

The Hindu Organ.

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1927

NORTHERN PROVINCE
IN 1926.

II.

IN THE SPHERE OF EDUCATION SOME progress had been made during the year. Urban and Rural Education Committees had been constituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1920. The Hon. Sir P. Ramanathan was elected Chairman of the Jaffna Rural Education Committee. It appears that little work had been done by it during the year. In our opinion it is really cruel to saddle the old gentleman with the cares and duties of this office while he is already burdened with many and multifarious duties connected with the Legislative Council and the management of two big educational institutions, etc. The Jaffna Farm School has shown satisfactory progress during the year. Ten students received instruction in the School and with a view to make them proficient in practical agriculture each student was given one-tenth of an acre in the experimental garden to carry on cultivation on his own account. A scheme to impart agricultural instruction to minor headmen, teachers and sons of farmers had been drawn up during the year which it is proposed to put into operation in 1927. If this Farm School is to be of any use to the people of Jaffna and to be a means to popularize agricultural education in the District it should be imparted through the medium of the Vernacular. It is reported that there has been an increase in the number of children attending Vernacular schools while there has been a corresponding decrease in those attending English schools. The former in our opinion is due to the vigorous activity of the Hindu Board of Education and also to the present system of paying grant by which the number of teachers that can be employed in a school is made dependent on the average units of attendance during the year.

It is worthy of note that Jaffa is not a criminal district. The vast majority of criminal cases instituted in the Police Courts of Jaffa related to petty offences. There is no increase in crime cases except in the Jaffa Police area where during the first half of the year there had been a crop of knife cases. 80 out of 44 cases reported were cases of hurt with knife. This unusual increase of knife cases in this area was largely due to the disputes between the out-going and in-coming market renters of Grand Bazaar. Further developments of these acrimonious - disputes between rival factions had been prevented by the Police getting the leaders of the two factions bound over to keep the peace. The reputation of Jaffa as a non-criminal district has been detracted to some extent by the increase in the number of false cases. In 1924, 597 cases were reported in the Jaffa District of which 315 were considered true. In 1925, 305 out of 628 were reported true. In 1926, 292 out of 557 were reported true. This increase has been attributed to two causes. Firstly there is a growing tendency among certain class of litigants to add the charge of robbery to cases of assault in order to get the accused into more serious trouble. This attempt almost invariably fails and the quota of false cases increases. Secondly after the institution of the case the parties become reconciled and compound their cases out-side court. The complainant and his witnesses, in order to secure the discharge, of the accused either make obviously false statements or they go back on the evidence previously given by them. The Moolai caste dispute between the Velalabs and the Nalavals and the part played by Father Goanaprasad also find a place in the report. We hope that in the next report the Government Agent will not fail to mention the escape of the unfortunate Nalavals from the clutches of this priest and the splendid demonstration of his "altruism" towards the Nalavals in the civil court of Jaffa.

The year 1926 has been made memorable by the abolition of all tiddy and arrack taverns in the Juffia Peninsula and by the withdrawal of the licences for the sale of foreign liquor in the Rest-houses and hotels situated in the same area. "The number of arrack taverns," says the Report "fell from 12 to 6 and finally all the taverns north of the Elephant Pass were abolished by local option."

as from October 1." There were 20 toddy taverns at the beginning of the year. Of these it is said only 7 will be in operation in 1927. Further, 8 of these will be closed at the end of the present renting season. The only taverns that will be left in 1927 are the 2 toddy taverns at Delft, 1 at Suvuvt and 1 at Kandavalai in Karachchi. Now the Jaffa Peninsula is completely dry. But there is a note of wail in the Report that the Peninsula is being inundated by the flood of arrack and foreign liquor from outside Jaffna. Figures are given showing the comparative sales of arrack at Mankulam, Paliyankulam and Vidattativu taverns during the last quarter of the two years v/z 1925 and 1926. Further we are also given the number of gallons of brandy, gin and whisky that are brought into the Jaffa District from outside. From these figures the public is asked to believe that the work of the temperance has failed and further they are being artfully used to insinuate against the Prohibition Movement. What do the figures prove after all? They show that illicit sale has been on the increase and that it can thrive well under existing law and under the present Excise administration. At present any person is entitled to possess two bottles of arrack and any quantity of foreign liquor. Unless actual sale is detected it is now impossible to deal with the illicit trader. The arrack renter, the foreign liquor trader and the illicit dealer have taken full advantage of the situation and leave no stone unturned to earn their profit by bringing both arrack and foreign liquor within the easy reach of the consumer. Government stands by and exhibits a vacant look of helplessness. It is not correct to say that from October to December, 1926, 9588 gallons of brandy, gin and whisky came to Jaffa District consumers from outside. The consumer has little to do with it. He would be satisfied with the adam's ale and would have foregone his drink after the abolition of the taverns had not the illicit dealer stepped in and by his surreptitious activities brought arrack and foreign liquor within his reach. The Government need not shed crocodile's tears over the increase of illicit trade and the corruption of the preventive staff. The only manly alternative that is open to the Government, if it is sincere in its protestations for the welfare of the people, is to declare the possession of any intoxicating drug or liquor illegal.

GOVERNMENT AGENT
AND
TEMPLE BURGLARIES

During the year 1926, a series of temple burglaries have taken place in Jaffna. Even this year there are reports of their occurrence. The details in each case are of a similar type. The entry into the temple is made through the roof and the gold plate *Yanthram* which is placed underneath the image in the inner sanctuary is removed together with any valuable jewellery that the burglars can lay hold of, while the utensils and the other belongings of the temple remain untouched. The Police have not been able either to trace the culprits or to find any clue which can unravel the mystery hanging about the commission of these crimes. The theory of an organised gang has been discarded on the ground that the other articles in the temple remain untouched. This alone is not a sufficient ground for rejecting this theory. It may be that the burglars deliberately refrain from the removal of such articles on the ground that they cannot be easily disposed of or the possession of such articles by anyone will facilitate the detection of their crimes. This cannot be the case if the burglar is confined to the removal of the gold plate and the jewellery which can at any moment be converted into gold. But if the crimes cannot be attributed to the work of an organised gang it is quite possible that they are being committed by non-Hindu agencies actuated with motives other than profit. In 1921, there were a series of cases of arson committed on Cars belonging to temples in South India. A number of valuable Cars had been burnt before the culprit who was a non-Hindu was caught and punished by the authorities.

But the suggestion of the Government Agent that it is the work of the Hindu priests who were actuated to commit these sacrilegious acts with a view to enrich themselves is indeed preposterous. We do not know what grounds the Government Agent had in making this serious imputation against the Hindu priests. Does he think that the Priesthood is as lost to all awe and reverence to sacred things that they dare to commit

such sacrifices as we have never heard of hitherto? Is the Priesthood so avaricious of gain that they will not hesitate to lay iniquitous hands on the very images which they and their disciples worship? The burglaries have taken place not in one locality or in one division but throughout Jaffa. It is absurd to suggest that there is a conspiracy among the Priesthood to commit these crimes which are contrary to laws both human and divine.

We regret that this unfounded suggestion should have come from the responsible Head of the provincial administration in Jaffna and it should have found a place in a Government document. Probably the Government Agent has been misled by the Police who may have thought that they could conceal their incompetency in this matter by throwing the blame on the priests; or he has swallowed some cock-and-bull story served to him by some designing Mangalar. We invite the attention of the Jaffna representatives in Council to this paragraph in the Administration Report and request them to take such action as may be necessary in this matter.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

We invite the attention of the F. M. S.
Keralnagar Union and of the Salva public of
Keralnagar to the

KARAIKANGAR
HINDU ENGLISH SCHOOL

The energetic Headmaster Mr. A. Sita Rindia after giving an account of the work of the school during the past year makes special mention of its immediate needs in the last three paragraphs of the Report. It is the only English Hindu school at Karaikangar. Its further progress is handicapped by the lack of funds. We understand that the members of the Karaikangar Union at Malaya take considerable interest in the welfare of this School. This Union can make to better, safer and a more useful investment of their funds than in the development of this School and the opening of more Vernacular schools in their native place. In our opinion Karaikangar is the only island where the Vernacular education of the Hindu children is very largely in the hands of those who are strangers to the Siva religion.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

Vale Festival:—The Vale Procession started from the Hindu Temple in Sea Street at 8 15 a.m. on Thursday last, and proceeded along Main Street, Galle Face, and Galle Road to Bambalepitia. The return procession took place yesterday.

THE JAFNA HINDU COLLEGE:—This College, as usual, has been vacated on the 11th for the Nallure Kandaswamy Temple Festival, and will reopen on the 5th Sept. 1927.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S VISIT, AND JAFFNA STUDENTS' CONGRESS:—The following telegram has been received by Mr. H. Perinadasagam, Representative of the Jaffna Students' Congress, from Sri R. Jaggarajahar, "Gandhiji gives Ceylon one fortnight's rest half November. Start organising collections immediately". The collection referred to is for the Khadi Fund.

SRI RAMAKRISHNA MISSION: The Hon'ble Mr. M. M. Subramaniam, Member of the Legislative Council for Trincomalee, has asked the permission of the Council to introduce an Ordinance to incorporate the Sri Ramakrishna Mission, Ceylon Branch.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXAMINATIONS:—Last Friday's Gazette contains the Regulations for the London Chamber of Commerce Junior and Senior Commercial Education Certificates Examinations for 1928.

ACTION AGAINST COUNCILOR—The case instituted by Mr. S. Kanapathip, late member of the "Desabathan Piers" against the Honorable Mr. S. Natesan Aiyar, a record member of the Legislative Council for the recovery of the sum Rs. 1941/32 due as salary and money lent has been started on the suggestion of the Judge that the plaintiff should give a sum of Rs. 852/- in full settlement of his claim, and each party bearing his own costs.

LAW EXAMINATIONS RESULTS:—The following Tamil have passed the Proctors' and Advocates' First Examinations held in July, 1927. Proctors:—K. V. Nadarajah, K. Sivasubramanian, W. S. Thurai Raj. Advocates:—M. Chakravaramoorthy and M. Somanathan.

Promotion to Mr. B. BELLETT:—Mr. B. Bellelt, I. S. O., Office Assistant to the Colonial Secretary, has been promoted to Class IV of the Civil Service from June 16th, by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT CLERICAL EXAMINATION—The Clerical Examination for the selection of candidates for appointments in the Survey Department will be held by the Director of Education on the 16th inst at the old Technical School, Colombo. It is estimated that only 133 candidates have applied for competing for the Examination for only seven seats. It is probable that the high standard required has kept many back. Only candidates who have passed the Cambridge Senior, or Junior (Hons.) or those who have passed the S. L. C. Examination in the First Division, are allowed to compete.

Two Rupee Note Book:—The Treasury has now put into circulation two-rupee notes in booklets, consisting of 25 two rupee notes.

A CASE OF POISONING:—The case was taken up for trial before Mr. A. G. Ransström, Police Magistrate of Kaye in which *Kolga* Berglund, W. R. O. *Uusimäki*, of Kaye, charged a German named *Nagatomi Onelish*, of Viikharpo, with having administered poison to a person named *Veja Aramogun*, of Velsby. It would appear that a woman named *Nagatomi* lived in intimacy with *Onelish*, and attempted to poison her legal husband to collude with *Onelish*, who gave her the poison to be administered with food. The woman when arrested and charged revealed the plot to the Court. She died while on bail. The Magistrate found the accused guilty and bound him over to be of good behaviour for a period of two years in a sum of £ 300. He remarked in the course of his judgment that the poison was given by the accused to the complainant's wife to be administered to her husband, with a view to have him out of the way. It was a most serious offence which required commitment to the Higher Court and for which a sentence of ten years would be imposed. The accused had acted most foolishly, regard as of the consequences. It had fallen in love with the woman, it was open to him to elope with her instead of attempting to kill her husband. He had no previous convictions, and hence he (the Court) chose to save him from a sentence of imprisonment.

COURSES FOR TEACHERS FOR ENGLISH SCHOOLS:—The same Gazette contains the conditions and syllabus for the Examination for the selection of candidates for admission to the Government Training College, Colombo for training as Elementary School Teachers.

THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY:—The Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Budget will consider a proposal to raise the salary of the Governor of Ceylon. The Committee has to decide before the arrival of a new Governor. The present salary of the Governor of Ceylon is £7,000 including £1,600 entertainment allowance.

THEFT OF LIGHTHOUSE OIL.—At the District Court of Galle before Mr A P B on D. J. Mr J. B. Peters, a clerk of the Assistant Attendant's Office, Galle, was sentenced 9 months rigorous imprisonment on his conviction of guilty.

CHAKRA FOR EVERY VILLAGE:—At a public meeting held at Kandy, Mr. George D. S. addressed the gathering on the usefulness of the spinning wheel, and how it could be introduced into every village. He told the audience how Mahatma Gandhi conceived the idea of the spinning wheel, and how it was the introduction of the spinning wheel that had gone to make the Indian Village economical and independent. He promised to give each village in the district a "chakra". — O. M. L.

EASTERN ASSIZE:—As announced in our last issue, the first case that was taken up was one of forgery. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty against the accused and the Judge sentenced him to four years' hard, and the other two accused were discharged, as there was no evidence, direct or indirect, against them.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.—The Ceylon Government has at last decided that the P.W.D. should maintain and improve 400 miles of minor roads, of which the Northern, N. Western and Southern Provinces will get the largest share of attention.

PAYMENT TO MINOR HEADMEN:—The Selection Committee on the Budget has approved the payment of Rs. 45 per month to Koonias, and other headmen of the same grade, and Rs. 30/ and Rs. 25/ to those of the next two lower grades.

PERSONAL:—Mr A. Thein Rajah of Messrs Messergh and Tayler Estate and Visiting Agents, Seremban, F. M. S. will be proceeding to Caylon on three month's holiday by the S. S. "Kilano Mero" scheduled to sail from Singapore on the 19th instant. He will be staying at his residence at Alaveddy South Junction.

—Mr S Sourdurai has been appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Subordinate Service Association vice Mr. S Ponnuswamy, proceeding on long leave to Ceylon.

RE-ORGANISATION OF RAILWAY WORKSHOPS:—An Officer from the G. I. P. Railway, Bombay, has been selected by the General Manager of the Railway, in connection with recommendations of the re-organisation scheme of the Mechanical Engineers. The General Manager had that his scheme to be very costly, in view of the commercialisation of the Railway. The expenses in connection with this experiment will be met from the Colony's revenue, and is estimated to be about Rs. 15,000.

GOODS EXPRESS VERSUS PASSENGER TRAIN.—An accident of a very serious nature occurred at the Gimpaha Railway Station, when a goods express from the direction of Veyangoda crashed into a passenger train drawn up alongside of the platform and about to start for Colombo. It is not quite clear how the accident occurred, and it is remarkable, that not a single life was lost. The goods train, and two or three third class bogeys have been completely destroyed.

THE SANITARY ENGINEER:—"Mr. W. B. [illegible], Sanitary Engineering Expert, accompanied by Mr. Iwocoka has left for Jaffna and Colombo, with a view to studying the conditions relating to Malaria which is said to be very prevalent during the wet weather," says a Colombo Daily.

Letter To The Editors.

Quintined.

B. Britain and Japan is not interested in maintaining special political relations in China or in seeing China divided among different groups. This policy is based entirely on the superiority of the American finance and industrial production on a scale that will give Japan and England. A united American production in open competition with the other powers than divided and reactionary one. Japan and England trade and industries are equal competition or control are dependent upon special political privileges and on the maintenance of "spheres of influence." In other words, on the continuance of the unequal treaties. This changed attitude of America has no her economic interests but really brings Japan and England nearer. We can watch these developments and their effects the present discussion on naval disarmament between these three powers in Geneva. — Ibid.

Karaitivu Hindu English School.

The following is a full report of the working of the Karaitivu Hindu English School, read by the Head-master, at its annual prize-giving held on Saturday the 6th instant.

The school had its last prize distribution in July last and so this report covers the period of one year after that.

The school was started in 1885 and was registered in 1912 in spite of a good deal of opposition from interested parties. It came under the management of the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Hindu College in 1921 and the Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy has been the Manager since 1924. The E. S. L. O. class was started in 1923. In this connection it may be mentioned that the school would not have attained its present position if the Karaitivu Union of F. M. S. had not come to its rescue and helped it with funds for some years before its registration.

This year is a year of progress for the school on all sides. No more tangible proof is necessary to show the good work done in the school than the fact that in the last March Examination 6 with one in the last division came out successful of the 10 boys reading in the class. In 1923, 9 took up the E. S. L. O. Examination and 5 passed. In 1925, three passed out of 7, and in 1926, nine took up and 6 came out successful (with two in the first division).

STRENGTH.—In spite of the fact that the school is situated in a corner, the strength has been steadily increasing. There were 47 new admissions into the school this year. One noticeable feature this year is that many Hindu parents, realising the benefits of the training given to their children in this school, have sent their children to this school though the mission school happens to be nearer to them.

Great credit is due to the parents especially of Thangaludi Kovilam and other places who realising the harm done to their children in the matter of religious training in the mission school withdrew their children from there, paying in all cases school fees for a term and sent them to this and other Hindu Schools.

INSPECTION.—The inspecting officers were satisfied with the work in the school during the year. They stated "The school has done on the whole a very satisfactory work during the year." Cleanliness and discipline are good. "Hygiene is taught systematically and from what I can see the boys are interested in this subject."

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.—Temple Worship. In the morning, ten minutes are set apart for prayer when all the boys assemble and have a regular Puj. The whole arrangement for the Puj is in the hands of the boys, a day being set apart for each class. After the Puj is over, a short lecture on the life of great Saints is delivered by one of the teachers. There is a similar Puj after the day's work is over in the evening. Much attention is paid to temple attendance on Fridays and a teacher attends the Buvan Temple every Friday and most of the boys living near are encouraged to attend it regularly. One such boy is to be given a prize today for regular temple attendance.

READING ROOM.—Two reading rooms, one for the teachers and one for the students have recently been established. A committee is in charge of the Boys' reading room and the whole thing is managed by the boys who are members of the committee. Two school magazines—*The Boys' Friend* in English and the *Uraai Uraai* in Tamil are published regularly every Monday. These contain in addition to news of local interest and correct events of importance in the world contributions on various subjects by the boys.

LITERARY ACTIVITIES.—The school Senior and Junior Associations did very good work during the year. The boys took a good deal of interest in all the debates in the meetings.

SECULAR INSTRUCTION.—Almost all the readers introduced this year are books dealing with our Puranic Stories. History of Ceylon has been introduced in all the classes in place of British History.

As most of the boys are those who are to continue their education, after passing the E. S. L. O. Examination, Mathematics and Physiology and Hygiene have been introduced recently. There are being taught regularly in the Vith and E. S. L. O. classes and they are to offer these subjects as their optional in the E. S. L. O. Examination.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.—Much has not been done in this direction as the school is much handicapped for want of a suitable playground. Apart from the Physical Drill held almost every evening, the boys play Volley Ball and Foot ball in addition to some of our national games. The management of the outdoor games (including the Football) is in the hands of the Sports Committee (consisting of members selected by the boys from among themselves).

STAFF.—There is not much change in the staff during the year. I took charge of the school in January last after the sudden death of Mr. N. Kandiah. Mr. Kandiah took charge of the school in 1924 and managed it successfully till the sudden death of death snatched him away from us in

Continued on p.

America and the Anglo-Russian Conflict.

The Anglo-Russian conflict has brought the American commercial world nearer to Russia, earlier than most people had expected. This had naturally come as a disappointment to Britain, England when she backs relations with Russia had certainly counted upon the support of the other powers. Events which followed soon proved that imperial differences and commercial rivalry among the important powers are much stronger than the fear of "red propaganda." The Standard Oil Company of America has now entered into an agreement with the Russian-North Syndicate, which reserves to the American Company the products of Russian oil industry for distribution in the American and Oriental markets. The transaction is a severe blow to the Anglo-Persian and to the Shell group and to the British policy of declaring an economic boycott against Russia. The American Oil Company has plans ready for the construction of tanker stations at Port Said and Colombo for supplying Russia oil. Simultaneously comes the news of a 25 million dollar credit granted by the American bank house D. H. Hill & Co., to Moscow for the purchase of agricultural machinery.

—Hindu.

Continued.

January last. Mr. Kannappillai was appointed as one of the teachers recently. The school is highly fortunate in having on its staff, teachers who have always the welfare of the school in their heart and do all that is in their power to advance its interests.

FINANCE.—Ever since the new system of paying grants came into force, the school has not been able to support itself without a subsidy. For the year 1925-1926 it had to get a subsidy of Rs. 1500 and for the last year it was reduced by 20% and it got only Rs. 1200. This will be reduced by 20% every year and will be ultimately stopped in another 8 years. If steps are not taken to improve its finance, it may not be possible to manage the school without outside help, as suggested by the Department, the school fees were raised by adopting the minimum scale of fees fixed in the code and even then the school cannot be managed without a subsidy unless the number of students who are free and those who are paying school fees at concession rates are reduced. It may be a surprise to many if I say that the number of such cases is about 80% and in some cases even boys of parents who are in a position to help the school have been paying school fees at concession rates. As the school could not allow so many as 80% to be free or half free, steps are being taken by the board of Directors of the Hindu College to reduce the number, allowing only very poor and intelligent boys to be free or half free students.

Mixed School.—Steps were taken recently to have this converted into a mixed school as there is no English School near for the girls who want to have some English Education. The Department has accorded sanction to admit girls into this school and has promised to convert this into a mixed school, if a sufficient number of girls seek admission. It is to be noted with great regret that so far only two girls have sought admission. The management cannot have this converted into a mixed school, if sufficient number of girls do not seek admission into the school, as it is not possible to appoint a lady teacher for the sake of the two girls now reading.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS.—The present building is found to be insufficient even for the number of boys on the roll. It is not possible to admit any further boys without extending the present building. The furniture consists of old fashioned desks and benches and these will have to be replaced by single seats and desks. The school cannot extend the present building or put up any additional rooms to accommodate some of the larger classes unless some piece of land (2 or 3 lakhs in extent) is acquired close to the school.

A thing of great importance to place the school on a sound financial footing is the immediate establishment of a Vernacular School to act as feeder to this. If the strength of the school is to be substantially increased and if the interest of the Hindu children living in the neighbourhood of the school is to be safeguarded, a Vernacular school should be established close to the school. I appeal to the old boys of this school who are in the F. M. S. and in various places in this Island to come forward and help the management to establish a Vernacular School immediately. May I appeal to the Karaitivu Union in the F. M. S. to extend this sympathy and help the management with the Rs. 1500 promised by them last year or so, so that the piece of land close to the school (now available for sale) may be bought and a building put up there immediately for the use of the school?

If only the members of the Karaitivu Union and the old boys take it into their hands to help the school to have a Vernacular School established immediately, steps can be taken next to have this converted into a Higher Grade School. This can be done without much difficulty. If the school has accommodation enough for putting up further buildings, steps cannot be taken to have this converted into a Higher Grade School until the school is placed on a sound financial footing and until the strength of the school is increased by having a feeder Vernacular School.

NOTICE.

The undermentioned Government timber lying at the Jaffna Depot will be sold by public auction on the spot by the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna on Friday, September 2, 1927, at 8.40 a.m.:

- Lot I 125 Palu logs.
- Lot II 5000 Sawn planks.
- Lot III 2500 Sawn planks.

For further particulars, vide Notification in Government Gazette No. 7,500 of August 12, 1927.

J. D. SARGENT,
Conservator of Forests.

Office of the Conservator of Forests,
Kandy, August 8, 1927.
G 797.

Mahatma's Autobiography.

This, the latest instalment of Gandhi's Autobiography is taken from "Young India".

This chapter has brought me to a stage, where it becomes necessary for me to explain to the readers how this story is written from week to week.

"When I began writing it, I had no definite plan before me. I have no diary or documents on which to base the story of my experiments. I write just as the Spirit moves me on the lines of writing. I do not claim to know definitely, that all conscious thought and action on my part is directed by the Spirit. But on an examination of the greatest steps that I have taken in my life, as also of those that may be regarded as the least, I think it will not be improper to say that all of them were directed by the Spirit."

I have not seen Him, neither have I known Him. I have made the world's faith in God my own, and as my faith is indelible, I regard that faith as accounting to experience. However, as it may be said that to describe faith as experience is to temper with truth, it may perhaps be correct to say that I have no word for characterising my belief in God.

"AS THE SPIRIT PROMPTS ME"

It is perhaps now somewhat easy to understand why I believe that I am writing this story as the Spirit prompts me. When I began the last chapter I gave it the heading I have given to this, but as I was writing it, I realised that before I narrated my experiences with Europeans, I must write something by way of a preface which I did and altered the heading.

Now again, as I start on this chapter, I find myself confronted with a fresh problem. What things to mention and what to omit regarding the English friends I am about to write of is a serious problem. If things that are relevant are omitted, truth would be dimmed. And it is difficult to decide straightaway what is relevant, when I am not sure even about the relevancy of writing this story.

I understand clearer to day what I read long ago about the inadequacy of all autobiography as history. I know that I do not set down in this story all that I remember. Who can say how much I must omit and how much omit in the interests of truth? And what would be the value in a court of law of the inadequate *ex parte* evidence being submitted by me of certain events in my life? If some body were to cross-examine me on the chapters already written, I know that he might be able to shed much more light on them, and if it were a hostile cross-examination, he might even flatter himself for having shown up 'the hollowiness of many of my pretensions.'

I, therefore, wonder for a moment whether it may not be proper to stop writing these chapters. But so long as there is no prohibition from the voice within, I must continue the writing. I must follow the sage maxim, that nothing once begun should be abandoned unless it is proved to be morally wrong.

I am not writing the autobiography to please critics. Writing it is itself one of the experiments with truth. One of its objects is certainly to provide some comfort and food for reflection for my co-workers. Indeed I started writing it in compliance with their wishes. It might not have been written, had Joramias and Swami Anand not persisted in their suggestion. If, therefore, I am wrong in writing the autobiography, they must also share the blame.

FRIENDSHIP WITH EUROPEANS.

But to take up the subject indicated in the heading. Just as I had Indians living with me as members of my family, I had English friends too as living with me in Durban. Not that all who lived with me liked this. But I persisted in having them. Nor that I was wise in every case. I had bitter experiences in some cases, but these included both Indians and Europeans. And I do not regret the experiences. In spite of them and in spite of the loss of patience and worry that I have often caused to friends, I have not altered by conduct and friends have kindly borne with me. When my contacts with strangers have been painful to friends, I have not hesitated to blame them. I hold that believers who have to see the same God in others that they see in themselves, must be able to live amongst all with sufficient detachment. And the ability to live thus can be cultivated not by fighting shy of unsought opportunities for such contacts, but by holding them in a spirit of service, and without keeping oneself untroubled by them.

Though, therefore, my house was full when the Boer War began, I received two Englishmen from Johannesburg. Both were Theosophists, one of them being Mr. Kitchin of whom we shall have occasion to know more later. These friends too often cost the wife bitter tears. Unfortunately she has had many such occasions on my account. This was the first time that I had English friends to live with me as intimately as members of my family. I had stayed in English houses during my days in England, but then I conformed to their ways of living and it was more or less like living in a boarding house. Here it was quite the contrary. The English friends became members of the family. They adopted the Indian style in many matters. Though the appointments in the house were in the Western fashion, the internal life was mostly Indian. I do remember having had some difficulty in keeping them as members of the family, but I can certainly say that they had no difficulty in making themselves perfectly at home under my roof. In Johannesburg these contacts went farther forward than in Durban.

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Gujarat Floods Relief.

Every day brings a new wave of the loss to human life and property in the areas affected by the floods in Gujarat. According to the official estimates the figures of human casualties and those who are rendered homeless run into thousands in Ahmedabad alone. In Baroda the whole city was submerged in 10 feet of water for two days after which the water began to subside. Kathiawar has been completely cut off and isolated from the rest of Gujarat. Villages by hundreds have been wiped off and carcasses of animals are the only traces left to show that cattle existed. Total disorganisation of the telegraphic and train services made the situation worse and it is being relieved by the gradual resumption of these connections. The rich and the poor are alike sufferers in this disaster. The plight of the latter without roots to cover their heads and exposed to the inclemencies of the weather is sad, indeed. The situation in rural areas is worse than that of the towns. The stiff rings of the people in villages with their limited resources and poor habitations have been terrible. The stores of grain have become unfit for human use and the standing crops are totally ruined. This has rendered the villages utterly destitute and it will take quite some help to get them on their feet again. The necessity of organising relief in the shape of food, clothes and seed for sowing to reach them is urgent. An appeal of nature makes the whole world kin. The sufferings of the people of Gujarat and Kathiawar have evoked the sympathy of all classes of Bombay who dream of taking prompt measures to alleviate the distresses caused by a public meeting last Wednesday at a day's notice, presided over by His Excellency the Governor. The Servants of India Society, ever ready to respond to the call of suffering humanity has set its highly trained organisation under the inspiring President, Mr. G. K. D. Sarda, in motion to bring succour and relief to the hapless. The appeal for funds made at the Coway Jehangir Hall meeting was met by ready response. It is clear that an organised effort on a large scale will alone be able to cope with the unprecedented distress prevailing in the flood-stricken areas. One central agency with a number of organisations to collect funds should be entrusted with the task of administering relief. It will prevent waste and much overlapping of relief work.

—I. B. B. Aug 6.

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M. 55.

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H. 59.

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