

# The Hindu Organ.

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HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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## NOTICE.

## Order Nisi.

## IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 8361.

In the matter of the Last Will of the late Visuvalingam Thampipillai of Nallur

Deceased.

Vaitilingam Chelliah of Vannarponnai East

Vs.

1. Thailayammaipillai widow of Thampipillai of Nallur and

Minor. 2. Chelliah Patmanathan of do. The 2nd Respondent is a minor appearing by his Guardian ad litem the 1st Respondent Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner Vaitilingam Chelliah of Vannarponnai East, praying for grant of Probate of the Last Will of the late Visuvalingam Thampipillai of Nallur, coming on for disposal before P. E. Pieris, Esqr., District Judge, on January 23, 1917, in the presence of Mr. K. Arulambalam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavits of the Petitioner and of the witnesses to the last Will which are dated January 15, 1917, having been read. It is ordered that the Will of the late Visuvalingam Thampipillai, dated October 6, 1916, now deposited in this Court be and the same is hereby declared proved unless the abovenamed Respondents or any other person shall on or before June 12, 1917, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

It is further declared that Vaitilingam Chelliah is the Executor named in the said will and that he is entitled to have Probate of the said Will issued to him accordingly.

P. E. Pieris,  
District Judge.

May 22, 1917.

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## The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1917.

## THE VELLALA VILLAGER AND HIS SOCIAL IDEALS.

A strong deep-rooted prejudice is sometimes hard to get rid of. Unconsciously it warps one's judgment and leads him to commit mistakes which may be apparent to a man of ordinary intelligence. Mr. D. M. Weigel's second letter published in this issue gives an apt illustration to this fact. When Mr. Weigel contended in his first letter that the Vellala Villager was foolish and indolent in obeying his caste law and refusing to draw toddy for him, we politely pointed out his mistake and told him that the caste obligation in this case was founded on a correct principle. Occupations are either conducive or detrimental to human welfare. Toddy drawing belongs to the latter class and hence tabooed according to the ancient usages in our society. We are sorry Mr. Weigel still fails to note this plain fact and wonders, as he does in the present letter, why the Vellala peasant tills the foot of the palmyrah tree where gold does not answer his spade, while he would "not tap the top of it where gold may flow to compensate his work". Mr. Weigel's outlook on life is pure unqualified utilitarianism. The end justifies the means. If you can get wealth and power it does not matter how you get it. This is the German creed in all its nakedness and it is Mr. Weigel who wants to uphold it in Jaffna, and not the Jaffnese whom he accuses of it in his letter. The ancient Hindu social ideals and usages were founded on a spiritual basis. Mr. Weigel confounds some of the modern abuses of the caste system, which all educated Tamils condemn, with the many benevolent uses of it, which we should all try to retain and foster. The rule against toddy drawing is an instance to his benevolent effect. Mr. Weigel would do well to make careful study of the following words of an English retired I. C. S. who lived and worked in India for a long time, benedicting a wholesale condemnation of ancient Hindu usages.

Meadows Taylor says in his History of India, in dealing with an important phase of the caste system:—

"Next to faith, good works have a large part in the every day religion of Hindu life. Here, however, the religion of the people falls into caste discipline which is a more direct and efficient means of preserving general morality than is religion in the abstract. Without the restriction of caste, it will be admitted that the religion of faith alone, earnest and vivid as it may be, would prove a weak defence against immorality of all kinds, and it is under the joint action of the two, strengthening and supporting each other, that the Hindus have preserved both."

The ancient Hindu social divisions were intended to establish hereditary trade guilds and to protect them from following immoral or undesirable customs and occupations. Except in exceptional cases it was considered impolitic for one class to change its place in the body politic. But such changes have occurred in the past and were not condemned. The system, in ancient times, well served to regulate and break the force of unrestricted competition for worldly wealth and co-ordinate worldly activities to spiritual ends. "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity", the watchwords of the French revolutionaries, which Mr. Weigel warmly applauds, are fine sentiments no doubt. But is he not aware that it is these sentiments, unregulated and uncontrolled by spiritual ideals, that were responsible for the horrible massacres and shocking atrocities that disfigured the fair face of France of the revolutionary period?

Mr. Weigel is right in condemning caste disparagement. But we would qualify the statement thus:—Except in the case of castes following avowedly unclean or immoral occupations, there should be no caste disparagement. We fail to see the force of Mr. Weigel's contention that the existence of social inequalities in a community disqualifies it for political privileges. In every country in the world, social inequalities and disparagements prevail in the name of caste, colour, creed, or class; but that was never used as an argument to withhold political rights to which they were entitled. The possession of political liberties creates in one a sense of civic responsibility, liberalises his ideas and induces him to co-operate with his fellow citizens, of whatever class or creed, for their common good. Political liberties, therefore, tend to level up social disparagement. Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao C. I. E. who was successively Dewan of Travancore, Mysore and Baroda, noticed this fact at length in his Presidential Address at the Madras Provincial Conference held at Cuddalore about the beginning of last month. In the Representative Assembly of Travancore, he said, educated Tiyya and Pulaiya Representatives who belonged to the untouchable classes, sat side by side with the highest Brahman Representative, and the latter, in his eager desire for political liberty gladly welcomed this social reform.

## THE ANTI-ANIMAL-SACRIFICE CAMPAIGN IN JAFFNA.

This is the season of animal sacrifices in many of the village temples in Jaffna. Goats and fowls are mercilessly slaughtered and the precincts of these temples where an atmosphere of love and piety should prevail are converted into pitiless shambles for the time being. It goes without saying that this horrible and sinful practice is strongly condemned by Saiva Shastras and is extremely inhumane and debasing in its moral effect on society. Compassion to lower animals is one of the cardinal tenets of Hinduism. What we condemn most strongly is that this horrible practice should be perpetrated in the name of this religion, and in temples dedicated to the God of all love and all mercy. The question thus assumes a public character and every Saivite has a right to protest that his religion is not degraded and dragged into the mire by a few misguided individuals. Every Saivite owes it as a duty to his religion to take active steps in the suppression of this inhumane practice.

All Saivites should note with pleasure the vigorous prosecution of the agitation against animal sacrifice, by the Young Men's Hindu Association of Jaffna. They are working with a zeal and an earnestness of purpose which must surely enlist popular support and crown their work with the success it deserves.

The Amman Temple at Araly is one of the chief temples where animal slaughter is allowed on a large scale. The annual festival in this temple has already commenced and in a few days the great sacrificial Pongal day will be celebrated

with the merciless slaughter of hundreds of goats and fowls. To educate the public in these places on the sinful nature of this practice and to create a strong public opinion against it, several meetings have been recently held and men of learning and influence have addressed these meetings. Though there is now a strong public opinion against this practice, it is regrettable to note that some of the Temple Managers are still obdurate. But we are sure the volume and force of public opinion is bound to grow stronger and irresistible in course of time, as people begin to think and feel for themselves about the evils of this custom. A good cause, backed up by good men with good motives, must triumph in the long run. In a noble cause like this, to sit with folded arms and simply look on while others are working, is despicable. If every sincere lover of Saivism does his duty in this connection, this cruel custom cannot continue.

## LOCAL &amp; GENERAL.

**PUNNIANACHY CHARITIES.**—The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on the 2nd instant. The President, Secretary and Treasurer were elected. Two Managers to look after properties of the Trust at Maravarpulo and other places were also appointed.

**TRAINING FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS.**—The last "Gazette" publishes the regulations relating to courses of instruction and examination in Chemistry and Physics for Teachers at the Government Technical Schools. Five scholarships to be awarded in July, of the annual value of Rs 480 and free tuition tentable for 2 years, are offered for competition this year. Suitable candidates who do not obtain scholarships will be admitted on payment of a fee of Rs. 72 50 a year.

**PERSONAL.**—The Hon. Mr. A. Sapapathy, left for Colombo yesterday.

—Mr. C Chinnappu of the P. W. D., Demodera, has come to Jaffna on one month's leave and is at his residence at Sandilipay.

—Mr. K. Nagamuttu of Vankalai is at Araly East, having come on 6 weeks' leave.

—Mr. N. Kandiah, Postmaster, Port Swettenham, has obtained 7½ months' leave. He will spend his holidays at Vathiri, Pt. Pedro.

—Miss M. A. Needham, B. A., (London), Cambridge Training College Diploma, who has been Lady Principal of the Ramanathan Girls' College, Chunnakam, N. P., has been offered and accepted the post of Principal of the Girls' High School at Baroda, a wealthy and enlightened Native Indian State.

—Mr. N. Vaitilingam, Chief Storekeeper of Messrs. Brown & Co. Ltd., Colombo, has come to Jaffna for a change on one month's leave and is residing at Navaly.

**MATRIMONIAL.**—Mr. T. Ponampalam son of Mr. T. S. Thuraiappah, Notary Public, Tellipalai is to be married to Miss Vethanayagam Ilaiyattamby of Mallagam on the 4th instant at about 11 p. m.

—As announced in our last issue, the marriage of Srimathi Tharumalakshmi Ammal, daughter of Mr. V. A. Ramalingam with Mr. S. Sellaturai of the Provincial Registrar's Office, Jaffna, was celebrated at the bride's residence at Vannarponnai on Thursday last, according to Hindu rites, in the presence of a large number of friends and relations of the parties. The ceremony was continued for three days and closed on Saturday last with *Unchal*. The attendance on all the three days was very large and respectable, testifying to the great popularity of the parties. The guests were received and entertained with much hospitality by Mr. V. Thampi of the Education Office, Colombo, uncle of the bride, and by Mr. R. Shanmugaratnam of the tutorial staff of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, brother of the bride. The bride and bridegroom belong to an ancient and highly respected family in Jaffna. We extend our hearty congratulations to the newly married couple and wish them long life, happiness and prosperity.

**ANTI-ANIMAL SACRIFICE CAMPAIGN.**—Under the auspices of the Jeeva Daya Section of the Y. M. H. A. a largely attended meeting of Saivites was held at the Columbuturai Ferry Madam, on the 2nd instant at 6 p. m. Mr. E. K. Sivasubramanya Aiyer, B. A., Mr. M. SabaretnaSinghe, B. A. and Mr. S. T. Chittambalam, the Secretary of the Jeeva Daya Section, addressed the audience in Tamil in a very convincing manner on the evil effects of animal slaughter in Hindu Temples, whereupon, the Managers of the local Amman Temple and the Aiyannar Temple, who were present in the audience, stood up and announced that they have decided to discontinue this cruel practice in their Temples. Their decision was applauded by the whole audience amidst enthusiastic shouts of "Hara Hara Mahadeva". Among those present, besides the speakers, were Mr. V. M. Muttuomaru, Jaffna Maniagar, W. Mudir. Muttuvelupillai, S. Ampikalpaker, S. Thuralappa of the Fiscal's Office, the Udair and Police Vidan of Columbuturai and many others.

—Cor.

**THE LATE MR. HUDSON PARAMASWAMY.**—A portrait of the late Mr. Hudson Paramaswamy B. A. (Principal, Manipay Hindu College), who was connected for a long period with Jaffna College as Professor of Classics will be unveiled at the Oley Hall, Jaffna College, on Monday June 4 at 4 p. m. The speakers on the occasion will be the Hon. Mr. Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai Kt., Hon. Mr. K. Balasingam M. L. C. and Rev. John Bicknell, B. A., D. D.

**Y. M. H. A. PETTAH (JAFFNA).**—A fortnightly meeting of the above Association came off on Saturday the 26th ultimo under the presidency of Mr. S. Kandiah, Proctor S. C., and commenced with the singing of Thevaram followed by the reading of the minutes. Then an essay on "The Press and the Platform" written by Mr. G. A. Retnavarathar was read by Master R. Cumaranyakam. Secondly an essay on "Jaffna today and a century ago" written by Mr. A. V. Somasundaram was read by Mr. V. Sivagnanam the Secretary, in the writer's absence. Remarks were offered by Mr. K. Ampalavanar. Further remarks and the essay on "Modesty and Manners" by Mr. V. Ponnudurai were reserved for the next meeting. The gathering dispersed at about 9 p. m. with the singing of Thevaram.

—Cor.

**CEYLONESE DOCTOR IN LONDON.**—We are glad to announce that Dr. Goonaratnam F. Cooke, M. R. C. S., (Eng.) L. R. C. P. (Lond.) son of Mr. Tambiah S. Cooke, has been appointed Senior Resident Midwifery Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He held the office of Junior Resident Accoucheur for three months and this quick promotion to to such an office shows that a Ceylonese when given the opportunities can undertake such a responsible work and discharge his duties to the great satisfaction of the authorities. This appointment is unique in that, in the history of the Hospital, this is the first time that the office has been entrusted to the hands of an Oriental.

**REMARKABLE PHENOMENA.**—Popular interest has been excited by certain remarkable diurnal phenomena exhibited by a palm tree in the district of Faridpore. In the morning it holds its head erect with its outspread leaves, but on the approach of evening its head bows down, the leaves touching the ground, in the act of prostration. This is repeated day after day. Professor Sir J. C. Bose sent two expeditions with self-recording apparatus specially constructed for the purpose to trace the cause of this extraordinary phenomenon. Dynamometric measurements show that the internal forces whose periodic fluctuation causes this remarkable movement are very active, and great power is necessary to bring the tree down to its position of prostration, equal to a weight exceeding several hundredweights. Continuous curves have been obtained, showing the rate of the movement of the tree, at every instant during day and night.

**CEYLONESE FOR WAR SERVICE.**—Mr. M. S. Mahendran, M. I. L. A. (London) Barrister-at Law (Lincoln's Inn), Advocate, S. C., and of "Udaval House", Chunnakam, Jaffna, and State Medicine Prizeman of the Council of Legal Education, has been accepted for Military service in the Sanitary Corps for Mesopotamia. Mr. Mahendran was in Colombo for a few days and passed by the Doctor.

**A FAREWELL RECEPTION.**—was given by the Public of Anuradhapura on Saturday the 26th ultimo, between the hours of 6 and 8-30 p. m., at Simon De Silva's Bungalow to Mr. Thambapillai, Advocate, who after thirteen years of steady success in his profession and of usefulness to the public in general is compelled now by circumstances beyond his control to leave Anuradhapura as his permanent field of labour. There was a large representative gathering present in spite of the heavy downpour which started about 5.30 and continued till after 6.30 p. m. Refreshments were served in abundance. Native music was in attendance. At about 7.30 p. m. Mr. Rajaratnam, Advocate, standing on behalf of the local Bar expatiated at length on Mr. Thambapillai's legal acumen and his sound common sense and on the most cordial relations he was maintaining with the Bar and the Bench. He was then followed by Mr. Arumukham, Notary, Mr. A. Veippillai, landed proprietor, and Mohammed Cassen, general merchant and landed proprietor, who all testified to the useful manner in which his leisure hours were spent during his stay in Anuradhapura, pointing out how he represented their wants and wishes as their spokesman to the authorities, how he presided over literary and other societies rousing individual members to a sense of their duty both by precept and example and how he led every popular movement, however small and insignificant, which had for itself a good object. The function was a great success and the committee in charge of the arrangements have also decided to make a present of a gold chain to Mr. Thambapillai out of the unexpended funds collected for the function.

—Cor.

**INDIA'S WAR CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES RETURN.**—Bombay, May 31.—His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, Sir James Meeson and Sir S. P. Sinha, India's representatives in the Imperial War Cabinet, arrived at Bombay by mail steamer this afternoon. There was a large gathering at the Alexandra docks to give them a hearty welcome.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS.**—We acknowledge with thanks, the receipt from the Secretariat, of the Administration Reports for the Eastern and Western Provinces for 1916.

**THE CALCUTTA SWEET.**—Calcutta, May 28. The lucky winner of the first prize in the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Sweep was a Bengali, H. S. Ray, a zamindar of Decoa, who is richer by Rs23,100. The second prize of Rs146,550 fell to Mrs. Eames of Mokhamah and the third Rs73,275 to Mrs. P. O. Brown of Calcutta.

**DARLEY LITERARY UNION.**—The weekly meeting of the above Union was held on Saturday the 26th May, 1917 at 6.30 P. M. with Mr. S. Kanapathipillai, Proctor, S. C., Vice-President of the Union, in the Chair. After the preliminaries were gone through the main business of the day viz a debate "That education in Ceylon should be left to private efforts and not to Government" was taken up. The proposer and the opposer Messrs. K. Kanagaratnam and S. Elaiappah respectively spoke at length and made the debate interesting. Messrs V. K. Gnanasundaram, T. Sallappah and Thilagalingam offered remarks on the subject. The Chairman then put the subject to the house for vote and declared that the proposition carried the day by a majority of six votes. The Chairman also commented on the subject. The election of Mast. P. Nagarathnam as a member of the Union brought the meeting to a close at about 9.45 P. M. —Cor.

**OBITUARY.**—The death occurred at the Seremban Hospital of Mr. V. Murugan, Clerk, Class 1 Post Office, Seremban, who was suffering from an abscess in his leg. He was operated upon by the medical officer at Seremban, and in spite of the best treatment the patient breathed his last at 3 A. M. on Wednesday the 16th instant. The funeral took place at 4 P. M. and was largely attended. The brother of the deceased Mr. V. Sabapathy, Station Master, Bagan Serai, set fire to the pyre. Much sympathy is felt with the poor widow and two little daughters who were absent in Jaffna and were not able to pay their last respects to the deceased. —Cor.

## "THE TAMIL UNION" NUWARA ELIYA.

### GENERAL MEETING.

Under the revised Rules a General Meeting of the above "Tamil Union" was held in the old Kachcheri Hall, Nuwara Eliya, on Saturday, May 9, 1917, at 5 P. M., when members and others from various parts of the Judicial Division of Nuwara Eliya—Hatton, mustered strong and opened the proceedings under the presidency of Mudaliyar A. Naganathan, J. P. & U. P. M., while Mr. J. P. Ampalavanar was elected to act as Secretary. Several letters and telegrams from absent members and others expressing their inability to attend the meeting and offering cordial support and goodwill towards the "Union" were read out by the Secretary.

In opening the day's proceedings the president gave a brief history of the Tamil Union from its existence as far back in 1905 and its present standard of extended usefulness throughout the Judicial Division of Nuwara Eliya—Hatton.

An address of welcome by Mr. S. W. C. Coonanyakampillay was delivered, in which he spoke in highly appreciable terms of the kind response by members to invitations issued and attending the meeting in spite of the personal inconvenience and expense, more especially of the members from distant outstations.

When followed the election of a District Committee of thirty members distributed throughout the various important centres of the district, proposed by Mr. S. R. Sathaseevan and seconded by Mr. J. P. Ampalavanar. The following Office-bearers and the Managing Committee were elected drawn from the above District Committee, resulting as follows:—

President: Mudaliyar A. Naganathan.  
Vice-Presidents: Messrs. J. A. Aiyadurai, H. Tamby Rajah, B. Sivagnanam and S. W. C. Coonanyakampillay.

Hony. Secretary: Mr. S. R. Sathaseevan, (Kandapolla).

Assistant Hony. Secretary: Mr. J. P. Ampalavanar.

Hony. Treasurer: Mr. N. M. Coonanyakam.  
Managing Committee: Messrs. M. Sinnathamby, M. S. Seevaratnam, T. Basiah, K. Thyalnayakam, D. S. Basiah, S. Sinnathary, S. Valupillay all of Nuwara Eliya, A. A. Arunachalam of Kandapolla, K. A. Paripanyakur of Talawakelle, R. T. Niles, P. Mortimer, S. C. Subramaniam all of Hatton, M. K. Ponniah and M. O. Emmanuel of Dickoya, and E. K. Ponniah of Maskeliya.

Beside those mentioned the following do form the District Committee: S. M. Chinnappah of Nannu Oya, K. Naduvilthamby, of Agrapatnas, B. S. Xavier of Norwood, P. K. Joseph of Maskeliya, E. Arunachalam of Bogawantalawa, S. Canagasabapathy of Talawakelle and N. Kathirasapillay of Uda Fussellawa.

Mr. J. A. Aiyadurai, Proctor, S. C., Hatton, addressed the meeting, and gave valuable suggestions and recommendations worthy of consideration and well suited to the occasion, and exhorted the members to unite in their efforts in promoting the general welfare and economic interests of the Tamil community in general and of the

permanent or temporary resident Tamils of the District in particular. At the close of his well thought out address a hearty vote of thanks was accorded in the usual way, with acclamation.

Mr. H. Tamby Rajah, Proctor, S. C. of Hatton proposed in neat and selected words a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for the manner in which he performed the day's work, which brought the proceedings to a close at 7.30 P. M.

Great credit is due to the Refreshment Committee, who, spared no pains to bring the function to a thorough success, and light refreshment were abundantly served before and after the meeting.

Minutes of a meeting of the above Managing Committee held at "Roseville", Nuwara Eliya, on Monday, May 28, 1917, at 6 P. M., when six committee members and one ordinary member were present.

Before any business was brought before the meeting, a vote of condolence with His Excellency the Governor on the death of his son was passed in silence, all members standing, and the Secretary was instructed to convey the same to His Excellency.

Notice convening the Meeting was then read, there being no minutes for confirmation as this was the first meeting since the opening of the current year, April 1, 1917.

**BUILDING.**—It was unanimously resolved to start a subscription list for the purpose of collecting funds in order to erect a permanent habitation at Nuwara Eliya for the use of the "Union", and the fund so collected to be deposited separately.

**PASSPORTS TO INDIA.**—This subject was discussed at its various aspects based on representation made by a passenger of his experience. He travelled with his family from Talawakelle all the way to Talaimannar and had returned from Talaimannar, as he was not allowed to proceed to his intended destination, without a passport to India. It was unanimously resolved to represent the matter to Government with practical recommendations, for their favourable consideration.

**GENERAL.**—Several other important matters relating to the advancement of the Union were discussed, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.—S. R. S.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A DEBATE ON THE CASTE SYSTEM.

Sir,

At a meeting of the Young Men's Literary Association, Puloly West, Point Pedro, held on Saturday the 26th instant, over which I had the honour to preside, a debate on the abolition of the caste system was held. The leaders of the debate, for aught I know, were serious about the matter, the proposer denouncing the system in unmeasured terms the opposer upholding it with a zeal and tenacity characteristic of a fanatic. But it was evident that the debaters had thoroughly misunderstood each other, for it was the present system that came in for such scathing criticisms on the part of the proposer, just as it was the system of the Rishis that received so much praise and support in the hands of the opposer. The proposer had a good word to say about the grand old system. He said that our ancestors, in order to secure order and harmony in society and to forward the gradual evolution of human souls, had devised the system. He characterized the system now in vogue, with all its diabolical distinctions, as a monstrous one, based on fraud and maintained by force. He contended that it was revolting to human reason and sense of justice that a large section of human beings should, on the score of birth alone, be kept in perpetual humiliation and degradation. That it was disgraceful, nay dangerous—the danger caused is already great—to the cause of Hinduism that these unfortunates should be obliged to forsake their legitimate fold and turn to aliens for their liberation. That it would indefinitely postpone the glorious day of Home Rule. That such treatment as meted out to these was in direct conflict with the most humane principles of Vedanta, viz the spiritual oneness of all souls—the crowning glory of the Eternal Religion.

It is a happy sign of the times that Hindu youths are beginning to realise once more even as their forefathers did, the great truths of the Vedanta.

Is it too much to hope that our country, with such ardent youths glowing with passionate love and solicitude for their less fortunate brethren, will soon see the dawn of a new era.

### HOME RULE.

### THE VELLALA VILLAGER.

Sir,

I beg to thank you for the courteous tone of your criticism, and would beg leave to reply.

Prior to raising my argument I carefully enquired whether I would trespass on religious matters, and was assured I would not—had I been informed otherwise I could not of course, have opened this discussion. The point at issue is therefore not a religious one but purely a social one.

You request in your article, Sir, that ancient social obligations must permanently remain intact in the East. At the same time you ask for the education of the masses, which happily a benevolent Government now intends to enforce.

Can you conceive, Sir, that modern education will retain ancient social disparagement. Will it be possible for an unintelligent Vellala to rank equal to a highly educated, refined and cultured Palla, upon the new footing about to be inaugurated. Brains and not birth, will stamp the caste of the man. The degree of education will

stamp him—for good or bad, for high class or low class—class and not caste must rule.

There are other ancient Eastern races, with ancient history with ancient castes and ancient notions. It is the poor uneducated Jew that retains ancient Jewish ideas. The modern educated Europeanized Jew, eats ham and behaves in social matters as the rest of the community. The Turkish gentleman does likewise. Both remain good Jews and Mohammedans from their prime religious belief.

Is the new education which you, Sir, desire—which all thinking Jaffna men must desire—to teach one caste to look down with contempt upon another caste—to teach the old forgotten Western idea that trade and industry are degrading. Will it teach one class that the other class is "polluted". That the flesh of one man is clean, that the flesh of the other stinks in his nostrils. Can you erect an "education" upon such foundations.

Whilst school education is the foundation of manhood it is not in itself the complete structure. Socialism is ripe in the minds of the educated Ceylonese. Politically they are mostly of the advanced Radical School. They claim, nationalisation, self government, and Western institutions—matters which we will not discuss, Sir. The first clarion call has come from a Jaffna gentleman—Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam—a man of learning, a man of thought, a life long companion of Europeans. Can these radical and social ideals be coupled with an appeal to retain caste prejudices. Is it only one caste who is to be entitled to these political reforms and requests—or is this radicalism to be extended to all. In these new ideas would an educated Palla representative of his people be a "polluted" caste that a higher caste would not sit in the same house with him, would not shake him by the hands, his wife and children not visit him or must representation be debarré a Palla. No, Sir, you cannot have it both ways. Indian reformers that I have read, agitate for the suppression of caste, for it is obvious that modernism and caste cannot run in double harness.

Here, in Jaffna, a man starves as slave to his caste—or he labours, earns, succeeds and raises himself, and remains a slave of the caste above him. Yet it is from Jaffna a cry is raised for political reform. No political powers could safely be vested on those who hold such principles, and never will be. Party political creeds, political discussions, political agitations, can never be entrusted to those who hold that a fellow man is a "polluted" being, that one caste is higher than another, that one trade is better than another, that a "gentleman" is merely such by right of birth.

The French "Liberty Egalité Fraternité" is not confined to France, it is the watch-word of all democracy, and perhaps applies to Monarchical Britain more than any nation in the world.

The present war is a war of democracy, and the equal rights of man, against a German "clique", not—as all our Statesmen tell us—against the masses of the German people. A war fostered in a country where caste predominated—the military caste—the Vellalas of Germany—who subjugated and sacrificed upon caste principles a whole nation to its caste tyrannies: The bloodshed is to sweep away that caste—and as our Statesmen inform us—to make amongst other things a greater happiness in time to come, for the caste ridden German himself. The humanitarian object of the Allies embraces kindly thoughts for its fellow men, be they Germans or otherwise and upon such creeds as this the Allies cause cannot fail.

Jaffna creed, is the creed of the "clique", the German creed. Sir, I trust you will take no offence, I intend none. My sympathies are with the down-trodden. The Vellala peasant is the down-trodden, under dog of Jaffna, hammed in by caste prejudices, he is denied the privilege of earning wealth for fear of ridicule, for fear of ostracism. A new wealth may have arisen. He owns palmira lands—a small plot that may bring him comparative wealth. He may till the foot of the tree where gold does not answer to his spade, he may not tap the top of it, where gold may flow to compensate his work.

The "polluted" man he sees, pollutes himself with gold. He would do likewise, willingly do likewise, if you educate him that there was no disgrace in doing so. He would earn and save, and with that great paternal instinct so delightfully born in him, educate his children to a higher standard, the good and ancient blood in him would spring into activity, his ancient glory revive with the hope before him, instinct would teach him to educate his children to the highest standards—but you read in him, Sir, hisown caste crushes him, and with all its ancient ideas, exploded ideals, sinks him into a grave of laziness, hopelessness and vice.

I will give employment to 5,000 men of any caste, will they take it—it is not for them to ask what the job is if they have not the means—or the right to their community—to be idle. I pay good wages. Do you advise them, Sir, not to take the jobs.

Valvettiturai, Yours faithfully,  
26th May, 1917. D. M. WEIGEL.

### MALAYA LETTER.

**HINDU TOPICS.**—Sometime ago Hindus here received membership forms from the Secretary of the Young Men's Hindu Association of Jaffna with a request to enrol themselves as members in the Association and to induce their friends to do so too. I was not aware that the scope of this Jaffna institution was so wide as to embrace overseas Hindus, but it is gratifying to note that the organisers have planned the structure on a broad basis. There is a desire among many Hindus to have among themselves an organisation on something like the lines of the Y. M. C. A. Such an organisation will help the Hindus to be better Hindus and provide them with directions for the exercise of Hindu civic virtues. The Secretary of the Y. M. H. A. Jaffna will be doing us a good turn if he will issue a statement defining the scope, aims and objects of that body and the method of its propaganda.

Interesting side lights on the want of organisation among Hindus are to be obtained in Malaya. In most parts Hinduism is represented by the Panchayats, which are supposed to be purely administrative bodies in charge of temples and endowments but which by some mysterious pro-

cess have gathered round themselves a halo of sanctity and authority on religion and rites. They exercise their rights in an exacting manner which is exasperating to the Hindu public. Controlling the temple priest and the musicians and the crematorium they can compel Hindus to conform to their ideas of what is right and what is wrong on pain of withholding privileges which they control when they are needed by the Hindus for marriage, funeral and other rites. There was recently a case in point. A young man desired to be joined in holy matrimony to a maiden one of whose parents was supposed to have been a non-Hindu, she herself having been brought up in the Hindu faith. The Panchayat of the place refused to recognise the marriage and questioned the right of the maiden to pass for a Hindu. It may be said in passing here that a scrutiny into the parentage of many Indian Tamils in Malaya would reveal rueful ramifications of many races and faiths, thus rendering the action of the Panchayat abovesaid ludicrous in the extreme. A South Indian Brahmin who from being a Hindu became a Mohammedan, and then a Christian has now come back to his original faith. In his anxiety to make this last change widely known he approached a so called Hindu Association to admit him as a member and recognise him as such. That body was faced with a novel situation, perhaps for the first time in its history, and advised the much-metamorphosed man to get the fact that he was a Hindu countenanced by the local Panchayat. It is not known that this august body has lent the weight of its authority to the proposition. These and similar socio-religious problems must find ready solution if there is organised effort among the Hindus to define their status.

**NOTES AT RANDOM.**—The municipal report on Health in Singapore for 1916 gives some details bearing an infantile mortality that prove the efficacy of careful nursing. The general rate of infantile mortality was 260.2 per mille, the lowest on record. The average for the previous 10 years was something like 324 per mille. The rate was highest among Malays, being 302.2 the next highest being among the Chinese with 268.9, while Eurasians had 196.2, Indians 178.8 and Europeans 86 per mille. The vast difference between the rate among Europeans and the next lowest is explained by the obvious fact that the Europeans exercise more care in the management of the mother and infant than is to be found among Eastern races. But the fact that Malays who mostly live in the country and are natives of the place, should have a higher infant mortality rate than the Chinese who crowd in towns and generally in filthy surroundings presents a curious situation. It is said that the Malays still move in the narrow grooves of superstition and eye with suspicion and distrust the benefits of modern medical science. The training of Malay midwives to minister to the poor free of charge is however expected to show good though slow results in the reduction of infantile mortality.

\* \* \*  
At the League of Nations Society in London General Smuts is reported to have said "However there is danger in believing too much in treaties until we have a radical change in the hearts of men; I think that the change is coming." Yes, but what about the heartlessness of the Huns!

\* \* \*  
If, however, the change is coming in the hearts of men it would be interesting to find how the women view the change. Many of them have accepted "scraps of paper", believed in treaties and given way to entreaties!

\* \* \*  
A Ceylon paper has the following in its "tick list" announcements, "Mr. Bell is doing well". This economical and poetic style ought to be pleasing to patients and their friends!

\* \* \*  
Under the title, "A perfect Woman Nobly Planned" a contemporary recently told us that "A perfectly-formed woman will stand at the average height of 5 feet 3 inches to 5 feet 7 inches. A plumb-line dropped from a point marked by the tip of her nose will fall at a point one inch in front of her great toe." We have seen perfectly-formed women standing at much higher altitudes; but however, when the "planning" has been nobly done there should be no difficulty in dropping the plumb-line!

\* \* \*  
Some people are curious to know whether the originators of food regulations are food-tadists or food-fodists!

Singapore, LANKA.  
May 24, 1917.

### MALAYA NEWS.

**THE MALAYAN FEDERAL COUNCIL.**—The forthcoming Malayan Federal Council will be held in Kuala Kangsar, the residence of the Sultan of Perak, in June or July and it will be a great blessing if some wealthy and influential Indians or Tamils present a petition to His Excellency the High Commissioner on the question of the nomination of a Tamil gentleman to a seat in the Federal Council.

Mr. T. K. SWAMINATHAN.—Mr. T. K. Swaminathan, Editor of the "Indian Immigrant", Madras, is now in Ipoh having come voluntarily to investigate the labour problem. He had an interview with the Editor of the "Malayan Tin and Rubber Journal" and expressed his satisfaction about the lot of the Tamil coolie who comes to Malaya and differed in some main points which are (1) "the unscrupulous methods adopted by the Kangany (2) daily wages but one month notice (3) and sanitation". During his short stay amongst us he has delivered a series of lectures on important topics.

Mr. S. RAMANATHAN, J. P.—The Ceylon Tamils of Ipoh gave a grand reception to Mr. S. Ramanathan, J. P., of Kuala Kangsar in the Ceylon Tamil Association Hall, Lahat Road, Ipoh. An address of congratulation was read and many Tamils expressed their gratitude to Government on the honour conferred on Mr. Ramanathan. The promoters of the movement felt that it was an honour conferred on the Ceylon Tamils as a whole. After an enjoyable evening the guests

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The War.

THE AIR RAID.

London, May 27.

Later accounts of Friday's air raid say the raiders appeared off a coast town which principally suffered, from inland. The first bomb crashed to a thoroughfare in the lower quarter which was crowded with shoppers, including a potato queue of women and children. It caused more casualties than numerous other bombs. When the column of black smoke dispersed, the street for 200 yards resembled a shambles with dead and dying human beings and disembowelled horses. Shops of a greengrocer, a butcher and a draper were here demolished. It is feared there may still be victims in the debris of these. Elsewhere a bomb made an enormous hole in the roadway, smashing to atoms a number of cars and killing horses, but the drivers were momentarily absent and escaped. A girls' school and a hotel were demolished. The former was temporarily tenanted and there were no victims. Eyewitnesses describe the perfect formation maintained by the squadrons during the quarter-of-an-hour visitation. There was no panic. People rushed to the streets to see the spectacle. Complaints were made that a number of German shopkeepers are still allowed in this particular town.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

London, May 28.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We repulsed raiders North-Westward of Lens inflicting casualties and securing prisoners. We successfully raided Northward of Armentieres in the neighbourhood of Wytschate. We reached a German support line and took prisoner about thirty.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We successfully raided east of Vermelles. The enemy raided a small post North eastward of Ypres. There were many air fights on Sunday. Thirteen German machines were destroyed and ten driven down. Three of ours are missing.

London, May 29.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We drove off raiders South-Westward of Lens and Westward of Messines. We successfully raided Northward of Ploegsteert Wood. Enemy Artillery was active at Bullecourt and astride the Scarpe.

London, May 30.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We repulsed hostile raiders near Pontaine Croisilles and Westward of Lens. We raided trenches Southward of Neuve Chapelle.

F. M. Sir J. D. Haig says:—There is nothing of interest to report.

London, May 31.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—We drove off raiders Southward of Armentieres, taking prisoners. There was considerable reciprocal Artillery work near Bullecourt on the right bank of the Scarpe.

F. M. Sir D. Haig says:—There was only mutual Artillery work at different points on the front. Two German aeroplanes were driven down yesterday. One of ours is missing.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, May 28.

A wireless Italian official despatch says:—We strengthened the positions on the Julian front and captured strongly fortified trenches Eastward and South-Eastward of Jamiano. We crossed the Timavo River and occupied San Giovanni North-Westward of Duigno. We captured nine six inch guns. We repulsed two violent counter-attacks in the Vadice sector and on the heights Eastward of Gorizia. Strong parties of Infantry penetrated a point of our line Southward of Grozignua. We drove them out and took prisoner 156.

London, May 30.

An Italian official despatch records very heavy Artillery fire on the Julian front from Mount Cucco to Mounts Vodice Eastward of Gorizia. The enemy thrice unsuccessfully attacked our trenches on Hill 552 between Jamiano and the coast. We extended our gains Westward of Medesdaba.

An official report states that besides occupying important positions the Italians inflicted great wastage on the enemy, 24,531 prisoners was only a very small part of his losses. The battlefield was covered with tens of thousands of dead while the number of wounded was very large. Whole Divisions were practically wiped out and many others put out of action for weeks. Nevertheless the Austrians continue to resist desperately and formidably.

THE NEW RUSSIA.

London, May 28.

Petrograd.—The first Congress of the Army and Navy Officers has met at Headquarters. General Alexieff, opening it said it was true the country was endangered because the fighting ardour of the Army had diminished in consequence of the dissensions and mistrust between officers and soldiers. He exhorted the officers on their return to their regiments to restore discipline and make the Army again capable of victory.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

London, May 28.

The Press Bureau, summarising America's achievements since she entered the War, states that, including the Americans already serving with the Franco-British Armies, there will shortly be a total of 100,000 Americans in France. Arrangements are made for the construction of 3,500 War aeroplanes and training 6,000 aviators this year.

BAD TIME FOR GERMAN NEWSPAPERS.

London, May 27.

Amsterdam.—The Cologne Gazette says that 609 German daily newspapers have ceased publication since the outbreak of the War.

THE FRENCH FRONT.

London, May 29.

A French communique says:—Following a violent bombardment in the region of Hurbiele enemy attacks were completely repulsed. We had a small enemy post North of Vacher. We took prisoners, and we effectively cut the enemy's communications. Seven German aeroplanes were brought down and damaged.

A French communique records a fairly violent Artillery struggle South of St. Quentin. Special units endeavouring to reach our trenches at Mont Blond in Champagne were obliged to fall back under the violence of our fire, abandoning dead and wounded. We captured prisoners, a machine-gun and a flame thrower. Three enemy aeroplanes were brought down.

London, May 31.

A French communique says:—After violent bombardments with heavy poison shells North-West of Anberive on Mont Blond the enemy in the night time attempted violent attacks at several points on the Champagne front. Our fire stopped all attempts. The effort of the Germans was directed particularly against Teton Casque, Mont Haut, which they attacked violently four times. The struggle began at two in the morning and continued till daylight. The enemy waves were smashed by our fire or beaten back with the bayonet. They were compelled each time to flow back in disorder. After heavy losses enemy fractions gained a footing in some advanced elements North-East of Mont Haut. We took prisoners.

A GERMAN REPUBLIC.

London, May 29.

New York.—The Germans have established an organisation covering the whole of the United States, for the purpose of deposing the Kaiser and inaugurating a German Republic. The appeal addressed to German-Americans, says that recent developments in Germany point to an approaching upheaval, similar to the Russian. Things are getting most uncomfortable for the German autocracy, although it attempts to show a bold front to the outside world.

THE IRISH FISHING FLEET.

London, May 28.

A correspondent of The Times at Skibbereen says:—German submarines have been actively engaged in the destruction of Irish fishing fleet from Kenmare in Kerry to Howth in Dublin. Seven boats of the Balmore fleet were sunk by bombs in one evening. The fishermen were only allowed a few minutes to get to the boats and lost all their belongings. A British patrol boat forced a submarine to submerge, enabling other boats to escape. The Baltimore skipper asked the correspondent to tell America the Germans were the worst savages on earth, and he trusted with the aid of the Irish and America the arch-enemies would soon be swept from the face of the earth.

RUSSIA AND "IRON DISCIPLINE".

London, May 29.

Petrograd.—M. Kerensky, in a striking message to the Forces, again insisting on the need for iron discipline and declaring that if soldiers and sailors did not defend their country, their names would be cursed, says they must rid the country and the world of the violators and neuters of order who say and stipulate that soldiers cannot be punished without trial, but that commanders have the right to employ armed force against insubordinates in War time.

THE ITALIAN FIGHTING.

Allahabad, May 29.

Pioneer special cables, dated London, May 25th, state:—M. Marcel Hutin, writing in the Echo de Paris, described the recent offensive on the Tolmino Gorizia front as only a ruse on a big scale. The real attack was that between Castagnivizza and the sea. Its success will enable the Italian and British Artillery a few days hence to direct effective fire on Monte Hermada, which the Austrians pretend they have made the corner stone of their defence on the coast route to Trieste, while M. Hutin accuses the Austrian Command of a great error or ignorance in allowing itself to be misled by the demonstration in the North.

An Italian semi official report says:—The enemy had on the front just attacked 100,000 rifles, hundreds of batteries and a thousand machine-guns. In all almost a quarter of the whole force was opposed to Italy. They expect, however, that the principal effort would be made against their right, whereas it was the centre and left that were crushed. The progress made varies from three quarters (sic).

The Times correspondent at the Italian Headquarters suggests that the enemy may have trusted too much to the Hermada Ridge, 323 metres high, and his multiple line of trenches and machine-gun redoubts, to protect his left. This correspondent dwells particularly on the Italian success in holding what they took against counter-attacks. There is no digging in with entrenching tools on the Carso when the enemy lines are taken. His scattered trenches are the only shelter. The caverns and the dugouts are traps to newcomers. It is better to be behind a heap of stones and pray against a direct hit. Italian correspondents agree that the fierceness of the fighting is unprecedented on the Italian front. The enemy's losses are the greatest yet experienced. The Hungarians suffered most heavily, several regiments being almost wiped out.

FIGHTING INCREASES IN THE EAST.

London, May 30.

Amsterdam. A Berlin official report states:—Fighting activity has recently increased in several sectors of the East front. Russian and Roumanian attacks are expected.

HOSPITAL SHIP TORPEDOED.

London, May 29.

The Admiralty hospital ship "Dover Castle" was torpedoed without warning at 6 p. m. on Saturday. It was again torpedoed at 8.30 p. m. and sank. The whole of the patients and staff were transferred to other ships. The crew were also saved except six missing; it is feared that they were killed by explosions.

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

London, May 30.

The Admiralty states that the arrivals for the week were: 2,719, sailings 2,768. Eighteen over and one under 1,600 tons were sunk. Seventeen were unsuccessfully attacked. Two fishing boats were sunk.

BRITISH NAVAL LOSSES.

London, May 29.

The auxiliary cruiser "Hilary" was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea. Four were killed by the explosion.

A British destroyer was sunk in collision, without any casualty.

MR. BALFOUR IN CANADA.

London, May 29.

Ottawa.—Mr. Balfour had a magnificent reception today when he addressed both Houses of Parliament, being escorted thither by the Military and attended by distinguished retinue. Mr. Balfour passed along streets from Government House to Parliament Building with the thoroughfare lined with cheering people and gaily decorated with flags. The galleries of the Commons were crowded. There was a full attendance of Ministers and members of both Houses. The Speaker, Mr. Rhodes, cordially welcomed Mr. Balfour to Canada and referred to the valuable public services of Mr. Balfour during his long career. He laid special stress on Mr. Balfour's Mission to America, which he believed would greatly help the cause they all had at heart. He hoped Mr. Balfour on his return to the mother country would feel justified in delivering this message from Canada: "We stand firmly with Great Britain and the other Dominions and the Allies in a fixed determination that the great principles for which we are fighting will be maintained, and that to the measure of our ability we are prepared willing to bear our full share of the common burden." There was great cheering as Mr. Balfour rose to reply. The galleries sang—"For he's a jolly good fellow." Mr. Balfour said that it was with profound emotion that he met the Houses of Parliament, many of whose members were his personal friends. There was nothing more unexpected to the outside world than the self-sacrifice with which the self governing Dominions threw themselves into this conflict. The Germans calculated that this fair weather Empire was ready to tremble at the first attack, but their affection, sentiment, common aim and ideas had proved the true strength of this experiment in Government. When the War burst upon the world, no greater miracle ever happened than the way in which these confederated democrats united together in the spirit of self-sacrifice to preserve civilisation and the liberty of the State. Germany was fighting for her own self-centred interests with Allies who mistrusted her. Austria was not working with Germany as Great Britain was working with France or the Dominions with each other. The same was true, with qualifications, of Bulgaria and Turkey. They were not allowed to use their own resources to their own ends but were drawn into a great vortex of German ambition; and if Germany had won the War, they were destined to be subordinate Powers because the world now knows that the War was deliberately arranged by the German Military caste. Wherever you find a free democracy, the spirit of liberty abroad and that great spirit self development on national lines, there you find friends of the Allies and enemies of the Central Powers. We are convinced that there is only one form of Government, wherever it is called, namely, where the ultimate control is in the hands of the people. We have staked our last dollar thereon; and if democracy fails us, we are bankrupt indeed, but we know that democracy will not fail us (cheers.) We cannot have democracy without "party" and division of opinion, but democracies have proved themselves capable of uniting over some of these difficulties for the common good. If you have these difficulties, do not for a moment let your faith fail you (cheers). The messages you asked me to convey to the Motherland I will certainly give and I certainly believe it true. I also believe that the democracies will emerge from this struggle victorious, not in a Military sense, but with the lesson fully learned that patriotism has overcome all difficulties. I shall also bear a message back that the spirit here is not less ardent, resolute devoted and animated by determination to achieve final victory than that which animates themselves.

TOBACCO NOW CONTROLLED.

London, May 30.

The Board of Trade assumes the control of tobacco and prohibits dealings therein except as authorised. It fixes wholesale and retail prices from 1st June.

LABOUR FOOD CONTROLLER.

London, May 30.

The Daily Mail says it is reported a Labour Member of the Commons will be appointed Food Controller in place of Lord Devonport who is resigning owing to ill-health.

DUPLICATE LETTER SCHEME.

London, May 30.

The Post Office of Great Britain has adopted a system whereby the originals and five duplicates of letters when posted together will be sent throughout the Empire by successive mails.

TURKISH GUNS IN EGYPT.

London, May 29.

Egypt (official).—Our fire has destroyed several of the enemy's guns.

BRITISH AEROPLANE'S LONG FLIGHT.

London, May 31.

Rome.—A British aeroplane has arrived. It flew from London, stopping at Paris, Turin and Pisa.

THE FOLKESTONE RAID.

London, May 29.

Three more deaths have occurred as a result of the Folkestone air raid. At the inquest the Coroner congratulated the population on its calmness. The Chief Constable in his evidence said 43 bombs were dropped on the Borough and there were 63 killed and 93 injured. The dead included 26 women and 24 children. The jury expressed the opinion that warning of the approach of the raiders should have been given.

FRENCH SUBMARINE LOSSES.

London, June 1.

Paris (official).—For the week May 27 the arrivals were 1,016 and the sailings 1,043, sinkings over 1,600 tons two, under one, unsuccessfully attacked five. No fishing-boats were sunk.

—The Ceylon Observer.

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