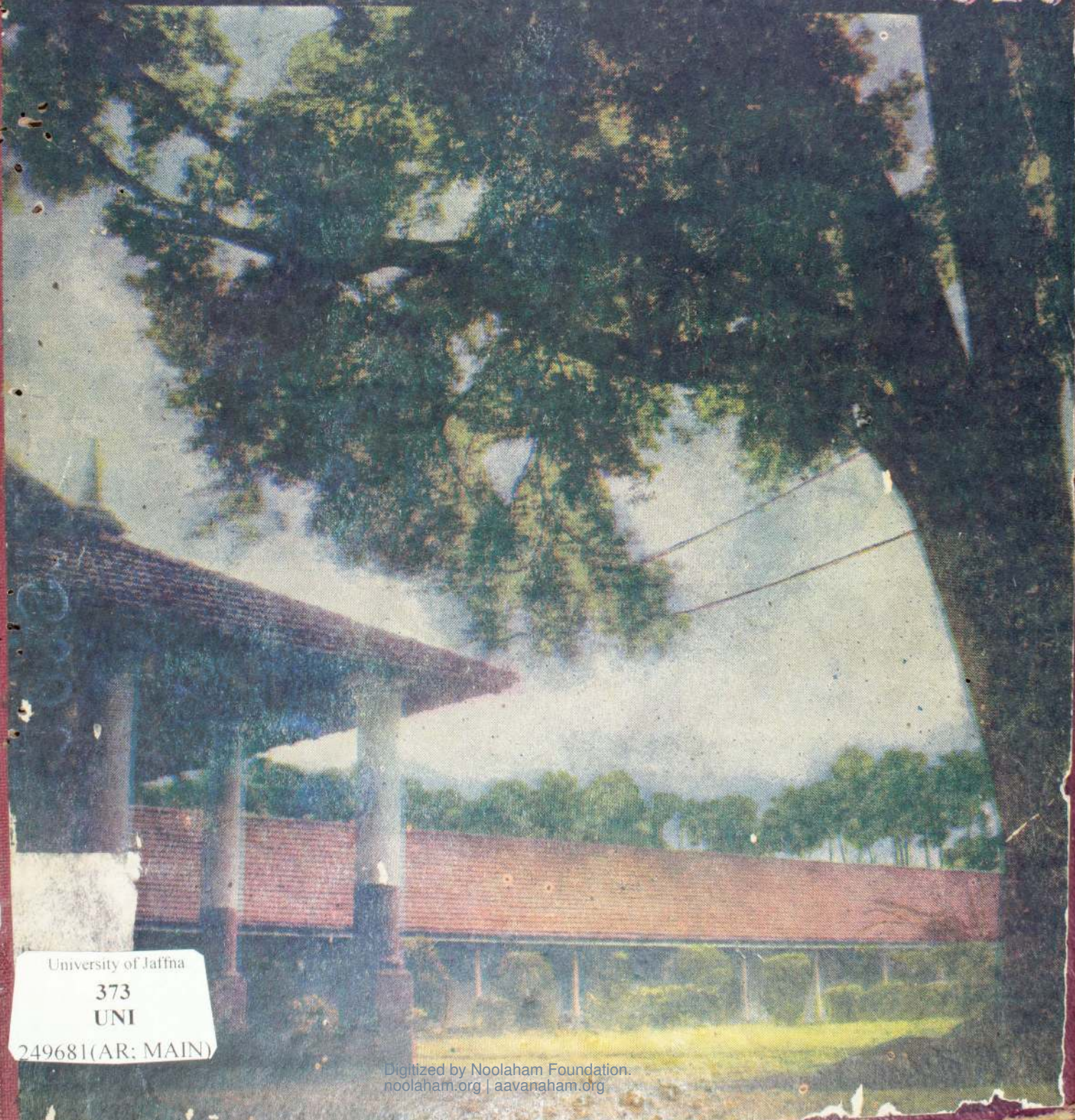


# The Ueriver Pictorial

1947



University of Jaffna

373

UNI

249681 (AR: MAIN)



ARCHIVES



1816-1947

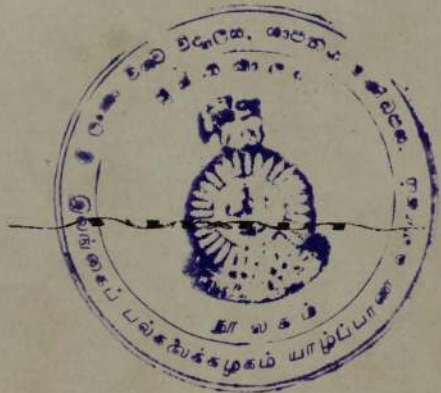
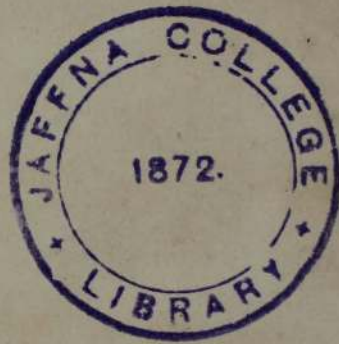


2007

SEP 29 1947

# THE UNION PICTORIAL

*A History, mainly in pictures,  
of Tellippalai  
1816 — 1947*



University of Jaffna  
249681

Library

249681

249681

AUGUST, 1947.

Handwritten mark

INSTITUTIONAL

...

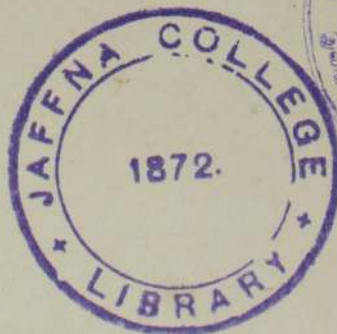
9688

Union Carnival & Exhibition, 1947.

SEP 29 1947



WORKING COMMITTEE







373  
UNIE AR



ARCHIVES

*From :*

*His Excellency the Governor,*

*Sir Henry Monck-Mason Moore, G. C. M. G.*



Queen's House,

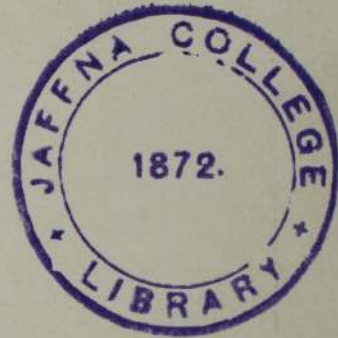
Colombo, 20th June, 1947.

I UNDERSTAND that the Union College, Tellippalai, is bringing out a "Pictorial" in connexion with the Carnival and Exhibition that is being held in aid of the College Extension Fund. I am sure this will give an interesting account of the educational and industrial activities conducted at Tellippalai during the last 130 years and I wish it all success.

SEP 29 1947

From :

*Rev. Raymond A. Dudley,*  
*Secretary, American Board of Commissioners for*  
*Foreign Missions, Foreign Department.*



14, Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

May 29, 1947.

IT WAS an inspiration to visit the Union College at Tellippalai and see at first hand the varied activities and learn at first hand of the plans and hopes for the future. As an American I would like to single out for special commendation the vocational activities which are carried out in a simple but systematic way. This institution has a tradition of doing things well. May the resources of money to continue this tradition be forthcoming. And may those responsible for the present be enabled to insure that a worthy past is followed by an equally worthy future.

From:

*Rev. S. Kulandran, B. A., B. D.*

*Bishop-elect of Jaffna.*

IN conveying wishes to a long standing institution, it is customary to express the hope that it would maintain its traditions. Though Union College, Tellipalai, incorporates two older schools, it is really a new institution. It is faced with the task not so much of maintaining traditions as of creating them. To create traditions worthy of being maintained is difficult; but a difficulty instead of deterring us may challenge us to put forth our best effort.



In a sense, however, it is an advantage to be able to create your own traditions, instead of carrying on those set up by someone else. We are living at a time when many things are in the melting pot. Changes far more fundamental than have been witnessed by most generations of the past are taking place before our eyes, and taking place rapidly. It is, therefore, an advantage to have your hands free to suit action to occasion. Education has been defined as preparation to meet life. Union College will have the opportunity of meeting the future in the light of the knowledge that the future will bring. It will have great freedom of action.

Freedom to act, however, does not mean freedom to be bandied about and bullied by the future. In other words it is not freedom for the future to do what it likes with us but freedom for us. While we may be happy that we have an opportunity to create, we had better realise that there are many things we do not create. They are given us. Truth and honour and virtue and courage and sacrifice, these are not to be created by us. Traditions and customs are concerned with how these things are embodied to meet new situations. The character or personality of a man, the aims and ideals of an institution, these do not change with the time. They find their expression in the ever widening spheres of life and time. The stronger the personality of a man, the higher the ideals of an institution, the greater their vitality and possibility of adjustment.

We have every confidence that Union College will face its task with courage and determination. The College has for its Principal a person possessed of a unique combination of gifts. He is a person with a keen grasp of detail; not one, however, who is lost in a mass of detail but one who can use his knowledge of detail to carry forward a great enterprise with precision and skill. On the other hand he is not a mere efficient "Departmentalist", who can do anything well, if he is told what it is he has got to do. He has certain aims and ideals, and he is gifted with the patience to plan their accomplishment and ability and energy to carry through to the end. Union College is indeed very fortunate in its Principal.

All of us wish Mr. Thurairatnam and his school every success. May the Lord Almighty bless both and make them His great instruments.

SEP 29 1947

From :

*Rev. S. M. Thevathasan, M. A., L. T.*

*District Superintendent, Methodist Church, Malaya.*

110, Arthur Road, Singapore.

WELCOME the opportunity to send a message of appreciation to the readers of THE PICTORIAL, adding my testimony to the vital contribution that has been made by the Christian Educational agencies at work in Jaffna, especially at Tellippalai for over a century. One is tempted to be reminiscent, but that must be stoutly resisted. Still, the fact that The Tellippalai Training School was my first public school, and it was where my father, and my uncle (the late Thevathasan Suppiah, the only Brahmin Convert in Ceylon) received their higher education, and that in the vernacular, has always maintained in me a feeling of awe and reverence for Tellippalai. That is where I learnt to be self-reliant, that is where I formed my habits of study, that is where I came face to face with a definitely Christian atmosphere outside my home, that is where I joined the Church, that is where I dedicated myself to the Ministry of God.



In the providence of God, Jaffna had to go through a violent educational experimentation after the sudden closure of the famous Batticotta Seminary; there is no question in my mind that this experiment at Tellippalai was contributory to the development of indigenous leadership in Christian enterprise, and Tellippalai deserves a great mead of praise for the educational and religious enlightenment, which it has been the good fortune of Jaffna to share with America.

My congratulations to the Management of the Union College, which I know is in steady hands, and my prayer for a double portion of Spiritual strength to cope with its growing programme.



From :

*Mr. K. S. Arulnandhy, M. Sc.*

*Deputy Director of Education.*

Education Office,

Colombo, 25-7-1947.

Dear Principal of Union College, Tellippalai,

YOURS is an uncommon privilege to preside over the destinies of an institution whose history began a century and thirty years ago. During this long period through its many vicissitudes of fortune, it has clung to great ideals. The seeds of what we call practical education today were sown by your predecessors many years ago : they threw open the portals of your institution and gave unqualified equality of opportunity in a caste-ridden environment to every child irrespective of pedigree ; and they endeavoured in their own way to present and foster spiritual values.

I have watched with interest the progress of your institution for over a quarter of a century and it is with no ordinary pleasure that I bear testimony to the vast strides it has made during the past ten years or so. "Though much is taken, much abides".

A school is at once a physical environment, a training-ground of mind and body, and a spiritual society. Your plans and activities make it evident that this is your philosophy of education. What doubt is there then that a vast army of well-wishers will rally round you to make of your venerable institution an instrument of light, learning and culture, capable of efficiently meeting the demands of a modern complex world.

I wish the 'Pictorial' a very wide circulation and the Union Carnival and Exhibition a phenomenal success which would enable you to achieve your praiseworthy objectives.



From :

*Miss L. G. Bookwalter, M. A.*

THE grateful shade of an ancient tree greets us as we enter the Mission compound at Tellippalai. The garden, the Mission House, the Church, beyond Sanders Hall in the distance sheltered by magnificent trees, and to the right, new and shining, the modern buildings and grounds of Union College — all these beautifully blended together make a Christian centre of which we may be proud. Here is an atmosphere made up of the old and the new, a harmonious whole which is the outward expression of the inner thoughts of those who have lived here throughout these one hundred and thirty years. Truly it can be said — As a compound thinketh, so is it.

Because the Wards lived and worked here, and because for a brief period I was privileged to help, the place is well known to me. In none of the Mission compounds are the activities so varied, and the interests so wide as here. Young life streams in and out every day from Union College. At the same time, the adults are at work at the Press, the Book-Binding, the Carpentry Shop, the Sales Room, and the "notables" who are interested in having things printed, or books bound or furniture made or in buying books and supplies are entering the compound on their various errands. Here are Mission archives, deeds of land and Treasurer's books.



The saints of old would hardly recognise all this activity. We are sure, however, of their interest, and their happiness in having had a share in it all, and in carrying out their Mission in the bringing of the Christ Spirit to this corner of our beloved Jaffna. Firmly established in this centre, their outgoing spirits moved further afield, as they thought of those places still in need. It is not too difficult for me to picture in our minds a momentous visit which Dr. & Mrs. Winslow and Dr. & Mrs. Spaulding made one morning. We see them seated in a palanquin, the women in voluminous skirts, the men in long clerical coats, slowly carried from Tellippalai to another village, to spy out the land for a new Mission centre — Uduvil. So, from Tellippalai, one after another station was opened up in widening circles.

The present is with us now, and the "good old days" move on into the new. New changes in new forms have come and are to come. But, there is no undue concern for we believe that as long as the right spirit is there, and the right thinking, this place will remain the same in all essentials. The Tellippalai Mission compound with its splendid Union College has always admitted boys and girls of whatever caste or creed. It has invited the poor and the underprivileged, has shown no snobbery, it has glorified work done by the hands; it has believed in the joy of play along with work; it has been ready to be taught new ways of thinking and working; it has co-operated in projects for the good of all. As long as it keeps this spirit, its life for the Kingdom is assured.

I send my greetings to this brave new present, as one who believes in the enthusiasm, purpose and faith of those now in charge. May you who enter this compound during the Carnival catch the spirit of the past and present, as you join in fun and frolic, or in serious moods. The money which you freely give, we know, will be spent in the spirit of stewardship, that good may come. I send my greetings to the Principal and his loyal staff, to the pupils of the College, and to the parents whose interest centres in this College. I shall be with you in thought during the days of your rejoicing.

From:

*Rev. Sydney K. Bunker, B. A., B. D., B. Litt.*  
*Chairman, American Ceylon Mission.*

Vaddukoddai, June 25, 1947.

NO one has so good a right to send a message to Union College as the Chairman of the American Ceylon Mission. For Union College and the schools that merged to form the College have been close to the heart of the Mission from its earliest days. The industrial side of the school work there was probably the most progressive effort in education that the Mission has made. Indeed, it seems still to be far ahead of the times. So now as the American Ceylon Mission seems about to disappear into the new diocese of the Church of South India, I am sure that the final message of that Mission to Union College is: Serve the true interests of the new Church, your mother, as faithfully, progressively and imaginatively as you have served ours. Serve not yourself, for that way lies death; but seek the Kingdom of God and serve it, for that way lies life for the College and for all that made it up.



Congratulations to the Principal and the Staff and all the students for your present splendid achievements, and every worthy success be yours in the years ahead. May God's blessing rest upon you.





THE RUANWALISEYA DAGOBA,  
ANURADHAPURA.

(Photo by I. P. T.)



## PREFACE

**T**ELLIPPALAI is a big name in the history of Education and of Missionary activity in Ceylon. As a history mainly in pictures of this pioneer Mission Station, this Pictorial needs no excuse for its publication. In fact it has long been overdue.

**T**HE book does not, by any means, pretend to be original in its scope. Except for the more recent history of the Station, the same ground has been covered in a number of books on Mission history which have already been published, chief among them being "A History of the American Ceylon Mission" by Rev. C. D. Velupillai, "A Century in Ceylon" by Miss Root and "A Century of English Education in Ceylon" by Mr. J. V. Chelliah. All these books and many others have been very freely made use of in compiling this Pictorial. What the author has striven to do is merely to focus the attention of the readers on the growth and development of the institutions at Tellippalai since the time Dr. Daniel Poor and Rev. Edward Warren commenced their missionary labours in 1816.

**P**ROUD as the author is of having had the privilege of studying and writing the history of this old Mission Station which is hallowed by the memory of so many pioneer missionary movements, no one is more conscious than he of the defects of this book. If the readers will remember that he is inexperienced at this type of work and that he had to do this in addition to his normal duties in the class room, they will overlook the shortcomings of this book. The author, however, wishes to record his grateful appreciation of the help and guidance rendered so readily and so cheerfully by Mr. I. P. Thurairatnam, the Principal of Union College, in the midst of his other pressing duties. It is needless to say that without his able guidance and useful directions, this publication would not have been found possible.

**A** word of explanation is necessary about the pictures that appear in this book. It has not been found possible to get at all the pictures that ought to adorn these pages, in spite of our best efforts in this direction. Some of those whom we asked for pictures did not favour us with a copy. Others, especially some of our benefactors, have preferred to remain anonymous. Some pictures which we were able to get were too faded to be made use of. Although the absence of some pictures, particularly of the old group will be deplored by the older Alumnae, it is hoped that the difficulties of the historian in compiling such a history and that within a limited time, will be fully appreciated. We have also no doubt that our readers will appreciate the many pictures of general interest included in this Pictorial.

"Let us rise up and build"

SO said the young Jew, Nehemiah, to his energetic and honest band of captains of the army and horsemen as he stood before the fallen walls of Jerusalem, just before commencing that historic work of reconstruction, the story of which is, by far, one of the most gripping episodes of the Old Testament. Those who have watched the constant toil and arduous labour expended by the Principal, staff and students in organising the Union Carnival and Exhibition, will appreciate just how this simile applies to the building up of the school at this stage in its history. Misnomer that it is, the Carnival, as far as the school is concerned, is not an attempt to organise an occasion for protracted merriment but is really an all-out effort to "rise up and build", the only point of difference in the analogy being that, thanks to those who have laboured in the cause before, "the city doth not lie waste". Like Nehemiah and his band of faithful followers, the Principal and Staff have displayed an enthusiasm and earnestness in the cause, consistent with the past traditions of the school. Like them, they have made use of much of the "old material" in this noble work of reconstruction, material that has been rendered sacred by the passage of time. The measure of success that will attend their efforts, is left to the future historian to chronicle. But there is the confidence that though the walls of the superstructure need constant care, the foundation that has been laid is strong and sure for it was laid with no other conviction than that:

*"other foundation can no man lay, than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

C. E. R.

Union College,  
August, 1947.

## Early Years



THE American Ceylon Mission was started in October, 1816, at Tellippalai. On this day a vital part of our national history began.

If you should visit today the Tellippallai Mission compound, you would stand in awe and reverence before a little spot which is sacred, and remains a source of inspiration to those who work in its premises. This plot enshrines the bones of pioneer missionaries like Dr. Poor, who is remembered to this day for his victorious life and heroic death, and of James Richards, of the Haystack Movement, who was responsible for the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Foreign Mission had its birth under a haystack in Williamstown, Mass. Six students from Williams College who had been to a prayer meeting in a grove took refuge under a haystack on a stormy night, but the havoc without was nothing because of the glow within; for, these six students sat there long, talking of far away Asia and the possibilities of reaching other lands in the love of Jesus Christ. Under the haystack they prayed for the will to do it. And they did it. It happened in 1806.

You should see today the beautiful marble monument in Williamstown, Mass. On top of this historic structure is a globe, and carved below it is a haystack. Beneath the globe are the following words:—

*"The field is the world"*

In 1810 a Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was started with nine elected individuals. From that time until today men and women have gone to far off lands to spread the gospel and build

brotherhood in the world. This brave pioneer Christian enterprise has given hospitals, schools and churches to the uttermost parts of the world. It has sent out many doctors, teachers and ministers on the errand of the Master.

Records reveal that Tellippalai was chosen as the pioneer field for missionary work in Ceylon. It was here that Baldaeus, the first Protestant Missionary lived and worked. Rev. Palm of the London Missionary Society also chose Tellippalai as his special Mission residence. It was this village that Mr. Samuel Newell, a member of the first band of missionaries sent by the American Board to India, chose to visit in the course of his peregrinations to explore the possibilities of establishing a mission in the island. Though 'a solitary pilgrim in a heathen land', awaiting his brethren, who, he knew, would have to leave India, owing to the opposition of the East India Company, he found Jaffna to be a promising field. He strongly recommended to the American Board the establishment of a mission in the island mentioning among other reasons, "the remarkable opportunity offered for reaching the millions of Tamil speaking people in South India, through the medium of a strong work among the Tamil community of Ceylon". It was in answer to this appeal, and on the conclusion of peace between the United States of America and Great Britain in 1814, that the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions fitted out a second mission, this time designated to Ceylon. This missionary band consisted of nine people: Rev. Edward Warren, Rev. & Mrs. James Richards, Rev. & Mrs. Bardwell, Rev. & Mrs. Benjamin Meigs and Rev. & Mrs. Daniel Poor. They

sailed from Newport on October 23, 1815 and arrived in Colombo on March 22, 1816. After a stay of six months in Colombo while Rev. & Mrs. Bardwell proceeded to Bombay, the others decided to come to Jaffna.

Rev. Edward Warren was the first to arrive in Jaffna on July 11, 1816, coming overland in a palanquin. He was soon joined by others and for a while they resided in Jaffna Town. On October 15, 1816, Revs. Warren and Poor took up their residence at Tellippalai and began on that day the work "so long anticipated and so long to be continued—the preaching of the Gospel to the Tamils of Ceylon". The following is an extract from their record:—

"Today we have made our abode with Non-Christians. We dedicate ourselves to the noble service of our Saviour and Master who has willed to call us to work in His vineyard. May He use these weak vessels to glorify His Name among these people, and give us His Grace to be loyal to Him, May He crown our endeavours with success".

Enriched with the traditions of earlier missionary enterprises, it was by no mere accident that Revs. Warren and Poor chose Tellippalai to be the first venue of their labours.



Rev. Dr. Daniel Poor

who had already earned from Bishop Cadwell the enviable appellation "the Greeks or Scots of the East", the task of delivering the Good News to this little com-

munity, merely a third of a million in numbers, was by no means an easy one. because years of Portugese and Dutch domination had instilled in the people a fear for any foreign religion.

#### Common Free Schools and Family Boarding Schools.

When the Mission commenced work at Tellippalai in 1816, there was a strong prejudice against all missionary work. In the teeth of opposition and apathy two common free schools were established, one at Tellippalai in 1816, and the other at Mallakam, with 30 boys on the roll. These boys had instruction in Tamil Language, Tamil Poetry, Arithmetic, Geography and Scripture. The regular teachers were necessarily Hindus. After some time English was introduced at Tellippalai, making it the first English School under the American Mission. But the missionaries were not satisfied with the education imparted at these common free schools. As long as the children came from their homes, and the teachers necessarily Hindus, the scope of these schools was limited and "the progress of moral renovation" was at best very slow. Therefore, a re-orientation in educational policy seemed necessary. The missionaries decided to have instead of the common free schools, family boarding schools, where children could be kept under constant Christian instruction and where the atmosphere could be entirely Christian. However, the desire of the natives for education was very small and even the day schools did not attract large numbers. The Mission first communicated this plan to the Society that supported it and also gave them statistics of what it would cost to clothe and feed a child for a year. The plan met with ready approval and almost immediate response. Provision was soon made for several children to be educated by individuals and voluntary associations in America. The names given to the individuals were very often those of their benefactor. But when this plan was put before the natives, it met with cold recep-

tion. The wildest conjectures were formed as to the intentions of the missionaries. Some thought that the children were to be enslaved, others that they were to be sent into the interior of the island or to some foreign country as soldiers. None could understand why men of another nation should come to them and from mere benevolence, offer to feed, clothe and educate their children.

The first of these Boarding Schools was established at Tellippalai with six boys. The first group in America that responded to the proposed plan was a small association of young ladies at Salem, Massachusetts and the first boy to receive the provision was named Samuel Worcester, who joined school at the age of seven in January 1818 and commenced the English and Tamil alphabets. In October 1828 he finished the prescribed course of study and "was entitled to an honourable dismissal". Soon after, he was appointed the first Native Christian teacher in the Mission and became an efficient instructor in both English and Tamil. Of the remaining five, two died, one was dismissed as unpromising, one was employed as Catechist and Superintendent of Schools and one entered Government Service and became an Interpreter at the, "Cutcherry of Jaffnapatanam".

#### Beginnings of Girls' Education.

It took a long time for others to come under the influence of the missionaries but gradually and steadily the prejudices against missionary work began to disappear. Having formed a nucleus for a Boarding Institution for boys, the next step of the missionaries was to persuade girls to join the school. In the matter of girls' education the obstacles were even more formidable. It was considered a reproach to educate a girl. Those who did send their daughters were subject to no small degree of ridicule from their relations and friends because of their departure from immemorial customs and traditions. But

Rev. Daniel Poor was a Missionary of great vision and at Tellippalai where he had started the first common free school and the first family boarding school, he decided to admit girls too. He told a father with six daughters and one son that he would take the son into the school only on condition that he would send two of his daughters also to school. After many family councils, the parents finally decided to do so. Thus was made a beginning at Tellippalai in co-education as early as 1818. The story is told that on one occasion, the Headman of the village came to Dr. Poor's house to get the signature of one of these girls to a deed transferring some land to her as dowry. To the surprise of the Headman, the girl wrote her name legibly instead of making a thumb mark. The Headman, after this incident, decided to send his daughter too to the Missionary Institution. At the end of 1818 there were 5 girls at Tellippalai.

After the establishment of the first Boarding School at Tellippalai, Boarding Schools were established at four other stations: Batticotta, Ooduville, Pandateruppu and Manipay. In 1823, more than 125 boys and 30 girls were supported in the five Boarding Schools. In January 1824, 22 of these girls were gathered at Uduvil from the various stations. Incidentally, it is worthy of note that the first two girls who came under the influence of Dr. & Mrs. Poor at Tellippalai were the first women saved out of the thousands around them. Miranda Sellathai was shortly afterwards married to a young man, Daniel Veerakatty, and this was the first Christian marriage celebrated in the Mission field. It was notable for the marked difference of caste and the Missionaries rejoiced to see such tangible results of their labours. The young man set at nought questions of caste and calculations of dowry, and married the girl for her inherent worth. A number of people attended the wedding and returned home wondering at this new way of life.

The example set by Mr. Veerakatty advanced the cause of girls' education. An immediate result was the application of three high caste neighbours of Miranda to enter the Boarding School.

#### Pioneer Movements.

It was not merely in the sphere of education that Tellippalai became a pioneer field. Rev. Warren established the first Dispensary at Tellippalai. When he died Dr. Scudder continued this work and later removed it to Pandateruppu in October 1833. It is also interesting to note that the first Home Missionary Society formed in any foreign Missionary field was also organised at Tellippalai. For, as early as 1827 there was at Tellippalai a Christian School Society which supported an Evangelist in the village of Erlalai and laid the foundations of the church to be built there some years later. A very striking event in the history of these early years was a series of revivals that began in 1824. Here again the first manifestation was at Tellippalai where the boys in the Boarding School came to Mr. Woodward (then resident Missionary) and asked him what they should do to be saved.

Rejoicing over this Mr. Woodward invited Mr. & Mrs. Winslow, who were then residing at Uduvil to go over and help them. As a result of this new awakening, two teachers, forty pupils and some ser-

vants accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

It won't be out of place to mention here that on January 27, 1817 seven Missionaries met together at Tellippalai and celebrated the first Holy Communion after their arrival in Jaffna. On October 10, 1819 at a Communion Service at Vadukkoddai, Mr. Gabrielpillai accepted Christ as Saviour and on the 31st at a Communion Service held at Tellippalai, Mr. Nicholaspillai confessed his faith, received the Baptism and joined the Church. These were the first Christians among the natives and over four hundred people came to witness this unusual scene.

#### The First Churches.

In 1831, there was sufficient increase in numbers in Church membership to justify the division of the one Church that then existed into five which were to meet together for the quarterly communion and hold other services separately. Sixty nine members were enrolled at Vaddukoddai, forty-nine at Uduvil, twenty-nine at Tellippalai, twenty-four at

Manipay and twenty-one at Pandateruppu. A "Consociation" was also formed at the same time which continued until 1838 when it was changed into a "Presbytery". The total church membership at the five stations was 192. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the first Village Church to be



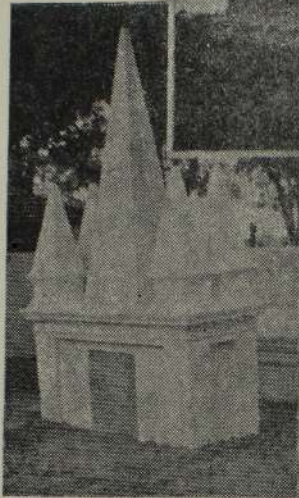
The Hay Stack Monument



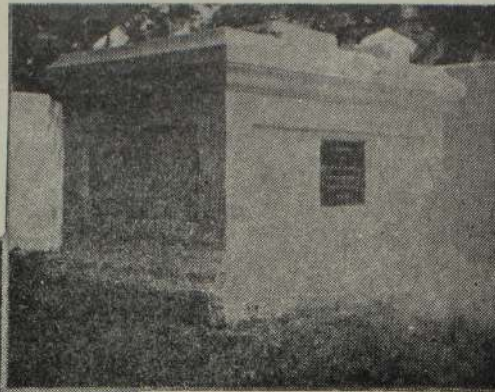
built was at Tellippalai at the spot called 'Arulur' (அரூர்). Even today the ruins of this ancient church could be seen. The next village church to be built was at Alaveddy, a neighbouring village of Tellippalai, where the Church was consecrated on Oct., 13 1853.

The Roll Call.

In 1821, Mrs. Susan Poor was called to Eternal Rest. She was the first Missionary to die in Jaffna. Rev. Warren died at Cape of Good Hope where he had gone to recuperate his health. James Richards came from Vaddukoddai and resided with Dr. Poor. Richards was one of that memorable group of five young men at Williams College who gathered under the shelter of a haystack in 1806



Grave of James Richards



Grave of Daniel Poor

"to pray for an open way to regions beyond." He was the first of that group to move on from Williams to Andover there to kindle the missionary flame and the only one of the group to serve in a foreign field. A clergyman, a physician, the senior of a little band of pioneers, he began a great career of promise which, however, proved to be one not of brilliant achievement as might have been anticipated but one of renunciation and patient suffering. Six years he lived in Jaffna. During that time he gave up one by one all his ambitions for active usefulness in Christ's service. Yet in all the long record there is no hint of bitterness or regret, only an inspiring realisation of the greatness of the Service to which God had called him and a joyous confidence in his Father's unfailing goodness. He died at Tellippalai on August 3, 1822; His last words were: "I know my Redeemer liveth."

They are not dead—not really; they are striving  
Just as they did on earth, across the way;  
And we must show them that we are reviving  
Visions of all that they suffered—yesterday.

We who are left must keep their spirit glowing.  
We who are left must keep their memory clear,  
We who are left must feel that they are knowing.  
We who are left must feel that they can hear!



# Education At Tellippalai

(1823-1855)



FIVE years after Dr. Poor and Rev. Warren started their work at Tellippalai, there were 24 schools in the Jaffna villages with an attendance of over 1000 children. In 1823, more than 30 girls and 120 boys were supported in the Boarding Schools. Although the Missionaries considered the Boarding Schools to be, for several reasons, more useful than the non-resident schools yet they were anxious that the "two parts of the system" should be carried on together. In the third triennial report of the Seminary, they expressed their desire to continue both the Boarding Schools and the Village Schools, in very clear terms:—

"More immediate good is expected by the Mission from supporting and educating thoroughly the two hundred children and youth now in its Boarding establishments than from the partial education of the three or four thousand usually in its village schools. But the two parts of the system should be carried on together. The Boarding Schools train up teachers and superintendents for the village schools and the village schools furnish and prepare scholars for the Boarding Establishments. Thus they mutually assist each other."

It is also remarkable that when the Missionaries established the system of "Charity Boarding Schools", that is, schools where the children were fed, clothed and taught free of charge, they were by no means taking a leap in the dark. The principal danger of the system, the Missionaries felt, was that the "sudden transition from labour and perhaps indigence, to a sedentary life where all real wants are gratuitously supplied" may lead the pupils to become effeminate and to imbibe the notion that manual labour was a mark of degradation. Fully conscious of such dangers, the Missionaries used various means to counteract such evils. "The most effect-

ive preventive has been" says a Report, "to feed, clothe and lodge the students in as simple and plain a manner as a due regard to health and cleanliness will allow or in other words, to avoid raising their style of living above what all things considered, has seemed necessary." So the charge so often made against the Missionaries that they were largely responsible for the development of a wrong sense of values is really unfounded.

## Beginnings of the Seminary.

As was said earlier, in 1823, there were 30 girls and 120 boys in the Boarding Schools at the five stations. Among the latter, several appeared to be sufficiently promising and fit for higher attainments. This showed the necessity for a Central or High School and led to the attempt of forming one. The institution commenced in a modified form at Batticotta in July 1823. The most forward pupils from the Boarding Schools were brought together and given instruction in Literature, Science and Religion. This was the beginning of the Mission Seminary, the story of which is to be found in "A Century of English Education" by J. V. Chelliah.

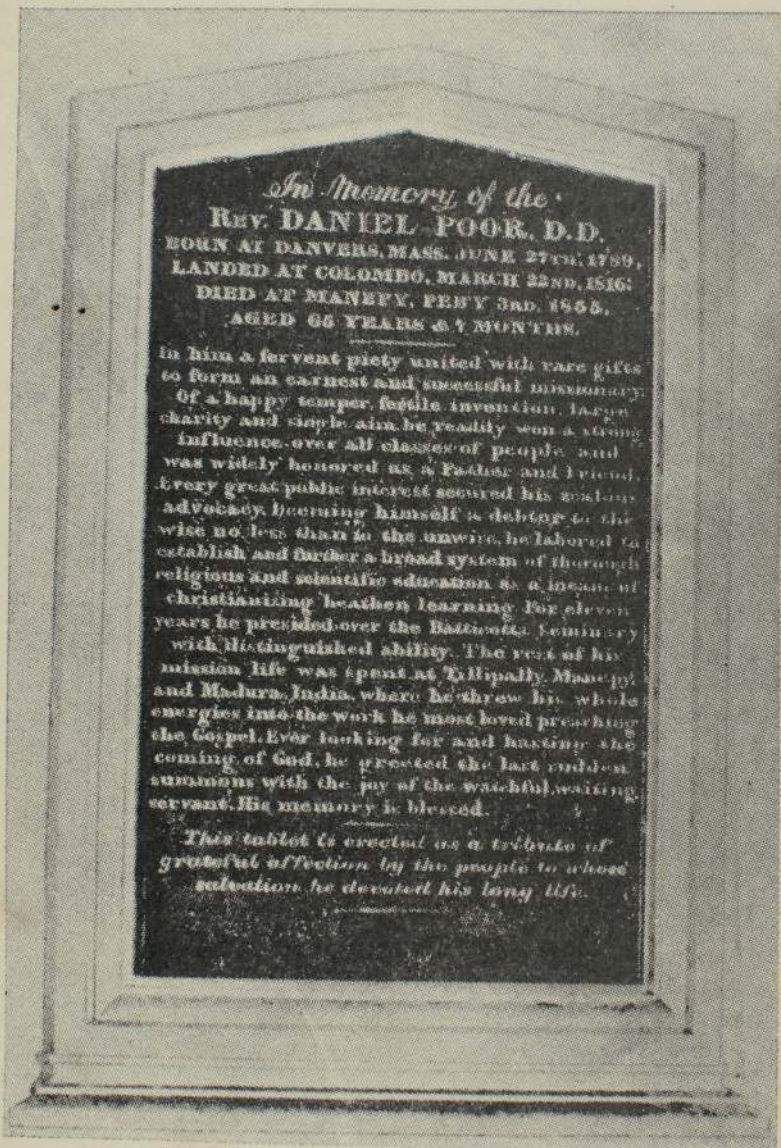
Dr. Daniel Poor was the obvious choice for the Principalship of the school and he went over to Vaddukkoddai to undertake the new responsibility. Although his heart was set on direct evangelical work, he undertook the new task because of the conviction that it was the best way of disseminating truth and of "preparing a people to receive the Gospel and preparing men to give it." His place at Tellippalai was taken by the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Woodward, who belonged to the second group of American Missionaries to arrive in the Island.

Dr. Poor was undoubtedly the most dominating personality of these early years. With a burning zeal for the cause to which he had dedicated himself, he accomplished much that was truly wonderful. He mastered the Tamil Language so quickly that it is said, he preached in Tamil just a year from the day he arrived in Tellippalai. When he became Principal of the Seminary, he was Administrator and Lecturer all in one, for owing to the restrictions of Government, it was impossible for many years to get down Professors from America. For more than ten years he sustained the burden alone, the other members of the Mission rendering him such aid as they could, in the midst of many missionary avocations and while all but one were at stations some miles apart. He also gave his pupils a comparative instruction

in the Western and Eastern Sciences and on one occasion even entered into an interesting controversy with the Tamil Pandaram about the time of an eclipse of the moon and its cause. For 11 years he presided over the destinies of the Seminary and left in 1835 for Madura, because he had a decided preference to carry out the

purpose of the Mission to enter "the white harvest fields of India". Dr. Poor came to Ceylon some years later and in 1855 died at Manipay stricken with cholera during the epidemic that broke out that year. He visited the patients and prayed for them rendering the necessary help for each one.

Finally he himself was stricken with cholera. On his death bed he sang joyously and slept in the Lord. His friends compared him to St. Paul and held him in high esteem as their spiritual leader. Christians as well as non-Christians bemoaned the loss. For forty years Dr. Poor worked for Jaffna and Madura. In him did a fervent piety unite with rare gifts to form an earnest and successful Missionary. He was truly a Father and Friend.



Dr. Poor's Tablet

concern of the Mission, Tellippalai continued to play an important part in the "educational irrigation" of the country. In order to forward the progress of the Seminary, a Preparatory School was opened at Tellippalai in 1825 into which the promising boys from the other Day Schools were admitted. It is on record that this school

The Tellippalai Preparatory School.

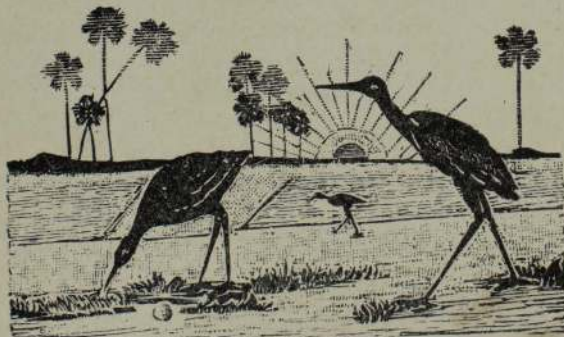
Although the Seminary now became the chief

sometimes had more than one hundred boys on the roll. They were generally admitted young and were under the instruction of well qualified teachers. Statistics show that there was a steady increase in attendance. The school started with 24 boys in 1824 and had 50 on roll in 1832. So great was the success of this Preparatory School that in 1832, it was removed to Batticotta and made an appendage to the Seminary.

#### Beginnings of Uduvil.

Soon after the Seminary was put into operation it was thought desirable to have a similar Central Institution for the girls at the different stations. Many were the decisions about the locality of the proposed school. It is interesting to note that the

first decision was for Tellippalai because the number of girls in the Tellippalai School was more than those at any other station. The decision would have been carried out, had it not been for the consideration that Dr. Poor had to go to Batticotta to take charge of the Seminary and the Missionaries who succeeded him, the Woodwards, could not undertake the new responsibility. When the school did start at Uduvil in 1824, the Tellippalai School sent in the largest quota of students. Having sent its Principal and its promising boys to the Seminary, and its girls to the Central High School for girls at Uduvil, Tellippalai, as an educational centre, receded into the background till 1872 when the Normal Training School was transferred from Batticotta to Tellippalai.





K.K.V.

*The Jaffna Clock Tower*



## The Tellippalai Normal School

**T**HE year 1855 is a landmark in the history of the Mission. It was during this year that the first Deputation was sent by the American Board to the Mission fields in India and Ceylon to take stock of what had been done since 1816 and "to give such directions as they judged, the best interests of the Mission should demand". Many Patrons of the Board felt that the time was ripe for a re-orientation in the policy of the Mission in India and Ceylon in view of the fact that reports of Church work were far from satisfactory. It was even wondered whether there was not in Ceylon and India an over-emphasis on education at the expense of evangelisation, for education, as the Patrons of the Board conceived it, was only an auxiliary agency, the main task being the spreading of the Gospel.

The Deputation consisted of two eminent men, Dr. Rufus Anderson, Senior Secretary to the Prudential Committee and Rev. G. C. Thomson, a Pastor who was also a member of the Committee. The changes which they recommended were so far-reaching that they meant in effect, the demolition of the whole educational edifice, erected with so much toil by the pioneer Missionaries for nearly four decades. It was a strange coincidence too that Dr. Poor, the pioneer of English Education in the country was at this time on his death bed and his last message dictated to Dr. Anderson, while the Deputation was in Bombay, was a subtle protest against the demolition of a system which had stood the test of time—"It may be better that I should not be here when they come. Truth may have a better hearing". True to his word Dr. Poor passed away before the arrival of the Deputation in Jaffna, and with his death, the system of education which he had established suffered the same fate.

The most far-reaching change recommended by the Deputation was the abolish-

ing of English medium *in toto* in all the Mission activities, for which drastic measure the following reasons were adduced:—

1. The Mission was short - handed.
2. A number of those who became Christians in the schools had reverted to Hinduism.
3. Education was being sought with a view rather to financial and social improvement than to Christian Service.
4. The emphasis was away from Scripture and Tamil and too much on Science and English.

### Discussions over Deputation Proposals.

There seems to have been a sharp cleavage of opinion between the older Missionaries and the younger ones with regard to this momentous step — the former in favour of maintaining the *status quo* while the latter inclined to agree with the Deputation. One of the very sound reasons given by the older members in defence of the existing system was that the Ceylon people would be educated in English by some agency and it was for the Mission to decide whether this agency should be Christian or not. The proposed changes were discussed at length not only in India and Ceylon but even in America where the subject was taken up at different committees and conferences and finally referred to a Special Meeting of the American Board which met at Albany, after the return of the Deputation. After a long discussion, it was again referred to a committee of 13 which was instructed to report to the Board in October, 1856 at its regular meeting. Every Missionary in the three India fields was invited to state his opinion on the matter. After careful consideration of all the reports and correspondence, the Board finally decided that the changes contemplated were justified by the conditions and that there was nothing gained by reversing them.

Accordingly, English education was given up in all the schools of the Mission. Although the Deputation thought it expedient to have in the Seminary a select theological class of graduates instructed in English, the Ceylon Mission deemed it impracticable to make such a provision and decided to suspend the Seminary also. The results were as anticipated by the older Missionaries. The Tamils demanded English, for, it was the requisite for all public services. Other Missions and Hindu schools met this demand and for a priceless two decades that followed the Mission ceased to occupy that exalted position it held heretofore of being the intellectual guide of the people. Though the Seminary was closed, a private Tamil Christian enterprise—The Batticotta High School—took its place and occupied the east end of the Vaddukkoddai Church. Once again it was Tellippalai that supplied a Principal for this new off-shoot, Mr. Robert Breckenridge, who was in the Mission employ at Tellippalai, took up duties as Principal of the Institution and guided its destinies till 1870 when he was appointed Inspector of Schools.

#### Beginnings of the Training & Theological Institution

In the premises of the Seminary was established in 1859 a Training and Theological Institution, the object of which was to train Mission Assistants, mainly teachers and catechists. But we cannot say that it was established under very happy auspices. To a people who considered English education to be a vital necessity, the suspension of the Seminary



Rev. M. D. Sanders

seemed a diaster. For several years none of the Christians, not to speak of the Hindus, would send their boys to this school, al-

though it had an eminent Principal in the person of Rev. M. D. Sanders and efficient teachers like Messrs. B. H. Rice, J. R. Arnold and J. P. Cooke. The school laboured under other handicaps too. The dearth of suitable text books in the vernacular especially limited the scope of the training given to the students.

For a long time, therefore, there was great difficulty in drawing boys to the school. In fact, many of those who joined the school at first were adult vernacular teachers who aspired to promotion as catechists. But the supply of such candidates was limited and the pupils in subsequent classes were recruited from the upper classes of vernacular schools. These were often the sons of parents who were too poor or too indifferent to pay the fees in the English schools now under private control. For many years the school numbered from 20 to 30 pupils in two or three classes and graduated a class every second or third year. Despite its unpopularity the school strove to fulfil its aims and succeeded in training some valuable helpers and good teachers who became real assets to the Mission.

#### Transfer of the Theological Institution

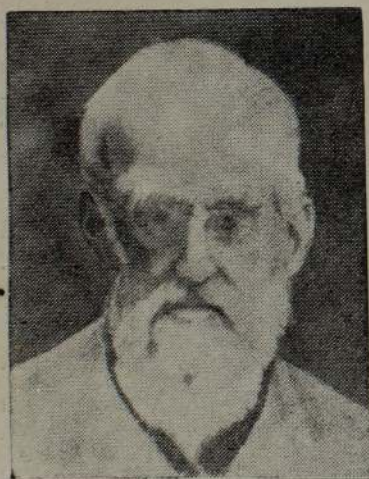
In 1872, a spontaneous effort on the part of the educated Tamil Christians, resulted in the establishment of a College for higher education at Vaddukkoddai. On July 3, 1872, this institution was opened under the name of "Jaffna College". A great loss to the Mission at this time was the death of Rev. M. D. Sanders, who died at Vaddukkoddai on August 29, 1871. He had been responsible for collecting a considerable amount of money and for securing in America a strong Board of Trustees for the new college of higher learning whose first Principal he was to be. But God willed it otherwise. His death was greatly lamented by the Mission and the native Christians.



It was now deemed desirable to move the Theological and Training Institution from Vaddukkodai and accordingly in 1871 it was removed to Tellippalai and placed under the charge of Rev. W. W. Howland.

The theological section of the school was not utilised except for a good class in 1875. This consisted of Mission helpers, who kept on with their work. They received their training in successive theological classes, one conducted in Tamil by Father Howland at Tellippalai, a second instructed chiefly in English by Dr. Howland and Rev. T. P. Hunt at Chavakachcheri and finishing its work with Rev. E. P. Hastings and Rev. B. H. Rice at Vaddukkodai. This class included Rev. W. P. Nathaniel, Rev. S. John, Rev. William Joseph, Rev. S. Elia-thamby, Rev. Isaac Paul and Rev. S. Veerakatty.

When the Training School was removed to Tellippalai it had to give up to the College the premises, the buildings, apparatus, and everything which it had inherited



Rev. W. W. Howland

from the old Seminary. New buildings had to be erected, new apparatus found, new equipment procured. The question of closing the school was raised at this time but it was felt that the great extension of Vernacular Edu-

cation which was then going on and the provision of liberal grant-in-aid from the Government under its new Education Code made it more important than ever that a school for the training of vernacular teachers should be maintained. But the erection of expensive buildings was not ventured upon as the future of

the school was still uncertain. The Missionary in charge gave up his study for a class room and two thatched sheds with half walls of mud served as dining room and dormitory. With these inadequate buildings the school got along till 1884. Rev. W. W. Howland had two able assistants, Mr (later Rev.) S. John, Head Master, and Mr. S. Jeremiah, both of whom were graduates of the Training School.

In 1874, an important change in the curriculum was introduced. English was

taught for one hour a day to those of the pupils who were willing to pay 25 cents per month for it, an offer of which many of the pupils were glad to avail themselves. In 1875 the school became grant-in-aid and earned about Rs. 300 annually from the Government.



Rev. T. S. Smith

In 1878, Rev. & Mrs. Howland were transferred to Uduvil and Rev. & Mrs. T. S. Smith took their place. Rev. Smith was also then the Manager of all the schools in the Mission. He was assisted by a Board of Education which was set up in 1870 consisting of 12 members, pastors and laymen, who took full charge of receiving the Government grants and of distributing them to the several schools according to passes and attendance. This Board was dissolved in 1883 as it was felt that its power was too centralised and its action slow. To develop local interest and responsibility, separate committees were formed at each station to administer the school funds and control the schools with the resident Missionary as head.

### Beginnings of Industrial Education

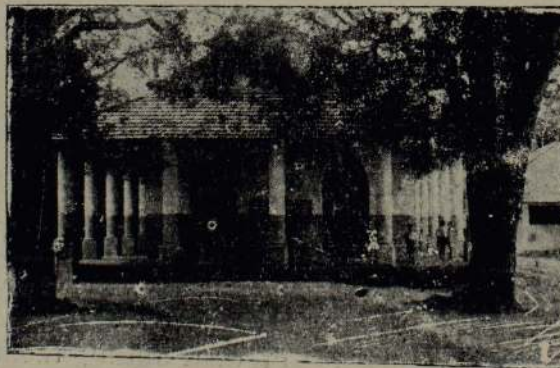
Mr. Smith, being the Manager of the schools, thought it part of his duty to train teachers for his schools and it was during his time that the school reached its height of excellence and usefulness. In 1878, Industrial Education was introduced as an experiment and thereafter the school was known as "The Tellippalai Training and Industrial School". A word of explanation is necessary about the membership of this school which was somewhat complex. There was in the premises a Practising School in which those training for teachers practised their profession. The students of this school and the teachers in training comprised the Training School as the Mission understood it, while the Government considered only those under training as forming the Training School. Boarders who were able to spend three hours a day in working in the specific trades and a few others constituted the Industrial School, which was independent and self-supporting. The courses at the school included Carpentry, Masonry, Tinwork, Glazing, Printing, Book-Binding, Taxidermy and Photography.

In 1880, the Education Department issued a Revised Code which provided for a liberal scheme of Queen's Scholarships for grant-in-aid Training Schools. This scheme offered one scholarship for every 20 day-schools under the same Mission. The Tellippalai Training School was entitled to five scholarships annually, each tenable for two years and each yielding Rs. 100.00 at the end of the first and Rs. 150.00 at the end of the second year. The successful graduates

received Second Class Certificates from the Director, qualifying them for employment as Head Masters of Middle Schools. This scheme necessitated a thorough re-organisation of the school. A new class had to be received each year in order to make the best use of all the aid offered by the Government. There was also the requirement for a Practising School in connection with the Training School and this was met by uniting the station boys' day school with the preparatory department of the Boarding School, the whole forming a normal institution with primary, middle and high school departments. The first class under the new scheme graduated in 1884. These were nine in number: Messrs. Edward Thillayampalam, Allen Abraham, Charles Sjnathamby, M. N. Gnanamuthu, Isaac Vyramuttu, John Samuel, V. Murugesu, Henry David and Handy Saravanamuttu. In the same year Mr. Samuel Veerakatty and Daniel Velupillai, having graduated previously, qualified themselves for Second Class Certificates under the new scheme.

### Erection of Sanders' Hall

The problem that now faced the management was the inadequacy of buildings and equipment. The changed form and increased popularity of the school called for new ventures. In 1879, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the school, a movement was inaugurated by the Old Boys and graduates to provide the school with an adequate building to be called "Sanders' Hall" to commemorate the name of Rev. Marshall D. Sanders, the beloved and highly esteemed first Principal of the school. It was re-



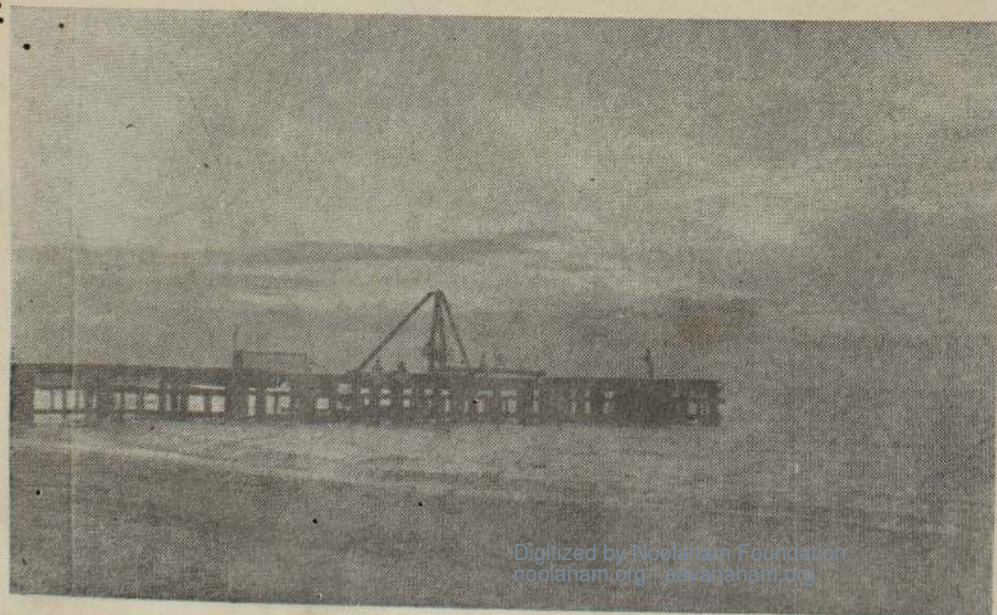
Sanders' Hall



Kankesanturai Light House

&

Jetty





solved to ask the American Board for a thousand dollars on condition that Rs. 2000-00 would be collected locally. Provision was thus made for the accommodation of 25 to 30 pupils. The request was granted by the Board and pledges were obtained for Rs. 2000-00 from local sources. But now it was found that the original plans had to be revised in view of the changed form of the school. Accommodation had to be provided for 150 pupils of whom 50 to 60 would be boarders. Rev. Smith, with his characteristic faith, decided to proceed with the building plans, trusting in God and in the philanthropy of local people, who, he was confident, would meet any deficiency if it became necessary.

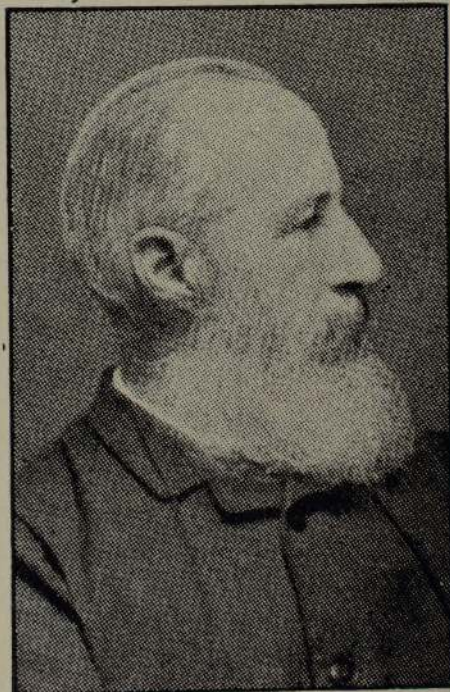
The following account by Rev. Smith of the erection of Sanders' Hall reads like fiction:-

*" Sanders' Hall was so planned as to use every sound timber in the old buildings erected in 1872 for the temporary use of the school. A portion of the 120 palmyrah trees standing on the new compound provided the Principal the new timber required, while the rest were sold for nearly enough to meet the price paid for the land with the trees. Two margosa trees standing on the site afforded most of the door and window frames needed. The ruins of an old Dutch Church some three miles away yielded 500 cart loads of coral stones for burning into lime. A huge banyan tree at Pandatterippu which had been a dangerous hiding place for cobras and other venomous vermin furnished a good part of the wood needed for the lime kiln. The parents of the pupils of the island of Karadive contributed the rafters for the verandahs. Teak timber for the doors and windows, the desks and the floors of upstairs verandahs was secured at less than one third of the usual price at an auction sale of more than 300 huge squared logs of Burmese teak which a cyclone had swept out of the timber depots of Arakkan and wafted across the Bay of*

*Bengal on to the coast of Jaffna even to our very doors at Kankesanturai, less than three miles away. Nearly every old student gave a month's income to the building. Every present pupil pledged Rs. 5-00. Other native friends contributed nearly Rs. 1000-00 in money and material. All the masons, carpenters and coolies gave from one day to a week of labour. More than half of all the work on the building was wrought by the pupils of the Industrial School at less than half the cost of ordinary labour, the progress of the work being so planned as to make the most of the labour by pushing it forward during vacations and on the Industrial days of term time."*

Before the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the school in 1884, the building was completed at a cost of

Rs. 8000-00 representing a value of more than Rs. 12,000-00 at ordinary rates for similar work. There was a deficit of about six hundred rupees which was assumed as a personal debt by the Principal when he left for America. It



Sir. Arthur Gordon

was finally cancelled in 1887 by the efforts of a beloved classmate of Rev. Smith, Professor Harris of Andover Seminary. The new building was declared open by His Excellency Sir Arthur Gordon on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary in August

1884. An Exhibition of the Industrial Department was also held on the same day.

Mr. Yesuthasan sent to America.

The Industrial Department which was from its inception an unofficial department of the school, not receiving any aid from Mission funds, was registered as a grant-in-aid Industrial School in 1884 on the special recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction. Since then it received a capitation grant of Rs. 5-00 for each pupil under 20 who could show a record of 100 industrial days of three hours each. With the help of a donation from the Governor of the Island, the Principal took with him an Industrial Graduate of the school, Mr. C. K. Yesuthasan, when he went on furlough in 1886. Mr. Yesuthasan received some months of training in the wood-



Mr. C. K. Yesuthasan

room of the Institute of Technology at Worcester, Mass. He was also instructed in photography by a competent professional in London. During the last three or four months of his stay in America, Mr. Yesuthasan addressed a number of Sunday Schools and Societies of Christian Endeavour in various parts of New England and the interest awakened found expression in some special gifts for the equipment of the school. These gifts amounted to 1000 dollars and were expended in purchasing tools and machinery for the school. All this machinery Mr. Yesuthasan put in operation

after his return in 1888. The Education Department of Ceylon generously granted Rs. 200-00 towards the freight of the machinery and the increased efficiency of the school resulted in the doubling of the capitation grant from the first of January, 1891.

The Training School continued to flourish, English being now included in the regular curriculum for all students for one hour a day. One of the pupils, Mr. A. R. Suppramaniam, now retired District Judge, passed the Calcutta University Entrance Examination from this school.



Mr. A. R. Suppramaniam, B. A., J. P.

In 1897, the school sustained a severe loss in the death of its Head Master, Mr. S. Jeremiah, who was for 30 years a teacher and 21 years a Head Master of the Training School. On his death, Rev. S. Veerakatty, who was then a Pastor, was appointed Head Master.

Passing away of Rev. T. S. Smith.

Mr. Smith went on furlough in 1897 expecting to return and carry on the work which was so dear to his heart. But the sad news that he would not be able to return for some time because of ill-health caused the greatest shock and grief to all who knew him. On December 17, 1901, he obtained a happy release from a prolonged illness and entered "the presence of the King". Tellippalai owes a large debt of gratitude to this tireless and indefatigable worker under whose fostering care, the institutions at Tellippalai had seen so much of their growth. No Missionary carried on

such varied forms of work so successfully. He was Pastor, Lecturer, Builder, Financier, Editor, Printer and Manager of Schools — all in one — and the success with which he managed these departments speaks not a little to his versatility and powers of initiative.

Rev. S. W. Howland, a fellow-worker, writing of him says :—

“Whether preaching in the street or the Church, organising schools or churches, editing a paper or superintending its printing, raising money or putting up a building and training teachers or preachers, he was always ready and always efficient”.

The earnestness he evinced in the Mission work in Jaffna created a new interest among the members of the American Board and they decided to send new Missionaries to the field. Mr. Smith spent himself for Jaffna.

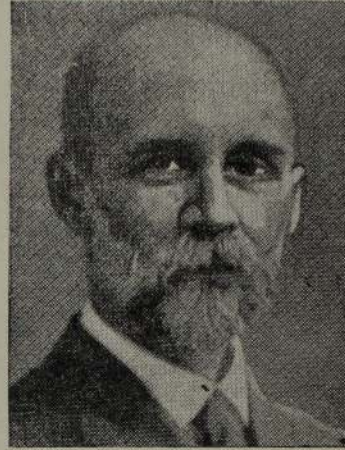
#### The Interregnum

• On his death, the Industrial Department which he had started and run on his own responsibility without Mission aid was taken over by the Mission and from that time became more directly under Mission supervision. Rev. & Mrs. Holton from the Madura Mission now took over the work at Tellippalai. They could not remain long for their services were loaned only for a time by the Madura Mission. The Holtons during their brief period of stay strove to develop both the Training and Industrial Departments of the School. Writing about the importance of the Vernacular as a medium for educational and evangelistic work, Mr. Holton said :—

“In spite of the present great vogue of English Education, the fact remains unquestionably that the vast bulk of the educational and evangelistic work of the future in India and Ceylon must be carried on in the vernacular. The brightest minds and the most consecrated piety

will find ample scope for their employment here. Love to God, love of men and love of country — all call for this form of study and service.”

An interregnum is always a critical period in the history of a school and it was fortunate that during this period between



Rev. R. C. Hastings

the death of Mr. Smith and the arrival of a permanent Missionary, the institutions at Tellippalai were guided by one whose convictions were in accord with the principles and policies of his predecessors. Plans were

also made to give technical training to a limited number of boys in addition to the manual training which all the boys then received.

On the departure of Rev. & Mrs. E. P. Holton in the latter part of February, 1900, the care of the Tellippalai Station devolved on Rev. R. C. Hastings of Batticotta.

#### Arrival of the Dicksons.

In July 1900, Rev. & Mrs J. H. Dickson took up residence at Tellippalai. The year after his arrival Mr. Dickson introduced what was then regarded as a very revolutionary change in the school. He admitted two boys of the so-called depressed class into the school, for gradually the Mission had been growing in the conviction that all caste distinctions ought to be abandoned in a Christian school. Though the change was resented there was no active opposition till February, 1905 when equal seating also was introduced. All the so-called high caste students gathered up their things and decamped in the absence of the Principal and

Head Master. However, in the course of the following six months 45 out of the 65 who left returned but an era of persecution from the village of Tellippalai began which reached its climax when the house of a member of the staff, Mr. C. M. Chinnappah, was burnt to ashes. It is on record that despite the set-back the school received during that year, the government grant had been the highest in the history of the school and the religious interest deeper than it ever had been before. In 1905, Rev. S. Veerakatty, the Head Master, was appointed Pastor of the Tellippalai Church and for some time the school got along without a Head Master because the management could not get a suitable man for the meagre sum offered.

When Rev. & Mrs. Dickson and their children went on furlough in 1909, after seven years of work at Tellippalai, their place was temporarily taken by Mr. & Mrs. Ward of the India Y. M. C. A., who took over from Mr. Dickson the care of the Press, the Training School and the Industrial work.



Rev. & Mrs. J. H. Dickson

Rev. & Mrs. Dickson returned after a furlough of one and a half years and continued the work at Tellippalai till March, 1918 when they proceeded a second time on furlough. On December 25, 1919, they lost their daughter Florence Hale Dickson who died of pneumonia in Oberlin Ohio, aged 13 years. In 1920, Mr. & Mrs. Dickson returned to India in charge of the work in Malabar formerly belonging to the German Basel Mission. We shall say more about the Dicksons in a subsequent chapter.

### Training School Transferred to Kopay.

In 1916, the school was transferred to Kopay which was a station of the Church of England Missionary Society, where it was merged in a United School, consisting of students from the three Missions and the Hindu community. The Christian boys had one hostel on the school compound, while the Hindus an entirely independent hostel on another compound. The school was managed by a Board composed of one representative from each section represented. This change, of course, was much deplored. In fact it was forced on the Mission by the Government, which threatened that if the amalgamation did not take place it would establish a Government Normal School from which all religion would be excluded.

It is interesting to note that when the question of the venue of this new school was discussed, both the Wesleyans and the Church of England wished to unite with the American Mission at Tellippalai. But the Government refused to sanction this. Although the

establishment of a New United Training College was in harmony with the policy of the American Board and pursuant to the advice often received from the Secretary of the Board that every opportunity should be availed of to unite in work with other Missions, it was with a pang that the school was finally moved to Kopay. There was little doubt that the move was a serious loss to work at Tellippalai. The future too was gloomy as there was bound to be less Christian influence in the new school.



60th Anniversary of the Normal School.

Three years after the school had assumed its new aspect, the 60th Anniversary of its founding was celebrated at Tellippalai. It was a most eventful day. Months beforehand Rev. S. Eliathamby and Rev. C. D. Veluppillai were busy organising a scholarship fund in the name of Rev. Thomas Snell Smith, whose name was synonymous with Tellippalai. All the graduates and former pupils were written to or visited personally. The response was very encouraging. Most of the Alumni contributed one month's pay to

the fund and a sum of Rs. 2538-00 was collected. The celebration itself was organised on a grand scale. No pains were spared to make the events of that day as colourful as they could be. The following account of the celebrations by Mr. A. A. Ward speaks for itself :-

*"As the appointed time drew near, Tellippalai compound saw such decorating as it had never seen before. On that day carriages and carts from all parts of the Peninsula filled the open space of the compound. There was a business meeting of the Alumni, a group photograph, a tea party and exhibition of industrial work done by the present pupils with some relics of the old times displayed as curios. There was an evening gathering in the open air in*

*front of Sanders' Hall with a most interesting programme of addresses and music. Perhaps the most thrilling moment was when the vote was taken to send greetings to Mrs. T. S. Smith. It was a great day for love and loyalty. The sad thing is that the Training School has been swallowed up in the United School at Kopy and the whole thing is soon to be changed into a Government institution without Missionary control."*

The Industrial Department under Mr. Ward

The Industrial department received as much attention under Mr. Ward as it did under Mr. Smith, its founder. Mr. Ward widened the scope of the school so as to include not only printing and book-binding but also gardening, basket-weaving, furniture making, etc. In the school garden about 15 varieties of plantains and vegetables were grown at the same time. For basket-weaving, the material available in the country, such as palmyrah palm leaves, roots, wild date fibre, plantain fibre and rattan, was used. The older boys were able to earn a fair share of their

own support by working in the afternoons and Saturdays. No doubt the result was a more capable, self-reliant and self-respecting manhood. A separate Sales Room was also built at this time, where the products of the press and work-shop and baskets and rattan work of the Industrial School were



Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Ward

kept for sale. It was managed, to start with, on the basis of service. No greater respect can a Missionary pay to his predecessor than the continuation and development of the work begun by him. Mr. Ward could have paid no better tribute to the memory of Mr. Smith than to build up the Industrial Department started by him. It was a great boon to Tellippalai that it had as its Missionaries a succession of men, who in their aims and their policy had a singleness of purpose. Commenting on the importance of the industrial aspect of education at Tellippalai, Mr. Ward states:—

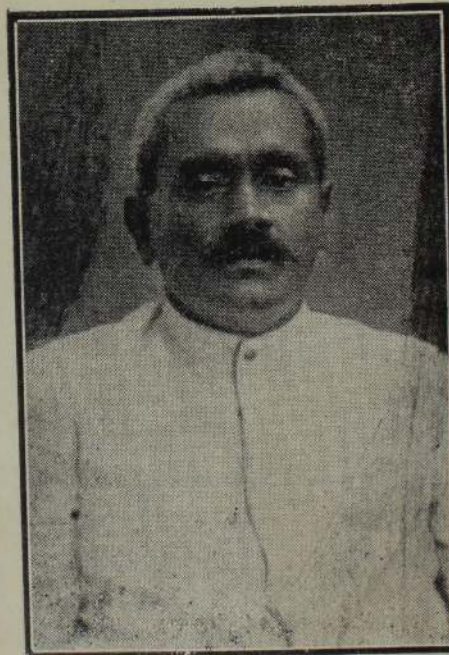
“It is our aim to cultivate the spirit of service in all our students. We believe that Industrial Training is one means to this end. Human nature the world around is only too prone to pride and selfishness. There is need for the breaking down of pride and the development of the democratic spirit not to speak of the need for straight thinking and facing of realities. These and other desirable ends can be attained to some extent by systematic industrial training.”

It is a source of much gratification that Industrial Education at Tellippalai occupied a prominent place in the school curriculum even at a time when conditions in the island were least favourable for any industrial expansion or enterprise. The reasons why Ceylon then was not so industrial minded as it is today, are not far to seek. Young men who desired any education at all generally aspired for higher things than a trade. Besides, the soil in the island was so rich that the farmer was better off than the artisan. That, despite these handicaps, a comprehensive scheme of industrial education was worked out in these premises, with consistent fervour, for nearly six decades, speaks not a little for the foresight and vision of those who throughout the long years strove to educate not merely the head but the hands of the pupils placed under their care. The present vogue for industrial education

and the impetus it has received from the state is undoubtedly the greatest compliment the present generation can pay to the memory of those pioneer educationists, who several years before anticipated such a change in educational outlook.

### Vicissitudes of the Training School

For nearly a decade after the removal of the school to Kopay, the Mission lost its privilege of having a hand in teacher-training for men. The training of women continued as a joint Mission enterprise at Vembadi, Kopay and Uduvil consecutively till the school was moved to Nallur in 1943. In 1929, however, the skies became brighter and the three Protestant Missions in Jaffna availed themselves of the generous offer made by the Government allowing them to organise teacher-training work for men by giving them a generous grant towards this purpose. In September of that year the American Ceylon Mission, the Methodist Missionary Society and Church Missionary



Rev. J. K. Sinnathamby

Society jointly organised a Training School at Tellippalai which they carried on till the end of 1932. At the end of this year the question of closing down the school was seriously considered, when the Jaffna Council of the South India United Church under the leadership of Rev. J. K. Sinnathamby offered to take over the institution. In recognition of the



Rev. C. D. Veluppillai

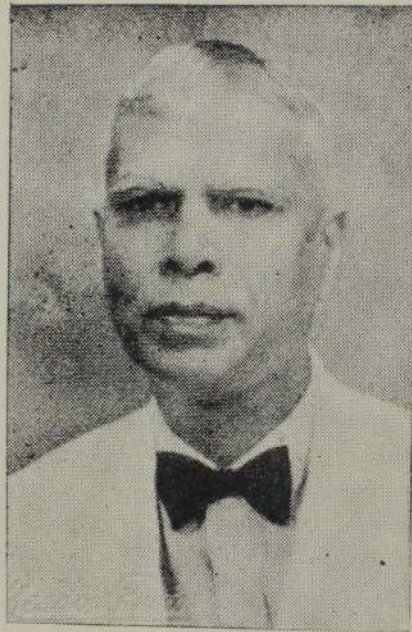
Christian Training Schools in North-Ceylon combined at Nallur under the name of "The United Training College Nallur." Mr. J. C. Amarasingham was appointed Principal and Miss M. V. Hutchins, Vice-Principal. For the first time in the history of Training Schools in the North it became a co-educational institution. It had 30 men and 60 women under training with a staff of six teachers. In 1947, however,



Rev. S. Eliathamby

services done to the school by Mr. Sinnathamby, the school was called "The Sinnathamby Memorial Training School." The American Ceylon Mission advised the removal of the school from Tellippalai as there was little room for it in the premises and therefore, it was removed to Chavakachcheri. The school continued there till December, 1944, under the Principalship of Mr. J. C. Amarasingham.

With the beginning of 1945, on the advice of the Director of Education, the Protestant



Rev. S. M. Thevathasan

still uncertain. That a school which had seen so many years of steady growth, and which had turned out of its portals many eminent Christian leaders of the calibre of Rev. C. D. Veluppillai, Rev. S. Veerakatty, Rev. S. Eliathamby, Mr. Allen Abraham and Rev. S.M. Thevathasan, to mention only a few, should in the end have a blank future cannot but be viewed with the greatest dismay by those who have watched the progress of this institution throughout these long years.

the number fell down to 2 women and 6 men owing to the stringent regulations laid down by the Department of Education that grant will be paid only in respect of the teacher - trainees belonging to the same denomination as the Management. The staff also had to be cut down to three teachers.

As we write, the future of the Training School is



Mr. Allen Abraham



Rev. S. Veerakatty

# The English Day School



We have seen in an earlier chapter how when the Mission discontinued the use of the English Language as medium of instruction in its schools, independent English schools were organised at almost all the stations taught by persons formerly educated by the Mission. In 1861, nearly five years after the decision of the Deputation to dispense with English in Mission schools, there were eleven independent English schools with a roll of over 600 pupils. These schools, though not formally connected with the Mission, generally stood on the side of Christianity and counted amongst their number many baptised children of Christian families. The pluck and resourcefulness displayed in establishing and sustaining these schools amply made up for any defects in the general training and education imparted. In fact, the organisation and maintenance of these schools were valuable lessons in self-help and self-development, which in the long run proved to be of utmost value to these institutions. In 1870, the Government Grant System which gave a further impetus to the development of these schools was established.

The Tellippalai English Day School, like every other English school under the Mission, came under the pruning knife of the celebrated Anderson-Thomson Deputation of 1855. The school was closed in 1856. In 1869, it was re-opened and was under the Head Mastership of Mr. S. Chellappah, a revered Hindu gentleman of the village. The school itself, took the name of its Head Master and was known as Chellappah's school. In 1901, Mr. Chellappah turned over the school to the Mission on condition that he be retained for life as Head Master. His death, at the end of 1901, enabled the Mission to appoint a Christian Head Master, Mr. Taylor

Thuraiappillai, who later founded a new school, the present Mahajana College. During Mr. Thuraiappillai's regime, the school passed through a very critical period. Many students left the school, as the parents did not want their sons to become Christians. The average attendance fell from 116 to 95. But it was fortunate for Tellippalai that it had at this juncture a strong man in the person of Rev. J. H. Dickson at the helm and an energetic and far-sighted Head Master in the person of Mr. Thuraiappillai. In the teeth of active non-Christian opposition the school held on and became one of the three English Day Schools under the Mission which took the pupils through higher standards.

In November 1910, Mr. J. V. Chellappah succeeded Mr. Thuraiappillai as Head Master, commencing a period of twenty seven years of unbroken service at Tellippalai. Under Mr. Chellappah the school saw much of its growth. An indefatigable worker, with a scrupulous attention to details of administration, Mr. Chellappah worked assiduously and when he retired in 1937, left the school on a sound financial footing at a time when almost all the other affiliated Mission schools were indebted to Jaffna College. By far the most notable contribution Mr. Chellappah made to the school was the thoroughness with which he organised every department of school activity. Within the closed doors of the office, he worked steadily and patiently and achieved much that was truly great. Order, system, discipline, were his watch-words. Himself hard working, he seemed to have adopted as his motto the well known Latin dictum, *Floret Qui Laborat*. (He prospers who works hard). Whatever the school achieved during his regime was due to his hard work and systematic ways which won for the school the unique distinction of being the best administered

of the Affiliated English Schools under the Mission. The management was always proud of the Tellippalai English School.

as it is today. This particular function presided over by the Head of the Education Department in Ceylon, was a real red-

letter day in the history of the school. Elaborate preparations were made to make the function as colourful as it could be. The Director was brought in procession to the accompaniment of native music and in the main hall of the school which was transformed beyond recognition, he was given a very hearty welcome. A striking feature of the Report which was read on this occasion was the fact that the school obtained 100 per cent passes at the Elementary School Leaving Certificate Examination for which seven candidates were presented for the first time in March that year. The E. S. L. C. Examination was, during that time, a passport to almost all Government employment, especially in Malaya, which was then the *El Dorado* of the Jaffna man. The percentage of passes was generally low. In fact, when the Tellippalai English School produced hundred per cent passes, the percentage of passes through the whole island was only 28.



Rev. John Bicknell

A very big event in the early history of the school was the Prize-Giving Function held in 1919 presided over by Mr. E. B. Denham, the Director of Education. A school prize-giving in the early days was not as common an

Mission, the schools at Karadive, Manipay and Pandaterrippu were placed under the direct management and supervision of Jaffna College in 1916. Rev. John Bicknell, Principal of the College, assumed the management of these institutions. It was only in

1921 that the other five English schools under the Mission, including Tellippalai came directly under Jaffna College. The object of this move was obviously the desire to bring the day schools to a more uniform standard of excellence and facilitate the transition from these schools to higher studies in the College. Often some of these schools did prove to be a drain on the purse of the parent institution but Tellippalai has always been self-supporting and it redounds not a little to the credit of Mr. Chellappah that he kept the school financially solvent even during those critical years, when there was an intense financial depression in the island.

On the sudden and unexpected death of Rev. John Bicknell in December 1936, Mr. E. C. Lockwood, Acting Principal of Jaffna College, managed the affiliated schools for some time till the appointment of Mr. J. V. Chelliah as Manager of the Schools.

Mr. Chellappah retired in July 1937, after a unique record of 27 years as Head Master of the institution. On his retirement the mantle fell on Mr. C. C. Kanapathipillai, who was sent over from Jaffna College to take charge of the institution. As a trained teacher of long experience and as one who had been the Supervisor of the Lower School at Jaffna College, Mr. Kanapathippillai's appointment gave great satisfaction both to the management, as well as to the staff and students of the Tellippalai school. Unfortunately, however, ill health prevented Mr. Kanapathippillai from working at Tellippalai long. On his transfer back to Jaffna College, Tellippalai welcomed as its Head Master Mr. S. K. Rasiah, one of its own sons, who had served in the school as an assistant teacher for some time, and who was later Head Master of the Udupiddy English School.



The  
American Ceylon

Mission



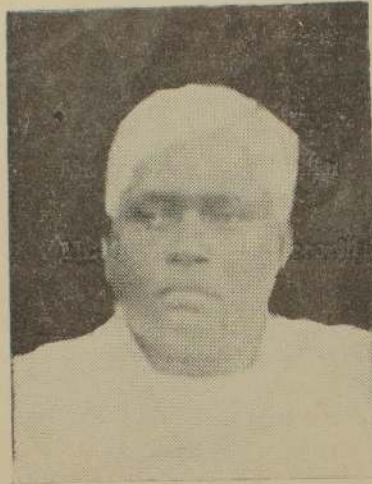
A. C. M. 1941



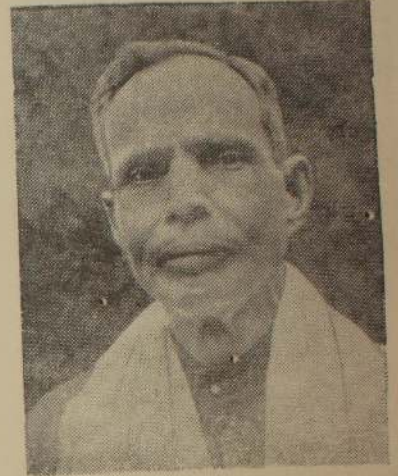
# Headmasters of Tellippalai.



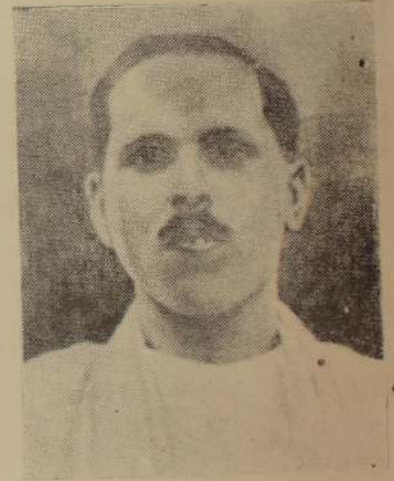
Rev. B. H. Rice



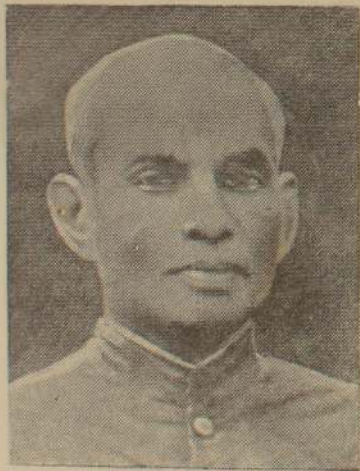
Mr. S. M. Kandiahpillai



Mr. J. V. Chellappah



Mr. S. M. Veluppillai

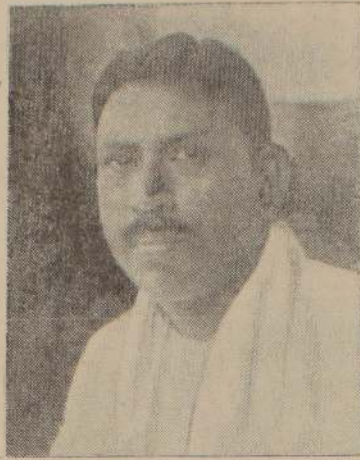


Rev. S. Veerakathy



Mr. Taylor Thurattappillai





Mr. S. K. Rasiah

Mr. I. P. Thuraiatnam

•• Mr. G. A. Ratnavarathar

• Mr. C. C. Kanapathippillai

# Distinguished Old Students



Mr. S. Guthaprasadham

Mr. P. Sangarapillai

Mr. P. Selvanayagam

Mr. S. Subramaniam

Mrs. E. S. Thambirajah

Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam





*Photo by J. P. J.*

*Nuwara Eliya Sunday Fair*

# The Bilingual School

1930—1934



HE Tellippalai Boarding School was upgraded into a Bilingual Institution in September, 1929. The aims of the school were :

1. To provide facilities for poor children who could not afford to pay for a purely English education.
2. To satisfy the growing need for a Bilingual education on the part of the average boy.
3. To afford facilities for students whose aims lie definitely along the vernacular to gain a working knowledge of the English Language.
4. To cater to the children of the depressed classes for whom there are few such schools in Jaffna in spite of Government rules to the contrary.
5. To serve as a place where young boys and young girls could imbibe Christian ideals and have a definitely Christian training.

Mr. G. A. Ratnavarathar was appointed the first Head Master of the school under the new scheme. He assumed duties in January, 1930. The school underwent a complete overhauling under the able administration of the new Head Master. There were 225 pupils on roll, nearly a third of whom were boarders. There was an orphanage which comprised some 40 orphans from various parts of the Northern Province. The classes ranged from the Kindergarten to the Tamil Teachers' Certificate and the Teachers' Entrance Examinations. During the first three of these quinquennial years, the Training School, in the words of the Head Master was "a pleasant yet interfering neighbour as the

students-in-training exercised a two-hour claim over the young minds of the Bilingual school for experimenting the subtle science (or art) of pedagogy".

Early in 1930, Mr. & Mrs. Ward, the resident Missionaries sailed on furlough and owing to Mr. Ward's ill-health, their return was delayed for two years. During this period the school was under the supervision of Miss L. G. Bookwalter, who cheerfully undertook the additional responsibility as a labour of love. She effected many improvements and innovations both in the Press and in the School. Her weekly Thursday visits were a source of inspiration and help.

Much emphasis was laid by the Head Master on extra-curricular activities which included Games and Sports, Horticulture and Literary Association, Boarders' Union and Sunday School. Histrionic talent in the school found scope in the productions of five Tamil plays — Savithri Saththiavan, Dampachari, Pathiviratha, The Two Gentlemen of Verona and The Tempest. The House System too proved an incentive for corporate life and team work. The Christmas celebrations were then a special function of the school. The following account of a Christmas Tree Function by the Head Master may interest our readers :—

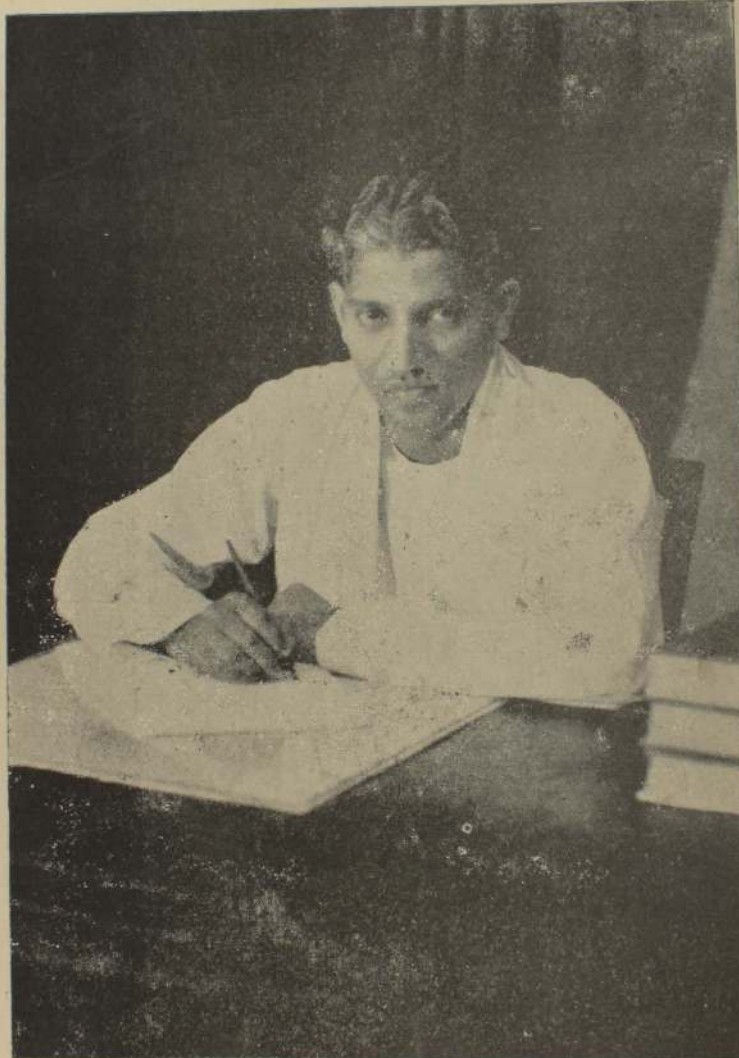
"Quite a nice programme enlivened the audience and when the candles were still burning on the Christmas Tree each pupil received a bag of sweets and roasted gram. The boxes from America were a joy and pleasure. Both Mrs. Ward and Miss Bookwalter had such fun while opening them. The Kindergarten children and the orphans were often delighted over the presents".

1935—1939

In January 1935, Mr. I. P. Thurairatnam from the staff of Jaffna College was appointed Principal of the school and Manager of the A. C. M. Press. As one who from

his early years had displayed talents which represented a diversity of interests and aptitudes, the Mission could not think of a better person than Mr. Thurairatnam to fill the gap left vacant by the departure of Mr. Ward. Tellippalai, unlike any other station in the Mission, presented diverse and numerous problems. For, within the campus were a school, a Printing Press, an Industrial Department and a Sales Room, each of these institutions having their peculiar problems and each requiring specialised knowledge in their own respective sphere. The Mission found in Mr. Thurairatnam one who could ably discharge all these duties. Being a Science Graduate and a teacher of rich experience at Jaffna College, the Mission felt that he could also be depended upon to handle the academic department efficiently.

Although the new sphere of work entailed great responsibilities and onerous duties, the Principal undertook the task cheerfully counting it a privilege to be called upon to guide the destinies of a growing institution and far more, of serving in the first Mission station which was also the first, in the real sense, to



Mr. I. P. Thurairatnam

“devolve”. It was, however, with much trepidation and great humility that he accepted the work at Tellippalai for it was a place which had been the field of activity of men of such consummate skill and rare ability as those ‘triumvir’ Missionaries, if we may so call them, Smith, Dickson and Ward, who had left behind them the impress of their personality on each and

every department in the premises. Keenly alive to the worthy traditions they had established, the new Principal dedicated himself to build on the foundations they had laid. He was fortunate to have at this time the assistance of a strong Board which consisted of such stalwarts as the Rev. R. C. P. Welch, who was President from its inception in 1934 to his death in 1941, Miss L. G. Bookwalter, Rev. S. Kulandran, Mr. J. C. Amarasingham and Mr. J. C. Stickney.

This was the first Board under the New Devolution Scheme to

be entrusted with the administration of a Mission station. It may be recalled, in this connection, that plans for devolution were going on apace as a result of the Potter Deputation and in 1933 a Constitution was all but inaugurated.

A Central Board was appointed but at the very first meeting "the spirit and attitude exhibited by members caused grave anxiety" and the Scheme had to be given up. Mr. Ward, however, had great faith in the Devolution Scheme, despite any initial failures. With great foresight he asked for and obtained a Local Board to assist him in 1934. This Board had naturally to face many problems of internal organisation as well as of administration especially at a Mission station where there



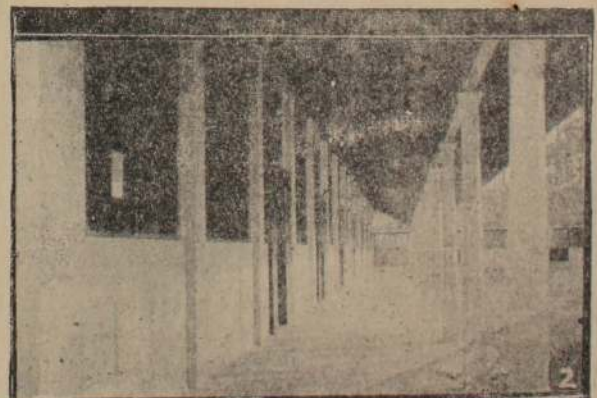
Ward Block — Rev. R. C. P. Welch laying the Foundation Stone.



Mr. J. C. Stickney

were a number of institutions in the same premises. It also fell to their lot to guide these institutions through a formative stage in their development. The measure of success they achieved was an example in national leadership of great significance at a time when the whole Devolution Scheme was in its experimental stage.

number on roll rapidly mounted. The most pressing need of the school was a permanent set of class rooms because the semi-permanent buildings were an eyesore to many, particularly to the officers of the Education Department, who never failed to deplore in their reports the lack of improvements in the buildings. One of the first tasks of the



End View of the Ward Block

### Opening of the Ward Block

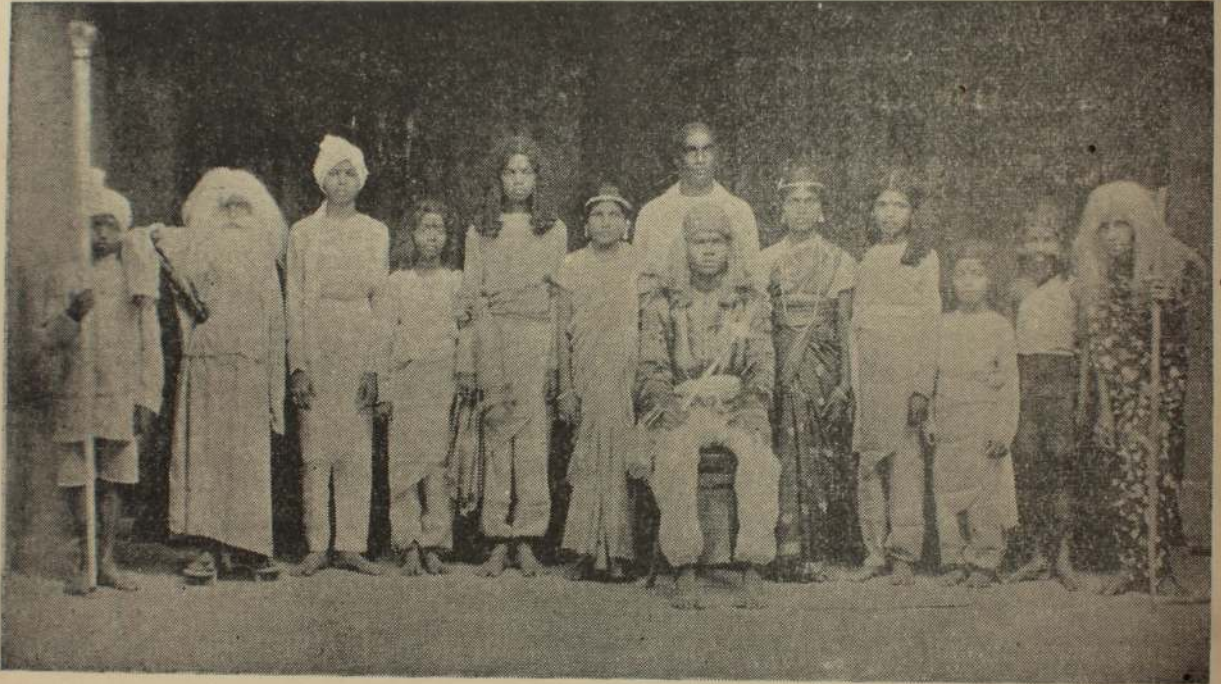
The four years 1935 - '39 were a period of steady growth for the school and the

Principal was, therefore, to put up a building worthy of a growing school. In 1937, the foundation stone for a new set of class rooms, consisting of a Science Room, an Art and Geography Room and five class rooms was laid by the Rev. R. C. P. Welch, President of the Board of Management. In keeping with the traditions at Tellippalai every effort was made to economise on the building programme as the funds available for the purpose were limited. The boys and teachers gave up games in the evenings for a term to do brick-making. At one stage,

Laboratory for which provision was made in the new block was soon equipped.

### "Rama's Exile"

An outstanding event during this period was the staging of a play—"Rama's Exile"—by the students of the school in Colombo in April 1938. Histrionic talent in the school had always found ample scope but never before in its history was an attempt made to exhibit these talents outside the Peninsula. Bold as the venture was, it was



"Rama's Exile"

it is reported, that one House alone made 3345 bricks in one day. When the building was finally completed it was a real source of pride to the staff and students for each one had literally contributed a brick or two towards the new structure which they could now, in a very real sense, call their own. This contributed not only materially but also spiritually to the enterprise. It may be recalled that the Sanders' Hall was built for the most part by boys in 1884 and so the spirit of the school lives and manifests itself in various ways. The Science

crowned with great success and proved to be an experience as unique as it was profitable to the young actors who took part in it. Two shows were given, one at the Central Y. M. C. A. under the distinguished patronage of Sir Waitilingam Duraiswamy and Lady Duraiswamy and the other at Plaza Theatre under the distinguished patronage of Dr. (now Sir) Ratnajothi Saravanamuttu and Mrs. Naysum Saravanamuttu. 'A prophet is not honoured in his own country' runs the old adage, but the amateur actors of the Tellippalai



373  
UNI

AR

Bilingual School won the unique distinction of having been honoured both at home and outside for this play of theirs which they had so carefully prepared and so successfully acted.

The extra-curricular activities of the school during this period included Chapel Services in the mornings, daily morning and evening Prayers in the Dormitories, Sunday Vesper Services, Religious Study Circles, Literary Meetings, Library Hours, Sports and Gardening. The Students' Week of Evangelism, organised every year was a period of intensive religious work among the students and has been of great value in elevating the moral and religious tone of the school.

In 1937, the school got the first prize in the Gardening Competition organised by the Education Department and received a cash price of Rs. 50 from the Director of Education. In Sports too the school fared prominently. At the Junior Secondary Schools Sports Meet held in 1938, the school obtained an easy first place.

### The Amalgamation

While the school was growing steadily, keeping in view the aims and objects of its Founders, the educational world took on an aspect which was disheartening even to the most optimistic educationist in the island. Ominous clouds began to gather over the educational horizon with streaks of faint silver lining which now appeared and then disappeared. While a new Education Ordinance, to some extent, foreshadowed the shape of things to come, the retrenchment proposals recommending the grading of teachers, reduction of salaries, increase of quota per teacher and decrease of age-limit for grant, threatened the very existence of the smaller schools.

At this time there were two schools at Tellippalai, the Bilingual School under the management of the Mission and the English School under the management of

Jaffna College. This situation presented certain inevitable difficulties.

1. The Education Department itself was not sure of its own mind with regard to Bilingual Education in the country. They were changing the rules so often and sometimes so drastically that the Bilingual Schools had almost become English Schools except in name. Latterly the Bilingual Schools were forbidden to send up students for the Vernacular Examinations. The consequence was that the Bilingual School had to prepare students for the J. S. C. and S. S. C. (English) Examinations while the English School in the same premises did likewise. The conception of the Bilingual system had so changed that it became painfully evident that the two schools were beginning to overlap.

2. Hence there was duplication of staff, buildings and equipment. The two schools were growing, and there was no more room in the premises for the expansion of both. The two schools were having practically the same classes and therefore had to put up with uneconomical numbers.

3. It was not conducive to efficiency to have two schools in the same premises under different managements. There was the inevitable friction between the two. The situation imposed a heavy and unnecessary strain upon the heads of these institutions.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Thurairatnam, who was in charge of the Tellippalai Station, thought that the most prudent and logical step in the educational context of those critical years was to amalgamate the two schools in the premises into a bigger and healthier school, pool their resources and consolidate their strength so as to be better able to withstand the changes and challenges of the future.

The history of the amalgamation is really the history of the triumph of an

enthusiasm, for, the actual process proved to be an undertaking as stupendous as it was complicated. As a problem affecting the future of the two schools which had hitherto led an independent existence, it was viewed with the gravest anxiety by the staffs of the two institutions who saw in the amalgamation a new move which was likely to imperil their safety and security as teachers, especially at a time when teaching posts were none too numerous. Apart from this fear, there was the feeling that the amalgamation, being without precedent in the history of the country might create more problems than it solved. Undaunted by these fears and misgivings, Mr. Thurairatnam set his course towards the vision he had seen.

While the staffs were anxious about the future, the Mission too was not altogether unanimous in its support of the new move. Though the principle was generally approved as very desirable, there was a small but influential minority in the Mission which was adamant in its opposition to the scheme. It was felt that an English Secondary School at Tellippalai was not consistent with the educational traditions of the Station which had always been noted as a seat of Tamil culture. Besides these formidable obstacles, there were the requirements of the Department of Education with respect to attendance, equipment, salaries, absorption of teachers and the like which had to be satisfied before the amalgamation could become an accomplished fact.

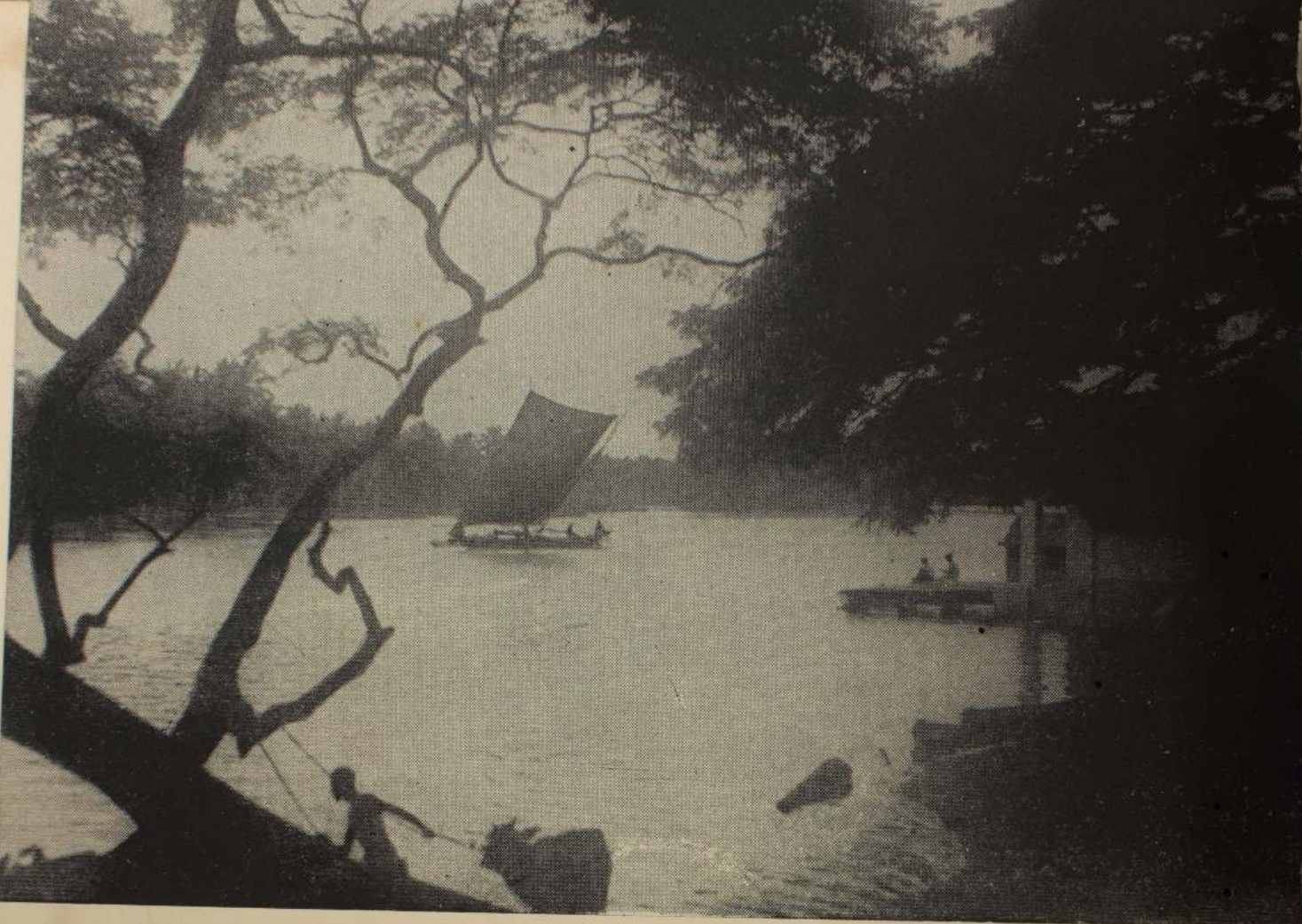
Colossal as these problems were, Mr. Thurairatnam pressed on with vigour and energy, fired with the conviction that the cause he had undertaken was right and that, therefore, no difficulties on the way were too big to surmount. The appro-

val of the Governor himself was necessary for some of the adjustments as there was no provision in the Code for these. Even this was obtained and thus the Amalgamated School now known as "Union College" came into existence on October 1, 1939 in spite of many difficulties from within and without.

Looking at the amalgamation from this distance of time one need not have any hesitation in pronouncing it to be by far one of the most notable achievements in the history of Tellippalai. Viewed in the light of the educational changes of today, the wisdom of the move is obvious to any one. Even the question of the medium of instruction, the bone of contention in regard to the amalgamation, was liquidated by the Government. The mother tongue became the medium of instruction from October 1, 1945, eliminating the division of schools into English, Bilingual and Tamil or Singhalese Schools. Later the amalgamation became a fashion that was catching, though the Government did not encourage such belated adjustments.

Tellippalai owes a large measure of gratitude to Mr. Thurairatnam for the singleness of purpose and breadth of vision with which he sought to build the schools in the premises, not merely without much outside help but often in the teeth of many hampering circumstances. The amalgamation was a lofty conception of his and its accomplishment a triumph, the credit of which is largely due to his energy and powers of initiative. The history of the amalgamation, therefore, cannot be complete without this tribute to one who spent himself for the cause he passionately believed in. "Success often comes to those who dare and act. It seldom goes to the timid."





*The Negambo Lagoon*

*Photo by J. P. T.*



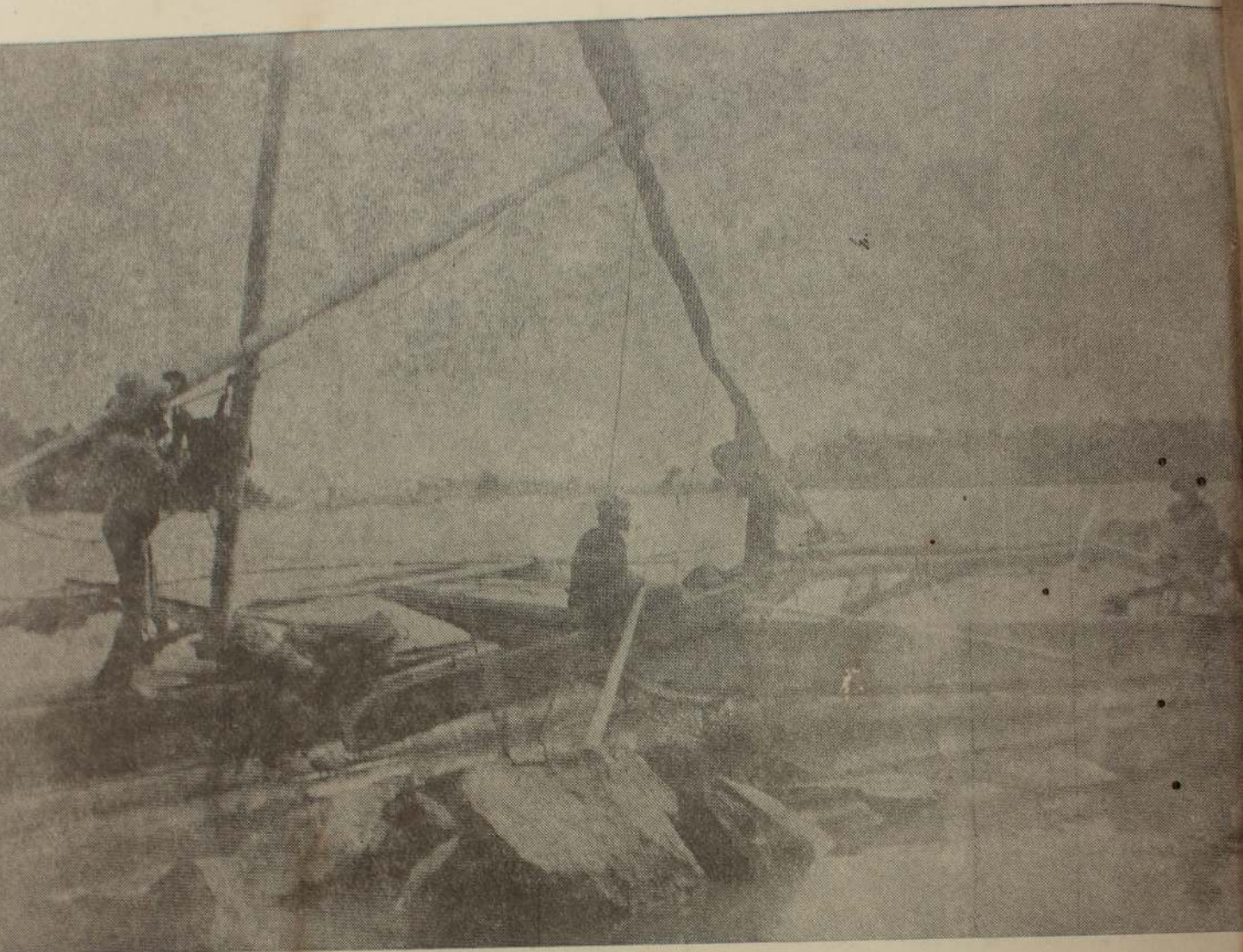


Photo by J. P. T.

*Negombo Beach: Resting after an all-night Vigil*



*Photo by J. P. T.*

*Hawking tea to tired Fishermen*





## Union College

**T**HE new school was christened "The Union High School." Mr. I. P. Thuraiatnam, who was largely responsible for the new move, and who had spent himself to achieve this end was appointed Principal of the school and Mr. S. K. Rasiah, the Head Master of the English School, was appointed Vice-Principal. All the teachers of the English School and the majority of those from the Bilingual School were absorbed into the staff, while the rest were found places in the vernacular schools of the Mission. Muhandiram A. B. Kumarakulasinghe was appointed Manager of the school. The Orphanage and the Industrial Department—the two distinctive features of the Bilingual School—were retained as it was felt that they were a legacy well worth preserving in the new school.



Muhandiram A. B. Kumarakulasinghe

Coming into operation at a time when practically the whole of Europe was about to be plunged into a cataclysm of no small magnitude and Ceylon itself only waiting its turn, the school started under circumstances least auspicious for the launching of any new venture and much less one in the educational sphere. The results however were marvellous and exceeded the most sanguine expectations. Summing up some of the advantages that had accrued to the school by the amalgamation a report states:—

- (2) The number of Christian students has also grown correspondingly.
- (3) The finances of the school have greatly improved.
- (4) The loss on current working for the last five years in spite of growing numbers has been negligible.
- (5) Gifts from Old Boys, Friends and Well-wishers have been spontaneous and generous. A large part of the capital expenditure incurred on indispensable and urgent items has been paid for from these gifts.

### Vicissitudes.

Rapid as has been the development of the school, within the short period of its growth, it had to undergo several vicissitudes, as is to be expected in the case of a school which had been caught in a period of transition. Hardly had the school seen a year of growth when it had to be raised to the status of a College for the Department made it clear to the authorities that in the matter of grading no half-way house was possible, that the school had either to be up-graded into a Senior Secondary School or remain as a Junior Secondary School. The change, welcome though it was, entailed the collection of larger amounts as tuition fees and increased expenditure for the school and all these at a time when the school had not yet attained its full stature. This challenge too was taken up and from October 1, 1940 the school was up-graded into a College and took the name of "Union College", with classes up to the London Matriculation. The new motto of the school—*Te Duce Vincimus*—chosen at this time indicated the spirit in which the whole venture was undertaken.

- (1) The number of students has continued to rise steadily.

In 1945, the introduction of the new Free Education Scheme by the State, as part of a programme of educational reform in the country, caused no little flutter in the dovecotes of the assisted schools. Consistent though the Scheme was with the traditions and ideals of the school, the meagre equipment grant offered by the Scheme made it almost impossible for the school to maintain the same standard of efficiency without facing a grave financial crisis. With the fall of Malaya in December 1941, the situation became more alarming than it would otherwise have been. But there was no other alternative. From October 1, 1945, the school threw in its lot with several others in the island and entered the Scheme with the full hope that some of the more objectionable features would be withdrawn by the State, and with the firm belief that the parents and Old Boys would rally round the school, if it was driven to grave financial straits. Both hopes were, to some extent, realised. Since entering the Scheme, the "thirty-pupil rule" and the clause about the teaching of other religions have been withdrawn by the State, while the Old Boys and friends of the school rallied round their Alma Mater to a degree never known before in the history of the institution. What the future of the school would be under the New Scheme is as yet uncertain. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast". With the new Parliament taking the place of the State Council, the educational horizon may perhaps get brighter and a more statesmanlike attitude brought to bear on the educational problems of the country. But above all else, there is the reflection that the school which has been built up on faith can continue in faith.

With the close of the financial year in October 1944, the Orphanage had to be closed as only four out of the thirty-three orphans could satisfy the requirements of the New Orphanage Ordinance promulgated that year. It was with the greatest reluct-

ance that the school gave up this department which had been maintained at great cost out of the conviction that the Orphanage was a part of the Christian work of the school.

### Organisations.

The first few years in the history of the school were years of organising. During the first term of 1940, the school was divided into three Houses—Smith, Dickson and Ward—commemorating the names of three revered Missionaries, so dear to Tellippalai. The Bilingual students were retained in their old Houses, the change being only in the nomenclature of the Houses. The House system has been, since its inception, the hub round which the school revolved. It has embraced in its scope almost all the student activities in the campus. Each House is in charge of two House-Masters, one from the Upper School and the other from the Lower School and two House Captains, one for boys and another for girls. Points are allotted to Houses not merely for sports and academic achievements but also for any distinctive contribution the students may make to the college, as for instance, taking part in a play staged publicly or being selected for inter-collegiate contests. The Inter-House Sports Meet has always been a day of great



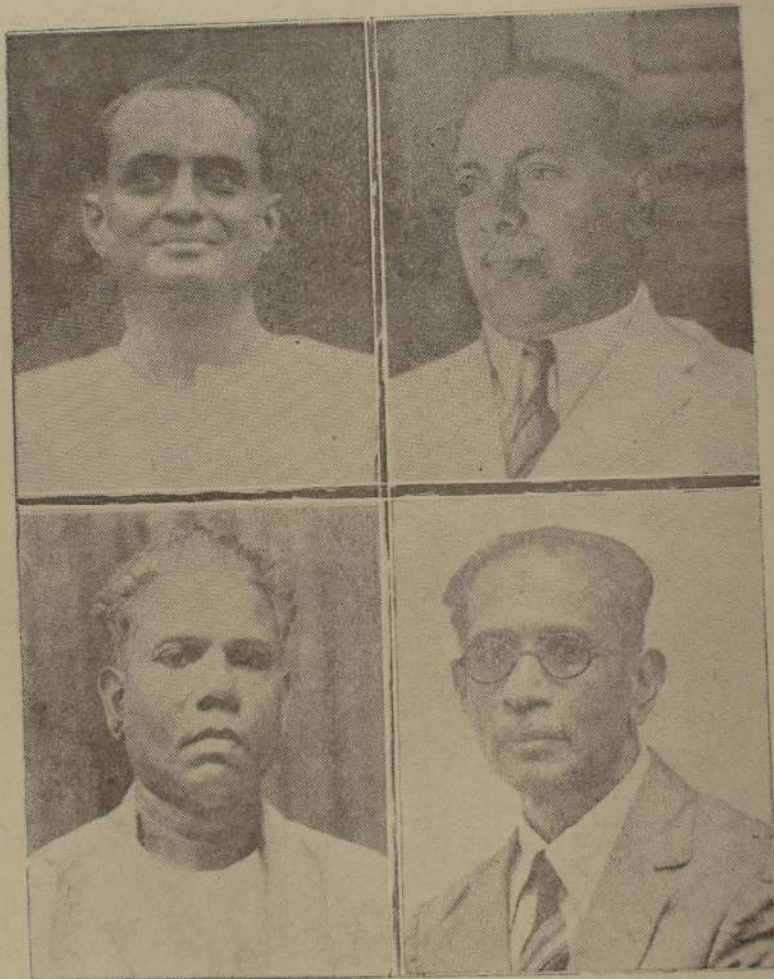
Inter - House Sports Meet

enjoyment to the staff and students. The forenoon of the day is generally spent in various kinds of amusements. The Amusement Stalls organised in turn by the Clubs and Associations of the College every year provide

# School Views.



# Members of the Past &



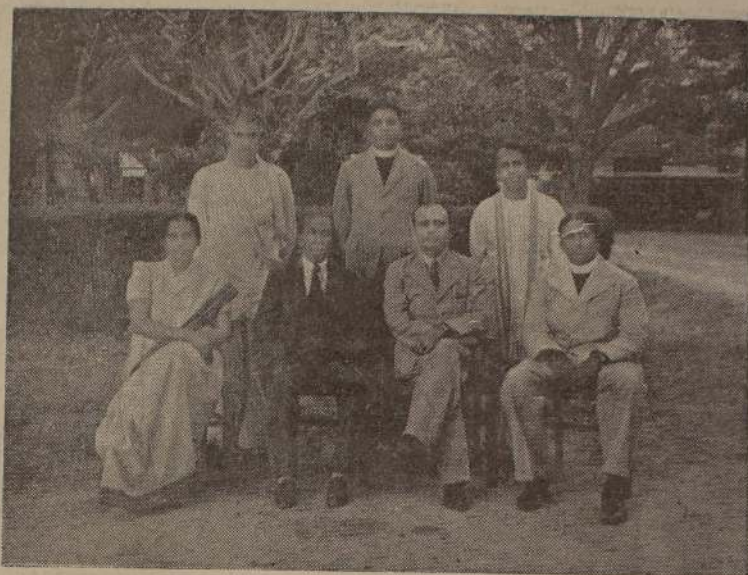
Rev. S. Selvaratnam

Mr. A. C. Sundarampillai

Mr. S. H. Perinbanayagam

Mr. D. S. Sanders

# Board of Management Present



The Present Board of Management



Rev. S. Kulandran

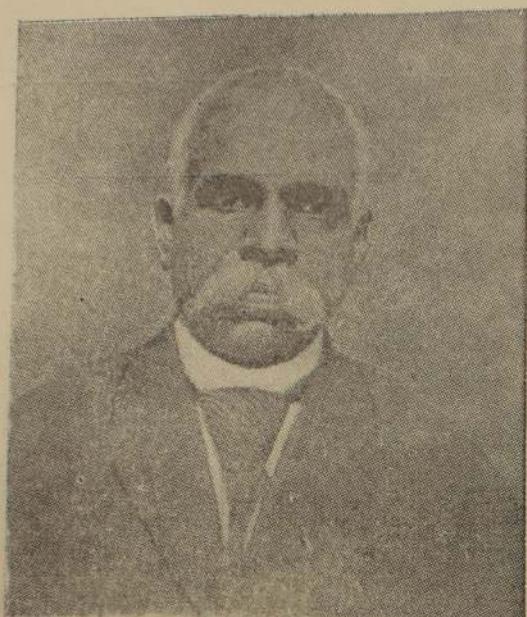


Mr. J. C. Stickney



Mr. K. A. Selliah

# Our Benefactors.



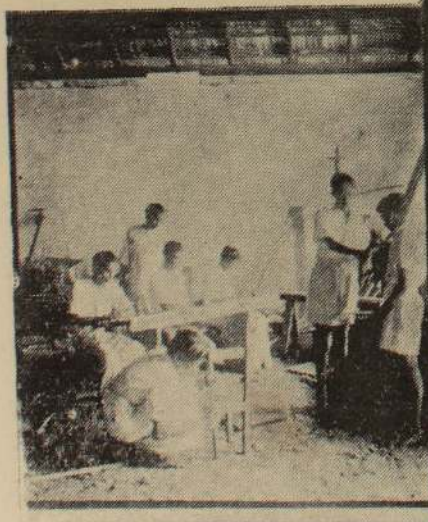
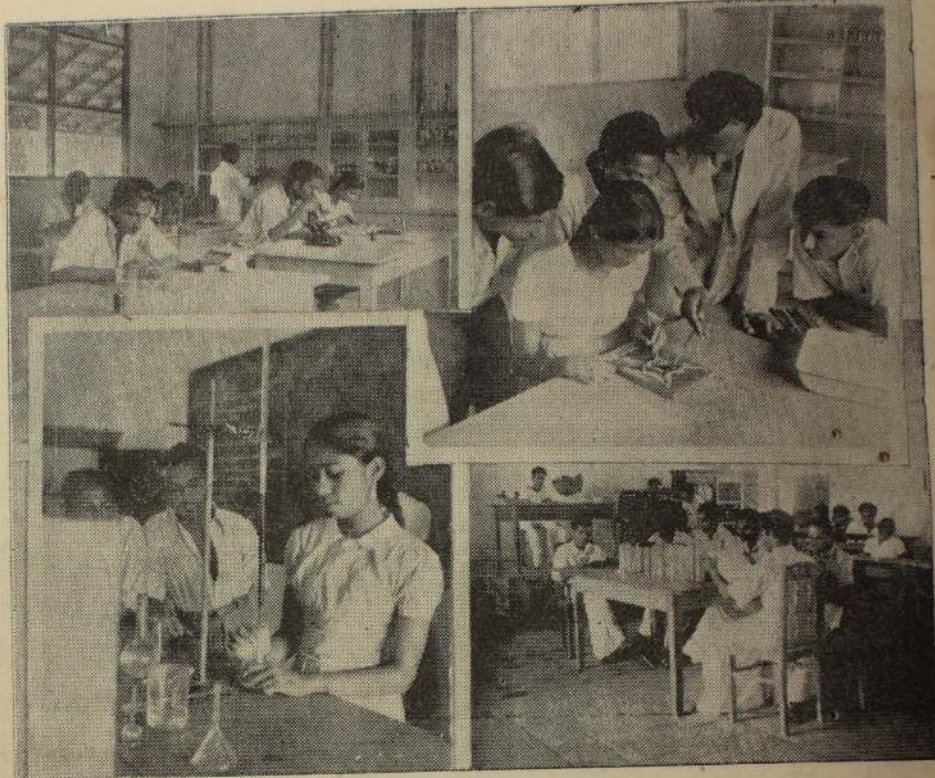
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Clough



Mr. & Mrs. A. Poopalasingham



# Students at work





# and Play





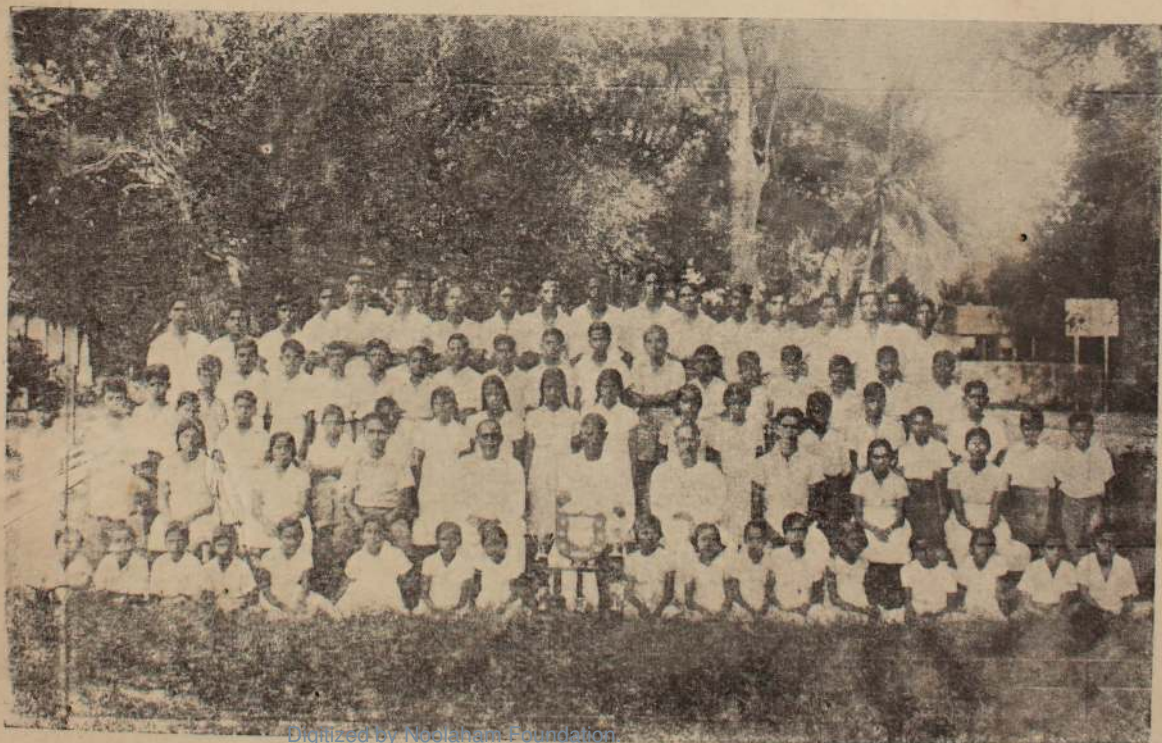
# Champion Houses 1940-'43



Ward 1941



Ward 1942

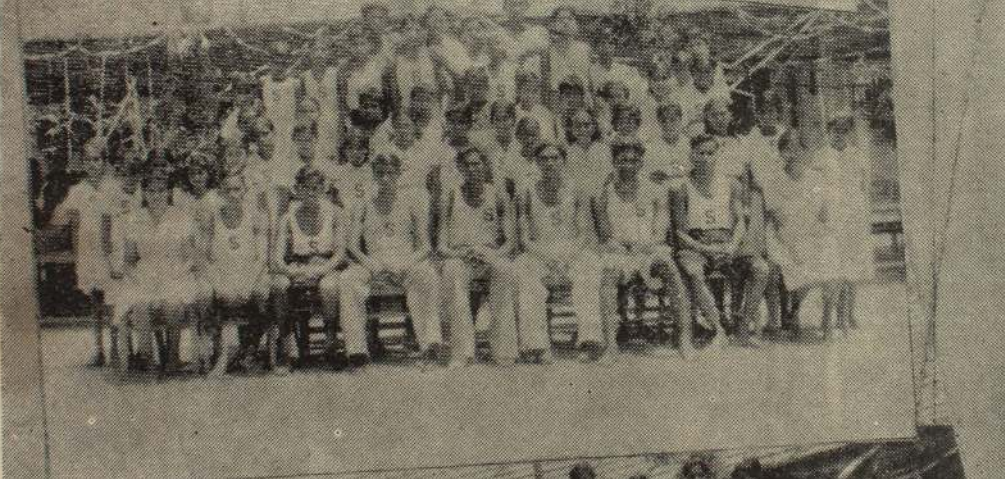


Smith 1943

# Houses 1947



WARD



SMITH



DICKSON

# House Captains

## SMITH HOUSE

M. Rajaratnam 1940-42

A. Marnicavasagar 1943

T. Navaratnam 1944

K. Alagarajah 1945-46

K. Sivalingam 1947



## DICKSON HOUSE

E. Sabaratnam  
1940-41

P. Kannappanayanar  
1942

P. Appadurai  
1943

V. Sivasubramaniam  
1945-46

R. Arulgnanappiragasam  
1947



## WARD HOUSE

V. E. Satkunasingam 1940-42

S. Nadarajah 1943

P. Selvarajah 1944

T. Kathirgamasegaram 1945

S. Rajaratnam 1946

S. Tharmarajah 1947

# House Gardens

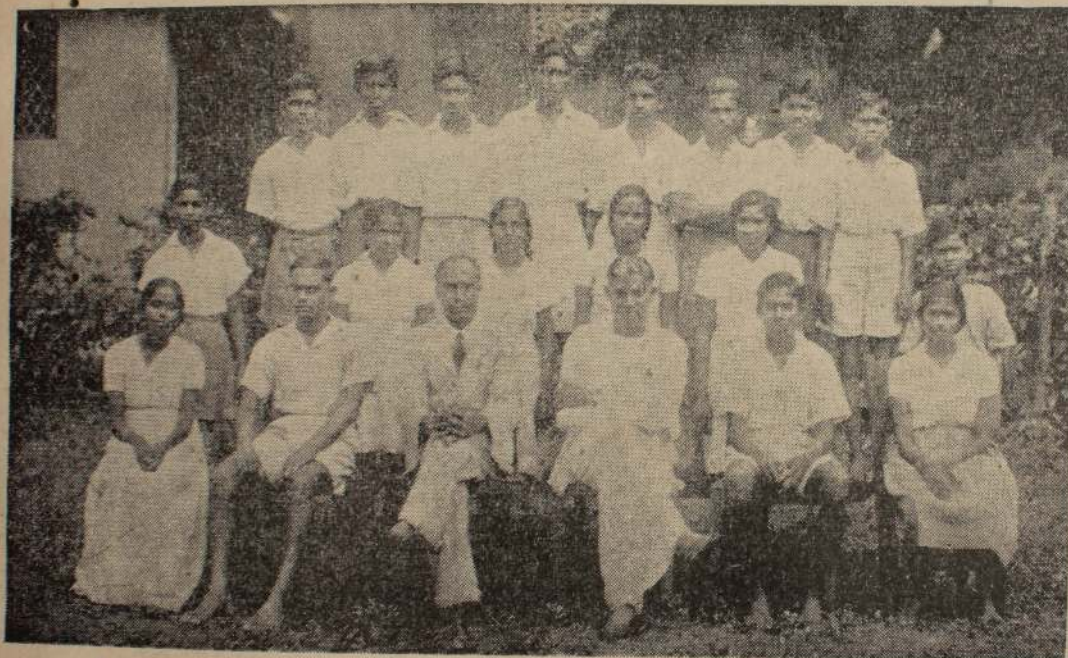


ample scope for fun and frolic and the forenoon of the day is generally spent in these stalls. These stalls are not merely attractive but very often lucrative, the proceeds being devoted to some public cause or to the funds of the College. The first Inter-House Sports Meet was held on July 22, 1940 and although the school then did not have a playground worthy of the name, the Day was thoroughly enjoyed by students, staff and visitors. Ward House emerged Athletic Champions with Smith House coming a close second, while Dickson House made

effort that the House system has provided the most valuable training to the students.

Among the first student organisations were a Student Christian Movement Unit and a Scout Troup. Rev. D. T. Niles, then Evangelistic Secretary on the world staff of the Y. M. C. A. and Mr. E. J. J. Niles of Jaffna College, then President of the Jaffna Inter-Collegiate Christian Fellowship, were present at the inaugural meeting of the Student Christian Movement held in July 1940 and gave special addresses outlining the aims and objectives

of the S. C. M. Mr. C. E. Rajasingam of the College staff was appointed the first President and Mas. G. Thevathasan, the first Secretary. The Scout Troup organised by Mr. K. Muttuvetpillai and Mr. V. Subramaniam of the College staff was divided into five patrols with Mas. N. Sivagnanalingam as the first



The Student Christian Movement

up for its third place by winning the prize for the best decoration and achieving the unique distinction of being adjudged the House with the best spirit. The units of competition being so wide in scope and so varied in character, every House has a chance to win the All-round Championship Shield awarded at the end of each year. The Houses have learnt that athletic prowess or academic distinctions alone would not suffice. Final victory, they know, is determined by a total effort and it is in the organising and planning of this total

Troop Leader. Its record of achievements at the beginning surpassed that of most other troops. At one time there were 4 King Scouts and 10 first class scouts. Both the S. C. M. Unit and the Scout Troup continue to be active associations in College and there is little doubt that they exert an influence for good in the College. "The Union", the Senior Literary Association of the College, was also re-organised during this period.

The organisation of the Old Boys' Association in the school in December, 1940

was an outstanding event in the early history of the school. The inaugural meeting was presided over by Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam, a distinguished son of Tellippalai. The Association when it met for the first time decided to raise a Building and Playground Fund and to collect Rs. 10,000 in Ceylon and Rs. 5000 in Malaya. A Collection Committee was appointed which in April 1941 toured the length and breadth of the island to collect money to meet the increasing demands of the school. This was a brief but intensive campaign during which nearly 1500 miles were covered in 15 days. 164 Old Boys and Friends were visited and the total subscribed amounted to Rs. 8668 in addition of the donation of an invaluable piece of land which enabled the enlargement of the playground. The most outstanding benefactions to the college during this period were the gift of this plot of land by Mr. & Mrs. A. Poopalasingham of Gampola and the gift of Rs. 500 and a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica by Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Clough of Tellippalai. The campaign was continued in subsequent years. The example set by these pioneer benefactors has been followed by many others, whom we shall not embarrass by mentioning names. The College will always remain grateful to its benefactors for without their aid it could not have seen so much of its growth.

The Colombo Old Boys have been in a real sense a tower of strength to the College. The more recent Old Boys have a sentimental attachment to the institution which has found expression now and then in letters, accompanied by cheques, written to the Principal pledging support for any cause undertaken on behalf of the College. The Principal has been invited to inaugurate a Branch Association in Colombo and it is hoped that very soon the Parent Association would extend its branches to Colombo and other parts of the island where also we count a good number of loyal Old Boys of the college.

### Highlights

An event of outstanding importance during this brief period of survey is the expansion of the Industrial Department in June 1944. Industrial Education has always held an important place in the curriculum at Tellippalai ever since the time when Mr. Smith introduced it, on his own responsibility, in 1878. No event in the history of the school, therefore, gave greater satisfaction to all those who had watched the growth of the institution than the extension of a department which had always been an integral part of the work at Tellippalai. There was also, at this time, no doubt in the minds of the authorities as to the worth of an Industrial Education and the place it should occupy in the educational system of the country. In his statement made at the opening of the Carpentry School and the Paper Making department on June 10, 1944, the Principal made the following observations on the place Industrial Education should occupy in any comprehensive plan of educational reform:—

“One cannot but be profoundly impressed by the wisdom of those who laboured here earlier in not only establishing a school, an industrial department and a printing press, but also aligning them in such a way as to be of mutual help and strength. These are assets of no small value to the College and they enable the students to acquire an all round education. I hope that the establishment of these departments will dispel the unwarranted fear in the minds of some that the growth of the school on the academic side might tend to retard its progress on the industrial side. It is my strong conviction that a purely industrial school cannot thrive, at least in Jaffna. It has no existence excepting under the wings of a strong and healthy school where a sound academic education is imparted. We have to recognize the background and outlook of the people”.

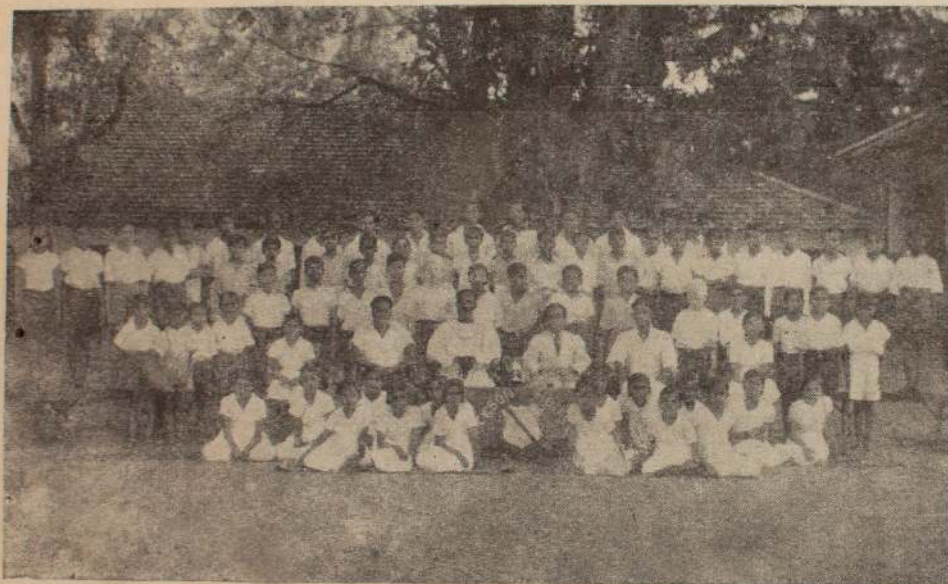
The newly organised Industrial Department consists of a Carpentry School, Printing and Binding Departments and Paper Making. The services of an expert from India were obtained to run the Paper Making Department, while the Carpentry Department



# Houses 1940



SMITH



DICKSON

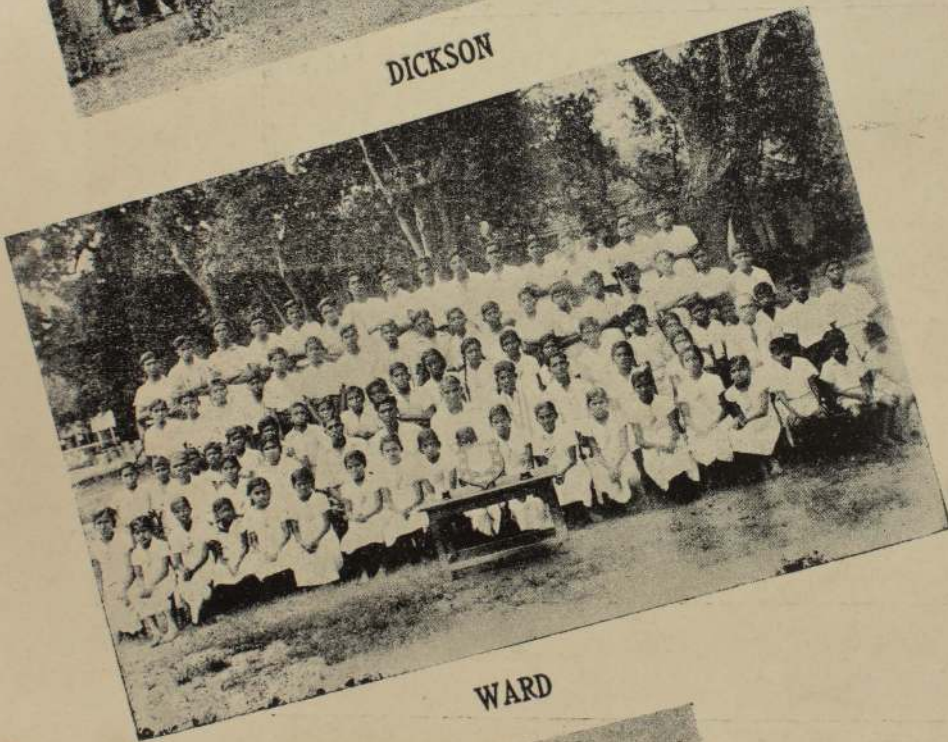


WARD

# Houses 1942



DICKSON

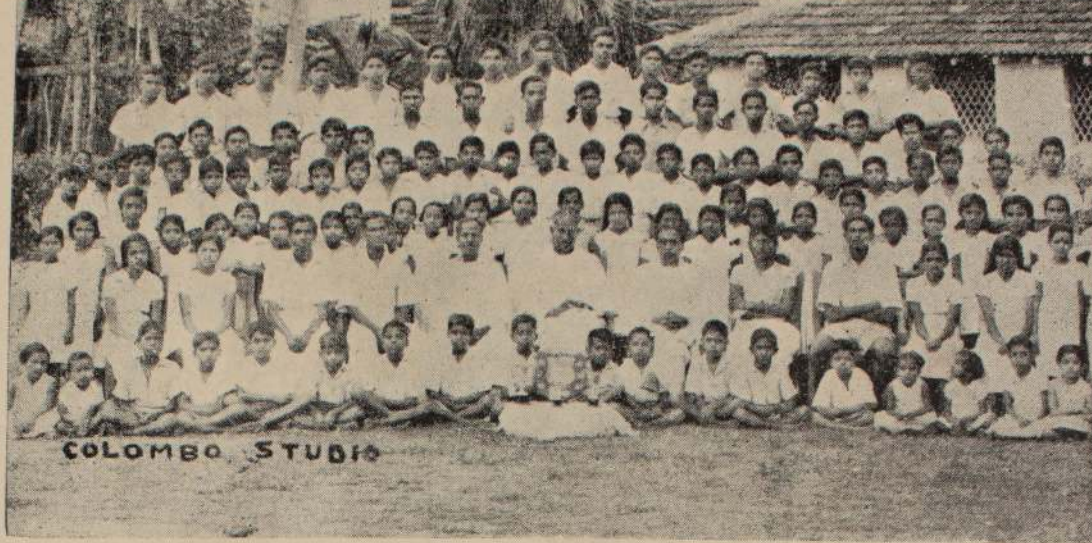


WARD

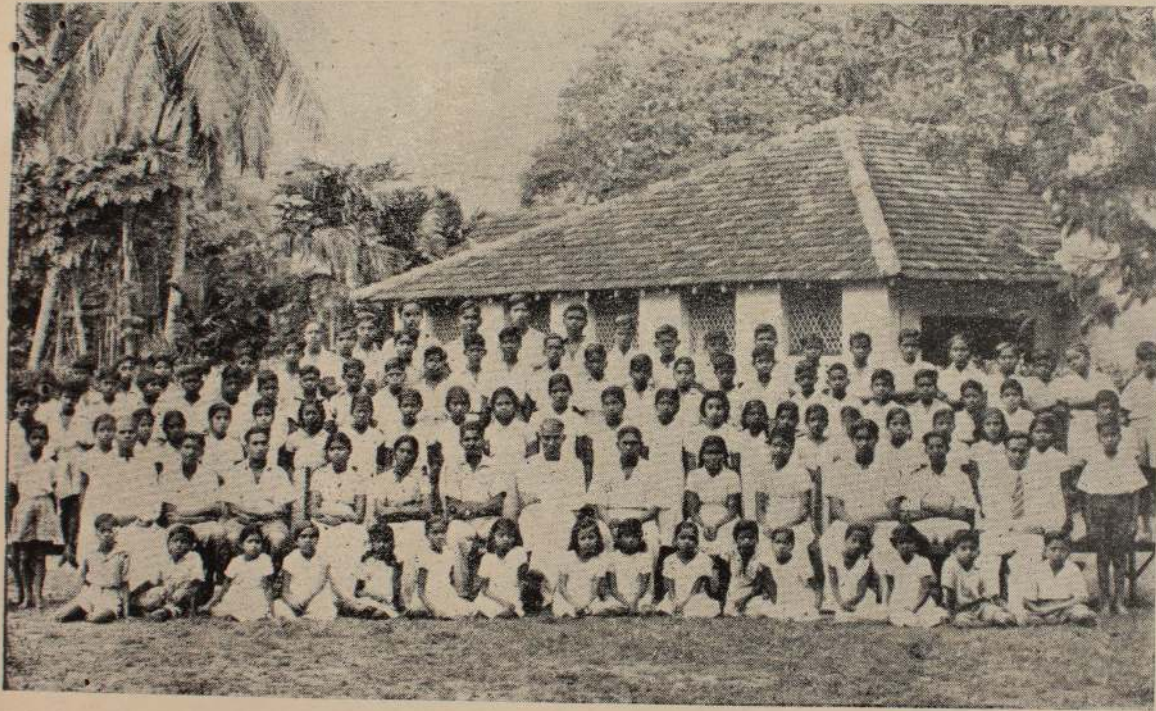


SMITH

# Houses 1945



SMITH



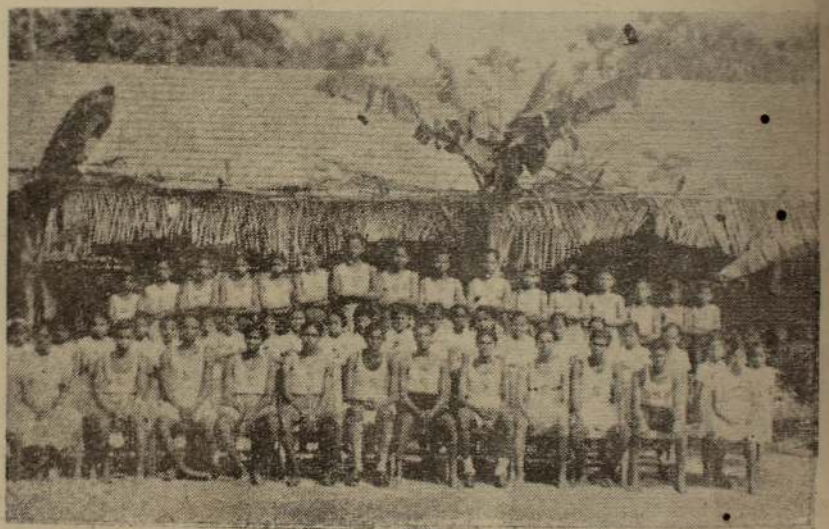
WARD

DICKSON



# Houses 1946

SMITH



WARD



# Football



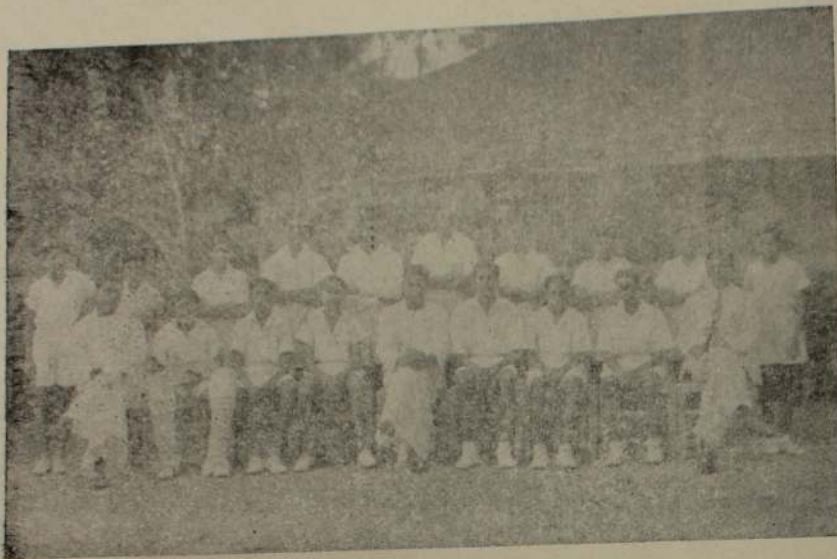
Team 1943



Team 1944

Team 1946





The Junior Cricket Team 1941

# CRICKET



# Cricket & Foot Ball Captains



**T. Navaratnam :** Cricket Captain 1942  
Football ,, 1943



**K. Alagarajah :** Cricket Captain 1945  
Football ,, 1946



**P. Appadurai :** Cricket Captain 1944

**K. Nagaratnam :** Football Captain 1942  
Cricket ,, 1943

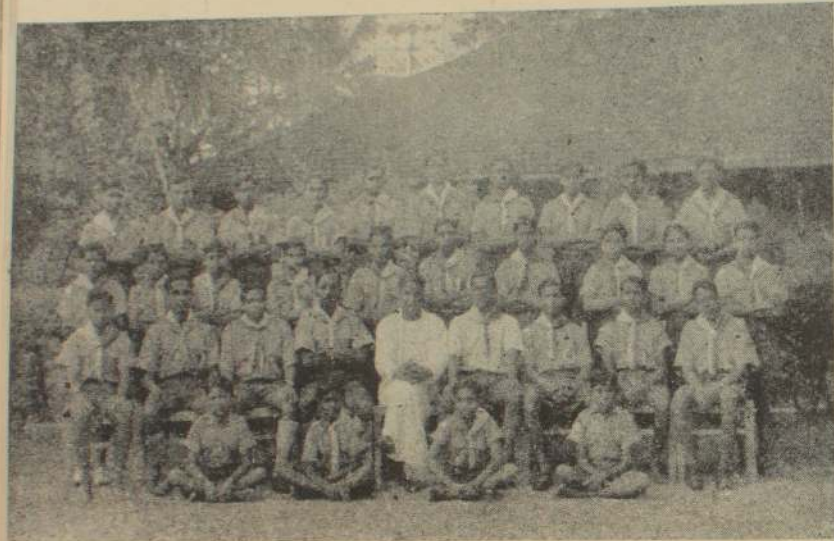


**P. Sivagnanam :** Football Captain 1945

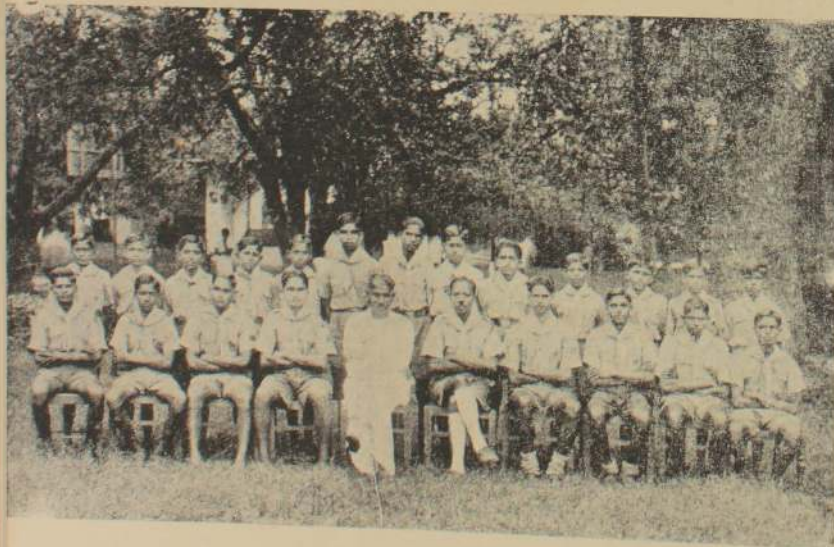
# Scouting



N. Sivagnanalingam  
The First Troop Leader



Scout Troop, 1941



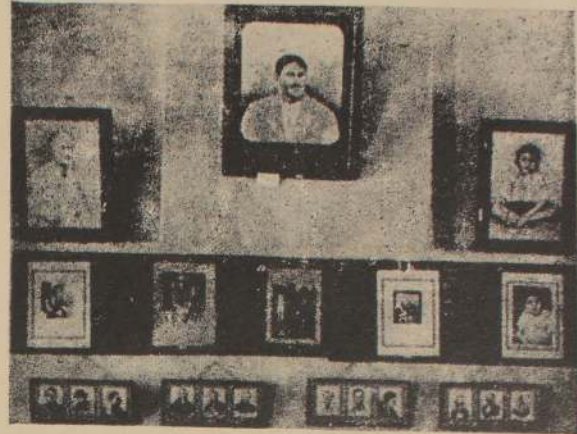
Scout Troop, 1943



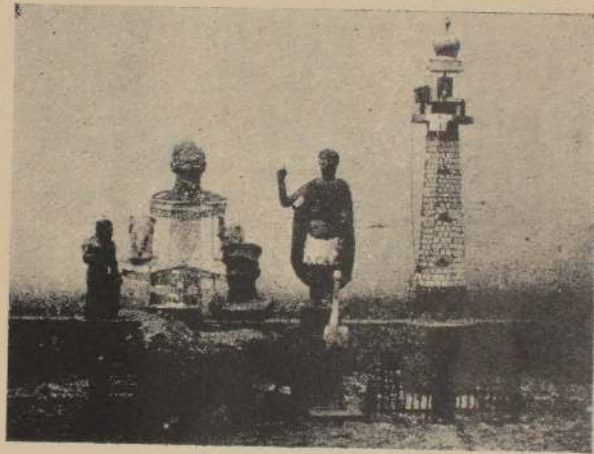


# Founders' Day Celebrations

Art Exhibits



Handwork Exhibits



Physical Display





Team 1941

# Track & Field



Team 1942



Team 1946



**M. SINNATHAMBY**

who created a record in the Mile Race at the Jaffna Inter-Collegiate Sports Meet 1945, by covering the distance in 4 min. 41.4 sec. and who later won the first place at the All Ceylon Public Schools Sports Meet held in Colombo. He was also selected to represent Ceylon at the Indo-Ceylon Meet held in Bangalore in 1946.

Athletics



# Academic Distinctions



**S. Selvarajasingam**

Passed the G. S. S. C. Exam. in the First Division, securing three distinctions.

Passed the University Entrance in one year from St. Peter's College. Obtained the General Science Scholarship at the University of Ceylon.



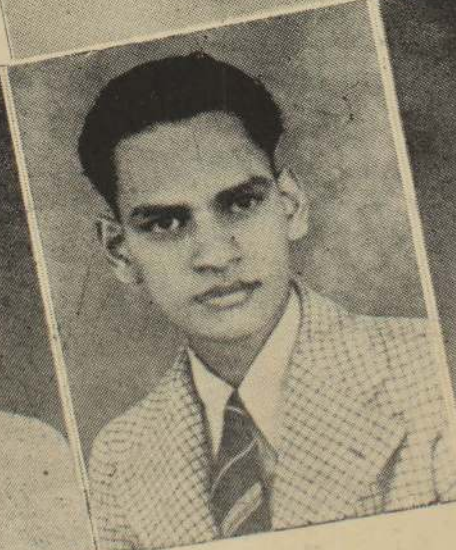
**V. Sivasubramaniam**

The First to pass the University Entrance Examination from the College.



**N. Shanmugam**

The first batch to pass the G. S. S. C. Examination from the College.



**E. Sabaratnam**



**V. Subramaniam**

was put in charge of a qualified teacher. All students, both boys and girls, below the J. S. C. are expected to do certain hours of work in any one of these departments. A Red-letter day in the history of the Industrial School was the visit of the Governor, Sir Henry Monck - Mason Moore on May 31, 1945. He expressed great interest and appreciation of the work carried on at Tellippalai and specially complimented the students on the workmanship of the address presented to him on the occasion, the entire frame and paper of which were made out of parts of the palmyrah tree, the King Palm of Jaffna.

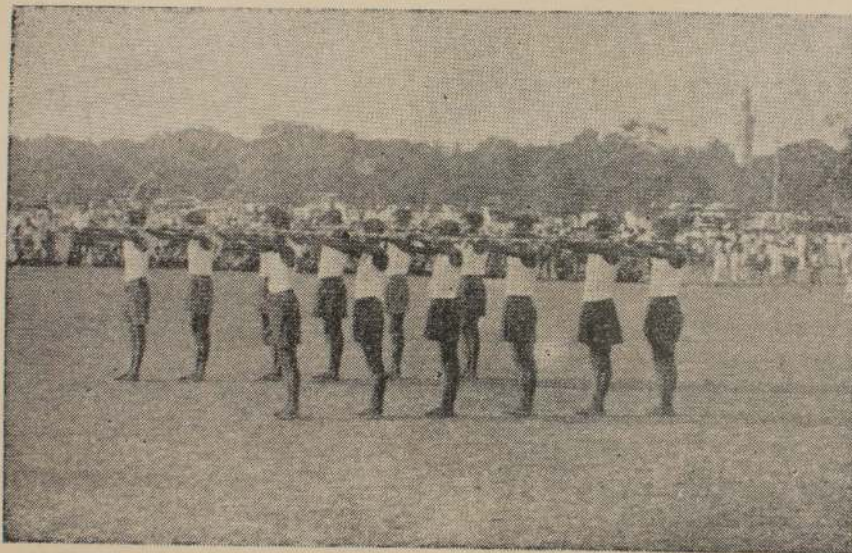
The Founders' Day has been a family festival, looked forward to with great interest by the whole school. A day in the second week of October, is generally chosen for this event to synchronise with



Scenes from "The Old Bull"

the date on which the first Missionaries, Poor and Warren started their work at Tellippalai in 1816. The celebrations of

1940 and 1941 were held on a large scale. Then for the duration of the war the function was confined to friends in and around Tellippalai, though there was the same earnestness and enthusiasm displayed. In 1946 again the celebrations reached pre-war proportions.



Pole Drill

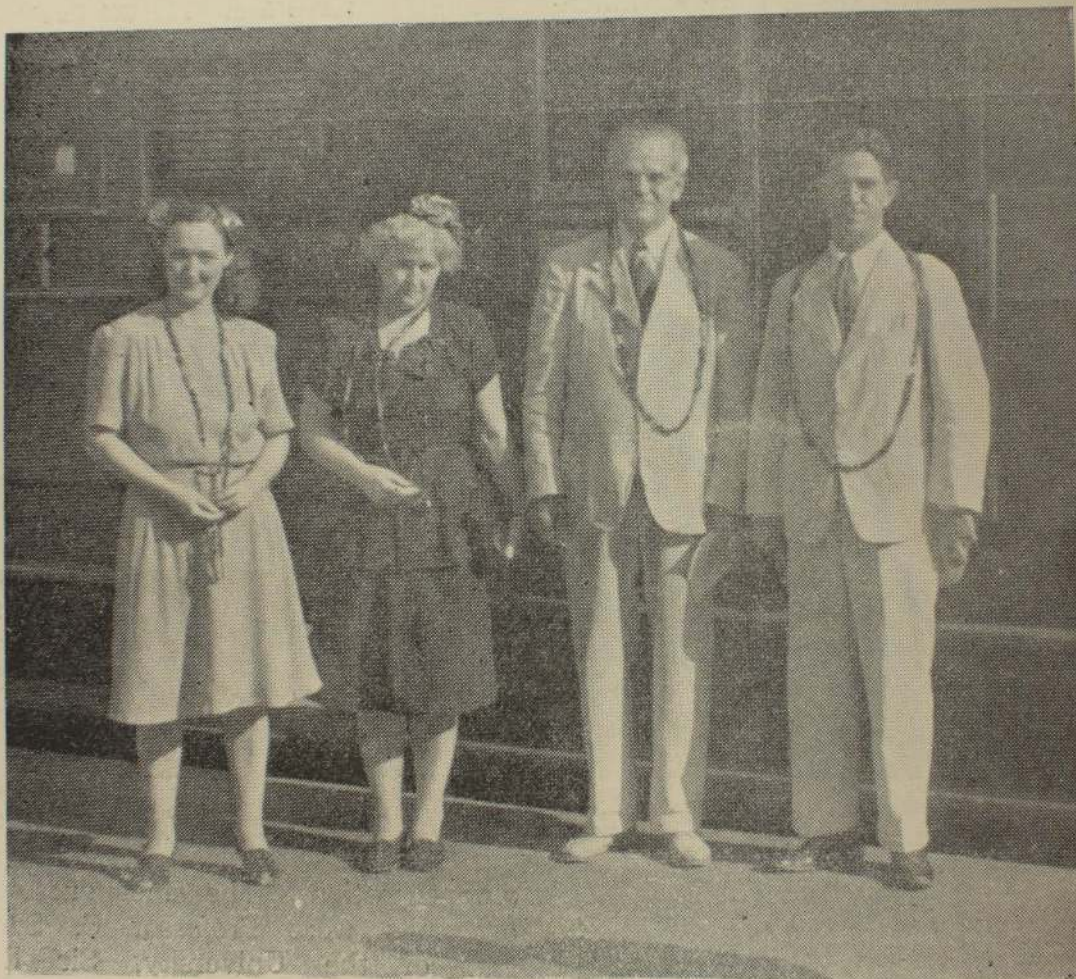
The chief guests on these occasions were Professor C. Suntharalingam of the University, Sir Ratnajothy Saravanamuttu, the Mayor of Colombo and Mr. K. S. Arulnandhy, the Deputy Director of Education. The programme generally consists of an out-door display and a Prize - Giving at which students give items to entertain the audience. Three English one - act plays were very successfully staged— "The Dumb and the Blind" in 1940, "The Old Bull" in 1941 and "The Dear Departed" in 1946. The out-door displays given— Pole Drill, Wand Drill, Dumbell Drill, Mar-



Scenes from "The Dumb and the Blind"

ching and other exercises — by both boys and girls represent one aspect of the training imparted at Tellippalai, which has all along been given an important place. This branch of the work, it may be mentioned incidentally, is now under a specialist trained at the Madras Y. M. C. A. School of Physical Training. As occasions which call for a variety of talents from the students—physical,

of appreciation and advice. The Rev. Raymond A. Dudley, Secretary of the American Board, visited the school in November 1945 and was greatly impressed by everything he saw, particularly by the manner in which the pupils and staff were endeavouring to make the most out of the limited supply of materials and equipment they had. It is this impression probably which evoked



The American Board Deputation, 1946.

intellectual and histrionic—these functions have been of great educative value and have amply justified the time and energy expended on them,

No account of the Highlights of the School is complete without a reference to the distinguished visitors who now and again inspired the school with their words

the following comment which he has recorded in the log book :

*"I am delighted with this institution and I most certainly wish it well. They are making bricks without straw."*

The entire American Board Deputation visited the School in February, 1946 and it

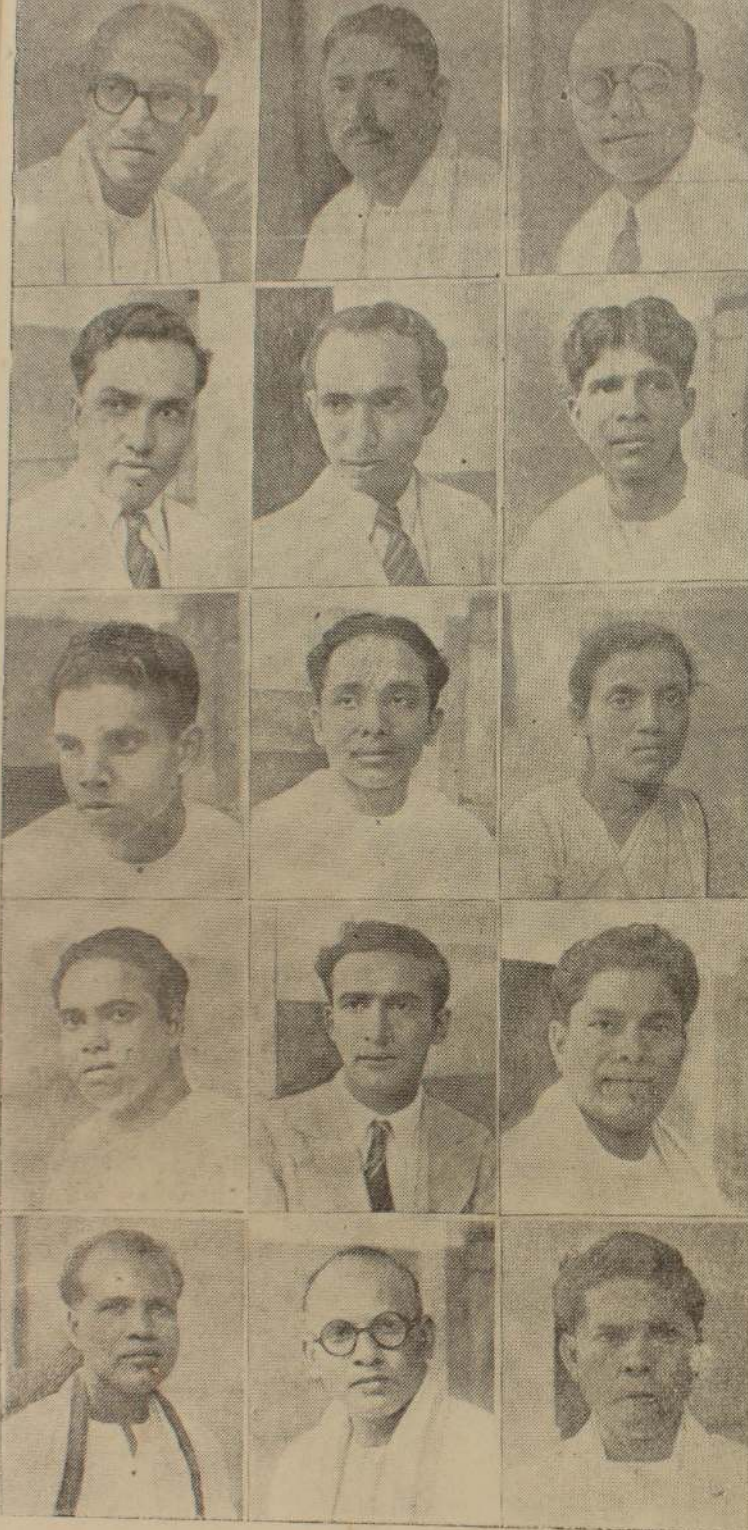
# The College Staff



1940



1944



Mr. I. P. Thurairatnam, B. sc. (Lond) *Principal*

Mr. S. K. Rasiah (Eng. Trained)  
*Vice-Principal*

Mr. C. E. Rajasingam, B. A. (Lond.)

Mr. M. S. Sundaram, B sc. (Lond.)

Mr. V. D. Burder, B. sc. (Madras)

Mr. S. V. Vyramuttu, B. A. (Cal.) L. TH. (Ser.)

Mr. M. P Mathen, B. sc. (Trav.)

Mr. George Varghese, B. SC. HONS. (Trav.)

Miss G. R. Chellappah. (Eng. Trained)

Mr. K. Kathiriandy, (Eng. Trained)

Mr. J. Rajaratnam, Inter Arts (Lond.)

Mr. S. Balasubramaniam, (Tam. Pandit)

Mr. A. Kulasegarampillai,

Mr. R. T. Seevaratnam

Mr. E. Rajadurai

# THE COLLEGE





# The Union



1943



1944

was no doubt an event of outstanding importance in the history of the school. Their visit, synchronising as it did with a period of intense educational unrest in the history of the island, gave the Deputation an opportunity to view the whole educational policy of the Mission in the light of the conditions prevailing in Ceylon and the schools of the Mission an opportunity to avail themselves of the mature counsels given by a little band of people who, though small in numbers, represented a wider circle in America who count more than a century and a quarter of interest in Jaffna and its people. In appreciation of what they saw at Tellippalai, Dr. Coe on behalf of the group, made the following minute :

*"Only the impossible is accomplished here. We are better informed after a few hours here than we thought possible. More power to you. In future your students will rise to bless you".*

• The Rt. Rev. Lakdasa de Mel, Assistant Bishop of Colombo visited the College in March 1946. A welcome in keeping with the dignity of the occasion was accorded to him. He was particularly interested in the Industrial Department and made the following observation :

*"A most useful work is being done here and I have been much interested. Real ingenuity and experimentation are in evidence. All concerned are to be congratulated".*

#### Academic Development.

The history of the academic progress of the school during this brief period of survey is by no means uneventful. The first batch of students, consisting of six, appeared for the Special Government Senior School Certificate Examination in December 1941. Four of these came out successful, three gaining exemption from the London Matric. These three followed up their success by passing the London Matriculation

Examination in January, 1942 and the Government Clerical Examination that year. The percentage of passes at the G. S. S. C. Examination has been high especially in 1944, when sixteen out of the eighteen presented were successful and in 1946 when sixteen out of the twenty passed, one only being referred. The quality of passes has been uniformly good. In December 1946, the school presented a batch for the J. S. C. Examination conducted by the Northern Province Teachers' Association and obtained hundred per cent passes.

The establishment of the University Entrance and H. S. C. Classes in Arts and Science in January 1945, marked a further step forward in the progress of the school in the academic sphere. The first batch to appear for this examination was an Arts group consisting of three students. One of these, V. Sivasubramaniam, whose career in College was watched with the keenest interest, was selected for admission to the Ceylon University and has been the first from the College to win this distinction.

Some of the achievements of the recent old boys of the College have gladdened the heart of their Alma Mater to such a degree that they should find a prominent place in the history of the school. S. Selvarajasingham, who passed the G. S. S. C. Examination in the First Division, gaining exemption from the London Matric., followed up his success by passing the University Entrance Examination in one year and securing a scholarship at the University. Another old boy who has recently won a notable academic achievement is Mr. P. Selvanayagam who was the first to obtain a First Class in the B. Sc. Engineering Examination from the Government Technical College. He has now obtained a Government Scholarship for higher studies abroad and has left for England in June this year. It is hoped that many more will follow in their wake and bring honour to their Alma Mater.

## Sports Activities

The activities of the Sports Department, at the beginning, was considerably crippled by the want of a playground. This long cherished dream was realised in 1942 when with the donation by Mr. & Mrs. Poopalasingham of Gampola, of a piece of land adjoining the College compound and the purchase of another piece of land next to it, enough space was found to accommodate a decent playground within the premises. This playground is used for the three main games — Cricket, Football, Track & Field Athletics — during the different seasons while surrounding this there is room for other subsidiary games like Volley ball, Basket ball, Net ball, Thatchie, Padder Tennis, Tenniquoit and Badminton. The playground is today the most pleasing and prominent feature in the premises and emphasises the important part sports and sportsmanship should play in the education of the pupil.

The College sent in the first athletic team to the Inter-Collegiate Meet in August 1941, entering only for a few items because the main object was to gain experience. Young Selvarajasingham secured a first place in the Junior Long Jump. The style he exhibited was the subject of much comment and reflected great credit on the coach, Mr. V. G. George, the well known sportsman, whose services the College was fortunate to obtain for a short time. By far the most spectacular achievement in the sphere of athletics was that of M. Sinnathamby in 1945. He got the first place in both the Half-Mile and the Mile at the Jaffna Schools Sports Meet, creating a new record of 4 minutes 41.4 seconds, for the Mile and beating the previous record by 13.5 seconds. He followed up his success by gaining the first place in the All-Ceylon Public Schools Sports Meet held in Colombo and was selected as one of Ceylon's representatives to the Indo-Ceylon Athletic Contest held in Bangalore in February, 1946. The College has maintained steady progress

in this branch of sports and has been marked fairly high among the Colleges in the Peninsula in recent years.

A Junior Cricket Team was organised by Mr. K. Muttuvetpillai in 1941 which the following year played Second Eleven Cricket. Five inter-collegiate matches were played that year of which two were won by the school team. In spite of shortage of materials and the corresponding increase in the cost, cricket matches were organised and played even during the war years. There were three fixtures for 1943. In 1944 for the first time the College entered the field of First Eleven Cricket and gained very useful experience. It is gratifying to note that the boys have caught the spirit of Cricket and do "play the game".

The College entered for the Inter-Collegiate Junior Football Competition in 1942 and made a fair start by winning two out of the four matches played. Since then the record has not been above average. House competitions and inter-class matches in all the various games have been regular features of the sports activities.

## Conclusion

The College today has completed seven years of useful service to the community. In the words of the great American poet,

"day by day the vessel grew  
with timber fashioned strong and true"

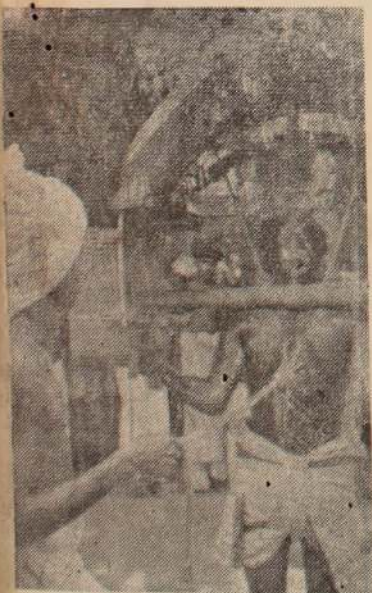
Although it will take some time for the school to be "framed with perfect symmetry", the reflection that it has seen its years of growth in the very premises where so many pioneer missionary movements saw their beginnings, is a source of great strength and inspiration to those who have been charged with the destinies of the Institution so that they can now say with the poet:-

"In spite of rock and tempest's war  
In spite of false lights on the shore  
Sail on nor fear to breast the sea  
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers and tears  
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears  
Are all with thee, are all with thee."



Photos by J. P. I.

*Naviddapuram Car Festival*



*Temple Devotee*

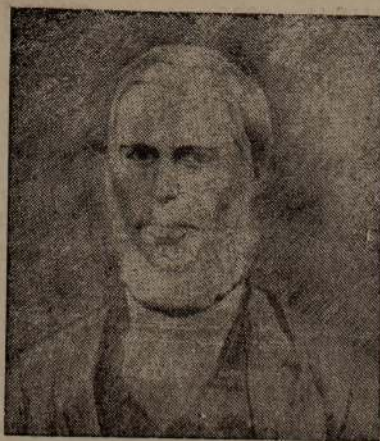


## The Press and The Morning Star

**O**NE of the earliest requests made by the Mission to the Government was permission to operate a printing press in connection with its work in Ceylon. This was granted. There was, however, some delay in getting together the press and finding a suitable printer. In 1820, the Board sent Mr. James Garrett to take charge of this part of the Mission work which had so long been put off. He arrived at Tellippalai with a press on August 10, 1820. Tamil types were ordered from Calcutta and all arrangements were made to start the work without delay. But when the Government was notified formally of Mr. Garrett's arrival, the Colonial Governor, Sir Edward Barnes, ordered Mr. Garrett to leave the island immediately, stating that he considered it an "impertinence on the part of Americans to come to Ceylon for missionary work since every needed effort in that direction was provided by His Majesty's Government". A strong protest was made by the Mission through the Royal Chaplain, Mr. Twistleton, against this surprising change in official attitude. The matter was even referred to England in vain. On the 24th of August that year there was another order from the Governor giving Mr. Garrett three months' notice to quit the island. The request of the Mission to allow him to stay on till the end of the rainy season was turned down. Not content with all these orders, there was a further query on November 20, 1820 asking the Mission if Mr. Garrett had gone. On the eve of the same day Mr. Garrett left Jaffna, uncertain about his plans. He proceeded to Nagapatnam from where he went to Tranquebar where the Danish Missionaries gave him a very hearty welcome. After a brief stay there he joined the Madura Mission in Bombay.

### Vicissitudes of the Press (1826 — 1903)

The Press and the supplies were sold to Rev. Joseph Knight of the Church Missionary Society who established it at Nallur in 1826. This was the first printing Press established in Jaffna. The first book published was entitled *Muththi Vali* (முத்திவலி). In 1834, the government restrictions having been withdrawn, the American Mission procured the Press again and established it at Manipay under the direction of Mr. Eastman Strong Minor, who had come from America in March that year to undertake this work. The Press was considerably enlarged during his time. The number of workmen increased from 4 in 1834 to 81 in 1840. Three hand presses were also added. Several of those in the service of the Press were old students of the Batticotta Seminary. The salaries ranged from 3 s. to 25 s. a month. In 1846, twenty six of the workmen became full members of the Church. The interest evinced by the workmen in Church work found expression in their generous contributions to the Church. It is on record that during the six years 1834—1840, the workmen in the printing office



Mr. Thomas S. Burnell

gave £ 150 for a tower and new roof for the Manipay Church. The Press also undertook to publish at this time a paper, "The Oriental Temperance Advocate", the chief organ of the Jaffna Temperance Society started in 1834. On the departure of Mr. E. S. Minor, Mr. Thomas S. Burnell succeeded him.

In 1855, on the recommendation of the celebrated Anderson - Thomson Deputation of 1855, that the Press should be transferred to native management, it was sold to Messrs Strong and Ripley. The bindery too was sold to Messrs Dana and Winslow. After some time Mr. Ripley sold his share to Mr. Strong who, in turn, donated a portion to Mr. R. O. D. Asbury. The firm was thereafter known as "Strong and Asbury" and from 1856 to 1903, this firm took charge of editing and publishing the *Morning Star*.

In 1903, on the recommendation of the second American Board Deputation that visited Jaffna in 1901, Rev. J. H. Dickson, then resident Missionary at Tellippalai, bought the Strong and Asbury Press at Manipay and grafted it on to "The Gordon Industrial Press" at Tellippallai set up by Mr. Yesuthasan and named after Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon in grateful recognition of the help the Governor rendered which made it possible for Mr. Yesuthasan to go to America for industrial training. On his return in 1888 he inaugurated a new era of Industrial Education at Tellippallai.

Mr. Dickson named the new plant, "The American Ceylon Mission Press" and under his efficient Management, the Press made vast strides in the succeeding years.

#### The Morning Star (1841—1903)

In 1841, the *Morning Star* was started as a fortnightly paper. It was a Bible verse in the Revelations that seems to have suggested the name of the paper, which consisted of eight pages of quarto size costing 4 s. a copy. The first editors were Messrs. Henry Martyn and Seth Payson. The paper was devoted to "education, science and general literature and to the dissemination of articles on agriculture, Government and religion with a brief summary of important news." It was not, therefore, a newspaper in the modern sense of the term. It was a literary production containing articles on religion, philosophy, mathematics and

ethics. A series of articles were also contributed by Dr. Poor in the form of letters to his old students.

In 1843, the *Morning Star* came more directly under the control of the Mission. In 1847, the size and the subscription rates were reduced as the paper was not paying its way and a proposal was made to publish it one week in Tamil and the other week in English. But before these plans could materialise, the Anderson-Thomson Deputation of 1855, among their other recommendations, formulated a scheme for the *Star*, the main features of which were, firstly that the paper was to be given over to native management, the Mission retaining only the editorial control, secondly that English was to be discontinued and the paper printed in Tamil only once a month. The transference of the paper from the Mission to private hands was recommended, not so much as a retrenchment measure as the result of a feeling on the part of the Deputation that the time was ripe for the nationals to develop leadership in this direction. It was really meant to be a first step in devolution.

As the paper was edited in the vernacular and as reading matter was very scarce in those days, the *Star* had a wide circle of patrons. While news from different parts of the world and subjects of a practical nature generally occupied much of the space, the editors made it their object in each number to announce distinctly some one or more of the truths and doctrines of the Christian religion. It was also fortunate for the *Star* at this time that the Tamil columns were in turn edited by such eminent men as Mr. Carroll Visuvanathan and Mr. J. R. Arnold, both illustrious old boys of the Batticotta Seminary and reputed Tamil scholars, whose debut in journalism was looked forward to with more than ordinary interest by the reading public of Jaffna. Mr. J. R. Arnold in particular, had a rich fund of humour and his articles were perpetual sources of





*Photo by J. P. T.*

## *Baking Hoppers*

*An early morning wayside scene between Chitlaw and Pattalam*



delight to the readers. The period of editorship of these two men may well be termed a golden era in the history of the *Star*.

After some time the English section was re-introduced, the Missionaries taking charge of this section. Among the English editors during this period were Dr. E. P. Hastings, Rev. Thomas Smith, Dr. S. W. Howland, Rev. R. C. Hastings and Mr. W. E. Hitchcock. Mr. J. R. Arnold continued to be the Tamil editor and adorned the chair for forty years.

#### • The Press at Tellippalai

The newly established "American Ceylon Mission Press" underwent a thorough overhauling under the special supervision of Mr. Dickson. It began to do first class work with its increased equipment and orders began to pour in, not only from all parts of the Peninsula but also from Colombo and the outstations. Equipment and building, however, proved inadequate to accommodate the work. In 1905, the building was completely remodelled providing for 3400 sq. feet of space as against 1038 sq. feet previously. It is significant that the Press received no financial aid from the Mission but had to pay its way and also earn enough money to equip itself and to put up its own building. In fact, even the cost of the religious literature printed was paid for by the profits derived from the commercial work. The following statistics published in 1911 shows what vast strides the Press made during the first ten years of Mr. Dickson's regime :-

"In 1901, the press employed 4 men; in 1911, 16 men. In 1901, the turnover was Rs. 3400; in 1911, Rs. 8800. In 1901, the stock & cash amounted to Rs. 3,615; in 1911, to Rs. 13,446"

Mr. Dickson was, however, not satisfied with this progress. His ambition was to procure more modern machines. In 1912, he realised his ambition, when a double demy size cylinder machine, a cutting

machine and a three horse - power Hornsby oil engine were purchased. A large part of the types which were badly worn out was also replaced.

Mr. Ward succeeded Mr. Dickson in 1918 and managed the Press till 1934. In 1934, however, after appointing a Local Board to assist Mr. Ward, the Mission voted to sell the Press as it had become a losing concern for some years. The Local Board, protested very vigorously to the Mission and to the American Board and asked to be given a chance. This was given and the Mission had no occasion subsequently to regret the step it took.

Mr. I. P. Thurairatnam took charge of the Press in January 1935 and at the end of the year there was a fairly handsome balance. The idea that the Press could not pay its way was exploded. The Workshop turned out a large amount of furniture and school equipment and the Sales Room recovered a good lot of arrears. Tracts, Reports, Hymn Books and other Christian Literature of the three Missions were printed besides the *Morning Star* and *The Ceylon Spectator*, a non-sectarian paper edited by Mr. J. V. Chelliah. This paper was discontinued the following year. Many educational books, English and Tamil, were also printed at the Press.

In 1936, a Pension Scheme for workers so long overdue, was put into operation. The scheme was in the hands of the Christian Mutual Insurance Company of India. In 1937, Mr. C. K. Yesuthasan retired after nearly fifty years



Mr. V. J. Arianayagam

of devoted service. Appreciating his services to the Press during this long period. Mr. Thurairatnam made the following minute in his Report for 1937.

"Ever since he returned from America after training in 1888, Mr. Yesuthasan has worked continuously with a singleness of purpose and a degree of efficiency that have been admirable and exemplary. His mechanical aptitude, his scholarship in Tamil and his tact have steered the Press through many difficult years. It is no exaggeration to say that the Press is what it is today because of him."

In recognition of his invaluable services to the Industrial School, the Government allowed him a decent monthly pension besides awarding him a big lump sum on the eve of his retirement. The Press, as a gesture of appreciation, decided to augment this pension by giving him a monthly subsidy. Mr. V. J. Ariyanayagam, the Senior Assistant at the Press, was appointed Superintendent and holds the post to this day. The Sales Room, established in connection with the Press in 1920, continues to be under the supervision of Mr. G. C. Chellappah.



Mr. G. C. Chellappah

In 1938, the revision of the Union Series of Readers was undertaken. The profuse illustrations in colour, a feature which was uncommon in Ceylon in connection with Text Book printing, was widely appreciated. This particular work was put in charge of an engraving department started in 1937.

The years following have been anxious years for the Press, particularly as paper

was controlled and the customers began retrenching on their stationery. But inspite of these depressing circumstances, the Press has gone on with the patronage of the Mission institutions and under the able management of Mr. Thurairatnam who has spared no pains to make the Press a place where efficient and first class work is done at competitive prices.

Whatever may have been the vicissitudes through which the Press has passed, it has always sought to fulfil the purpose of its existence as an aid to Christian work in this country. This aim has been steadily kept in mind by all those who have directed the Press at Tellippalai. The consciousness of this purpose has been a source of much strength and power and has sustained the Press when fortunes fluctuated or finances failed. That it may continue to fulfil its purpose is the wish and prayer of those who have watched its progress through a century and more.

#### Proprietorship of the Star

The proprietorship of the *Star* had in the meantime passed through several hands. Mr. Asbury had bequeathed it to Mr. J. P. Cooke in 1880 and for thirty years he managed the paper with great enthusiasm and energy. A most important development with regard to the proprietorship of the *Star* during the time of Rev. J. H. Dickson was a new agreement with Mr. J. P. Cooke by which the Mission was given an equal share in the proprietorship and management of the paper, which naturally involved proportional financial responsibilities. This was made necessary by the fact that the paper had got hopelessly in debt and the Press was unable to obtain payment of its bills. But during the first year the Mission had charge of the finances, the accumulated debt of years was paid off and the current expenses met in full. This new agreement gave the mission complete control over the English pages and a veto-control over the Tamil pages.

Mr. C. H. Cooke succeeded his father and brought to the management of the paper his mature judgment, wide personal influence and great business ability. In 1914, he transferred his rights to the Mission on the understanding that in the event of the Mission relinquishing its responsibility, the paper should



Mr. C. H. Cooke

revert to him or his heirs. In 1926, acting on the advice of the Potter Deputation from America, the Mission transferred the management of the *Star* back to Mr. C. H. Cooke. This was one of the retrenchment measures carried out during that period.

In 1943, the Mission again took over the management of the *Star* as Mr. Cooke felt that he could no longer manage the paper. Mr. P. W. Ariaratnam and Mr. Lyman Kulathungam, on behalf of the Mission, managed the paper for short periods after which the Mission requested the Tellippalai Board to undertake the new responsibility. The Board which had since 194 assumed responsibilities cheerfully and submitted to cuts willingly accepted this more as a call than as a challenge. Mr. I. P. Thurairatnam was appointed Manager of the *Star* and a new lease of life was given to the journal. Mr. J. V. Chelliah continued to edit the paper. In order to help Mr. Chelliah in his editorial work, Mr. C. E. Rajasingam, of the Staff of Union College was appointed sub-editor.

Those were difficult times to manage a journal. Paper was controlled,

printed matter was subject to the strictest scrutiny and above all a new Wages Ordinance enhanced the salaries of workmen at a time when orders had to be restricted owing to shortage of paper. Despite these handicaps the paper has been regularly published. The printing and publishing of this paper continues to be under the charge of the Tellippallai Board.

#### Editors of the *Star*

Among the Editors of the *Star*, pride of place should be given to Rev. J. H. Dickson, who dominated the journalistic world for nearly two decades. As a fearless editor, he had no equal. All kinds of falsehood, camouflage and humbugging he hated and exposed relentlessly. His object was to purge society of many of the ills that had come down through the century. This, he thought, could only be done by a vigorous pen which called a spade a spade. He was little afraid of the consequences of his aggressive editorial policy and faced them with a smile. He vindicated the freedom of the Press with a consistency and sincerity that won for him a high place in the estimation of the public. The *Star* throbbed with life and shone with a luminance unknown before.

The secret of Mr. Dickson's success was his passion for journalism and his conviction that a good paper was an evangelistic agency, of no small importance. Speaking about the Mission's connection with the *Morning Star*, Mr. Dickson says:—

“I have felt a growing satisfaction in the connection which the Mission sustains to this journal for it enables us to place clean reading matter permeated with Christian conceptions of truth and right living before an audience of not less than six or seven thousand every week and surely this is an opportunity which we cannot afford lightly to put aside. The longer I am connected with the printing and editorial work of our Mission, the more firmly I become convinced of its rightful claim to a considerable share of a missionary's time and energy.”

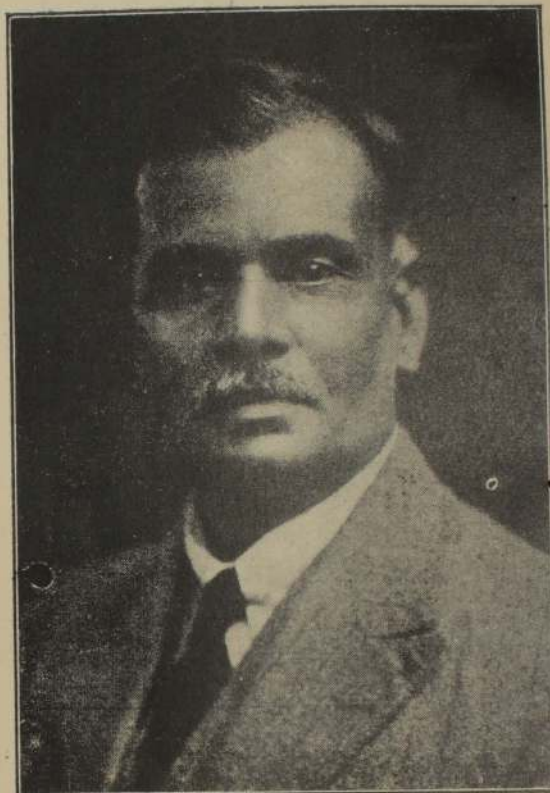
With his heart in his job, Mr. Dickson achieved at Tellippalai much that entitle him to a pre-eminent place in its history. His death in September 1937 was greatly lamented in India and Ceylon.

Of the Tamil editors in Mr. Dickson's time, one comes across the names Mr. S. C. Arnold and Mr. Allen Abraham, Professor of Mathematics at Jaffna College. A distinct service rendered by the *Star* during the editorship of Mr. Allen Abraham, was the attempt it made to disseminate correct information with regard to the movements of the historic Halley's Comet of 1910. Religious maniacs and pseudo-astronomers saw in the comet an ominous phenomenon which portended the end of the world. This caused widespread panic in the country. But Mr. Allen Abraham by his conclusions published in the *Star*, dispelled the fears of the people. Mr. Allen Abraham's prediction proved correct and this won for him from London the enviable title of the Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

When Mr. Dickson went on furlough in March 1918, the Mission decided that Mr. Miller who was then in America be put in charge of the Tellippalai Station on his return. But in April that year, the Mission was informed by cable from Boston that Mr. Miller would not be able to take up work at Tellippalai. The whole question of how to provide for the work of the Tellippalai station was, therefore, referred to the Men's Committee of the Mission for report at a later session. The Men's Committee recommended that Mr. A. A. Ward be sent to Tellippalai as station Missionary, Manager of the Press and Business Manager of the *Morning Star*, and that the paper be placed under the direction of an Editorial Board elected by the Mission consisting of an Editor-in-chief, an Associate Editor in English, an Associate Editor in Tamil and four others. Mr. Miller on his return was appointed Editor-in-chief, Mr.

J. V. Chelliah, Associate Editor in English and Mr. C. H. Cooke Associate Editor in Tamil. Other members of the Board were :— Mr. Ward, Rev. G. D. Thomas, Rev. C. D. Velupillai and Rev. G. G. Brown.

After a time, Mr. J. V. Chelliah was appointed Editor-in-chief and, except for a



Mr. J. V. Chelliah

short period in 1931 when he was appointed Acting Principal of Jaffna College, in 1935 when he edited a paper of his own and in 1937 when Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambyah edited the *Star*, Mr. Chelliah continued to edit the paper till his death in 1947. In fact, Mr. Chelliah never severed his connections with the *Star* wholly at any period. Even when he relinquished his duties as Editor, he now and then enlivened the columns of the *Star* with his valuable contributions.

As an Editor, Mr. Chelliah held moderate views and wrote with the greatest caution. Extreme views on any subject or

scurrilous attacks against person or society were to him matters which could not be reconciled with one's conception of a Christian journal.



Rev. Dr. T. Isaac Tambyah

proval. However, his facile pen, his deep learning and his catholicity of outlook amply made up for the lack of a vigorous editorial policy so characteristic of his predecessor, Rev. J. H. Dickson

But it is Mr. Chelliah's articles as much as his Editorials that have made him famous. His "Events and Comments" and particularly his "Reminiscences", the last of which series he wrote only a few weeks before his death, were masterpieces by themselves and were reminiscent of the literary style of Oliver Goldsmith and R. L. Stevenson, authors for whom Mr. Chelliah had evidently a particular liking. No one who read Mr. Chelliah's "Reminiscences" could have failed to appreciate his rich fund of humour and depth of thought. In his articles were reflected

not merely a clear mind but a good heart. The *Morning Star* owes much to this veteran educationist, scholar and journalist who strove in his life time to live up to the great conception he had of his calling.

A number of people were connected with the Tamil pages during Mr. Chelliah's regime as Editor-in-chief. Messrs S. T. Arnold, D. V. Nelson, Isaac Vyramuttu, J. V. Chellappah, S. M. Kandiahpillai and Rev. G. D. Thomas all contributed to the Tamil columns and served as editors at different periods. Now the Tamil pages are in charge of the Rev. G. D. Thomas.

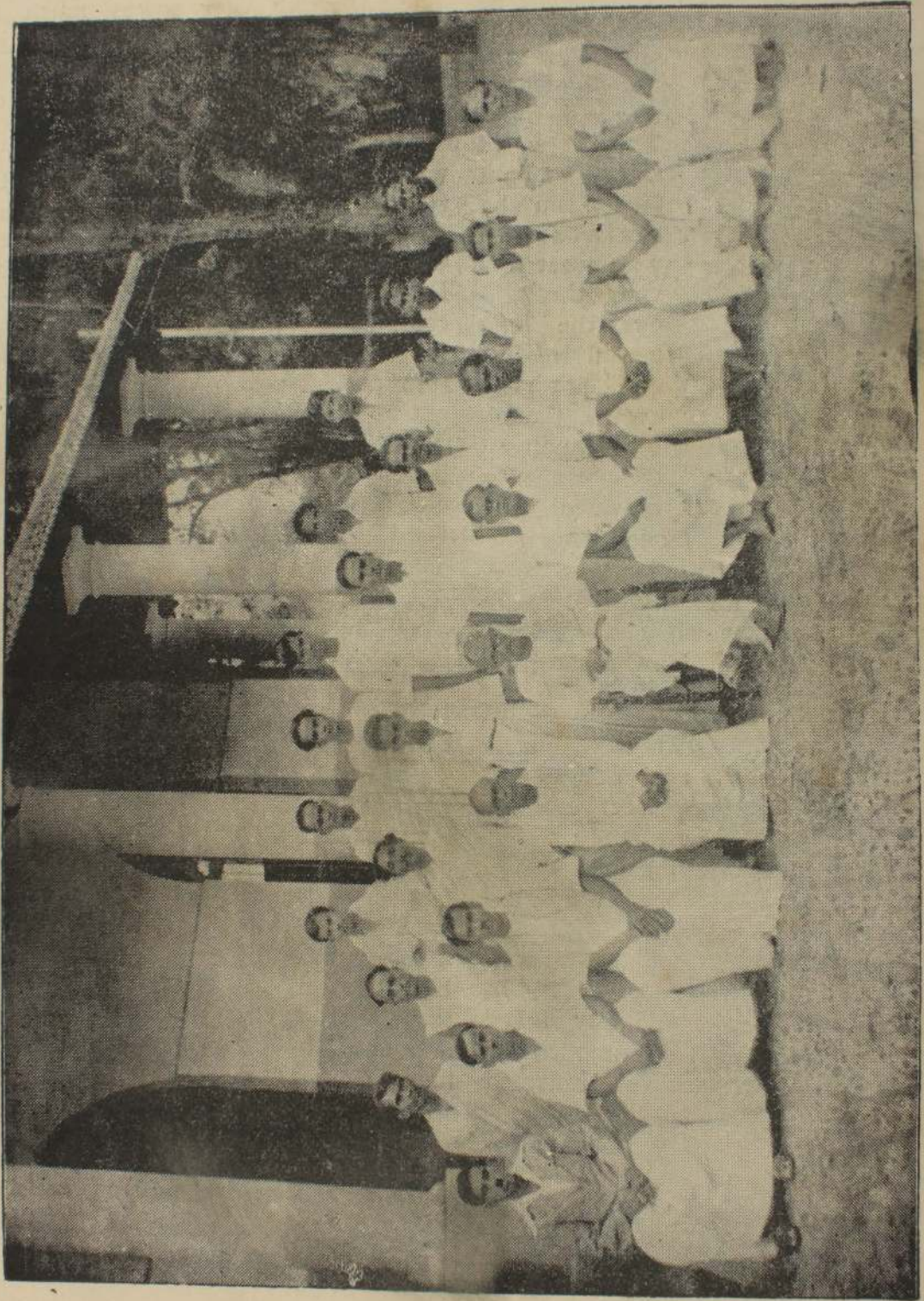


Rev. G. D. Thomas

On the death of Mr. Chelliah, the editorial responsibility has fallen on Mr. Lyman S.

Kulathungam, of Jaffna College, an old student of Mr Chelliah and one who has served a useful period of apprenticeship as Associate Editor with Mr. Chelliah, for a long time. There is little doubt that Mr. Kulathungam will keep up the traditions of the '*Star*' so that it may continue to shine and shed its lustre with increased luminance in the years to come.





The Staff of the American Ceylon Mission Press, Tellippalai.

249681

ARCHIVES





K.K.K.

*Dawn at Polgharwode*



ARCHIVES



University of Jaffna  
249681



Library



ARCHIVES





---

PRINTED AT  
THE AMERICAN CEYLON MISSION PRESS,  
TELLIPPALAI, CEYLON.

---