



The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1910.

MR. EDWARD MATHER AND THE "MASS MEETING".

We publish in another column a characteristic communication from Mr. Edward Mather, containing a belated explanation of the attendance at the "mass meeting", to remove, as he says, any misunderstanding. He is wroth that any mention should be made of him in newspapers or that any of his statements should be challenged. We need hardly remind Mr. Mather that a person who is desirous of keeping himself clear of newspaper controversy should shape his actions in such a manner as to merit that distinction. Considering the leading part which Mr. Mather has taken and is taking in connection with the election campaign on behalf of one of the candidates, he has very little reason to complain that his name has been "dragged" in these columns.

Mr. Edward Mather comes out more than two weeks after Mr. A. Sapapathy made the challenge in the columns of the "Morning Leader" to name a dozen respectable persons who attended the so-called mass meeting, with the lame explanation contained in the communication in question. As our readers are aware, the "Morning Leader" of the 17th ultimo published a telegram stating that a mass meeting was held in the Esplanade and passed a resolution unanimously in favour of Dr. Fernando's candidature for the Educated Ceylonese Seat, simultaneously with the public meeting duly convened under the auspices of the Jaffna Association and held at the Ridgeway Hall in favour of Mr. P. Ramanathan. There having been no notice of any meeting to be held on the Esplanade, and those who took part in the Ridgeway Hall meeting having been also not aware of the holding of such a meeting as that alleged to have been held so close to the Hall, before they read of it in the columns of the "Morning Leader", more especially as the personages who were said to have taken the most prominent part in it were present during the greater part of the regularly constituted meeting, Mr. Sapapathy, as one of the Secretaries of the Jaffna Association, wired to the "Leader" on the 18th ultimo, questioning the accuracy of the proceedings of the "mass meeting" as published by our contemporary, and challenging the sender of the telegraphic report to name even twelve respectable persons who attended that so-called meeting. Mr. Sapapathy was not then aware that Mr. Edward Mather was the sender of the telegram in regard to that "mass meeting." If copy of this telegram was not sent to the "Ceylon Independent" which published it in its issue of the 19th ultimo as having been sent by Mr. Edward Mather, the public would still be in the dark as to who sent that famous message.

The public would have naturally expected Mr. Mather to promptly take up Mr. Sapapathy's challenge and name a dozen respectable persons or voters who attended the so-called meeting, in the columns of the paper in which the challenge was made. It is very easy to do it, if the meeting was attended even by so many respectable persons. But Mr. Mather waits more than two weeks to take up the challenge, not in the columns of the "Morning Leader" but through the "Hindu Organ". Although we could with every show of reason refuse to publish Mr. Mather's communication and ask him to send in his explanation in regard to the meeting to the paper in which the challenge was made, yet we give insertion to it most gladly so that the public may have an opportunity of judging through the "Hindu Organ" what kind of defence he has.

Does Mr. Mather, even after the lapse of some weeks, directly take up the challenge? He is still fencing and quibbling. He "is prepared to name a dozen qualified voters who attended the meeting". But does he actually do it as the public have a right to expect of him? He will only name them "before a board of two competent judges, one of whom shall be named by him". What a strange proposal is this! The "mass meeting" was a mysterious one, having come into existence

without any notice. If it was attended by 300 persons, including a very large number of qualified voters, Mr. Sapapathy's challenge could have been promptly taken up and the names published once for all, instead of two weeks' waiting and tergiversations. The public are the best judges and they are sure to come to a correct and proper conclusion in this matter.

Mr. Mather complains that in the last number of the "Hindu Organ", that is of the 28th ultimo, his name had been "dragged coupling it with those of other gentlemen". We have already shown that he should be the last person to make such a complaint. Before his name appeared in the "Independent" as the sender of the telegram referred to by us, nobody ever "dragged" him into this controversy. Even Mr. Sapapathy in the long telegram which he sent on the night of the 16th ultimo reporting the proceedings of the Ridgeway Hall meeting, did not mention a word of Mr. Edward Mather, though the former knew perfectly well that the latter was present at the meeting with the object of disturbing the harmony of its proceedings. The "Hindu Organ" article complained of, which was written and published during our absence from Jaffna, does not contain any statements which are not true or to which exception could be taken. We endorse every word of that article. We cannot understand what personal insinuations does it contain which are untrue or unworthy of the Editor.

The sting of Mr. Mather's communication is contained in the last paragraph, in which he asks Mr. Sapapathy to remember practically that the latter owes his seat in the Local Board to the former's support and canvassing of votes. Mr. Sapapathy is not so ungrateful as to deny the support which he received from so many of his friends including Mr. Edward Mather to retain his seat in the Local Board, when a vigorous attempt was made on the occasion of the last election to oust him from it. But we would ask Mr. Mather also to remember that Mr. Sapapathy succeeded in being returned after a keen contest as a Member of the Local Board in the election of December 1907, in spite of Mr. Mather's opposition and voting against him.

THE "MORNING LEADER" AND THE EDUCATED CEYLONESE SEAT.

The Editor of our contemporary of the "Morning Leader" has placed himself in a most embarrassing position by the necessity of his being obliged to advocate the cause of a candidate for the educated Ceylonese Seat, owing to the latter's connection with that paper as one of the proprietors or a close relation of the proprietor or proprietors. Although the reason for the perverse attitude of our contemporary is well-known to the public, yet it will not admit it and poses as the most disinterested exponent of public opinion in Ceylon in regard to this question. No one would blame the Editor if he would openly advocate the cause of Dr. Fernando, as he is expected to do, but when he says that he does not support the candidature of the Doctor but is only doing his best to prevent Mr. Ramanathan, an undesirable person, from being elected for the educated Ceylonese Seat, his sincerity is questioned and his protestations become the subject of ridicule.

Mr. Ramanathan opened his electoral campaign in Jaffna under the happiest auspices and most encouraging circumstances. It was not in the power of any one to gainsay the importance of the Ridgeway Hall meeting, held under the auspices of the Jaffna Association, which unanimously declared Mr. Ramanathan to be the fittest person to represent the Ceylonese in the reformed Legislative Council. But our contemporary has made vain endeavours to pick holes in the procedure adopted at the meeting, in the belief that the public could be deluded by such tactics into believing that it was not after all so important and powerful an organization which expressed itself in favour of Mr. Ramanathan as they believed it to be. The notice convening the meeting expressly stated that it was convened under the auspices of the Jaffna Association and it was signed only by the Secretaries of the Association. The President of the Association took the Chair at the meeting by common consent by virtue of that position. These are indisputable facts which would show that it was a meeting of the Jaffna Association to which the general public were invited. The contention of the "Morning

Leader", therefore, that Mr. Hensman had no right to occupy the Chair without having been voted to it, is absurd and is on the face of it not made seriously but set up to bolster up a bad cause.

The statement attributed to Mr. Vanniasingam at the meeting that it was not a meeting of the Jaffna Association but of the general public was made much of by our contemporary to maintain the alleged irregular procedure adopted at the meeting. The "Leader" said that the "Morning Star" was its authority for stating that Mr. Vanniasingam made that statement. But our contemporary of the "Ceylon Patriot" while denying that Mr. Vanniasingam made any such statement pointed out in a recent issue that the report of the "Morning Star" was expressly stated by it to have been copied from the "Morning Leader" itself. This should have a crushing effect on our daily contemporary. But it comes out again with an ingenious, but insincere plea that the very fact of the "Morning Star" copying the report of the "Leader" is conclusive proof that its report contained a true account of the proceedings of the meeting. This process of reasoning is, indeed, very subtle and clever, but we ask in all seriousness whether the intelligent public would be convinced by it. Our contemporary is only betraying the untenable and unenviable position he holds, without in any way improving or benefiting the cause he has espoused.

The most astounding statement our contemporary has yet made is contained in its issue of the 15th Instant in noticing the letter of Mr. John de Silva on this question. "The one point of difference", says the "Leader", between ourselves and Mr. de Silva is that, while he supports a particular candidate, we support none, but only intervene to state our objections against one whom we have many reasons to consider no longer equal to the task which the interests of the educated Ceylonese demand". The italics are ours. Can insincerity on the part of an Editor go further? Does our contemporary think that any strange assertions made by it will be accepted by the public as true? Does the Editor expect the Ceylonese to believe him when he says that all his attacks on Mr. Ramanathan and the criticisms of the meetings held in his favour have not been intended to support the candidature of Dr. H. M. Fernando? Mr. Ramanathan and Dr. Fernando are the two candidates for election to the educated Ceylonese Seat. If the Editor of the "Morning Leader" considers Mr. Ramanathan to be unfit to represent the educated Ceylonese, why has not our contemporary had the courage or sincerity to state whether Dr. Fernando is better qualified or not for the educated Ceylonese Seat in Council? We earnestly hope that our contemporary will now come out with its views of Dr. Fernando.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—Partial showers of rain fell all over Jaffna yesterday noon and last night.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT.—Mr. Freeman, who went to the Island on circuit on Saturday last, accompanied by the Chief Mudaliyar, has returned.

THE POLICE COURT, JAFFNA.—Mr. V. Casipillai, Crown Proctor, Jaffna, will act as Police Magistrate, Jaffna and Malakam, from October 20 to 23, 1910 inclusive, during the absence of Mr. G. F. Roberts on leave.

A PUBLIC LECTURE.—Under the auspices of the Jaffna Hindu College Literary Union, Mr. J. W. Small, F. G. S., Principal, Victoria College, will deliver a public lecture on Thursday the 27th inst. at the Hindu College Hall. The subject will be "Are we educating on right lines?"

KANKESANTURAI HINDU ENGLISH SCHOOL.—The annual Prize-giving of the above school came off on Sunday, last. Mr. G. Shiva Rau, B. A., L. T., Principal, Hindu College, presiding. There was present a large and respectable audience.

TABACCO FOR TRAVANCORE.—The B. I. S. S. "Landra" is expected to arrive in Kankesanturai on the 19th instant to take about 5000 bales of tobacco for Alleppy. This is the first consignment of Jaffna tobacco sent to Travancore after the settlement of the import duty reducing it finally to the old rate of Rs. 90 per candy and forms part of the old tobacco of last year which was shut out owing to the imposition of the prohibitive duty of Rs. 900 per candy. There remains yet in Jaffna about 5000 bales more, out of that tobacco, awaiting to be sent by native vessels early next month.

ARITHMETIC FOR STANDARD IV.—We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a copy of Arithmetic for Standard IV., prepared to suit the new requirements of the Government Code, by Mr. S. A. Edward, B. A., L. T., Headmaster, Chetty St. High School, Jaffna. We heartily commend the use of this book in all the Government Grant-in-aid schools.

THE ARRIVAL OF A MISSIONARY.—The Rev. Mr. J. H. Dickson of the American Mission, who went home on furlough last year is expected to return to Jaffna tomorrow with Mrs. Dickson and family. He is one of the most popular and broad minded Missionaries who have ever worked in this Province, and his arrival, therefore, is hailed with joy by the people of Jaffna without distinction of creed. It is intended by the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Dickson to meet them at the Tellippalai Railway stopping place on their arrival tomorrow night and escort them to the Mission House at that place, where an address of welcome will be read. Mr. and Mrs. Dickson received a grand demonstration of farewell when they left Jaffna last year.

MATRIMONIAL.—The marriage of Mr. S. T. M. P. Sithamparanatha Chettiar, son of the late Mr. S. T. M. Pasupathy Chettiar, Landed Proprietor and Treasurer of the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabha and of the Jaffna Hindu College, with his cousin Thiravangadavally Ammal, only daughter of Mr. V. S. Guranathapillai, Retired Assistant Conservator of Forests, S. India, and niece of Mr. V. M. Saravanamuttu, Proctor and M. M. C., Kandy, and of Mr. V. M. Kanagaretnam, Cashier, Railway, Kuala Lumpur, takes place on Saturday the 22nd instant at the residence of Mr. Saravanamuttu in Kandy.

—Preparations are going on in a grand scale at Chunnakam for the celebration of the marriage of Mr. R. Kanagasundran, Asst. Inspector of Schools and formerly of the tutorial staff of the Jaffna Hindu College with Basamma, daughter of Mr. S. Modr. Mootatambu, brother of Mr. S. Modr. Visuvappa, Registrar of marriages &c., Tellippalai, on Saturday the 22nd inst.

PERSONAL.—Mr. C. Coomaraswamy C. C. S., is acting as Office Assistant to the Government Agent, Eastern Province, and Additional Police Magistrate, Batticaloa, from October 12 to 22, 1910 inclusive, during the absence of Mr. H. W. Milligan C. C. S., on leave.

—Mr. E. B. Denham C. C. S. Superintendent of Census, is in Jaffna in connection with Census work.

THE LATE MR. J. N. SANDRASAGRA.—We deeply regret to have to record the death of this gentleman, retired Superintendent of Minor Works, Jaffna, which occurred on Friday evening last at the ripe old age of 81. He was a nephew of Chevalier Savirimuttu Mudaliyar, Chief Mudaliyar of the Jaffna Kachcheri, and son of Nicholas Mudaliyar of the Jaffna Customs. He became Superintendent of Minor Works in the time of Mr. Russett, Government Agent, Northern Province, and continued to hold the office till about ten years ago, when he retired on a pension of Rs. 1,200 per annum. He enjoyed the confidence of Sir William Twynan and Mr. Jevors and was held in great esteem by the public. Mr. Sandrasagra leaves behind three children, the eldest of whom is Mrs. Vanniasingam, wife of Mr. J. H. Vanniasingam, leader of the Jaffna Bar, the other two being Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasagra and Mr. J. N. Sandrasagra, Advocates, to whom we offer our heart felt condolence on the loss they have sustained.

THE LATE MR. V. ARUMUGAM.—It is also our painful duty to record the death of Mr. V. Arumugam which occurred on Thursday last after a brief illness. He was the elder brother of Mr. V. Casipillai, Crown Proctor of Jaffna, and father of Mr. A. Cathiravelu, Proctor Supreme Court and Notary public, and Member Local Board, and of Mr. A. Canagaretnam, Proctor, Supreme Court, and Editor and Proprietor of the "Ceylon Patriot". The late Dr. A. Ponnambalam M. B. C. M. also was one of the sons of the deceased gentleman. We offer our sincere condolence to the sons, brother, and other relations of the deceased.

A CASE OF MURDER IN DELFT.—A murder is reported from Delft. A man of the Palla caste is said to have met his death by violence. But the death was reported to have been due to accident. Mr. Allegaocoon, the Magistrate, having, however, proceeded to the Island promptly held the inquiry on the spot. Seven persons, including the Vidhane of the place, were arrested and brought to Jaffna and are on remand. Mr. Daniel, Superintendent of Police, also subsequently proceeded to Delft to work up the case. The further inquiry was to take place at Kayts yesterday.

