visit of Sir Cecil Clementi (Acting Governor)
- 1926 Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Ceylon, opened:—
The William Paul Botanical Laboratory
The William Romaine Cooke Library
The Geographical Laboratory
The Art Room
- 1927 Mr. J. K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T., acted as Principal
Rev. P. T. Cash went on furlough
- 27th Nov. }
1927 } Visit of Mahatma Gandhi
- 1928 Rev. P. T. Cash returned
Mr. J. K. Chanmukam retired
- 1929 Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam, B.A. and Mr. O. L. Gibbon, M.A., appointed Co-Vice Principals
Rev. W. J. Noble visited the College
- 1930 Death of Mr. J. K. Chanmukam
Vembadi-Central Recreation Club formed
Sir Herbert Stanley, Governor of Ceylon, presided at the College Prize Distribution
Hon. Mr. M. T. Akbar, K.C., visited the College

- 1931 New Hostel Buildings opened
- 1932 W. R. N. Nathaniel won the Sir Marcus
Fernando Scholarship
Malayan Branch of the Old Boys' Association formed
Hon. Mr. P. J. Macdonnel, Chief Justice
of the Island, visited
Death of Mr. G. W. Tamber
Rev. P. T. Cash went on furlough
- 1933 Mr. R. J. Seal, M.Sc., acted as Principal
V. S. Ariaretnam won the Sir Marcus
Fernando Scholarship
S. Kandiah represented the Northern
Province Boys' Scout Association at
the International Jamboree held in
Budapest
- 1934 Rev. P. T. Cash returned
- 1935, June Centenary Celebrations



APPENDIX VII.

COLLEGE SONG

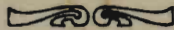
1. Wet the ground and wind opposing,
Just ten minutes yet to play;
Play up Central, no reposing
On the gains of yesterday.
Now's the time for combined action;
Pass the ball from man to man;
Never selfish play nor faction,
Proved worthwhile since sport began.

Chorus :

Central! Rally for the school then,
Take the field with one accord;
Keep your courage cool and clean then
Central's flag must ne'er be lowered.

2. On the field of life when striving,
Keep your honour true and bright.
Play up, Central! Ever thriving
On the fruits of grace and light;
For your comrades of the old days,
Scattered far though they may be;
For your school, and for her true praise,
Live in service glad and free!

Chorus :



COLLEGE PRIZE-DAY HYMN

Lord of our life, on this glad day,
Praise we Thy name, and humbly pray
That grace divine and godly fear,
May crown, the labours of the year.

The best and highest glory, Lord
Help us to seek; Thy strength afford
With noble toil and joyous praise
Gladly to fill our round of days.

Let Central's sons afar who dwell,
In distant homes, the chorus swell;
Bless Thou their toil, and bind as one
Those present here, those long since gone.

Teach us to serve the land we love,
Steadfast for truth, all things to prove;
Bid us in dark or light to stand
In honour firm, a chosen band.

Teachers and taught may wisdom guide,
Through all the years with us abide;
Let this our College ever be
Home of one pure fraternity.

THE CENTENARY

John Wesley's heart Christ 'strangely warmed',
 To Thomas Coke the fire passed on,
 His world-wide plans were love-informed,
 And ardently embraced Ceylon.

Thus faithful warriors set out,
 Their souls aflame with loving zeal,
 With steadfast minds, untouched by doubt
 That their Strong Saviour all could heal.

From the great Indian sea's blue vast
 Their leader heard a further call,
 And so these heroes of our past,
 Landed, bereft, at Point de Galle.

To Jaffna's bare sun-smitten land,
 Two pioneers of Wesley came,
 So Lynch and Squance with spareless hand,
 Toiled for the honour of the Name.

By preached word, scholastic lore,
 They sought to bring the light to men,
 Whilst entered many a lowly door
 The heralds of the book and pen,

And Jaffna's Central School appeared,
 One hundred strenuous years ago,
 Now cluster round it names revered
 By all who these traditions know.

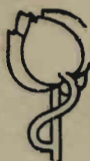
The statesman-scholar-Percival;
 Walton and Kilner, mighty twain,
 Saint, teacher, scholar—D. P. Niles
 Fervent of heart, and skilled of brain.

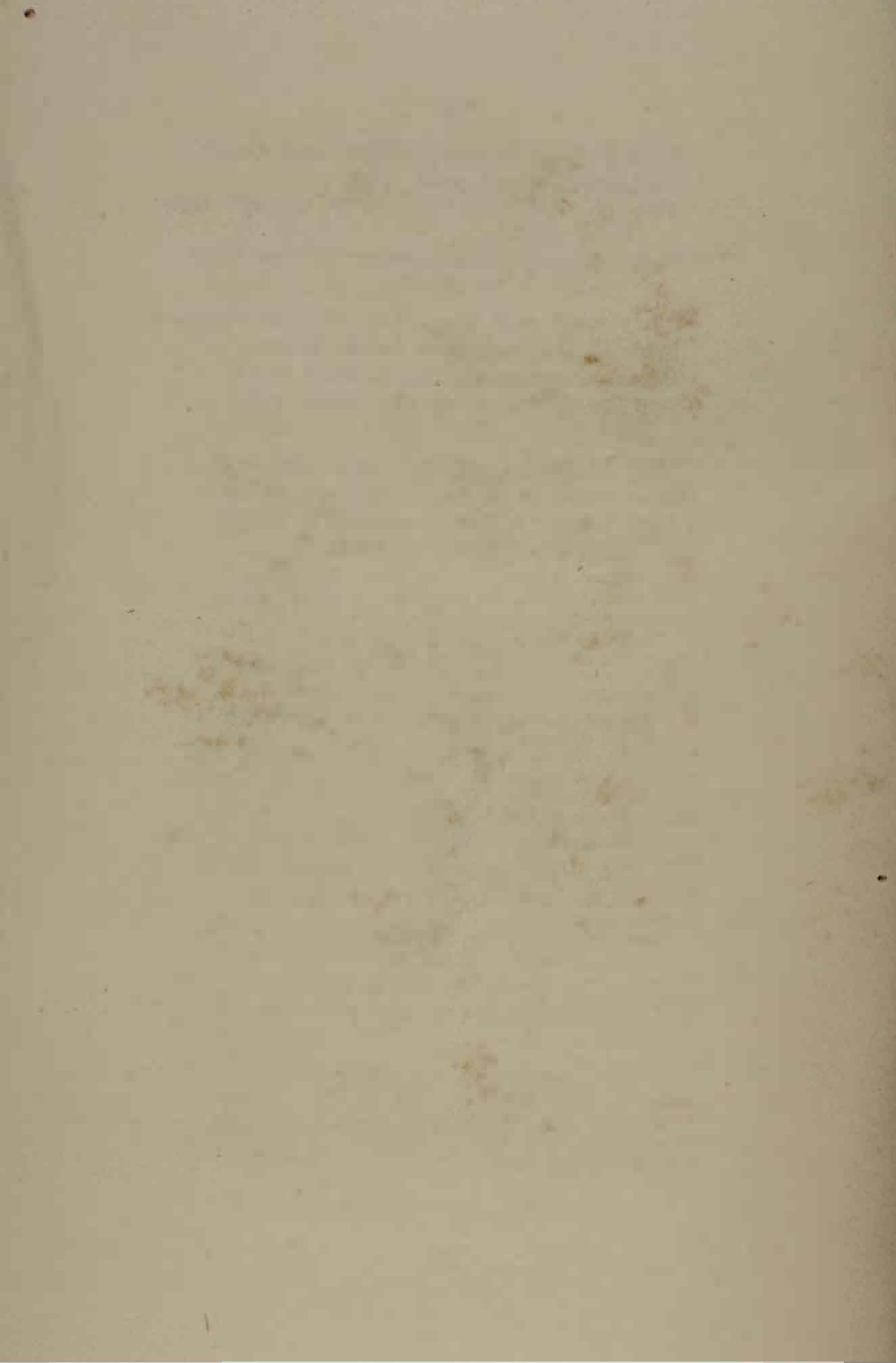
Chanmugam, Spencer, Wilkes and Cooke,
 Contributed their noble best;
 Through bat, through ball, through test-
 tube, book
 East glimpsed the glammers of the West.

Life's work well done, the worthiest praise,
 Inspired ten thousand ardent sons,
 Devotion, prayer, and toil-filled days,
 Still down the years this spirit runs.

Still, Central, teach thy sons who heal,
 Who work in mart, in church, in state
 That labour for their country's weal
 In selfless toil alone is great.

P. T. CASH.





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