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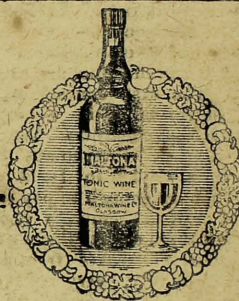
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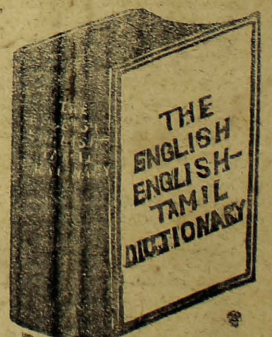
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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1916.

A SOUND MIND IN A SOUND BODY.

According to Locke, who lived in England in the seventeenth century, 'a sound mind in a sound body' ought to be the goal of education in a country. We do not know whether the physique of English boys at the time of Locke's laying down such a dictum was far from being satisfactory; but whether it was so or not, no one will gainsay the dictum itself. Men and animals in the wild state are afflicted with few bodily ailments; physical weakness is almost unknown among them. Untimely deaths, we believe, are the results of deadly wars waged among them in the course of their struggle for very existence. If these do not tear each other to pieces for food, they will in the natural course live almost to the maximum age fixed by nature.

But it is when man emerges from savagery to civilisation that he is in danger of developing his mind at the expense of his body. And if exclusive attention is paid to the development of the mind and none to the body, both are in danger of becoming fagged very quickly. On the contrary, it is a known fact that people who pay attention to their bodies and minds at the same time live to a good old age in civilised society. Therefore any educational system, worthy of the name, should insist on both the physical and mental culture of the school-going population—the religious or moral culture being left to the respective denominations concerned.

Now casting our eyes on the physical condition of our school pupils, we cannot but be struck with their physical degeneracy. The causes for this state of things are not far to seek. The pupils in our schools and colleges have to study a large number of subjects in a foreign language; and they have to become proficient in it before they can hope to understand the books they read and answer their examination questions with a fair amount of accuracy. All this means a fearful expenditure of brain or nervous energy. Therefore the necessity for physical exercise going hand in hand with that of the brain becomes quite imperative. The Department of Education, Ceylon, has not, so far as we are aware, stirred itself to give encouragement to the physical culture of Ceylon pupils. Of course many boys take a lively interest in foot-ball and cricket games. But in a college of 500 or 600 boys these would form but a very small fraction of the total number. This is not as it should be. Insistence ought to be made on schools and colleges providing itself with gymnastic apparatus, as is the case in Indian schools and colleges, and even marks should be assigned for proficiency in physical culture. Unless this is done, physical exercise will be a matter only for writing learned essays on and not the actual means for giving strength of body to school children—a crying necessity of the day.

In this connection we would beg to draw the attention of the Government to another equally crying necessity, we mean a regular medical inspection of school children. We have great pleasure in quoting the opinion of "The People's Opinion" of Trivandrum on this question. In our Indian contemporary:—

In New South Wales, Government have introduced recently a measure providing for the medical inspection of the school children.

The chief new movement in the public schools is the decision to have medical practitioners appointed, each to have his range of school visiting, give the children free medical attendance.

For some time past the pupils' teeth and eyes have been examined free, but this new move means medical advice for all ailments....."

"Is there anything to prevent our government from bestowing a like boon on the school-going population?.....Medical attendance as herein suggested is also more preventive than curative and will lead to the maintenance of the health of the school children at a high level....."

We should also like to know whether there can be anything preventing the Ceylon Government from making a move towards providing for the free medical inspection of school children at reasonably regular intervals.

CEYLON QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

In our last issue was published the interpellations that took place in the Madras Legislative Council on the 21st instant regarding Ceylon Quarantine Regulations. The answers of the Madras Government to the questions put by the Hon. Mr. Ramachandra Rao are not so satisfactory as they may appear to be at the first blush. "The stamping of passengers for purposes of identification will continue *only* (italics are ours) until the completion of the permanent camp at the beginning of next year when other arrangements will be made." Now the branding of passengers is either an indignity on passengers or it is not. If it is an indignity—as is certainly implied in the answer of the Madras Government—why should it continue even a minute after it is admitted to be so? Why not some other device be adopted in the case of passengers who, even if they cannot afford to travel with their families in first and second class compartments in railways and steamers, are, nevertheless, respectable people to the core of their being? Such people feel the indignity of the branding keenly.

The second answer is, "Certificates of good health and freedom from infection will be accepted by the Ceylon Authorities for passengers of all classes in lieu of quarantine. District Medical and Sanitary officers are being authorised to grant these certificates on a payment of a fee of Rs. 5 for an individual and Rs. 8 for a family." The first concession loses almost its entire value by being coupled with the second condition. We may assure the Madras Government that passengers from Ceylon to India and back have not money enough to pay these fees. They are most of them very poor people. And to ask them each to throw away Rs. 5 for a medical certificate from a Medical officer is to be very, very hard on them. The fact, that the stamp duty of Re. 1 is not now levied, can bring no consolation to the poor traveller. We would make a humble suggestion. In our opinion Rs. 5 for a family are reasonable. But we would earnestly request the Madras Government to fix the rate for the health certificate for an individual at Re. 1, the burden which the Madras Government say, they have graciously removed from the passenger's shoulders in the shape of stamp duty. Even as it is, taking the number of passengers daily going to Ceylon from India, even the One-Ruppee rate will make many Medical officers rich in a short time. We repeat that to fix the Five-Ruppees rate is to be very hard on passengers most of whom are poor. We hope, therefore, that the Madras Government will reconsider the whole matter and considerably reduce the rates they have fixed. We are told further that the Ceylon Government have agreed to certain officers of the Madras Government being appointed "ex-officio" visitors to their camp. What duties these officers are expected to discharge on the occasions of their "ex-official" visits, we are not told. The advantages and benefits that are expected to accrue to the travelling public from these visits are yet to be seen and realised.

In this connection we should like to draw the attention of the Ceylon Government to the over crowding of third-class compartments in mail-trains from Talaimannar pier. It may even be generally said that third-class compartments in trains are, more often than not, inconveniently crowded. But the passengers who get into third-class compartments from Talaimannar pier, and especially passengers to Jaffna, have to suffer the greatest amount of inconvenience. These men and women and children are human beings after all, though they may not be rich enough to travel in first and second class carriages, and a little consideration for their convenience will not be amiss on the part of the C. G. R. officers concerned.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)

PART SECOND.

CHAPTER XXII.

DOCTRINE OF TRANSMIGRATION.

Belief in the doctrine of Transmigration is in the instinct of the Tamils—not only of the Tamils, but of all the Hindus. The ancient Tamil classics bear ample testimony to this belief among the Tamils of olden days, and it is not therefore possible to say that the doctrine is a new invention.

Says Thiruvalluvar:

எழுபிறப்புத் தீயவைதீண்டாபழிபிறக்காப் பண்புடைம்கட்பெய்தீன்.

எழுமைஎழுபிறப்புமுன் ஞாந் தக்கன் விழும்துடைத்தவாநட்பு.

ஒருமைக்கடான் தந்தகவியொருநுற் செழுமையுமேமாப்புடைத்து.

—Thirukkural.

Says Nakkirar:

பலவுடன் ன்நெஞ்சுத் தின்ன கைவாய்ப்ப வின்னேபெறுதிருன் னாயவின்னேயே.

—Pattuppaddu.

Says Kapilar:

இம்மைபோலக் காட்டியும்மை

இடைவிகாட்சிச் சினைஞே

டெனுறைவாகருகயுயர்ந்தபாலே.

—Purananuru.

Although the critics have not yet put forward any definite theory as regards the origin of the doctrine, they think that a belief in the doctrine did not exist in the Vedic times—and their reason is that it is not referred to in the Vedas. The existence of a belief in the doctrine of Transmigration can, I think, be clearly proved on the evidence of the Vedas themselves. I wish, however, to point out that even supposing that the Vedas are silent on the subject, it cannot be argued that the doctrine is against the spirit of the Vedic religion. There is not a single word in the whole of the Vedas that might conflict with the doctrine of Transmigration; and the abrupt elaboration of the theory in the various sequels of the Vedas would therefore have been almost impossible if it was not foreshadowed in the Vedas. The Vedic shastras are all based on the Vedas, and in fact, their object is to expound the Vedas; and as such, the inference would be altogether inadmissible that they expounded, in the name of the Vedas, a theory that is not sanctioned by the Vedas. The best authorities to expound the Vedas are the authors of the *Upanishats* and the other Vedic Shastras, as they learnt the Vedas directly under the Vedic *Rishis*, and as they had a clear idea of the genuine import of the Vedas. The critics of the present day who are not only far remote in time, but farther remote in their capacity to understand the Vedic hymns, cannot be said to be qualified to express an opinion on the matter—and their opinion cannot overrule the opinions of the authors of the *Upanishats*, the *Agamas*, the *Puranas*, the *Smruthis*, &c., &c. Questions have always to be decided practically. We should not apply one rule to decide questions in the religious plane, and another in practical politics. Suppose there is a certain custom, or a certain saying among a foreign nation, with whose ways and manners we are not acquainted can we take upon ourselves to interpret that custom or that saying according to our taste and according to our understanding? We cannot. The nation among whom such custom or saying prevails are the best authority to interpret them. We must learn every religion from the followers of that religion, before we undertake to express our opinion on that religion. The *Rishis* and sages who were thoroughly conversant with the Vedas and who knew perfectly well the ideas that prevailed during the Vedic times have, without a single dissent accepted and propounded the doctrine of transmigration as a doctrine that had been sanctioned by the Vedas. Can we then say that the doctrine was foreign to the Vedas?

Nilakanta, the earliest commentator on the *Vedanta Sutra* quotes in his commentary a *Mantra* from the Rig Veda and interprets that *Mantra* as follows:—

"These souls go from this world to the Moon. Again they come to this world from there."

When in the opinion of such an eminent scholar the theory of transmigration is imbedded in the Vedas, can we accept the opinion of the critics to whom, I must point out in the meantime, the Pundits of our land would not have disclosed the correct meaning of the Vedas and would not have even given a true version of the Vedas?

The attitude of the critics in this respect savours of a determination on their

part to uphold their pet theory and not to find out the truth. They are not satisfied with the overwhelming evidence of the *Agamas*, *Puranas*, *Smruthis* and other Vedic Shastras which clearly maintain the doctrine of transmigration,—and they want direct evidence from the Vedas. When evidence from the Vedas—from the *Yajur* and the *Sama* Vedas—are put before them, they are not satisfied again—they want evidence from the Rig Veda. When evidence is put before them even from the Rig Veda—from its *Brahmana* and *Upanishat* portions—they refuse to accept them too,—and they want evidence from the *Mantra* portion of the Rig Veda; and when evidence from the *Mantra* portion itself of the Rig Veda is put before them, they say that the meaning of the passage quoted is different!! Perhaps they want the Vedic *Rishis* to come forward and give direct evidence!! I have pointed out more than once that the *Agamas*, *Puranas* and other Vedic shastras are but commentaries of the Vedas, and that they are the keys to unlock the Vedas—and what is more important—that they are acknowledged by the Vedas themselves. If the critics would not accept the evidence of these commentaries, it is no wonder that they reject the evidence of the Vedas themselves!

There are various Vedic shastras which belong to the six systems of the Hindu Philosophy, and we can find that in these shastras the various tenets of the Hindu religion are propounded with quotations from the Vedas in support. There has not been a single dissentient voice in any of them as regards the doctrine of transmigration although they differ largely in many other points. This goes a long way to show that the doctrine of transmigration has been fully sanctioned by the Vedas without any manner of doubt. Can the critics undertake to criticise the opinions of the Vedic *saivants* and say that they were all wrong? Perhaps the critics try to learn the secret of the Vedas by criticising them, so that the Pundits may be induced to come forward and explain them. I do not think that a ruse like that will very much succeed.

It may not be out of place to point out in this connection that there are passages in the Bible which can only be deciphered by Christian theologians, and no Christian minister will accept the interpretation put on any of them by a heretic; and there are again several teachings in the New Testament which are not mentioned in the old Testament—or if mentioned at all—only mentioned in such an obscure way that no ordinary man will be able to get at it. The Christians, I am sure, will not reject these teachings, on the ground that they are foreign to the Old Testament. (30.11.1916-HQ)

Although Vedic passages are beyond the comprehension of the critics, yet there being many Hindus who are misled by them, I will now proceed to prove that the doctrine of Transmigration is fully supported by the Vedas.

NI 42 - NUL: 508

NOTES & COMMENTS.

We take the following from the "Ceylonese of November 28:—

Here is another sample of the gracious treatment meted out to the poor Indian labourers toiling on estates in this country. According to the local "Times" of last evening:—

COOLY ASKS LIGHT WORK.

Before Mr. W K H Campbell, at the Badulla Police Court, Mr. C F Way, Superintendent of Wewessa estate, Passara, charged a cooly with having quitted service without notice in November, 1914.

The accused pleaded not guilty and stated that he became ill and went to India and returned to the estate partly cured. On his return he asked the superintendent to give him light work but he was asked to go to the working field. He got ill again and as there was no dispensary on the estate he had to leave the estate to get medicine elsewhere. The accused was sentenced to a month's rigorous imprisonment.—Badulla Cor., Nov. 26th.

What is the necessity for dispensaries on estates? In truth there is no need for them because Indian coolies do not require medical aid! Of course if they have the impudence to insist on having it when they are sick, it would seem that they can get it in jail.

If the language of "The Times of Ceylon" were indeed to represent the sense of responsibility which the average Ceylon planter feels for the well-being of the Indian coolies under his charge, then the "ugliness" of labour conditions referred to by the "Madras Times" quoted in a previous issue can be better imagined than described.

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PLEASE NOTE

The annual subscription to the "Hindu Organ" is payable before 31st December of each year—July to June. Subscribers who have not paid their subscriptions yet for the current year (July 1916-June 1917) are earnestly requested to remit their dues before

31st December 1916.

We are obliged, owing to unavoidable circumstances caused by the War, to cease forwarding the Paper to such of our subscribers who fail to remit their subscriptions before the aforesaid date.

THE MANAGER,
"Hindu Organ."

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER—Slight showers of rain fell yesterday and today.

A DEDICATION CEREMONY—The dedication of the newly built Siva Guana Vairawaswamy Temple at the Jaffna Hindu College premises will take place on Monday next at 11 A. M.

SMALL-POX—Two more new cases are reported from the Moor quarters at Vannarponnai West.

THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.—Mr. Horsburgh, the Government Agent, and Messrs. J. M. Hensman, A. Sapapathy and Maniagar Sinnatamby leave today for Colombo to give evidence before this Commission on the 1st proximo.

THE COMMERCIAL ACADEMY—The results of the last Birmingham Institute of Commerce Examinations have just been received and the following are the successful students: S. Sellappah, N. Sooriamurthy, V. Thambapillai, M. Thambiab, S. Chinnadurai, S. J. Venakulasingham, A. S. Gunaretnam, S. Sagarapillai, K. Kasipillai, W. R. Mylo, R. V. Kandiah, M. K. Thomas Arulampalam, J. S. R. Tisseverasinghe and V. Rajaratnam.

PERSONAL—Mr. T. Ponnampalam Pillai, M. B. A. S. Retired Excise Commissioner, Travancore, who was staying at Sivasailam, Alwarthi in Tinnevely District, arrived here on Tuesday morning last, owing to the illness of his grand daughter, Mrs. Annamalai, wife of Mr. T. Annamalai, a nephew of the late lamented Mr. S. Nagalingam, Advocate.

—Mr. S. Sunderampillai of the P. W. D. Kalutara, has come to Jaffna on leave and is staying at his residence at Vannarponnai West.

—Mr. S. Ponnampalam, Superintendent, Rubber Estate, Batu Gajah, paid a flying visit to his native place Karaveddy, after visiting Chidambaram and other holy Shrines in South India. He paid Rs. 500 for the support of the Hindu A. V. School, Karaveddy South, and has undertaken to put up a part of the new building at his own expense.

GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION—In the last Competitive Examination for admission into the Government Training College, Miss Annam Konamalai, daughter of Mr. O. D. Konamalai, Retired Post Master, has come out successful. She is the only girl from Jaffna to pass the Examination.

A DRUNKEN CHAUFFEUR—The driver of the Excise Commissioner's car got drunk last week and collided with a peddler's cart damaging both it and the motor. He was sentenced to three months' hard.

THE COMPETITION FOOTBALL MATCH—Hindus vs. Kilner.—The nineteenth match, the last among the series of matches for the Hindu College, was played on Tuesday, 28th instant in the Central College Grounds. The former played the better of the game and shot 1 goal during the first half-an-hour and during the second, they shot 4 dozen goals without much effort. The latter, as it is clear, was more on the defensive. Thus ended the game in a victory for the Hindu by 7 to nil. The question of giving the cup has evoked a good deal of interest in the minds of the public, and it is in great confusion to decide to whom the cup is actually due. A correspondent in the "Star" of the 15th inst. writes as follows, "Rumour has it that even at this stage attempts are being made to drive the cup in a particular direction. If so, this cup is not worth having." —Cor.

A WELL DESERVED PROMOTION—It is with great pleasure we announce that Mr. P. Velayutham Pillai, Chief Draughtsman, Provincial Engineer's Office, Kurunegala has been promoted to the first class after an extensive service of about twenty seven years in the Public Works Department. He holds an excellent record and was a thoroughly efficient and capable Officer. We congratulate him on his success as one of a select few who have so far been fortunate enough to fill up such a rare vacancy.

FUTURE OF ROYAL COLLEGE—A deputation consisting of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, the Hon. Mr. T. E. de Sampaio, Messrs. F. Dornhorst, James Pieris, B. E. de Silva and Dr. H. M. Fernando waited on Mr. E. B. Denham, Director of Education, on Saturday, and discussed the subject of the future of the Royal College. Mr. Denham promised to consider the representations made by the deputation and the result will be made known in due course.

ANNUAL MALDIVIAN TRIBUTE—The annual tribute from the Sultan of the Maldives was presented to H. E. the Governor at Queen's House on Monday last with the usual grandeur.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF TWO TAMIL YOUNG GENTLEMEN—We publish elsewhere the report of fatal accident which took place at the Wellawatte Railway Station by which two very valuable and promising lives were lost. The two victims are Jaffna Tamil gentlemen belonging to well-known families. Mr. Rajah Chinnappa was the son of Mr. S. T. Chinnappa, Registrar of Marriages, Births & Deaths, Nallur. He was a promising young man. Mr. Nathaniel B. A., was a son of Rev. Nathaniel of Manipay and son-in-law of Mr. R. O. Alexander, Merchant, Jaffna. He was Prof. of Mathematics, St. Thomas College and was a gentleman of brilliant parts. His death is a distinct loss to the Tamil community. His remains were brought to Jaffna and the funeral took place here yesterday morning. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the parents and other relatives of the deceased gentlemen at the irreparable loss they have sustained.

A RAILWAY HEAD GUARD MEETS WITH FATAL ACCIDENT—A fatal accident was reported there to have taken place between Kaduganawa and Peradeniya Stations on Sunday last. Head-Guard Kelly who was in charge of the mail train was found missing when the train arrived at Peradeniya Station. A light engine was immediately despatched in search of the missing Guard. The party arrived at the Peradeniya bridge, a few miles away from the Peradeniya Station and there found what seemed to them at a distance something huddled together, the missing Guard caught between two iron girders of the bridge. He was removed at once to Kandy and then sent to the hospital in a stretcher. He was unconscious at the time. Mr. G. P. Greene, the General Manager, who was on the platform when the Guard was brought into Kandy directed operations for his safe removal to hospital. However, Head-Guard Kelly died shortly after.

INDIAN LABOUR COMMISSIONERS—Mr. Majorbanks and Mr. Ahmed Tamby Markar, Indian Labour Commissioners, motored on Tuesday morning last to Matale and spent some time at the anti-hookworm headquarters. There they interviewed Drs. Snodgrass, Perrin and Norris as to the progress of the hookworm campaign, and also went into the question of the high mortality among coolies on estates. They were shown round by Dr. Snodgrass and returned to Kandy at noon. Yesterday morning they visited Tillicoultry Estate, Lindula, where they hope to spend some time.

AN INDIAN GALE—The high wind here last Wednesday evening synchronized with a heavy gale in South India. At Pakkan Station on the S. I. R. between Chingaput and Tanjore two trains, one the Ceylon Boat mail, were blown over while standing at the station. Numerous breaches in the line prevented through traffic from the 23rd to the 26th. At Pondicherry, 400 dead were removed from wrecked houses, while at Madras the end of the new breakwater on which was built the light-house together with 200 feet of breakwater were engulfed in the sea, besides such extensive damage to the breakwater that 24 years and Rs. 600,000 will be required to repair it.

AN INDIAN. OCULIST.

Mr. T. Kailasapillai, the eminent Tamil Scholar and Manager of Arumuga Navalara's School, has been suffering from cataract of his eyes for some years. He went to India in August last to consult competent oculists and to have his eyes operated by the best among them. He has returned to Jaffna with his sight of one of his eyes restored as the result of the operation performed by Dr. Ehambara Iyer of Kumbakonam. It is indeed, very good news to hear that we have so close to Ceylon an Indian oculist of such skill as possessed by Dr. Ehambara Iyer of Kumbakonam. Mr. Kailasapillai's letter written by him to Dr. Elliot tutor of Dr. Ehambara Iyer which we publish below speaks for itself.

"Sir,
"I offer my hearty thanks for the able treatment I received from Dr. Ehambara Iyer of Kumbakonam. I was suffering from cataract for the last four years. I was told very highly of Dr. Smith of Amritsar. I intended to go to him but on the way I met your scholar Ehambara Iyer. He operated on one eye very remarkably. The other eye is not yet matured. I don't know why many people of our country suffer from eye diseases when this able man is within their reach. I think no one else but you will be much glad to hear about the success of your first and able scholar Dr. Ehambara Iyer. He is courteous, kind and sympathetic to all his patients and especially to the poor.

"If you happen to come to Madras once more I shall be glad to see you with Dr. Ehambara Iyer."

DOUBLE FATALITY ON THE RAILWAY.

TWO TAMIL GENTLEMEN KILLED AT WELLAWATTE.

DANGEROUS PRACTICE AGAIN EXEMPLIFIED.

A fatal accident occurred on the railway line near the Wellawatte Station last night, two Tamil gentlemen being run over by the up train from Galle.

Edward Raja Chinnappa, Assistant Postmaster at the General Post Office mail room, and M. M. Nathaniel, Mathematical master at St. Thomas' College, alighted at the Wellawatte Railway Station by the train which reached there at 9.15 P. M. yesterday. Instead of leaving the station by the authorised exit, both crossed the platform and proceeded by the southern end of the station towards the up line. The up train coming in at that moment knocked both men down. Mr. Chinnappa was killed instantaneously, and Mr. Nathaniel was severely injured. He was put into the same train and taken to Maradana, whence he was removed to the General Hospital, at which institution he died at 8 A. M. today.

THE INQUEST.

Mr. F. L. Daniel, the City Coroner, held an inquest this morning at the Wellawatte Police Station when the principal witness examined was A. C. Cooke, the driver of the Galle train. Cooke stated that, on approaching Wellawatte he cut off steam at the home signal, and was within 20 or 30 yards of the platform end when he caught sight of the two figures on the line on which he was travelling. The train from Colombo was passing at the time, and the smoke from the engine of that train had to some extent obscured his sight, with the result that he was only five to ten yards of the figures when he noticed them. He at once applied his vacuum brake, the handle of which he was holding at the time. The train, which was going slow, was pulled up, but three bogies had passed the spot where the cow-catcher had caught and thrown both gentlemen. When the train was pulled up, two bogies, the engine and also the fish van had entered the platform. Both gentlemen were thrown in different directions clear of the line.

Continuing his evidence, the driver stated:—"Both were trespassing. It was impossible for me to pull up the train sooner to save them from being knocked over. I had a good head light on, and was proceeding engine first, and was on the look-out standing on the left of my engine. My head-guard, Mr. Solomon, was in the near brake at the time. My two firemen could not see as much as I was able to, as one was behind me, and the other standing on the right was looking towards the station. Both the gentlemen were clearly on my line in the centre thereof."

The driver concluded by stating that there was a space of about 10 yards between the two lines, which was ample for the gentlemen to have stood within.

Dr. Jayatilake, the Judicial Medical Officer, who had seen both bodies, said that in Chinnappa's case the top of the skull had been fractured permitting the brain to escape. The left forearm and left leg were also fractured. Death was due to fracture of the skull, and laceration of the brain. In the case of Nathaniel, the doctor said there was compound fracture of the left foot, fracture of both bones of the right leg and fracture of the jaw. Death was due to hemorrhage and shock.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

The Coroner brought in a verdict of accidental death.

—The Times of Ceylon, Nov. 28.

CEYLON IN PARLIAMENT.

THE 1915 RIOTS.

PROCLAMATIONS DURING MARTIAL LAW.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, 25th October.

Mr. Morrell asked the Secretary for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the Ceylon Blue Book, C. 8167, does not contain proclamations and instructions of great importance, including a proclamation under which power was given to shoot British subjects at sight upon their refusal to supply information, he will now cause to be laid upon the Table copies of all official proclamations and orders issued in Ceylon from 1st June to 8th August, 1915?

Mr. Bonar Law: I have seen a reproduction of a notice which warns people of the punishment to which persons who commit certain offences, including the suppression of evidence concerning rioters, render themselves liable. No such notice could, of course, give any power not otherwise possessed by the Executive. I see no reason for publishing any further Papers about the Ceylon riots.

THREE HANWELLA CASES.

Mr. Morrell asked whether three prominent Sinhalese, named respectively, D. Goonewardena, D. Goonesekera, and G. Perera, of Hanwella, were sentenced to death by Court-Martial for offences in connection with the Ceylon riots; whether their sentences were commuted; whether the innocence of these gentlemen has now been completely established and their release ordered; and whether any compensation will be made to these gentlemen for the injury they have suffered?

Mr. Bonar Law: I have already informed the House that the Governor of Ceylon is personally investigating the cases of persons convicted by Courts-Martial of offences connected with the riots. I have received no report on the investigation of the cases mentioned in the question, but I will ask for one.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Edmund Harvey: Will the Report be laid on the Table?

Mr. Bonar Law: I hardly think that will be necessary. I shall be glad to give information in answer to a question.

THOSE RELEASED BY SIR JOHN.

Mr. MacCallum Scott asked how many persons imprisoned in Ceylon in connection with the riots have been released since the arrival of Sir John Anderson?

Mr. Bonar Law: I have not yet received a report in the matter.

SINGHALESE IMPRISONED.

Mr. Ginnell asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is now in a position to say how many Sinhalese were in prison untried on 11th August, 1915, when Mr. Harry Creasy, European Member of the Legislative Council urged the immediate enactment of the measure to bring to trial or release imprisoned citizens; how many of those have been tried in the special tribunal then created; why all have not been brought before that tribunal; and whether any of those untried prisoners are still in prison untried?

Mr. Bonar Law: I have not yet received this information. (Official Report.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE "MORNING STAR" AND ITS "CASTE BEAUTIES".

Dear Sir,

The "Beauties of Caste" of the "Morning Star", no doubt, depicts its own beauty. The language bears ample testimony. Here is caste pure and simple. I will, however, see how far the "beauties" of the "Star" are sound.

(1) The learned Editor admits in the first place that the Hindus were doing well at one time under the caste system, but he thinks that the system having become old and ancient, it must now be given up. That is what I understand him to say. I will only ask the readers to say if this is rational.

He compares the old feudal system of England to the caste system of India and Ceylon, and draws the conclusion that because England is better off at present without its feudal system, India and Ceylon will also be better off if they throw out their caste system. I fail to see the Editor's logic here. If premature England has progressed in its own lines and has done away with its feudal system, does it follow that the Indian caste system is a bar for the Hindus to regain their former position, which—he it understood—they enjoyed under the caste system. The Editor would do well to understand that India is not England and that the Indians should progress on their own lines and not on the lines of alien races who are merged in materialism. The caste system was tried and found good for the Indians, and they must proceed on that line and not on the lines of rank materialism.

The Editor thinks again that caste system is only the back bone of Hinduism and not of the Hindu nationality. I will only tell him in the words of Prof. Max Muller that "It is language and religion that make a people, but religion is even a more powerful agent than language"—and this is more so with the Hindus. I must also tell the Editor that although the caste system has the sanction of religion, it is mainly intended to regulate our social life and not our religious life. The system being an institution of several thousand years standing, it has got into our instinct, and we cannot progress if we divest ourselves of that instinct.

2. The learned Editor seems to think again that it is only children and animals that run the risk of becoming deteriorated by bad companies, and not grown up men. I will only ask him in his own words "Does he mean to be taken seriously?" Do we not see in our every daily life that adults and aged men contract the habits of others by mixing with them freely?

3. The Editor again comes out with a bit of practical demonstration. I will quote him:—

"Let a Vellala of good caste marry a Pariah woman, and who will deny that in a very real sense that man and his whole family will be casteless and shunned. Now let another good caste Vellala be a notorious bribe taker or libertine—we have such men in Jaffna—who ever heard of his making one iota of difference in their caste standing?"

I believe there are no "bribe takers or libertines" in the Christian countries! Whatever that may be, may I ask him if his country attaches more importance to character than to social position? If an American marries a Negro, he is of course shunned at once; but if he takes bribe or speaks a falsehood, is he also shunned? I hope the Editor will throw some light on this point.

I can only tell him that caste rule is in no way responsible for indifference to character.

4. The Editor again mistakes envy for caste rules. When a man finds another of a lower position in a higher state of life, he no doubt feels envious of him—and this is not the result of any caste rule. Christian countries cannot be said to be free from envy and I cannot see why the Christian Editor is more sensitive of the envious spirit of our land than of his own country.

He again tries to limit the sphere of sympathy to family circles and friends. I do not really know if he has any authority for doing so. The Hindu religion is very strong on the importance of our sympathy towards all living creatures, and it does not allow us to kill and eat animals and to sympathize only with human beings.

5. The Editor again glories over the present. Here I should think he must be told to remember the proverbial squirrel instead of the proverbial ostrich—the squirrel that stood up on his hind legs and looked round and satisfied himself that he had a survey of the whole area around. The Editor may be wiser than his forefathers, but I must tell him that we are just the reverse as regards our forefathers.

6. Lastly—one word about the Editor's quotation from the speech of Mr. Pranjpye. Not only Mr. Pranjpye there are many others who have been deluded by Western materialism. I will quote for the edification of the Editor a passage from the sayings of a higher soul than Mr. Pranjpye—I mean Swami Vivekanantha—and leave the Editor to decide whether he can try to demolish the caste system if he is really interested in our social progress.

"We believe in Indian caste as one of the greatest social institutions that the Lord gave to man. We also believe that though the unavoidable defects, foreign persecutions and above all the monumental ignorance and pride of many Brahmins, who do not deserve the name, have thwarted in many ways the legitimate fruition of this most glorious Indian institution, it has already ready worked wonders for the land of Bharata and is destined to lead Indian humanity to its goal."

30-11-16.

S. N.

Sir,
In spite of my endeavours to deal scientifically some of the points on the above subject, I regret, that a "Veteran" has, however, determined to cling firmly to what he has said.

In attempting to reply to his letter which appeared in the issue of the 23rd instant, I am afraid, I have to repeat what has been already said by me in my two previous letters. One of the points of our discussion was, whether oil and ghee form flesh in the body. But your correspondent has taken a fancy to drift away from the point, and has raised the question, in his subsequent letters, whether oil and ghee do not contribute to the formation of flesh, whether they are not articles of substantial foods, or whether fat-forming substances are not so good as flesh-forming substances. A "veteran" would do well, if he could readily prove his statements from a scientific point of view. As for my part, I am sure that all scientific men will agree with me when I say,

(1) that oil and ghee are not articles of substantial foods

(2) that they cannot contribute to the formation of flesh, and "other vitalities" of the body, but that they could only form fat, and

(3) that quinine is not condemned generally in the real sense of the word.

When a thing is condemned, another must be introduced to take its place. If quinine is condemned, I should like to know what other drug has been substituted.

All these points are discussed in my two previous letters which appeared in the issues of the "Hindu Organ" of the 13th and 20th instant. Readers are recommended to make reference to them.

Jaffna, S. O. M. A.
26 11-16.

II.

Sir,
While, on the one hand I take the opportunity to express my feelings of thankfulness to "Jaffna" for his views on the subject, I cannot help, for the other, refusing some of the arguments he has launched forth for public patronage.

Your correspondent wonders why questions on diets, sports, etc., should be considered when we are dealing with Public Health. This is very amusing indeed! In other words, this is just like questioning why should a man talk of a wife when he is discussing the subject of matrimony! Your correspondent will bear in mind that it is a *sine qua non* to discuss diets, sports etc., when we are dealing with Public Health. If these essential things cannot be considered under the subject in question, what on earth are we to discuss? He also wonders why quinine should be included. I had to talk about this, because your other correspondent a "Veteran" has been denying the efficacy of this most useful drug. Therefore, I found it necessary to refute his arguments. I would advise "Jaffna" to take the trouble to read carefully my previous letters before he arrives at his conclusion with whirlwind rapidity.

With a view to introduce a better hygienic improvement, your correspondent declares that the present thatched fences should be destroyed or that barbed wire fences should be substituted. It is no doubt a very good idea from a sanitary point of view. But, the Public Health of a place must be improved so as to suit the local conditions without involving much expenditure on the part of the people. Our people cannot be expected to use barbed wire fences, for they cannot afford to do so. When barbed wire fences are used, we have to get something to make them opaque, for no man would be pleased to have his house and compound open on all sides. Perhaps your correspondent would advise the use of canvas in addition! The only improvement they could make is to renew the existing fences as often as possible. For the circulation of air, space to the height of a foot or so must be made at the level of the ground. He need not be alarmed that the thatched fences would prove a source of high infection. The fences receive the sunlight daily, and it is an admitted fact that sunlight is the best disinfectant the world has ever seen. So there is not much danger in using thatched fences. The using of barbed wire fences is an excellent idea, but it is quite impracticable.

It is rather a sad affair that "Jaffna" while advocating the usefulness of Western games, has taken into his head to discourage our national games. Western games such as Tennis, cricket etc., are no doubt healthy ones, but they involve expenditure. Therefore it is not a desirable thing. Our games are not expensive and they could be played with any amount of pleasure either in a meadow or in a sandy place. Your correspondent is under the delusion that our games are intended to be played in sandy places only. Perhaps your correspondent must have seen people playing in sandy places in the absence of available grassy places. Therefore, his own experience cannot be relied on. He is of opinion that when these games are played in sandy places, they cause the emanation of foul air. To all scientific minds this is more than surprising! According to his theory, I am afraid that we should not walk in the streets lest we should inhale the dust laden air! He need not be afraid of foul air coming from sandy places, unless decayed matter or something of that sort is thrown there. Let not your correspondent take pleasure in splitting hairs!

We must be taught to love our own games even if we disregard those of others. They are dear to us and must be encouraged by all sons of the soil. Men of light and learning, at all times, and at all climes could be seen advocating the encouragement of their own national games, and sports. Look at Japan. In spite of the knowledge they imbibe from the West, the Japanese are always encouraging their own games and their own things. They cultivate everything on their own national lines. That's why they have come forward as a powerful nation in the arena of the world.

It is a good idea to copy the West, in matters relating to material prosperity. But everything Western cannot be swallowed without scruple. In our endeavours to improve our condition, we cannot imitate Western ideas and modify them to suit our modern manners. This is the basic principle of all broad minded men.

Jaffna, S. O. M. A.
26 11-16.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

A FEEBLE GERMAN DESTROYER RAID.

London, Nov. 25.
The Admiralty reports that during the night of the 23rd 24th six German destroyers attempted to approach the North end of the Downs. The enemy was seen by a patrol vessel and steamed off after firing 12 rounds. There were no casualties. A drifter was slightly damaged. The open town of Ramsgate was untouched.

THE NEW AUSTRIAN EMPEROR.

London, Nov. 25.
Austrian.—The Austrian Emperor in a proclamation said he was ascending the Throne at a stormy time. Our aim has not yet been reached and the illusion of our enemies that they are able to overthrow my monarchy and my Allies has not yet been dissipated. I will do all in my power to obtain peace as soon as the honour of our arms and the condition of the life of my countries and their Allies and the defiance of our enemies allow."

NEW RUSSIAN PREMIER.

London, Nov. 25.
Petrograd.—The Premier Mr. Sturmer has been appointed Grand Chamberlain. Mr. Trepoft, Minister of Communications has been appointed Premier. There have been strong demonstrations in the Duma in favour of parliamentary government. Mr. Sturmer is a notable reactionary. A Ukase adjourns the Duma till Dec. 2nd owing to the necessity of Government explaining to parliament all the impending problems. This necessitates careful consideration. Reuter is informed that the change in the Russian premiership demonstrates the Tsar's concurrence with the popular feeling re the final crushing of pro-German agitation and the closest union with the alliance.

ECONOMISING IN HOTELS AND TEASHOPS.

London, Nov. 25.
The Times says that Mr. Runciman, addressing hotelkeepers, said he had seen a Christmas menu which was wasteful even in peacetime, but was scandalous in War time. Such a situation will not be allowed. Menus must be drastically cut down and there must be one or two meatless days weekly. A member of the deputation pointed out that fish was more costly. Mr. Runciman said there might have to be days without fish and meat. We must decrease imported foods. It would be impossible to exempt teashops where the expenditure on cakes and confectionary was too lavish. He advised an immediate conference of trade interests. If they did not take the necessary action Government would do it. The Savoy announces the cancellation of its New Year and Christmas Eve dinners.

A POLITICAL WAR CAMPAIGN.

London, Nov. 23.
It is understood that members of the Cabinet are arranging a campaign for the purpose of encouraging vigorous prosecution of the War. It is believed Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. McKenna will participate in a joint meeting. The Unionist and Liberal War committees have decided to consult the whips on the desirability of supporting the members of the Cabinet in their campaign.

AMERICAN TROOPS WITHDRAWING FROM MEXICO.

London, Nov. 25.
Atlantic City.—The Mexican-American commission has signed a Protocol providing for the withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico and the formation of a border patrol by the respective armies, each on his own side, within forty days of the ratification of the Protocol.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

Gas Successfully Discharged.

London, Nov. 26.
General Sir D. Haig reports:—We drove off an attempt by a party to advance Eastward of Beaumont Hamel. We discharged gas successfully Southward of Arras, where we repulsed raids.

London, Nov. 27.
General Sir D. Haig reports hostile Artillery fire on our front at Courcellette, Beaucourt, Hebuterne and La Bassée. We bombarded Puisieux trenches South East of Arras.

London, Nov. 27.
General Sir D. Haig reports:—Our Artillery is active at La Bassée.

London, Nov. 28.
General Sir D. Haig says our Artillery dispersed enemy Infantry Westward of Puisieux.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

MUTUAL ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

London, Nov. 26.
Paris.—A *communiqué* reports mutual Artillery fire in Vaux region and an intermittent cannonade on the rest of the Front.

Paris (official).—On the Somme there was fairly lively reciprocal Artillery activity on the Ablaincourt-Presoir sector. Our barrage and machine-gun fire repulsed an attack in Champagne, East of the Aube River.

London, Nov. 27.
Paris.—A *communiqué* says:—There was the usual cannonade on the Somme and in the Douaumont-Vaux sector. There was calm elsewhere. A French aeroplane successfully bombed aerodromes at Guizancourt and Matigny. The Serbians repulsed a Bulgarian counter attack on the Cerna front with sanguinary losses. There was violent reciprocal Artillery fire North of Monastir. The Italians continue to advance in the hilly region of Dibo on our left wing.

THE BALKANS.

ROMANIANS STILL RETIRE.

London, Nov. 25.
A Russian *communiqué* says:—In the Alt Valley the enemy energetically attacked and pressed back the Romanians towards the South of Kallimaneht and Moldarosh. The enemy from Craiova compelled the Romanians to retire behind the river Oltenz. The Germans crossed the Danube near Zimnitsa. A Romanian *communiqué* says: The enemy landed troops at Izlaz and Zimnitsa North of which the advance was arrested.

London, Nov. 26.
A Romanian official report it says:—Enemy attacks at Oltez, Dragoslavele and Curtea were repulsed. There is no change in the Buzan Valley. There was mutual Artillery fire at Bratocnea and Padolina in Piroho Valley. The enemy heavily bombarded troops occupying the left bank as far South as Slavina. Further South we fought suc-

cessfully a column marching against Pontori. The enemy which crossed the Danube at Zimnitsa advanced South of Scimul station. There was Artillery and Infantry fire all along the Danube. We bombarded the enemy's positions at Dobrudja.

MORE BRITISH AVIATORS ARRIVE.

London, Nov. 26.
Reuter learns that more British aeroplanes and pilots have reached Bukharest after long flights.

Amsterdam.—A Bulgarian *communiqué* says:—The enemy has placed larger forces than hitherto against our positions in Dobrudja.

A FRANCO-SERBIAN SUCCESS.

London, Nov. 27.
A Serbian official despatch reports: The Franco-Serbian carried by assault Hill 1,050, which is a most important strategic point. German elite troops were defending it and had been instructed to hold it at all costs. Several counter-attacks were launched irrespective of losses and were repulsed.

An Italian Macedonian *communiqué* says our troops are breaking down the stubborn resistance and have captured two heights South-Westward of Nizopole.

THE GREEK SITUATION.

OCCUPATION OF ATHENS THREATENED.

London, Nov. 26.
It is believed Admiral Fournet will occupy Athens if his demands are not conceded. It is estimated the Royalist Reservists are 10,000 well-armed.

ANOTHER ULTIMATUM.

London, Nov. 25.
Reuter's Athens correspondent, wiring on Nov. 24th says that it is expected the Allies tomorrow will present an ultimatum demanding the delivery of the arms. The Royalist section of the Army is determined to resist even if the King orders a surrender of the arms. The Allies have accordingly taken appropriate measures.

ROYALISTS INTIMIDATING VENIZELISTS.

London, Nov. 27.
Athens.—The Greek Military extremists are intimidating the Venizelists but the Allies have taken all precautions.

London, Nov. 25.
Athens.—Admiral Fournet has presented an ultimatum to Greece demanding the surrender of the Artillery, otherwise he will be obliged to take suitable measures on Dec. 1st.

WAR ON BULGARS.

London, Nov. 26.
The Provisional Government at Salonica has declared War on Bulgaria.

Athens.—Greece is regarded as virtually in a state of War with Bulgaria as the Provisional Government, which the Allies regard as the *de facto* Government has declared War on Bulgaria. The Venizelists have also declared War on Germany because she torpedoed ships carrying Nationalist forces.

"BRAEMAR CASTLE" TORPEDOED.

London, Nov. 25.
Athens.—The "Braemar Castle" was torpedoed.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, Nov. 26.
Copenhagen.—The Swedes regard the sinking of the Swedish steamer "Arthur" as the beginning of a new era of ruthlessness towards neutrals with the advent of Herr Zimmermann to the Foreign Office. The "Arthur" was taking coal to Gothenburg. Coal has hitherto been regarded as free. The German excuse for the sinking was that the "Arthur" formerly took props to England.

London, Nov. 25.
The Norwegian steamers "Oipjild" and "Trym" have been sunk.

THE U. S. A. AND THE SUBMARINE QUESTION.

London, Nov. 25.
Washington.—Officials state that while the situation is delicate, nothing has been done concerning the resumption of ruthless submarining until all evidence has been gathered, but the severance of diplomatic relations will follow any violation of German pledges.

AIR RAID ON NORTH EAST COAST.

London, Nov. 28.
The Press Bureau states that hostile airships crossed the North-Eastern Coast yesterday night. Bombs are reported to have been dropped in several places in the Northern counties. There are no reports of casualties or damage.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, Nov. 27.
An Italian official report says that in the Torentino there is torrential rains. The enemy in Carnia violently bombarded our positions in Deguo, But and Chiarzo Valleys.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, Nov. 26.
Stockholm.—The Government has requested Germany to enquire into the sinking of the Swedish steamer "Arthur" reserving the right to claim reparation.

London, Nov. 27.
The British steamer "Jerseyman" and "Emlun Vorne" are reported sunk.

The Admiralty publishes the following interesting incident as showing what occurs when the Germans depart from the ordinary practice of sinking all ships encountered. A submarine on the 13th placed a prize crew aboard the Norwegian steamship "Older" from Newport to Gibraltar and proceeded on its usual piracy with other ships. The "Older" subsequently departed towards Germany and was recaptured by a British warship despite attempts to blow it up and was brought to a British port and the prize crew taken prisoner.

PARLIAMENT AND THE WAR.

London, Nov. 27.
Replying to a question in the Commons Mr. Asquith assured the house the renewed submarining was engaging the unremitting attention of the authorities. All possible steps were being taken to deal therewith.

Mr. Hope announced that he understood Germany had accepted the British proposal to repatriate Anglo-German War prisoners in Switzerland if totally unfit for military service.

GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

London, Nov. 27.
It is understood Government makes a capitulation grant to all Volunteers in Britain.

—The Ceylon Observer.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the lease of all the stalls of Grand Bazaar and Small Bazaar and also the open spaces both within and without the market buildings will be put up for sale by public auction on the spots on Monday the 18th December and Wednesday the 20th December 1916 respectively at 10 A. M. for the period from 1st January to 31st December 1917 as per conditions below:—

1. The person whose offer is accepted shall deposit in cash forthwith one fourth of the amount offered, as security, and the balance within a fortnight from the date of sale.

2. In default, the amount deposited as security shall be forfeited, and the lease will be put up again for sale.

3. The lessee can sublet the stalls for any period within the term of the lease.

4. The lessee shall not recover more than 1 cent per sq. yard for the open spaces outside the market buildings and for the open spaces within the market buildings more than 5 cents per 2 sq. yards.

5. A notice of the rates shall be put up at the markets.

6. As regards the stalls within the buildings, the lessee can arrange his own terms with the occupiers.

7. No person to whom a space for the day is sold shall be ousted from that space, provided the rate specified is paid. If such a person demands a receipt, the lessee shall grant him one. Lessee shall have printed forms for such purposes.

8. The lessee may also recover 5 cents from each cart who occupies the gale at Grand Bazaar for a day or part of a day. No carts to be allowed within the Grand Bazaar premises.

9. The provisions as to the open spaces shall apply to the whole of the fish markets.

10. The lessee shall be required to observe all the by-laws under Ordinance No. 19 of 1891 relating to markets in the Northern Province and as regards such matters for which the said by-laws make no provision, the lessee shall be required to observe the by-laws under Chapter IV, Schedule D. of Ordinance No. 2 of 1901.

11. The sale shall be subject to the approval of the Chairman of the Board.

12. Further information regarding the rent may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board.

S. H. WADIA,
For Chairman, L. B.
S. D. STANISLAUS,
SECRETARY, L. B.

Local Board Office,
Jaffna, 27th November 1916.

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