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JAFFNA, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1917.

THE HEADMAN SYSTEM.

It is an undeniable fact that the Headman system is indispersable for the carring out of the machinery of Government in Ccylon. It cannot be deniated to the system of the control of the

every Headman according to his class and office. While we agree that the unpaid system should be abolished, we do not think that this measure will remedy the whole evil. It our opinion the most potent remedy consists in the selection of the right men in the right place—men of character, education, experience, social position and independent means. It is a well-known fact that paid Headmen are not free from corruption, and those-few among them who are honest and not exacting in the discharge of their duties are men of character and intrinsic worth.

If Government Agents and Assistant Headman according to his class

men of character and intrinsic worth.

If Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents would be very careful in the selection of Chief Headmen, conferring the e responsible effices only on men possessing the qualifications above referred to with special regard to probity and character, we have no doubt that the Headman system would be, to a very great extent, free from the blemishes now attached to it. When the Chief is Headman system would be, to a very great extent, free from the blemishes now attached to it. When the Chief is corrupt, how can we expect the subordinate Headmen who secure their appointments by the payment of a large sum of money to the former to be honest and free from corruption. It is only when the Chief Headman is honest and and deserving of the great trust imposed on him by the Government, deserving subordinates will be selected and the villages will be free from the tyranny and exactions of the latter. It is common knowledge that throughout Ceylon, in very many cases, the Chief Headmen who are not the best men available for the very many cases, the Chief Headmen who are not the best men available for the posts recommend for subordinate Headmanships the highest bidders, without adequate regard to character and other qualifications, and this accounts for the disrepute into which the system has fallen.

disrepute into which the system has fallen.

In these days when education has advanced among the masses and English educated men of respectability and requisite qualifications could be found willing to take up even subordinate Headmen appointments, if they will in course of time lead up to higher appointments in the line, the system could be improved and reformed, if Government would through their Agents adopt effective measures to recruit Headmen from among the educated classes and men of honour and character. If capacity, honest discharge of duty and meritorious services on the part of subordinate Headmen would entitle them to higher posts including the Chief Headmanship, surely the subordinate Headmen will before long be men of the right stamp, instead of, as the maj rity of them are, men of bad character and worse morals, who earn their living by illegal levies and exactions on the people. Government Agents, should, therefore, not only select the best available men as Chief Headmen but also in the appointment of minor Headmen more largely use their own discretions and respect the feelings of the people as much as possible, rather than be led away by the interested recommendations of the Chief Headmen.

In this District in the time of the late Mr. Dyke, all appointments of Headmen

Chief Headmen.

In this District in the time of the late Mr. Dyke, all appointments of Headmen were done in public and with the consent and approval of the people interested in those appointments. But in the time of his successors that system was given up. Although even now the appointment of minor Headmen are made in public, yet the public voice has no potent influence as it had in the time of Mr. Dyke. Now that Village Councils have been established in the Jaffna District, it would be a reform in the right direction if the choice of Police Vidhans at least be left in the hands of these Councils subject to the approval of the Government Agent. ment Agent.

ment Agent.

It is only right to say that some of the Maniagars of this District are exceptions to the general rule, including those who have been appointed by the present Government Agent. It is to be hoped that their example will be followed by the other Maniagars who cannot do even a right thing without an inducement or "santosum." We are, however, glad to observe that the number of such Headmen is now on the decrease. men is now on the decrease

NOTES & COMMENTS.

It must be gratifying to lovers of Saivaism and the Tamil literature to learn that Srimath A COMMENTARY ON Swamy Vedachalam Avl. of Pallavaram, Madas, has kindly consented to write an exhaustive commentary on the Peria Puranam of Sekkilar Swamikal The work is no doubt one of great magnitude requiring ereat scholarly attainments for one to great scholarly attainments for one to accomplish One requires also a deep spiritual insight to discern and bring out

clearly before the reader, the underlying spiritual significance of many incidents connected with our Saints' lives and we may be sure the Swamy possesses these qualifications in a high degree. The Swamy's great reputation and the intrinsic importance of the work itself, must draw a large number of subscribers to finance the undertaking. We draw our readers' attention to the short instructive article on the subject by "S. S." appearing in the the subject by "S. S." appearing in the correspondence column of this issue.

At the last sitting of the Vaishnava Conference held at Tinnevelly on the 24th ultimo

REDEMPTION OF THE an important BACKWARD CLASSES resolution mo-

the "redemption of the back-ward class the "redemption of the back-ward classes." Mr. P. S. Acharya who spoke on this said that the special feature of the Ramanuja Siddhanta was the amelioration of the condition of the submerged classes, spiritually as well as materially. It was also unanimously resolved by the Conference to form an independent association in Tinnevelly for carrying on organized work for redeeming the backward classes of Tinnevelly and neighbouring districts, with Sri Govindacharya Swany as the President. A magazine in Tamil is also to be published and night schools started with the same object. This is a subject in which there is large scope for work in Ceylon. The Buddhists and Hindus should encourage such movement for the amelioration of the backward classes. ward classes.

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS.

(By S. Sabaratna Mudaliyar.)
PART THIRD.

CHAPTER XXXV. TAMIL SACRED BOOKS.

The Vedas and the Agamas are the revelations or the Srutis of the Hindus,—be they Aryans or Dravidyans. These Srutis are in Sanscrit or the Deva Basha, Srutis are in Sanscrit or the Deva Basha, and their meaning is so deep and mystical in their esoteric aspect, that they cannot admit of a translation—and this is why they have not been translated into any of the many Indian languages. (Our modern critics who base their criticisms on the English translation of the Vedas would do well to bear this in mind.) The Vedas and the Agamas, however, are not the only sacred books of the Hindus. They have a large number of Puranas, Ithiasas, Smirthis &c., &c., which are considered subsidiary to the Srutis and which have their own sanctity about them. Their authorship is traced to several ancient Aryan sages who are entitled to great respect and veneration.

The Vedas themselves, although reveal-

The Vedas themselves, although revealed by God, were communicated through the medium of ancient Rishis, and their value is in no way affected on that account. We have in the same way several sacred books in Tamil, and their sanctity is due to the saintly character of the authors who were guided by the Grace of God in giving utterance to these sayings. This is borne out by the fact that in many cases, the initial verses of these sayings are in the words of Lord Siva, as I have said before, and some of them were even taken down by Siva, when improvised by the Saints. The bulk of these eavings viz. They aram were distance of the seavings viz. They are were distanced to the seavings viz. The province the seavings viz. They are were distanced to the seavings viz. The Vedas themselves, although revealwere even taken down by Siva, when improvised by the Saints. The bulk of these sayings viz Thevaram were discovered to the public by the Grace of God miraculously, when their whereabouts were unknown at one time. These are facts that are fully admitted by the South Indian Brahmins, and it is very amusing to find that even then, they very much hesitate to respect the sanctity of these sayings.

these sayings.

These sayings are no doubt on a much higher level than the Puranus and other subsidiary Shastras, and they embody in themselves a good deal of hidden truths, just like the Vedas, while in their external aspect they may even be said to be more emotional and instructive than the Vedas themselves. Still our Brahmins of South India would not even assign them a place by the side of the Sanscrit Puranus or Smirthis. Such is their admiration for Sanscrit!

The Tamil sacred books were arranged

tion for Sanscrit!

The Tamil sacred books were arranged into eleven codes or Tirumurais by Namby andar Nambi a Brahman of great erudition and religious zeal. We could see by this codification that the Tamil sacred books represent the Vedas and the Vedic Mantras in Sanscrit. As there are four Vedas in Banscrit, so there are four Vedas in Tamil—the Thevarams of the three Saints Appar, Suntharar, and Sampanther, and the Thiruvasayam and Thirukkovyar of Manickavasagam. The Tamil sacred books were codified into

eleven Tirumurais to represent the eleven Mantras that constitute the form of Siva. The sanscrit Siva-Itahasya which is assigned a place next to the Vedas, and which is therefore known as the fifth Veda, test-fies to the fact that the Dravida Vedas were themselves given by Lord Siva and that they were a mmunicated by Hun through the Tamil Saints Gnanasambantha and others. The Tamil Periya-Puranam takes the place of this Siva Rahasya, and it was therefore placed as the twelveth Tirumurai in the cellection of the Tamil sacred literature.

The Sanscrit Agamas are represented

as the twelveth Tirumurai in the cellection of the Tamil sacred literature.

The Sanscrit Agamas are represented in Tamil by the Siddhanta Shastras. The Agamas are twentyeight in number and so are the Tamil Siddhanta Shastras including the Pandara Shastras, which explain the Agamic religion at great length and with accurate precision. The Tamil Sivagnana Botham is a translation of the Gnanakanda of the Rourava Agama, and the translation, I should think, is a marvel in itself. It may be boldly asserted that there is not a single work in the whole of the Aryan or Dravidyan literary field that can stand a comparison with this work for conciseness and soundness. It was perhaps the will of Providence that the Agamic truths should be explained more forcibly in Tamil than in Sanscrit, the Deva Basha having been intended to convey the truth generally to a larger circle of souls. Our Brahmins who are fond of committing to memory the Sanscrit slo-kar hearing on Vedic rituals do not care to circle of sculs. Our Brahmins who are fond of committing to memory the Sanscrit slo-kas bearing on Vedic rituals do not care to have a study of this wonderful translation the value of which the Hindu religion cannot afford to overlook. We have again the Sivagnana Siddiar the merits of which as a Philosophic treatize are too well known to need any mention. The author, Arunanthisivacharia, was himself a Brahmin and so was Umapatisivacharia the author of eight of these Siddhanta Shastras. He was one of the orthodox Brahmns of Chitamparam whose ancestors came from the North, and he orthodox Brahimins of Chitamparam whose ancestors came from the North, and he was a great saint; but none of these considerations seem to carry any weight with the modern Brahimins of South India whose aversion to Tamil sacred books is quite inexplicable. quite inexplicable.

Gnanakanda is the cream of the Hindu religion, and the Tamil sacred books deal largely with gnanakanda. Our Brahmins must therefore set an example to the pub lic at large and shew their appreciation of these high class religious literature and promote thereby the cause of their religion. If, on the contrary, they are found to speak disparagingly of such superfine literature, they must either be said to be too materialistic to be called Brahmins, or they must be said to have been prompted by an envious spirit towards the South Indian Athinams or Mutts whose object is to maintain the superiority of the South Indian form of Hinduism.

Whatever may be the distinction between the two forms which the religion has assumed in the North and in the South, there can be no question as regards the merits of the Tamil sacred books which are admittedly highly religious and quite consistent with the Vedic and Agamic creeds. The Siddhanta school of Agamic creeds. The Siddhanta school of South India does not in any way despise the Vedic or the Agamic religious literature, but it fully admits their importance and freely makes use of them in all religious practices. But the Brahmins of South India treat with contempt the serred literature of the Tamils. Agamic creeds. the sacred literature of the Tamils,-and this has wounded the feelings of a certain section of the Tamil community, who have now started a campaign against every thing Aryan and every thing Vedic. This is highly prejudicial to the cause of the Hindu religion as a whole, and I should think that the Brahmins are solely responsible for the present state of things

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER - Refreshing showers of rain fell here on Monday afternoon and Tues-day night last. We understand, however, that these rains were not general and did not fall beyond Urumpiray on the North and Navat-kuly on the East of the Peninsula.

THE GOVERNMENT AGENT -- Mr. Horsburgh, the Government Agent, leaves this evening to Co'ombo to attend a meeting of the Honours Committee. He returns from Colombo and goes on long circuit to Mullaitive returning to Jaffna at the end of this month.

THE JAFFNA HINDU COLLEGE—re-opened yesterday after the Hindu New Year holidays.

A New Registrar of Marriges &c—
We are giad to learn that Mr, K Muttukumaru of Tellippalai has been appointed Registrar of marriages for Valigamam North and
Registrar of births and deaths for Tellippalai
divisin in succession to the late Mr. S
Mudir. Visuvapph. Mr. Muttukumaru is a
consin of the late V Sionappah Mudaliar,
Maniagar, Valigamam North, and has been
acting with acceptance as Registrar, during
the last 9 months.

SUICIDE —A married man of Alaveddy who absounded with another young woman of the place is reported to have committed suicide by stabbing himself, after inflicting serious wounds on his first wife for having removed herself to her father's residence on hearing of his misconduct. The man is said to have wounded his father in law also, who went to the rescue of his daughter.

THE JAFFNA PUBLIC LIBRARY.—A committee meeting hold at the Jaffna Public Library on alonday the 30 ultime considered the appointment of a Librarian in succession to the late incumbent and appointed Mr. J James the Messenger for the post. S Paulpillai, a nephew of the late Librarian succeeds J James as Messenger. —Cor.

Personal — if O Thiagarajah, Agent, National Indian Life Insurance Coy. Colombo, who was in Jaffaa in connection with the serious idners and subsequent death of his brother Mr. O Gunaratnam returned to his station on Tuosday evening.

—Srimath AmbalavanaNavalaSwamikal, the founder and proprietor, Hindu English Institute, Varidukoddai, and Sri Guanasambanda-Swami Madam, Tienevelly, Sorth Irdia, has roturned to Jaffaa some days back, from Kaitarkoil, where he was rendering valuable services to the Siddhanta Mahasabai of which he is the President. He returned to Jaffaa in connection with the above Institute and his stay here will not be a long one. —Cor.

—Mr. Walker C Price, Provincial Engineer, Northern Province, is on a month's leave and Mr. D. K. Macmion, District Engineer, Jaffna, is acting for him.

MATRIMONIAL -The marriage of Mr W R Williams, B A, B E, the son of the late Mr. Livis Williams with Miss Ponnamma Rice, daughter of Mr. Samuel Rice of the Karadive Eoglish School was rolemoized at the Vaddukoddai Church on the 25th ut. The wedding was largely attended by the friends and relations of the parties. Our best wishes to the new couple.

best wishes to the new couple.

An "AT Home"—Mr. T Saravanamuttu the popular P. W. D., Overseer who is connected with the department for the past 28 years was "At Home" to his friends on the occasion of his 61st birthday. Mr. Saravanamuttoo though advanced in years looks healthy and steady and is still able to put in many years of useful ife. He is considered as the leader of the Tamil Community at Talawakelle and Agrapatoa districts on account of his wisdom and popularity among them. His friends and relations mustered strong in response to his invitation and enjoyed a very pleasant evening with him. After dinner was served Mr. S Kathiravallo, the Station Maater, Talawakelle voiced the sentiments of those assembled and wished him many happy returns of the day. He also exhorted those assembled to take Mr. Saravanamuttoo as an example in their life and to lead a useful and good life. After which he called upon Mr. K Suppiah to present Mr. Saravanamuttoo the purse subscribed to by his friends as a small token of their regard and estem in which he was held among them. Mr. Saravanamuttoo in return thanked those assembled and those who sent him telegrams and letters of congratulations and reciprocated their best wishes.

—Cor.

Death of Mrs. Emery.—We deeply regret

DEATH OF MRS. EMERY.—We deeply regret to have to record the death of Mrs. F F Emery of the Ramanathan College which took place on the 29th Ultimo at the General Hospital, Colombo. She was very serviceable to Jaffina and her death is a great loss to the Tamil community. She was the Principal of the Ramanathan College for over three years and atterwards she was serving in the capacity of Treasurer of the College for more than a year. She was a very kind hearted, good, and picus lady, who had great reverence for the past. She was an acquisition to Jaffina, and her death will be widely mourned. Our deep condolences with the staff of the Ramanathan College who held her in affectionate regard, and with her own relatives, upon her lamontable death.

INVENTION OF AN IT DIAN CHEMIST —A Wire

Invention of an Irdian Chemist -A Wire INVENTION OF AN ILDIAN CHEMIST —A Wire Meaning and the American Consul General in Calcutta announces that Professor Maniklal Dutt of the Presidency College has been given a research grant of 11,000 dollars for the purpose of his researches on halogenation. Besides its immense value to chemical industry halogenation is said to be a great help to modern warfare in producing asphyxiating gas.

Y M. H. A., KANDY —At the weekly meeting of the above Association held at 3 30 r m on the 29th ultimo, Mr. V Kathirithamby delivered a lecture on "The life of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa" Messra. S Anandasundaram, S Nagaratnam, A Vijayaratnam, M Paramanathar, P Subramaniam, S Sabaratnam and O Guanaprakasham offered remarks. —Cor.

Young Men's Literary Association, Pully West —At the usual weekly meeting of the Young Men's Literary Association, Pully Wset, Point Pedro, held on Saturday the 23th utimo at 30 p m with Mr. J S R Sarma, B A, Hoadmaster, Hindu English School, Point Pedro, in the cheir, a lecture on 'The position of Woman in Society,' was delivered by Mr M Karthigasu, teacher, Ramanathan College, before a large and cultured audience. His views on the subject were in keeping with the bighest traditions of the Hindu ideal, tempered by the liberalism of the West to suit changed conditions. As every one would have expected there was divergence of opinions leading to a beated discussion, some advocating sweeping reforms, some tenaciously holding to the ancient tradition in their entire form, others taking a saner view of the whole question. Remarks were offered by Messes K Valemuruku, Licensed Surveyor, V Sinnathamby, Trained Teacher, Hartley College, A Candish, Soionce Master, Hartley College, A Candish, Soionce Master, Hartley College, A Candish, Soionce Master, Hartley College, A Candish with an appeal to the members to keep up the glorious traditions of our ancestors. —Cor.

Passengers to India And Passports.—We are not told of the reasons for which the

PASSENGERS TO INDIA AND PASSENGERS.—Cor.

PASSENGERS TO INDIA AND PASSENGERS.—We are not told of the reasons for which the Ceylon authorities have recently brought into force a new Regulation requiring all passengers to India by the Indo-Ceylon route to procure a passport, but it is undertood that the Regulation will be in force till the end of the war. According to the Regulation every passenger to India must secure a passport which is to be countersigned by a J P, a minister of the Church, or a B ink Manager, and on which must be affixed a five ruppe stamp and the photograph of the person. The demand of a fee of Rs 5 for each passport is very hard and would cause a great deal of inconvenience to intending passengers. The only exception to the Regulation is made in the case of coolies who if they travel by gangs will be allowed to go to India without passports.—The Hindu.

Y. M. H. A., (CENTRAL.)

A Bajanai -was held on the 27th ultimo.

"Young Hindu,"—This is the title of the quarterly journal of the Y. M. H. A. The first number is now ready for sale at the Head Quarters.

PETTAH Y. M. H. A.—Mr. T. R. Nalliah, Advocate has kindly set apart a spacious room in Chapel St. for the use of this Association.

JAIL PREACHING -is being done every Sunday.

NORTH CEYLON TENNIS MEET.

The North Ceylon Tennis Meet under the auspices of the Jaffna United Club comes off on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 3rd, 4th and 5th instant Morning and Evening:—

The following are the entries: -

Dr. P. E. Pieris, Messrs. G. F. de Livera, A. E. Christoffelz, S. H. Wadia, A. Muttueumaraswamy, I. A. Herft, S. Katiresu, V. Joseph, V. Sanmugalingam, N. Chelvadurai, W. D. Niles, S. Rajaratoan, G. C. Thambyah, P. Vytialingam, R. R. Nalliah, C. R. Thambyah, W. F. Ratnagopal, V. Ram diogam, S. Ehamparam, T. R. Nalliah and D. Saverimuttu.

The following prizes have been offered for com-

Challenge cup-Open Singles by Mr. B. Hors-burgh, Government Agent.

Handicap Singles-cup - by Dr. P. E. Pieris, Dis-trict Judge.

Open Doubles—by Messys. K. Kanagasabai, Proctor, S. C. and K. Somasundaram, Proctor, S. C. and M. L. B.

Handicap Doubles—by Mosars, K. Thambyah, Proctor, and V. Kandiah.

Sir A. Kanagasabai Kt., the President of the Club, will distribute the prizes on Saturday even-

G. C. THAMBYAH, Hony. Secretary. Jafina United Club.

THE ALAVEDDY LITERARY UNION.

The seventh auniversary of the above Union came off on Friday the 20th ultimo and a full day's programme was gone through.

From 9 to 12 in the morning, there was nut breaking contest among the members of the Union; after which they retired for breakfast.

In the evening, the party met at about 3 P. M. in the Alaveddy English School Hall, which was gally decorated for the purpose in the oriental fashion/when the business meeting, with Mr. K. Somasunderam, B. A., President of the Union in the chair, was held. The election of office bearers for the ansuing year, which constituted the chief item of the meeting, stood thus:

Patron: Mr. E.S.W. SenathiRajah, Barrister-at-

President (ex officio): Dr. K. C. Seenicutty,

President: Mr. K. Somasunderam, E. A. Vice-Presidente: Messrs, S. M. Kandiah and V. Somasunderam.

Secretary: Mr. E. Rasiah.

Asst. Scoretary: Mr. M. Vairamuttu. Treasurer: Mr. R. Thamotherampillal.

Auditors: Messrs. S. Eliyathamby and V. Thambapillat.

Additional Members of the Committee:

(1) Mr. T. V. Chellappah and (2) Mr. N. A. Subbiah.

Masars. T. V. Chellappah and N. A. Subbiah were elected joins addrors of the Magazine "The Alavai Friend", white Mr. R. Thamotheram, was lef, in charge of the **Epone Gares".

At 4 30 p. M. light refreshments were served in great abundance and a fine selection of music was discoursed by some expart singers of the place.

The last and most important item of the day which was a public lecture by Mr. J. V. Chellish, M. A., on '8b Prepared' began at 7 p. in with Mr. N. Selvadurai, B. A., Principal, Hindu College, Jaffua, in the chair. Before this the report for the year ending on the 20th April. 1917, was read by the Secretary, Mr. T. Thiagarajah.

Remarks on the subject were offered by Mr. T. A. Thuraiappah illisi; and after the Chairman's long and interesting speech, and the singing of songs specially compared for the occasion, the meeting closed at about 9 p. M. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. K. Sumavundaram to the lecturer and the chairman; and was seconded by Mr. R. C. Satgunasingham.

—Cor.

THIRUNELVALY YOUNG MEN'S HINDU ASSOCIATION.

ASSOCIATION.

The above Association celebrated its first anniversary and the sixth anniversary of the T.Y.M. H. A. on the 20 h ulsimo in Shivagoanathanavidhysasly Hall. The school premises were beautifully decorated and arrangements were made in an elaborate scale to ensure the success of the function. Practically the whole village turned up at 6 p. M. when Bajaral was begun. Those who came late had to be content with standing accommodation. A special plate from was creeted in the middle of the hall for Koiaddam by six young students. Buntings and flags and pictures presented a festive appearance. Mr. S. Rajareinam, Advocate, presided and conducted the meeting with great success. The following is the Programme that was gone through:

1. Welcome Song, 2. Recitation, 3. Music (Koladdam), 4. Reading of the Report, 5. Songs, 6. Music (Koladdam), 7. Prize Distribution, 8. Addresses, 9. Music (Koladdam), 10. National Anthem (in Tamil).

The music, the songs, and specially the rythmic movements of the students who performed Koladdam evoked the admiration of the audience. The following are the Prize winners. Recitation Prizes:—1. Masters C. Nadarajah and 2. S. Shivackolunto.

Batting Prizes:—1. Masters T. Mathyaparanam and 2. V. Kandayah.

Batting Prizes:—1. Masters T. Mathyaparanam id 2. V. Kandayah.

nd 2. V. Kandayan,
Bowling Prizes:—1. Master S. Subramaniam.

Bowling Prizes:—I. Master S. Subramaniam.

The prizes were distributed by the chairman with appropriate romarks. At the invitation of the chairman Mr. M. S. Elyathamby, Advocate, General Scoy. Y. M. H. A. (Central) offered comments on the very interesting report of the Secy. Mr. A. Kanagasabal, Waidyar also addressed the gathering in Tamil. The chairman in a lucid speech emphacised the great necessity of physical, culture and expressed satisfaction at the success of the sports club of this branch association and exhorted the members to continue their noble work. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. R. Bamachandra and carried with acclamation.

—Cor.

THE TAMIL NEW YEAR DAY CELEBRATION AT KUALA LUMPUR.

THE TAMIL NEW YEAR DAY
CELEBRATION AT KUALA LUMPUR.

The 13th of April, 1917, will go down in the history of the Tamils of Kuala Lumpur as are deletter day, when more than 700 of them assembled in the beautiful Town Hall of Kuala Lumpur is celebrate the Tamil New Year Day. The meeting commenced at 5 30 p. m., with Dr. Mc Intyre in the chair. The chairman took the audience by surprise by a very able speech he delivered in Tamil and during the course of his address he strongly appealed for national unity. He emphasized on the fact and clearly explained that it was not a Hindu New year but a Tamil New Year and religion had little or nothing to do with it. There were various other speakers including Messrs. Bacnabas, Swaminathan, Ponnuduray and Sinnaduray. It is unfair to make special mention of any one of the various speakers for they all did well. Mr. Barnabas who spoke in Tamil on Patriotism kept the audience spoil bound for nearly half an hour. His speech was simple and appealing coming as it does from one who is in the heart of hearts a patriot. Mr. Ponnuduray who spoke on the Tamil to bring this undertaking to a success. Mr. S vaminathan, the Edutor of the Indian Emigrant', gave a short but sweet address on "Unity". During his speech he said that unity did not consist of words but it was a question of deeds. Let every one think for himself what he is going to do in this world and what is the purpose of his infe. Continuing he referred to the work of Mr. Ghandi in South Africa in creating a sense of brotherhood among the various Indian races of South Africa. Further he added that patriotism is not a new thing to us. It is not brought with Western education or Eastern Civilization. He exhorted all to be true to themselves and in conclusion urgod the Tamils treespective of their religion and place of birth to be united and work for the common good.

Mr. Mattiah who was mostly instrumental in bringing up the function to a success thanked the randing of their pention of their pention of their pention of their pent

for the common good.

Mr. Mathiah who was mostly instrumental in bringing up the function to a success thanked the audience for their presence in well chosen words and proposed a vote of thanks to the chair which was carried amid loud applause.

The function was a real success on which every true Tamil ought to be proud and this should serve as a beginning to great ends.

(From Another Correspondent)

(From Another Correspondent,)

The following is a verbatim report of delivered by Mr. T. K. Swaminathan, Ea. of the "Indian Emigrant" at Kuala Lumpur on occasion of the Tamil New Year Day (13 4 17) when D. E. T. McIntyre, M. D. Presided.
M. Casirman and friends,
It is a great pleasure to meet the Tamil populations of this Colony and speak a few words, at the request of the description of Unity. I had been in Caylon last year about

this time and I came across several influential men like Jir P. Arunachalam and men of ord nary position and I tens is will be my good lack to see our countrymen in other colonies also in dua course. Now I am asked to address on the strip case of Unity at this particular time when every one of ms. Hindue, Christians, Mchammedham and Parsees and other nationallises should be unitedly working for the good of the mother country. Unity—I do not believe in words. It is a question of deeds. To get united. This is the most essential question. Every one should aske bimself what am I fitted for and in what respect I may be of use to my speak and be speaking hours after hours together do not the country. It is all very well to hear, to on unity but the moment we leave this half we are not united. The speaker continuing said let every man think of himself what he is going to do in this world. What is his purpose of hite. It is this question put by every great man in this world, by use like Messrs, Ghandi, Gokhele, Tilke and others who have ricen above the ordinary level of mankind. Why does the whole country level of mankind why does the whole country speak often the names of these personages. Mr. Ghandi was the creature of circumstances as every man is. When have ricen for the condition of our fellow countrymen who were in that the only educated man who were in that the this time and I came across several influential men like 3ir P. Arunachalam and men of ord men

One or two words about pariotism. Patriotism is not a new thing to us. It is not a product of Western education or Western civilization. We have in Sanskrit "Janani Janmabhumische Swargathapi Garlyssi". (Mother and motherland are greater than heaven itself.) Imagine to yourself the meaning that is so pregonat in this single line. Let every one of us remember this and make it his prayer every morning when he gets up from bed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SWAMY VEDACHALAM'S COMMENTARY ON PERIAPURANAM.

Dear Sir,

I am glad to learn that Sri Math Swami Vedachalan Avi, of Pallayavam, Madras, has kidly
consented to write an exhaustive commentary on
the "Periva Puranam" of Sekkilar Swamikal.
Such a commentary has been a long-felt want,
and no words are needed to commend to the
Tamil public either the work or the fitness of the
Swami to undertake the same.

One of the objects of Sekkilar in writing his

Swami to undertake the same.

One of the objects of Sekkilar in writing his Puranam was to produce a work of greater literary excellence than the "Chintamani" of Thirnthaka thevar. As such to all lovers of Tamil literature, the "Periya Puranam" remains a "joy for ever". It relates the lives of the Sixty-three Saints who have been the life and soul of the Saiva Religion, and hence its importance to the Saiva community.

Saiva community.

The Swami's coming forward to write a commentary on the same is halled with delight by lovers of Teoril literature, and several Young Men, both in India and Ceylon have already volunteered to canvass subscribers in order to help the Swami in his noble work. Gentlemen who have the interest of Tamil literature and Saiva Religion at heart will save much labour and money to these workers if they will promptly remit their subscriptions in advance direct to the Swami, and give information of the same to Mr. Kanagarayan (95 Dam St. Colombo) who is the correspondent of the Ceylon branch. The commentary will appear in monthly parts, and the first one is expected to be soon out.

The Swami is a rare product of Tamil culture.

The Swami is a rare product of Tamil culture, and this opportunity which he has offered is not one to be easily missed.

I hope that the Tamil public will make the work a success by giving the Sawami the support which he richly deserves.

JAIL PREACHING BY THE JAFFNA Y. M. H. A.

Hindu preaching in the Jaffoa Jail was commenced on Sunday the 22nd instant and continued yosterday, Mr. T. Chittampalam of the Customs and myself being the preachers on both the occasions. From what I have been able to observe, the Hindu pelsoners are listening with interest to the preaching. In addition to the Tamil Hindu pelsoners many Sinhalece Buddhist prisoners are also attending. The Tamil prisoners are eager to have good Tamil books supplied to thom. I hope that charitable Hindu gentlemen who are interested in the elevation of Hindu prisoners will meet their eager demand for intellectual food by gifts of Tamil books which while being attractive both in style and matter will appeal to and bring out the nablest side of their nature. The Scoretary Y. M. H. A. Jaffoa, will gratefully accept to he from gentlemen on bohalf of the Tamil Hindu have in the Jaffoa Jafl. Of course, the books how. I was a the dealer fash in Hinduism.

Velvestitural, 50.h April 1917.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

RAMSGATE AGAIN BOMBARDED.

London, April 27.

The Admiralty states that yesterday night several enemy destroyers opened fire in the direction of Ramagate. The fire was immediately returned, and she enemy drygn off after they had fired a large number of rounds. Lord French states that a man and a woman were killed, a man and two woman injured, and 21 dwellings and two etables damaged. A large number of the projectiles fell in the open country.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

E. M. Sir D. Haig says:—The enemy unsuccessfully attacked in the night North-Westward of St. Quentin and was driven off after sharp lighting. We captured the quarries on the Eastern outskirts of Hargioure. The enemy horriedly fled. We captured important positions in the neighbourhood of the Arras Cambrai road and the spur between flooux and Gavrelle.

F. M. Sir Haig says: There is nothing of special interest on the battle front. There was marked air activity, seven Gegman acroplanes being brought down and six others driven down. Six of OURS are missing.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE SCARPE POSITION

F.-M. Sir J. D. Heig says: -We attacked this morning on a front of several miles Northwards of the River Scarge. The troops are meeting what considerable opposition, but making good progress. The fighting continues.

Router's Headquarters' correspondent wires:

The British are attacking with magnificent ardour
and have compiled Arioux and forced their way
through haif the village of Oppy. The fighting is
most bitter and fierce, Counter attacks are everywhere developing. oveloping.

NEARLY A THOUSAND PRISONERS,
LOUDON, A

London, April 29,

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We captured this
morning the treneu system Southward of Oppy on
a mile front, after heavy fighting and a stubborn
resistance. There were several unsuccessful counter attacks. We stock prisoner since yesterday
moraing 976. We downed three German aeroplanes. Three of ours are missing.

ENEMY SUFFERS HEAVILY.

ENEMY SUFFERS HEAVILY.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—There has been severe fighting in which we have had the advantage ail day long from the Scarpe River to the Achevilie-Vimy road. We captured Aricux-encoded and the enemy's positions on over two miles of from North and South of the village. We also progressed North Eastward of Gavrelle and on the Western slopes of Greenland Hill between Gavrelle and Roeux. Southward of the River we gained ground Northward of Monchy le Preux. The enemy in many violent counter attacks with considerable forces suffered heavily from Artillery and machine-gan firs. The heavy fighting in the neighbourhood of Monchy le four enemy acropianes were brought down and three of ours are missing.

THE FRENCH FRONT,
London, April 27.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, April 27.

A French communique says: —There was a fairly lively Artillery struggle South of St. Quentin in the sector of Nanteolle la-Fosse-Sancy and in the direction of Vitle aux-Bois. The Germans in the night attempted raids and partial attacks at various points on our front which were cas ly beaten back by machine guns and gernadiers with enemy losses, notably on the Western edge of the Forest of St. Gobain and the sector of Rhelims North-West of Auberive. We had several successful minur operations in the regions of Hurthies and Ceray. We gained ground and took prisoners and carried several portions of trenches as Moronyillars Massif. We occupied a point delapput East of Mont sans nom. We raided the Greman lines at Bois le Irstre and inflicted heavy losses on the categy. We destroyed dag guts and crought back prisoners. We have taken 180 guns since April 18th.

London, April 28.

London, April 28.

London, April 28.

A French communique says: "There was marked reciprocal activity north-west of Reims and in Champagne, but no infanty fighting. Three German aeroplanes were brought down on April 26 in in addition to six seriously damaged and forced to descend. One of our arregulations bombed stations and bivourse in the region of Ribemont and Crecue-sur-tere.

More Process on Rheims Sectors,

More Process on Rheims Sectors,
London, April 29.

French communique records isolated operam in the region North and South of Courcy
in North-West of Rheims. We took prisoner
and appreciately enlarged our positions. There
is a somewhat lively Artillery duel in Chamque. Between Prunay and Auberive our demients penchrated as far as the enemy's sedd line at several points. In Upper Alsace
ing grenating ended in our advantage and cost
the great of the Corporative Carmans losses. We brought back prisoners.

Results of the Oppersive.

London, April 28,
4 French communique says:—There was a fairly

London, April 28,
A French communique says:—There was a fairly
great Artillery duel in Champagne. Our machinegua fice smashed up the German attack, preceded
by a violent bombardment, East of Auberive,
bunce April 18th we have captured 175 heavy
and field guos, 412 machine guns, 119 trench
morters and 20,780 prisoners.

London, April 29, taris.—A communique says:—There was an ermittent Artillery duel on most of the front, plannes wickent in the Aisne region. We prospect in the Osel region on Chemin des Dames, mg prisoners. Everywhere el-e was quiet. Of raman acropianes were felled and six others and to land damaged on the 27th.

NEW BRITISH AEROPLAT

April 26, hourst Lord Montage of Deaulieu stated that he was constructing an aeroplane superior to the enemy's. He suggested that has Air Board of the Admiralty should co-operate

with a view to the greater use of scaplanes to combat submarines and guard trade routes.

CHINA TO ENTER THE WAR.

New York.—According to a telegram from Pek-ing a Conference of Provincial and Military Go-vernors, the Premier presiding, unanimously pas-sed a resolution in favour of China entering the War. A canvas shows that Parliament is over-whelmingly in favour of it, but the President was undecided.

GERMANY AND PEACE.

GERMANY AND FEACE,

London, April 26.

Petrograd.—The Germans are unremitting in their attempts to parley with Russian soldiers, displaying placards, hearing the words: "Do not attack. We also will not." For the last few days in many sectors of the front—the Germans have not fired a shot. German aeroplanes dropped proclamations, alleging a popular movement in Germany in favour of immediate negotiations for an honourable Peace. Many Austro German parties, carrying red and white flags, attempted to reach the Hussian trenches despite the fire. Some of these who were made prisoners, affirmed that the coemy ranks, especially the Socialists, desired immediate Peace. The latest news from the front shows the Russian Artillery were increasing in activity at various points, which was a sufficient answer to the latest Hun move.

NO SEPARATE PEACE FOR U. S. A.

NO SEPARATE PEACE FOR U. S. A.

The Morning Post Washington correspondent says President Wilcon has assured Mr. Balfour that the United States will not conclude a separate Peace with Germany.

The correspondent, Mr. Massey, wiring from before Gaza on April 21st, says the biggest battle in the history of Palestine is proceeding. We gained the first line but there will apparently be a period of trench warfare before we reach the recent trench system which converted Gaza into a very strong fortress. An early decision must not be expected. The Turkish position comprises extensive sand dunes and an extraordinary variety of redoubts, trenches, pits and a precipituous ravine intersecting the plain, and a range of hills. Describing the fighting Mr. Massey mentions that the British are using eleven inch guns and tanks. He refers to the Scottish troops and Addraces. THE BOMBARDMENT OF RAMSGATE.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF RAMSGATE.

London, April 27.

The bombardment of Ramegate was the heaviest experienced there. It opened at 1-15 A. M., with a brilliant display of star shells and an illumination of the whole town and neighbourhood. At least 100 shells fell in the town in six minutes. A man and a woman were killed in their beds, A horse was killed in a village two miles from the sea.

TROOPSHIP TORPEDOED.

The incoming Australian troopsinp "Ballarat" has been torpedoed. The troops on board were all saved. Splendid discipline was shown, the men singing. The vessel remained afloat four-teen hours. London, April 28.

London, April 28.

There were 1 600, mostly Victorians, on the torpedoed "Ballarat." They state that the voyage was uneventful and slow. They had to reduce their speed owing to inferior coal causing a beacon of fiame nine feet above the funnel at night. The men ascribe the torpedoing to the inability to call for good coal. The attack occurred at mid day. The torpedo was espied before the ship struck. The great vessel quickly swung round. In another two seconds it would have missed. The submarine was not seen from the bridge. The men paraded inside four minutes. The sea was pretty calm: The day was hight. Nine boats were lowered in perfect order, but the occupants re-embarked on the ongineers' favourable report. Later the water gained rapidly. The troops were transhipped to trawkers which rapidly arrived. The ship sank at midnight. There was no loss of human life.

BIG GERMAN STRIKE POSSIBLE.

BIG GERMAN STRIKE POSSIBLE,

Amsterdam.—The German Independent Socialist Party has passed a resolution, inviting the workpeople on May 1st to demand an eight hour day, world Peace and international fraternisation. The Bertimer Tageblatt regards it as an invitation to celebrate the day by a strike.

U. S. A. A.N.D.

U. S. A. AND FINANCIAL AID.

Washington.—It is officially indicated that America will finance the Enterte to the extent of at least £30,000,000 possibly £100,000,000 storling, monthly. It is estimated that the monthly needs of Great Britain will be £45,000,000, of France £22,000,000, of Russia £20,000,000, of Italy £20,000,000 sterling. The tentative programme provides that practically every dollar advanced will be spent in the United States on focd, munition, &c.

tions, &c.

CHINA TO DECLARE WAR AGAINST
GERMANY.

London, April 27.

Peking.—A Military Conference, convened by
Government owing to the opposition of certain
Provinces to the diplomatic policy, has opened at
Peking, attended by eleven Military Governors
and representatives of fourteen other Governors.
It was unanimously in favour of War against
Germany.

WELLS ON A CROWNED PERILLED.

WELLS ON A CROWNED REPUBLIC.

WEILS ON A CROWNED REPUBLIC.

London, April 23.

The Times published on Saturday a letter from Mr. H. G. Wells, urging shat the time is ripe to give clear expression to the great volume of Republicant of the great volume of Republicant of the great volume of Republicant of the Great volume of the publicant of the Grown involved the Grown in Grown in

natural and just. The British people prize and reverence the Monarchy because it is the thread which runs through the wonderful story of our national life, but we value it for practical reasons also as the indicensable keystone of the Empire, binding the whole vast fabric together as no other institution does or can do. Any form of Government but the rule of the King Emperor would be alien to the most cherished ideal of all the peoples. The Maharajah of Bikanir, in a speech at Manchester, to Mr. Wells' letter. He said he took that first opportunity of publicly declaring, in most unhesitating terms, that it will be repudiated with scorn and looked upon with repugnance throughout the length and breadth of the Indian Empire (cheers.) "I speak not only for my brother Princes and myself, but also on behalf of the Indian masses and the Indian Army." (Loud cheers.)

THE BENGALEE COMPANY.

Calcutta, April 30.

59 trained Bengalce soldiers marched through the principal streets of Calcutta on Saturday, the object being to gain fresh recruits. They made a very favourable impression, the latest recruit being the young Nawab of Dacca, who has gone for training.

-The Ceylon Observer.

Notice.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8404.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late James son of Yakkopillai Saverimuttu of Karampan

Deceased.

Swampillai Manuelpillai of Karampan Petitioner. Vs. Yakkopillai Saverimuttu of Karampan Respondent.

Yakkopillai Saverimuttu of Karampan
Respondent.
This matter of the Petition of Swampillai
Manuelpillai of Karampan, praying for Letters of
Administration to the estate of the abovenamed
deceased, James sen of Yakkopillai Saverimuttu
of Karampan, coming on for disposal ibefore
P. E. Pieris, Esqr., District Judge, on April 17,
1917, in the presence of Messrs. Sivaprekasam &
Katiresu, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner;
and the affidavit of the said Petitioner, dated
April 11, 1917, having been read: It is ordered that
the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as sole heir and grand-father of the said deceased, to administer the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration do issue
to him, accordingly, unless the Respondent abovemand or any other person shall, on or before May
15, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction
of this Court to the centrary.

April 24, 1917.

P. E. Pieris,
District Judge.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3359.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sinnachchy wife of Veeragattiar Vallipuram of Van-Bast

Vecragattiar Vallipuram of Van-East Petitioner.

Vs.

Vallipuram Chellish
Vallipuram Tangammah
Vallipuram Ponnamma
Vallipuram Kanmany all of Van-East,
Minors appearing by their guardian adlitem Sinnatamby Muttoo of Mahiyapiddy

This matter of the Petition of Veeragattiar Vallipuram of Van-East, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Sinnachchy wife of Veeragattiar Vallipuram, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esqr., District Judge, on April 20, 1917, in the presence of Mesere. Sivapragasam and Katiresu, Proctors, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the said Petitioner dated January 10, 1917, having been read: It is ordered that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as the lawful husband of the said deceased and that Letters of Administer the estate of the said deceased and that Letters of Administration do issue to him, accordingly, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person shall, on or before May 15, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Peiris, April 24, 1912

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Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 3402.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Kathiravelu Arumngam of Navaly late of Kanthalai in Trincomalie

Marakatham widow of Katheravelu San mugam of Navaly, Jaffna

Vs. Sanmugam Sinnathurai of Navaly, Jaffna Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Marakatham widow of Kathiravelu Samungsm of Navaly, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Kathiravelu Arumgam of Navaly, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esqr., District Judge, on April 20, 1917, in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai. Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated February 21, 1917, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful widow of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to her unless the Respondent or, any other person shall, on or before May 15, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8367.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Retnasingam Kumarakulasingam of Chan-diruppai

Thampu Chelliah of Chandiruppai presently of Bandarawella

Petitioner

Vs.

1. Vissuvalingam Kanagareinam and wife
2. Thayalnayakiammah and
Minor 3. Batuasingam Senathirajah all of Mahiyapiddy and
4. Seithuppillai widow of Velayuthar
Tampu of Chandiruppai. The 3rd
Respondent is a minor appearing by
his Guardian-ad-lifem the 4th Respondent Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Thampu Chelliah of Chandiruppai presently of Bandarawella, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased, Rainasingam Kumarakulasingam of Chandiruppai, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esqu., District Judge, on April 17, 1917, in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner; and the affidavit of the Petitioner, dated January 27,1917, having been read: It is declared that the Petitioner is the paternal uncle of the said intestate, and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before May 10, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

P. E. Pieris,

P. E. Pieris, District Judge.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF BATTICALOA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 942.

In the Matter of the Intestate estate of the late Sittampalam Arembar Nambiar of

Charles Voluppillai, Secretary, District Court of Batticaloa

Vs.

1. Sittampalam Murugesu Nambiar of Division No. 4, Eraur

2. Eletchimippillai wife of Murukor Kartikesu

3. Murukor Karthikesu

4. Kathirathai wife of Velauther Kuddippillai

5. Velauther Kuddippillai

6. Sittampalam Valliammai widow of Kathirkamer Karuval all of Valveddi in Jaffina

7. Kandayar Thankappillai

8. Kandayar Ammunippillai (Minor) of Eraur

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before T. B.

This matter coming on for disposal before T. B. Russell, Esquire, District Judge of Batticaloa, on January 29, 1917, in the presence of Mr. Tamby Rejah, Proctor, on the part of the Potitioner abovenamed; and the shidavit of the said Petitioner dated January 29, 1917, having been

read:

It is ordered that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared entitled, as Secretary of the District Court of Batticalca, to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed of ceased issued to him, unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person or persons inferested shall, on or before March 18, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the 7th Respondent be appointed Guardian ad-lettem of the minor the 8th Respondent, unless the Respondents abovenamed shall, on or before March 13, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary. T. B. Russell,

January 29, 1917. uary 29, 1917. Extended and reissued till May 10, 1917. T. B. B.