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Hindu Organ

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY APRIL 4, 1894.

THE HINDU HIGH SCHOOL.

The distribution of Prizes at the Hindu High School which took place on Friday night last was a most interesting and instructive event. The large number of persons who were present on the occasion, in response to the invitation of the Manager, the several eloquent and earnest speeches that were made, warmly commending this purely native undertaking and congratulating the school authorities on the success that attended their efforts, testified to the great interest taken by the general public in the welfare of this educational institution and to their appreciation of its great benefits and usefulness to the community.

That this School supplies a long felt want in Jaffna goes without saying. Before its establishment the Hindu boys who wished to learn the English language were under the necessity of attending Mission Schools, for, unlike the other Districts of the Colony, there were and are no Government Schools, English or Vernacular, here. They were thus at the absolute mercy of Christian Missionaries who did not scruple to make the best of the circumstances with the view to promote the interests of their religion. It is a well-known fact that there was no religious toleration in the Jaffna Protestant Christian schools—a fact borne testimony to by more than one speaker on Friday last who had received their education in the Mission schools. The case is different now. The Hindu High School is now ready to admit not only Hindu boys, but also boys of other denominations, on footing of equality and without the least religious intolerance. The Hindu boys in most of the Mission Schools now receive greater consideration and their religious scruples are also much respected there. It cannot also be denied that owing to the existence of this School in a state of efficiency, the standard of education in Jaffna has increased and that there is now a healthy rivalry between the different High Schools and Colleges here.

It has, therefore, done some good to the Jaffna public in general and to the Hindu community in particular. But its continued efficiency and success, it must be remembered, depend entirely upon the support it will receive from the Hindu community at large.

The Report of the able Head-Master which we publish elsewhere speaks for itself. A school with 522 boys on the roll is undoubtedly one of the largest, if not the largest, in the Peninsula. Its staff of teachers including some Graduates and Under-graduates of the Madras University is generally admitted to be one of the most efficient in Jaffna. It would also appear from the Report that three out of five students presented last year for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University came off successful and that thirteen students have been presented for the same Examination this year, the result of which is not yet out. This is very encouraging, seeing that the School has been only a few years in existence and had to contend with various adverse circumstances.

It was fully expected last year when a similar function took place that the distribution of prizes would be held this year in the spacious and magnificent Hall of the permanent building then in course of construction. But for want of funds the building has not been completed, and the temporary bungalow in which the School has been held for the last three years again contained on Friday last one of the largest gatherings that ever assembled in Jaffna to witness a prize distribution. About Rs. 4000 have been already spent on the building, contributed by some half-a-dozen Hindu gentlemen here. Thanks to the interest some leading Hindu gentlemen of Colombo have shown in the welfare of this School, the Agent of the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai has been able to collect from the Chetty's Nagaram in Colombo, Kandy and Galle, about Rs. 3250; and, with the subscriptions which those gentlemen themselves and others in different parts of the Island will contribute, the Committee of the Sabhai entertains strong hopes of completing the building before the end of this year. The building being once complete, the Hindu High School may be said to have been established on a firm and sound footing, for, with a permanent habitation and under proper management, it could be maintained, as experience has proved, as a self-supporting institution, and kept in a high state of efficiency. The affiliation of the School to one of the Indian Universities and the application for grant-in-aid to Government have also been delayed on account of the non-completion of the building.

The evil habit of smoking tobacco among school boys, to which reference is made in the report, deserves the serious attention of parents. We commend the suggestion of the Headmaster as to the necessity of an Anti-Tobacco Union being formed in Jaffna. In no other place in Ceylon, we believe, this pernicious and unclean habit is so much on the increase.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

WEATHER—We are experiencing very trying weather now. The heat is unbearable and if we do not get rain soon, the health of the place will be very much affected.

—The Jaffna Trading Company had their annual meeting on the 29th March. They elected the new directors for the year and declared a dividend of 10 per cent for 12 months.

The Jaffna Law Library—The magnificent institution had also their annual meeting on the 29th March. The balance sheet showed a

hands of the Treasurer to the credit of the institution. Mr. Conolly our popular District Judge was elected President for the ensuing year.

—Mr. Advocate Aserappa is on a visit to Jaffna with his family. Our readers might remember he married last year the daughter of Mr Advocate Allegakone.

Execution—Murugan, the Uduvil Murderer, who was sentenced to be hanged during the last sessions of the Supreme Court here was executed within the Jail premises on the 24th Ultimo.

—The Jaffna Kachcheri—Mr. Grenier, the second clerk of this Kachcheri has returned from India and resumed duties. We understand that only one of his eyes has been restored to sight.

Since the above was in type we have learnt that Mr. Grenier has submitted his papers for retirement.

—Mr. C. Vytianadar of the Kachcheri is under orders to proceed to Kurunagalla as Police clerk there. We understand that Mr. Vytianadar has petitioned the Government to give him some other appointment in Jaffna if his place in the Kachcheri is to be abolished. Mr. Vytianadar's case is a hard one. He has been connected with the Jaffna Kachcheri for the last thirty years, without ever being employed in any other station. To ask him now in the evening of his life to go to an unhealthy place like Kurunagalla and that with his present salary here, is hardly just on the part of Government, although it be in the interest of retrenchment.

The Maniagarship of Pachilapaly—Mr. Mootatamby Maniagar of Vadamarachy-East has been appointed Maniagar of Pachilapaly, in the room of Mr. Navasivayam, dismissed. The Maniagarship of Vadamarachy East remains vacant.

Administration Reports—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt from Government of the Final Report upon the construction of the Haputale Railway by Mr. F. J. Waring, and the Report on the Royal Botanic Gardens by Dr. Trimen.

—Fifty copies of Mr. Casie Chitty's Translation of Voet have been taken by the Government paying him Rs 500 for the books.

—The Observer understands that Mr. P. Ramanathan the Solicitor-General will be appointed by Government to act for the Attorney-General when Mr. Layard goes home on leave. We think the Government will be simply doing an act of justice in appointing Mr. Ramanathan as acting Attorney-General. There is none better qualified than Mr. Ramanathan to fill up the post. His Excellency will show his usual fairness and love of justice by giving the acting appointment to him.

Firewood—The people of the Town and suburbs who depend for their fuel supply on the firewood sold by Government bitterly complain that it is quite unfit to be immediately used for the purpose, being undried and of the worst possible quality. The fuel supply here was very satisfactory before the Government monopolized this business themselves. We hope the Government Agent will see that only well dried woods are sold from the firewood depot.

Obituary—We deeply regret to have to record the death of Kathiritamby Mudaliyar, Maniagar of Valigamo North, which took place at his residence at Mallakam on the 27th Ultimo. The deceased Headman came of a respectable family and was in Government service from 1864. He had been Sub-Collector of the Customs, Pesalai before his appointment as Maniagar. We offer our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family. There are already, we understand, several applicants for this important office, and we hope the Government Agent will recommend the fittest among them, by reason of his social position, ability, and, above all, his spotless character. If the son of the late Maniagar who was acting for his father during his long illness is, in other respects, qualified, his claims should not be, in our opinion, overlooked by Government.

Mr. S. K. Lawton—In response to an invitation by Mr. G. S. Perera, Treasurer of the "Lawton Testimonial Fund," a number of Mr. Lawton's friends assembled at the Jaffna Catholic Library on Thursday the 29th Ultimo at 5-30 p. m., when Mr. G. W. Wood, Assistant Collector of Customs and District Magistrate of Jaffna, read the eulogy of Mr. Lawton and presented

கணபதி துணை.

வாழ்கவந்தனர்வான வராளினம்.....
விழ்கதண்புனல்வேந்தனுமேங்குத...
ஆழ்கதீயதெல்லாமரணமே.....
குழ்கவையகமுந்தாய்சீர்கவே....

விளம்பரம்.

மூன்றாம் பாலபாடம்.

சைவவித்தியாசாலையிற் கற்கும் மூன்றாம் வகுப்பினர்க்காகச் செய்த மூன்றாம் பாலபாடம் அச்சிட்டு முடிந்தது.

நல்ல உபகாரம்

மறவன்புலோலிலிருந்து வீட்டுக்கு வருகிற வழியில் என் கோய்க்ருமாதீரம் ஏற்ற மூக்குக்கண்ணாடி முழுவதுவிட்டது இதை எடுத்தவர் என்னிடம் ஒப்பித்தால் தகுந்த உபகாரம் பெறுவர்.

இங்ஙனம்
சி. வே. குப்பிள்ளை
கந்தர்மடம்.

இந்துசாதனம்.

யாழ்ப்பாணம்: விசயலேபி பங்குனிமீ உகஉ.

இந்துறழைமல்கூல் பரிசு

கடந்த மார்ச்சுமீ கூடுவ வெள்ளிக்கிழமை இராஜினித்தியாசாலை வாரியக பரிசேஷியலே சித்திபெற்ற மாணவர்களுக்குப் பரிசளிக்கு நாளாயிற்று. வித்தியாசாலை முழுதும் மேற்கட்டியாலும் புஷ்பதோரணங்களாலும் சித்திரிப்பங்களாலும் அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்டது. நட்சேசப்பெருமானது திருவுருவப்படிமொன்று நெருங்கமாக நார்ப்பட்டு அதுவும் மாலைகளால் அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. அதற்குப் பின்னாகப் பிள்ளைகளுக்குப் பரிசுநம்பிக்கை வேஷ்கல்பியர் நாடகத்துக்காக நாடக அரங்கொன்று வகுக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது.

பேராலும் அருணாசலம்தரை...
டவக்கேட்டுநாகலிங்கபிள்ளை முதல...
பேராலும் அளிக்கப்பட்டன.

அப்பால் இலங்கைநாயகமுதலியார்...
சங்கரப்பிள்ளை முதலிய சிலர் பரிசுநாடுகட்டத்து...
அபிவிருத்தியைக் குறித்து வியந்து பேசினார்...

நற்றிலை அங்கிரசுகூட்டி எழுந்து அவ்வித்தியாசாலை சைவசமயிகளுக்கு உபகாரமாயுள்ள தன்மையும்...

இவ்வகைச் சைவசமயாபிமானமும் பொதுநன்மையும் இகற்குமுன் ஒருபோது முண்டாயிருந்ததல்லவோ...

பெற்றோர்கடமை.

தற்காலத்திலே ஆங்கிலேய பாஷையின் அருமையும், அதைச் சர்பிக்கும் மாதிரியும், பள்ளிகூடங்களினொழுகும் படிக்காத பெற்றோர்கள் அறியவே மாட்டார்கள்.

பெற்றோரே, உங்கள்பிள்ளைகளைக் கவனியுங்கள் உங்கள்பிள்ளைகளுக்கு நற்பழக்கங்களைப் பழக்கருவர்கள்...

களாயின் அவர்கள் என்செய்கின்றீர்கள்...
புத்த நிக்களரியமே மாட்டினர் நிக்களவருங்கிச்சம்...

ஸ்ரீ. எஸ். கனகரத்தினபிள்ளை.

சென்ற மார்ச்சு(பங்குனி)மீ உகஉ விசயலேபி யாழ்ப்பாணம் கத்தோலியே குவாகிசாலை (Catholic Library) யிலே...

இதற்கு, ஸ்ரீ வேட்டன் என்பவர், இவ்வாறு நீங்கள் செய்ததன் அன்பின் அன்பினால்...

இது இவருடைய திறமையும் நன்மையுள்ளதாக...

வைதிகசைவசக்தார்த்துவித சைவசித்தாந்தசமயம்.

(உகஉ பக்கத்தொடர்)

உகஉ. என்குவசயாம் ஆராய மலத்து கண்ணியதினமணி என்டிசுமாம் இதுயுண்டுரித்ததென்று...

him with a handsome and valuable gold chain and medal with a suitable inscription, subscribed for by his friends among the European and Tamil mercantile community of Jaffna.

Dear Sir,

We learn with deep regret that your connection with the "CEYLON STEAM SHIP COY LTD" is shortly to cease.

We, therefore, desire to tender to you our heartfelt thanks for the extremely kind, courteous and fair treatment, we invariably received at your hands, and in our dealings with the Company.

We wish you every success in your future undertakings.

As a mark of our regard we desire you to accept the accompanying gift.

Mr. Lawton replied in suitable terms, recounting his services as the local Agent of the Ceylon Steam-Ship Company and thanking his friends for the address and the present, which, he said, he would ever treasure up as a token from those with whom it had been his happy privilege to have been in friendly relations for a long time.—Cor.

(We are glad that Mr. Lawton's services as the local Agent of the C. S. S. Company has been in this fitting manner recognized by the public. He is very popular among the Jaffna merchants and, we know, his retirement from the Agency is very much regretted by them; for, he was always very courteous and attended to his duties faithfully and promptly, with due regard to the interests of the merchants as well as to the interests of the Company which he served. The Jaffna public have done their duty to Mr. Lawton, but, in our opinion, he has a right to expect something more tangible from the Company than their bare expression of regret and appreciation of his services, more especially, as he now retires, after consolidating and considerably increasing the business of the Company here, not of his own accord, we believe, but in order to find congenial employment to another who was an old and faithful servant of the Company in Colombo. —Ed. H. O.)

THE HINDU HIGH SCHOOL.

The distribution of prizes to the successful students of the Hindu High School, Jaffna, took place on Friday the 30th Ultimo at 7 P. M. There was a large gathering of boys, parents and well-wishers of the institution. In fact the spacious temporary School Bungalow could not have contained all those who came from different parts of the Peninsula to be present on the occasion. Mr. Advocate Kanagasabai presided and distributed the Prizes, which consisted of English and Tamil Books of the value of more than Rs100. These also included some valuable books sent out from Colombo by the Hon. P. Coomara Swamy and Mr. P. Arunachalam, the Registrar-General. A select number of boys of the school held a sham meeting of what they called the Ceylon National Congress on the model of the Indian National Congress. They acquitted themselves very creditably, and the several speeches of the boy delegates and the orderly manner in which the business of the sham assembly was conducted were much applauded and admired by the audience. The Merchant of Venice was also acted by the boys in an equally creditable manner. These being over, the following gentlemen passed remarks on the benefits and efficiency of the school viz; the Chairman, Advocates Nagalingam and Mutiah, Proctor Changaripillai, P. Mudaliyar Elinkanayaga Mudaliyar, Messrs S. K. Lawton, Tissainayagam, A. Sapapathy, S. Sabaratnam and C. Tambyah. It was past 10 O'clock when the proceedings came to a close. The following was the Report on the working of the School read on the occasion by Mr. N. Selvadurai Pillai B. A. the Head Master:—

Another year has rolled away in the life of this infant school, an year of great anxiety for the promoters and well-wishers of the institution; and, it is good to stop and review the work of the past year, to know what progress has been made, to see how far the means adopted have secured the results sought for and to take a note of the faults we have fallen into so that we may avoid them in the future.

2. During the year under review the school has grown in number and in efficiency and has enlarged its sphere of usefulness. But there remains much to be done in the future to ensure its permanency, and this fact must never be lost sight of by those immediately responsible for the health and permanency of the school.

3. *Changes in the Staff.*— In Mr. Kannan Nair, a trained F. A. Teacher's College Madras, was appointed First Assistant Master. He was a good diary student and as his employment in was against the agreement he had entered into with the Govt., the Director of Public Instruction insisted upon his refunding the stipend money or returning at once to India. After three months stay he had to return and the School lost an able teacher. In March 1893 Mr. Ganapathy Pillai 2nd Asst. Master resigned his appointment and the school would have suffered much had it not been for the fact we were fortunate enough to secure the services of an able teacher Mr. S. Sivapragasem, an F. A. of the Madras University. He assumed charge of his duties in March 1893. About the same time Mr. Somaskander, was appointed Tamil Pundit. As it was the desire of many parents that Tamil must be taught systematically and Religious instruction must be imparted, the appointment of a special Pundit was deemed necessary. The programme of studies in Tamil has been revised. The studies are well graduated and will give a student who goes from the lowest to the highest class a decent insight into Tamil Grammar, and literature and the principles of Sivaism. In January 1894, the school was again fortunate in securing the services of Mr. S. Padmanabha Iyengar, who has passed the language branch of the B. A. examination. He has had some training as a teacher in Malabar and I had opportunities of forming a high estimate of his character and intelligence, as we were both in the same school. His optional language at the B. A. examination being Sanscrit, the school is doubly fortunate in securing the services of one who can teach also Sanscrit. A Sanscrit class has been opened and regular work will commence soon.

4. *Attendance.*—The number on the roll in Feby. 1894 was 322 as against 299 for the same month in the previous year. So there is an increase of 54 per cent in the number on the roll. The average daily attendance for Feby 1893 was 142 and that for February 1894 was 203. Though the number has increased it is sad to find a slight fall in the percentage of average attendance—it was 68 per cent for Feby 1893 and 63 per cent for Feby 1894. It is desirable that the parents of the boys should co-operate with the School-Master in securing the regular attendance of the boys. However strict we may be in the enforcement of attendance unless the parents could be impressed with its importance, it is not possible to secure it. Even parents who are ignorant of school-work cannot fail to appreciate the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. It is of service to them in their daily business as much as it is to the student in the School. I hope that next year some gentlemen will give prizes in each class for regular attendance, so that in striving to get the prize the habit may unconsciously be stamped upon them for life. In this connection a word may be said about Home-Exercises. To fix in the mind of the boy what he has learnt at school, to give the educated parents the opportunity of testing the progress of their boys and to impress on the children the importance of using their time well, to mould the habit of self-reliance and to preserve the boys from the contamination of the streets—Home-Exercises are given. To secure good result the parents and the school-master must co-operate. As home-work is either neglected or very carelessly done, it is hoped that parents will pay more attention to it in future. The home and the school are each preparatory to the great school of practical life and unless the parent is parent and the school-master is school-master, the citizen will not be citizen.

The Progress of the School.— An entrance class was formed in 1892 and the first batch of students presented themselves for the Calcutta Entrance Examination in February 1893. Of the five that were sent up three passed, two in the first class and one in the second. One of our best students fell suddenly ill on the last day of the examination, else he would also have secured a pass. This has been the first-fruit of our labour and we are thankful to God for crowning our efforts with success. We had not a little difficulty in sending up students privately, and so we applied to the University for recognition in July 1893 and I am glad to say the University has recognised it as a High school for sending up students for the Entrance Examination. We have presented the same to the University and hope the same will be done. I have not been

entered as a Govt. grant-in-aid school and the only test by which the public can at present judge the efficiency and good work of the school is by the success of our boys in the University Examination.

With the object of securing more confidence from the public and of bringing the school to the favorable notice of the Department of Public Instruction in Ceylon a Junior Local class has been opened and a few will be presented for the examination in December. But the want of Chemical and Physical apparatus is seriously felt in preparing them.

6. *Physical Education.*— We have no playground attached to the school. The growth of human powers depends on exercise, whether it be mental, moral or physical and there is such an intimate union between body and mind, that a healthy condition of the body is essential to a healthy and vigorous condition of the mind. The School drill and out-door games form an essential part of the school-work in all well-regulated schools. They help in the formation of the habit of obedience and make the boys brisk and active. I hope that measures will be taken to supply this want. At present, the students in the higher classes take dumb-bell exercise and money is being collected to start a Cricket Club.

7. *Moral Education.*— The most important duty of a teacher is to mould the character of the boys and to help them in the formation of right habits. This must be the teacher's main aim and it must be his earnest endeavour to make the boys truthful, honest and obedient. But in day schools like our own, there are other influences besides those of the teacher that surround the boy namely the influence of home, the influence of his companions, influences which at times work contrary to those of the teacher. In this connection I beg to observe that many young boys of the school,—boys under ten years of age smoke. It is the opinion of medical men all over the world that smoking tobacco at such an age does infinite harm both to the body and the mind and stunts the growth of physical and mental powers. If parents will co-operate with us an anti-tobacco union may be formed and boys may be asked and boys may be made to promise to give up smoking.

8. *The Annual Examination of the School.*— The annual examination was held in December last and our thanks are due to Messrs A. Kanagasabai, V. Casie Pillai, V. Cathiravelu Pillai and M. Tissainayagam for their valuable help in examining the higher classes in most of the subjects.

Our best thanks are also due to those gentlemen who have kindly and liberally donated towards the prizes and hope that their worthy example will be followed by others. The healthy competition among the boys for the prizes has very much raised the intellectual tone of the school.

My thanks are due to each and every one of my assistants who have been working with zeal and ability and to whose hearty co-operation so much of the success of the school is due.

Our thanks are also due to the Manager and the other members of the school Committee, for their love and sympathy and encouragement without which the work of the teachers would have been of no avail.

In conclusion, I have one word to say: The school has been making a very good fight for life, but the fight is one that must necessarily grow harder every year, as we have to compete with the other Colleges and schools in Jaffna. If the school is to live it must attract children and if it is to attract children it must give them a good education. To give them a good education we want funds for the school-building, for a good staff of teachers and for all the school appliances. The school must be registered as a Grant-in-aid school. The public will then have greater confidence in it, the grants will secure it greater permanency and the stimulus of competition with other schools will save it from falling into a rut.

Because other indigenous English schools had failed in the past, it is no argument in itself why this school should fail. A project may fail over and over again and yet be crowned with success at last when time has fully prepared the ground for the seed that takes root at length. Evil tongues, rash judgments and sneers can never distrust our cheerful path, so long as we do our work from a sense of duty to our native land, expecting no reward here on earth, but hoping only the reward of Heaven.