

# The Hindu Organ.

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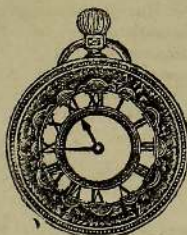
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Corrections: 1. In the last acknowledgment "Mr. V. Somasundaram, Seremban" should be "Mr. V. Somasundaram, Seremban".

2. In the last acknowledgment "Mr. A. Arunasalam, Batu Gajah" should be "Mr. A. Arunasalam, Teluk Anson".



## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1910

### THE MORNING LEADER AND ITS POLICY.

Up to Monday last, the *Morning Leader* had kept itself silent over the "election" question. It was the opinion of some people that that paper, in spite of the fact that it is owned by a brother-in-law of Dr. Fernando, would be holding the balance evenly between the two gentlemen whose names had been put forward for the Educated Ceylonese Seat. Others said that at the psychological moment the *Leader* would "speak out". It was, however, the opinion of all that if the *Morning Leader* would speak out at all, it would do so in favour of Dr. Fernando, the brother-in-law of the proprietor or proprietors of the paper, but would not say anything amounting to a misrepresentation of the sayings and doings of Mr. Ramanathan or his supporters. But expectations have been frustrated—hopes have been belied. The *Morning Leader* of Monday last publishes a two-column editorial containing insinuations and opinions not in keeping with its avowed policy of holding the balance evenly between rival candidates and rival sections of the Ceylonese community.

Neither the Editor nor anybody representing him was present at the Jaffna meeting. Then, the only safe course open to him to follow in commenting on what took place at the meeting was to go by the report of the proceedings furnished to him by Mr. W. D. Niles, Advocate, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Jaffna Association. The other reports published of the meeting were anonymous. But it suits the Editor to say that the reports are "contradictory of one another", "extraordinary", &c., &c. If this were all, we might pass over the matter as all Ceylon knows the connection of the *Morning Leader* with Dr. Fernando's people, but the paper has introduced into the Editorial of Monday a lot of irrelevant matter having no bearing at all on the matter in hand.

Mr. J. Hensman presided at the meeting as the President of the Jaffna Association. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Jaffna Association to meet Mr. Ramanathan. There was nothing extraordinary or against the rules governing the conduct of public meetings in Mr. Hensman's presiding over it, which was done by common consent. But the worst offence perpetrated by the *Leader* is the introduction of the religious element into the question. Nobody in Jaffna—not even Mr. Chanmugam or Mr. Chittambalam—introduced Mr. Phelps' name into

the proceedings of the meeting of the 16th Instant. The *Leader* trots out Mr. Phelps' name more than once and speaks of Mr. Ramanathan's "recent tour in association with Mr. Phelps in connection with his propaganda of the New Hinduism". We have heard of Mr. Phelps' touring in a few villages in Jaffna, but it has been reserved for the *Leader* to discover that in his tour he was associated with Mr. Ramanathan. We in Jaffna have not been able to make the discovery and that for a very good reason—Mr. Ramanathan and Mr. Phelps never made a tour of the villages in Jaffna.

In the editorial in question the *Leader* has belied all its traditions of the past. Is everything fair in politics as in love and war? For, it insinuates that Mr. Ramanathan was "haunted by something in his previous conduct which seemed to him to require the perversion of even a political meeting for the purpose of purging his conscience of religious violence to other men's faith". Now, even the Christian Missionaries in Jaffna will not accuse Mr. Ramanathan of doing "religious violence to other men's faith". What was said against him was that directly or indirectly he encouraged the starting of new schools which interfered with the attendance in Mission schools. That of all men in the world Mr. Ramanathan will do religious violence to other men's faith will be news to Christians who know him and his books on St. Matthew and St. John. That this insinuation was made deliberately we have not the slightest doubt. It is a plank in the platform of Dr. Fernando's supporters. We do not proceed to examine or expose the numerous other insinuations, innuendos and misrepresentations in the *Leader*, for want of space. But we make one special request of the *Leader*—to prove that Mr. Phelps made a tour of Jaffna in association with Mr. Ramanathan and Mr. Ramanathan was doing religious violence to other people's faith. Another request we make of it is to prove that Mr. J. H. Vanniasinkam said at the meeting that it was not a meeting of the Jaffna Association. The whole article of the *Leader* is founded on this statement attributed to no less a person than the leader of the Jaffna Bar. Will the *Leader* substantiate it?

Even Mr. J. K. Chanmugam and Mr. Edward Mather, brothers-in-law of Dr. S. C. Paul from whose Department Dr. Fernando retired lately, did not go to the length the *Leader* has gone in the leading article of Monday last. They are local gentlemen known to the conveners and organizers of the meeting and knew that they had a discerning local public to satisfy, and hence their action was confined to the calling in question of the procedure adopted at the meeting and to the reporting of the proceedings of a "mass meeting" held elsewhere. Of all men and all papers in Ceylon it is the *Leader* that speaks in season and out of season of a "Ceylonese" community, "Ceylonese" people &c., &c. It has always cried hoarse over the differences of caste, race, colour, and creed in Ceylon. Yet, while the supporters of Mr. Ramanathan have not said a word disparagingly of Dr. Fernando, the *Leader* has come out with insinuations against Mr. Ramanathan, Mr. Hensman, and others which they do not in the least deserve. One will reap what one has sown.

### PRIZE-GIVING AT THE HINDU COLLEGE.

The Annual Prize-Giving at the Hindu College came off on Saturday the 17th inst. at the College Hall. The Hall was tastefully decorated with greenery and a covered passage was put up leading from the roadside to the main entrance of the Hall, with an illuminated *Welcome* at the entrance. From an early hour visitors began to pour in. By 6-30 p. m. the Hall was quite packed, and many who came late had to be content with standing accommodation even which, however, was obtained with difficulty.

Precisely at 6-30 p. m. the President-elect, Mr. P. Ramanathan, K. C. C. M. G., arrived accompanied by Mr. V. Casippillai, Manager of the College, and was received at the entrance by the Principal and Messrs. A. Sapapathy and S. Tambyah Pillai (Secretary and Treasurer, respectively), to the College Board of Directors. On ascending the dais Mr. Ramanathan was garlanded by Mr. Tambyah Pillai amid deafening applause.

The proceedings began with the singing of a Devaram by Pandit Somasundaram. This over, the President called upon the Principal to read his Report. The Principal was greeted with cheers, and when these had subsided he read his interesting Report which we reproduce in another column.

The College Choir then sang a Devaram and this was followed by the Distribution of Prizes. There was a vast array of prize-books and a long list of prizes. One by one the prize-winners came in their turn and each received from the President his blessing together with the prize. Master A. R. Siammukham (Std. VIII) and Master V. N. Chelvadurai (Senior A), who got the largest number of prizes, were repeatedly cheered. After a little music again, there came the Addresses.

Mr. S. A. Edward, B. A., L. T., Headmaster of the Chetty Street High School, complimented the Principal and congratulated the College on the successful work done. He spoke in favour of scientific and industrial education which he said were quite necessary in the present day when the struggle for existence was so keen. He condemned in round terms the system of Results Grants, a system praised by few and condemned by all: the sooner it was done away with, he said, the better. Turning to the boys, he exhorted them to build up their character while they were still young. Without character education was nothing: character must therefore be cultivated from early youth.

The Rev. G. G. Brown, B. A., B. D., Principal of the Jaffna College, Vaddukodai, who next addressed the audience, congratulated the Institution on its progress and the position it took in the educational system of the land. He wished it every success. He was quite pleased with the Tamil act of politeness which the prize-winners had done very well: the *namaskaram* on coming and the bow when retiring. He wished he could introduce it into his Institution. He exhorted the boys to cultivate politeness and courtesy. The English vocabulary of politeness was brief—Sir, Madam, if you please, I beg your pardon, etc.—and he would ask every boy to remember it well and make free use of it. Turning to the educational system of Ceylon, he said he was glad that a Commission was likely to be appointed. He urged that on the Commission Jaffna should be duly represented. The peninsula should be represented also on the Educational Board—we ought not to be dictated to by others.

Rao Bahadur L. C. Williams Pillai, B.A., retired Inspector of Schools, Madras, said he was very pleased to be present that evening. He took great interest in the Institution and wished it all prosperity. It was an Institution that all should be proud of, as being a national institution maintained by the Jaffnese. It owed its existence and its stability among others to his friends Messrs. Nagalingam and Pasupati Chettiar, who, he was sorry, were so early cut off. For 18 years Mr. Nevins Selvadurai, his cousin, had been Principal. It was apparently an anomaly to see a Christian at the head of a Hindu Institution. But still there was not a single hitch, which showed on the one hand the cosmopolitanism of the conductors and the tact of the Principal on the other hand. He was glad he had a hand in the selection of the present Principal, Mr. Shiva Rau, who combined in himself the culture and the virtues of the East and the West, and was a worthy successor to Mr. Nevins. He said the present course of education in Ceylon with the Cambridge and London Examinations as the goal was most unsuitable and hoped for a speedy change for the better. The Results Grants system was doing the worst that could be done to the cause of education. He had condemned it times without number and condemned it now again. He was glad to note that religious instruction formed an important feature of the work done at the College. He had in the course of his official tours in all the different parts of the Madras Presidency come across a great many teachers and Pandits and others who all told him that in the midst of the numerous sectarian differences that divided the Hindus it was impossible to find a course of religious instruction which would satisfy all. He hoped, therefore, that learned men like the President would evolve a cosmos out of the chaos that seemed to prevail and chalk out a course of Hindu religious instruction that would appeal to all as satisfactory.

Mr. S. Kanakasabai, Advocate, next addressed the audience and in a brief speech congratulated the College on the good work done and on having secured as the President of the day a gentleman of such eminence as Mr. Ramanathan.

Mr. T. H. Crossette, M. A., Acting Principal of St. John's College, who followed, also congratulated the Hindu College and the Principal, and said that the relations between the two sister Institutions were most cordial. He referred to the Union Christian College which was likely to be soon an accomplished fact, and urged that the Hindus also should unite and make the Jaffna Hindu College their Union College. He condemned the present



system of grants-in-aid based on examination results. Turning to education in general, he hoped that the Education Commission that all expected to be shortly appointed would do some real good to the land—would do away with the abominable system of Results Grants, and abolish the Cambridge and London Examinations which Mr. Williams had condemned as entirely unsuitable, and pave the way for the coming University of Ceylon. He was quite against the exaltation of manual training; none of us were anxious that our sons should become *kanganis* and carpenters. He was glad the Director had made a stand for a literary course of education; he did not want culture to be banished from the land.

Mr. Ramanathan said that his presence on the occasion was a formal one and that therefore he did not intend to make a long speech. Mr. Williams had goaded him to action by raising a very important problem as to the teaching of religion in Hindu schools. He was very sorry to hear of the confusion of mind said to be prevailing throughout India with regard to this matter. He was afraid that Mr. Williams had made a mistake by accepting the opinions of English professors whose minds were confused by the intermingling of the ideas of the East and West put together. Mr. Williams as a good Christian had expressed his own ideas about religion and the Bible. He also venerated the Bible and his interpretation of it had been appreciated by men of culture on both sides of the Atlantic. The men consulted by Mr. Williams must have been only physically developed. Mere learning without spiritual culture made men conceited and such men could not realise the mysteries of godliness. They searched for God here, there and everywhere without knowing that He was in their hearts. Really spiritual men are found not in public places, but in the closet, safe from the influence of the senses. Corporeal men could not understand spiritual experience. If a corporeal man were to go to a spiritual man and ask him to teach religion, he would say there was only one religion and not many. That religion was the search for the God of all nations. Ordinarily men thought that God was outside this world, but God would come close to the sages advanced spiritually. The realisation of God was a matter of spiritual experience and therefore religion could be taught only by men having such experience. Then he gave an account of his experiences in America and referred to a visit he made to one of the Universities. He met in the University many brilliant scholars engaged in post-graduate work who asked him to tell them what the basis of Indian philosophy was. When they were told that it was based on spiritual experience, they wanted to know what spiritual experience meant. He explained to them that it was different from worldly experience. Worldly experience was the inference made by the mind through the senses of perception; spiritual experience was the experience acquired by the *atman* working through the mind when all sense perceptions were shut out. Religion according to Hinduism was entirely based upon spiritual experience. This view was confirmed by the sages of Judea also. Differences of opinion on religious doctrines were due to the fact that different teachers in describing the *undescribable* stated only the partial truths. The true *jnani* alone would realise the whole truth. The great spiritual truth of our religions were taught from time immemorial by the sages of India and handed on from generation to generation. Religion was the most living thing among the Hindus. Therefore he could not understand how those whom Mr. Williams had consulted had deluded him. Religion was a matter of spirituality. Hindus did teach religion and taught it in as simple manner as Jesus himself did. These doctrines existed from the foundation of the world.

He concluded by saying that he had great respect for the Missionaries, and that his early education was largely in the hands of honest and simple Missionaries like Barnes, Percival, Bliss, and others.

A vote of thanks was then proposed to the learned president by Mr. V. Casipillai, the energetic Manager of the Institution, and carried with acclamation.

Mr. C. K. Swaminathan, B. A., Vice-Principal, thanked the audience and the donors of prizes.

## LOCAL & GENERAL.

**THE HINDU COLLEGE, JAFFNA**—The Annual Grant-in-aid Examination of this Institution began on Monday last and will be continued till the middle of next week.

**THE MARRIAGE OF OUR COLONIAL SECRETARY**—Sir Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary of Ceylon was married on Saturday last in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral to Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, novelist and dramatist and the widow of the late Mr. Henry de la Pasture of J. P. of Monmouthshire. Only a few intimate friends of the bride and bridegroom were present at the wedding ceremony.

**A FATAL ACCIDENT**—On Monday night last there took place a pathetic death at the Nallur Girls' Boarding School under most painful circumstances. Miss Paulpillay, daughter of the late Mr. S. Paulpillay, B. A., Head Master, Wesleyan Mission School, Pt. Pedro and a niece of Mr. S. A. Edward B. A., L. T., Head Master, Chetty St. English High School, Jaffna, who was reading in one of the Senior Classes, while going with a kerosine oil lamp to one of the rooms, on Sunday night last, accidentally struck the lamp against the steps and set fire to her dress, which resulted in the complete burning of her dress and ultimately of her whole body. The best medical aid was given but it was to no purpose. The deceased was about 18 years old.

**A NEW TAMIL NOTARY**—We are glad to learn that Mr. C. J. Candappah, son of Mr. K. Sthanathan of Arayampathy, Batticaloa, and son-in-law of the late Mr. K. Sambunatha Vanniah, Mannunai, Batticaloa, has come off successful in the last Tamil Notary's Final Examination. We congratulate him on his success and wish him every success in his career.

**THE MOHAMMEDAN SEAT IN COUNCIL**—At a largely attended meeting of the Jaffna Mohammedans held on the 25th inst., the name of Mr. Abdul Cader, Proctor S. C., has been submitted to H. E. the Governor to be nominated as the Mohammedan member in the Legislative Council, when the Hon. Mr. Abdul Rahman retires.

**A LECTURE**—Mr. P. Ramanathan K. C., C. M. G., will deliver a public lecture on "Citizenship" at the Ananda College Hall, Maradana, at 5 P. M. today under the auspices of the Chinnamam Gardens Literary Association. Sir Joseph Hutchinson M.A. Chief Justice of Ceylon has kindly consented to preside.

**PERSONAL**—Mr. T. Kalliaspillai, Manager, Saivaprakasas Vidyalalai, Jaffna, who went to India, returned here last week.

—Mr. S. S. Subramaniam of the Surveyor General's Office, Kuala Lumpur, has come on leave to his native place, Thavady.

—H. E. Sir George Clarke, Governor of Bombay, opened last week "The Ranade Industrial and Economic Institute" Poona, which has been established in memory of the late Mr. Ranade, the great Indian High Court Judge and Social reformer of Bombay.

**INDIAN EXCISE DUTY ON TOBACCO**—The question of an Indian Excise duty on tobacco raised by Lord Morley will shortly be disposed of by the Local Government. The public bodies which have been consulted are strongly opposed to taxing the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco in this country. The Government of India's final decision will now be conveyed to the Secretary of State.

**SEQUEL TO THE FAMOUS TALAHENA MURDER CASE**—The case in which Miguel Mudalali, a very rich man of Negombo, stood charged with abetting one Andris, a habitual criminal, to murder Pedro Fernando, a Conductor in the estate of Inspector F. T. Coore, was taken up for trial before His Lordship Mr. Justice Grenier on September 19. Mr. V. M. Fernando, Acting Crown Counsel, prosecuted and the accused was defended by Advocates Messrs. Elliot and H. A. P. Sandrasegura. After six days' trial the accused was acquitted and discharged. It will be remembered that the wife and sister-in-law of the accused were sentenced to death about a year ago by Mr. Justice Wood Renton for murdering a servant girl named Carolina, which was afterwards remitted by H. E. the Governor in Council to twenty years' rigorous imprisonment.

**DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT**—A Tragedy in five acts entitled "Hermigild" or "The Two Growns" unfolding a thrilling story of Court intrigues, will be staged in the Hall of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, in the course of the week. The date of the performance will be announced by means of Posters. Well-known gentlemen of the town take part. Admission by tickets.

—Cor.  
**THE CASE AGAINST SAVARKAR**—The Home Government have notified to the Government of India that the French Government have waived their right to the extradition of Savarkar. In consequence of the receipt of this telegram Savarkar was placed on his trial at Nasik.

**A WRECK ENQUIRY AT KAYTS**—Mr. H. R. Freeman our Government Agent held an inquiry on the 17th instant into the circumstances that led to the stranding of the schooner "Annapuramammal" on a reef near Kovilam Point, Karadive. The schooner has been re-floated and is dry-docked to undergo thorough repair. The loss to the owner is estimated at Rs. 7000.

**OBITUARY**—We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. V. Sangarapilly, cigar-merchant, Vannarponne, which took place at his residence, yesterday evening. The deceased gentleman was the uncle of Mr. V. S. Ponnambalam, Proctor S. C., and of Mr. M. Valanthapilly, cigar merchant, Vannarpannai.

—It is our painful duty to announce the death of the eldest daughter of Mr. C. Valanthampilly, Government pensioner, Kopay, which took place at the latter's residence at Kopay. The deceased lady who was suffering for a long time from anaemia succumbed on Friday last in spite of the best medical treatment.

## DISTRICT NOTES.

### MULLAITTIVU.

25-9-10.  
On circuit—Mr. H. R. Freeman, Government Agent, N. P., Jaffna, accompanied by Mr. M. S. Ramalakshari, Chief Interpreter Modliar, was here on Friday on his way to Kokkila on circuit.

Personal—Mr. VanCuylenberg, Inspector of schools, after inspecting the town school, left this to his station.

—Mr. Workmeister, Inspector of Post Offices, came down here on inspection duty.

Our A. G. A.—Mr. A. W. Seymour, accompanied by Mr. V. Chinnatambay, Kuchcheri Modliar, is expected here on the 29th instant.

—Cor.

### TRINCOMALEE.

22-9-10.  
Mr. K. Chinniah, Chief Clerk, Treasury, F. M. S., Kuala Lumpur, brother of Mr. K. Arumugam, Head Master, Hindu School, Poly west, and cousin of Mr. K. Iyengarpillai, Medical Officer, Mutur, and son-in-law of Mr. Chinnatambay, popularly called "Punkady Chinnaveer", Alway, came to his native place, Poly, on short leave with Mr. Singabaku, son of his brother, the late Mr. Kovinder, surveyor, Singapore.

—Cor.

### SINGAPORE.

19-9-10.  
Weather—Singapore being situated very near the Equator, it is always natural to have excessive heat; but such heat would, anyhow be followed by heavy fall of the rain, for, the water from the surrounding sea, no doubt, evaporates to such an extent, that it produces rain in a very short time.

The Medical School—Recently two Jaffna girls have joined the school for the full course. We have in all, four lady-students among us, of whom one is a Eurasian, the other three are our Jaffna Christians. We wish them every success in their course of study, and hope they would prove to be the real daughters of the soil.

We understand that the Government is taking steps to prevent any Tamil student from obtaining the maintenance allowance given by the school, in future, and that, to effect this measure successfully, the Malay language is going to be made compulsory for admission to the school.

Dr. F. Dent, M. S. C. C., Ph. D., F. P. C., the lecturer on Chemistry and Physics in this institution, has proceeded to England on twelve months' leave.

The "Straits Standard"—A weekly Anglo-Tamil journal bearing this name has been started by some of our countrymen in Penang. We hope that the proprietors of this paper, would try their best to continue its publication, as it would be a good medium to bring before the public, the wants of the Tamils, resident in these parts of the world.

The Malay Theatre—In addition to the many places of sleepless joviality, which this busy town possesses, there are also Malay theatres which attract crowds every night. The Malay theatre has prudently included within itself the essential things of the Parsee, the Indian and the English theatres, and thereby, suits to the different tastes and fashion of all its admirers. The plays staged are stories selected from the Arabian Nights and some other Hindustani plays.

Kelantan—The British adviser of this newly annexed State, says in his report that, in accordance with the Anglo-Siam Treaty of 1909, all rights of Suzerainty, protection and administration, possessed by Siam, were transferred to the hands of the English. The British Government has now, the right to appoint an adviser to the Rajah of Kelantan, who undertakes to follow his advice in all matters of administration, other than those touching the Mohammedan religion and Malay custom.

The Kelantan Malay, is tall and fresh more built than the Pahang Malay, and he is capable of long continual manual labour. To him, the mere sight of the European is a matter of great surprise, and he appreciates highly, the European, by using the well-known Malay expression "Orang Puteh Manya Pandeh" meaning the whiteman is very clever.

The coconuts, the chief product which Kelantan produces, exceeds those of any other State, both in quality and quantity. We were pleased to see some of these big coconuts brought for the Agricultural Show held last month.

—Cor.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A KNOTTY QUESTION.

The Editor,  
"Hindu Organ".

Sir,

People in these days speak of "character," and "high character" also. Some Christians appear to be the sole depositaries and repositories of that commodity—character. But what will they say of a man who is born and bred in a particular religion, changes it on the eve of his marriage for the religion of the millionaire girl whom he marries, and then reverts to his former religion after doing penance—all within a space of about two or three years. I put forward an abstract case and solicit the candid opinion of local writers on "character." It is possible that the conviction on both occasions is honest, but is it probable? If a concrete case of this kind takes place what will be said of the man?

A Catholic.

### THE EDUCATED CEYLONESE SEAT.

The Editor,  
"Hindu Organ".

Dear Sir,

I read very carefully the two productions over the names of "a Voter" and "Liberal" that appeared in the "Jaffna Catholic Guardian" of the 24th of this month, and I wondered as to whether I would be far wrong if I pronounced them as two rhapsodies that emanated from the pen of one or two who ignore entirely the signs of the times, and expect us to behave as men of the medieval times, and carry into effect the wishes of those who arrogate to themselves the unquestionable right of thinking for us. They have conveniently forgotten that the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for the Colonies has conferred the franchise upon the Educated Ceylonese, and not upon the masses who are always inclined readily to grant that the sacred right of thinking for them on every matter involving the welfare and the best interests of the country is vested in men who are more judicious in the land, and who can possibly have no permanent interest in it. They find it utterly impossible to forgive the Jaffna Association simply because it did not remain inert and give a full opportunity to those who are anxious to misrepresent matters with a vengeance, and flout the moral, mental, and social qualities of others who in their infallible opinion might prove, in the course of time, to be ideal representatives of the Educated Ceylonese in the Council. Base and baseless insinuations with which the letters in question seethe can produce no beneficial results. What the Jaffna Association aims at, just as any other organization in the Island will do, is to do all it can to secure an individual to the Council, who will not sermonize on moral philosophy at the Council Board, but who will help the Government to solve the several complex problems that may crop up from time to time affecting the vital interests of the Island, with his mature, vast and varied experience, extending to upwards of a period of forty years, and thereby vindicate indisputably that we the Educated Ceylonese are more than fit to enjoy the great privilege which His Gracious Majesty has granted to us. This is a moment when we cannot possibly depend upon this or that person's reputed high character, and try experiments which may result in a manner most detrimental to the interests of the country. In this age foul tongue will not pronounce any to be the embodiment of purity. So the less we talk of character and such things the better. "Liberal" asks: "would it not have been the proper thing to bring forward such an important question, at the first instance, before a general meeting?" A general meeting of whom? Is it of the few school masters and boys who were deputed with a mandate to do their level best to demonstrate that the Jaffnese were divided in their opinion, or is it of the Ricksaw Wallahs and horsekeepers who were left behind in the esplanade by those who attended the meeting at the Ridgeway Memorial Hall; or, I emphatically ask, is it of the eligible voters who, and who alone, are to have a voice in the election. If of the voters, the fact cannot be disguised that that body of men was amply represented at the Hall that evening.

Again "Liberal", in the concluding portion of his letter, says "I am thoroughly persuaded that all the racial prejudice and religious fanaticism that is so much in evidence at present in Jaffna is the result of the misguided zeal of the few interested committee members of the Jaffna Association." Can misrepresentation go any further? It is very easy to make such silly statements, but it is impossible to succeed in hoodwinking the Educated Ceylonese who have outgrown the medieval times when every rubbish that was written by irresponsible persons was believed in its entirety. Why talk of "racial prejudice" and "religious fanaticism" with which the Committee members have absolutely nothing to do. I am a member of the maligned committee. I have resided for upwards of sixteen years in some of the Kandyan towns, and the coast towns, such as Moratuwa, Kalutara &c., and I have known the Sinhalese most intimately. My countrymen are found all over the Island, and they live harmoniously with the Sinhalese and other races. Here is a mischievous attempt to show to the other races that we are putting forward Mr. Ramanathan because he is a Tamil. I have to enter my humble but emphatic protest against this attempt. Further I have in our family Hindu and Roman Catholic members, and I have given this matter my earnest and anxious consideration for weeks, and I have come to the conclusion that, considering all in all, we should not fail to avail of the services of Mr. Ramanathan when he has condescended to place them at our disposal. In the event of Mr. Ramanathan's services not being available, I will be the foremost to declare in favour of a Sinhalese countryman of mine, as the next best person can at present be found only in the Sinhalese community. In Jaffna, as in every other country, there are racial prejudice and religious fanaticism, but the vast majority of the educated Tamils who will participate in the election, I can emphatically assert, will not be influenced in the least by any stupid prejudice or fanaticism. Finally, I hope that the Sinhalese community will not misunderstand us in consequence of the effusions of some irresponsible persons who do not seem to realize for a moment what incalculable mischief they are causing by such writings.

Jaffna,  
Sept. 28th, 1910.

C. Mutiah.



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