

Missionary friends would, "heathen" teachers in the English School at Vannarpounai under that Mission, and that the appointment of one of them, a few months ago, under circumstances not at all creditable to the Mission, was proclaimed at the time by Missionary agents with great flourish of trumpets. It could hardly be imagined that the reverend gentleman who made the statements above quoted from the report under notice and published them to the world, would have, before the ink with which that report was written had become dry, specially selected a "heathen" to be the principal teacher of one of his English Schools here. We would warn the "heathen" teachers employed in the Wesleyan Mission Schools that their position, in the face of the statements in question, is not at all secure, and that they may at any moment be thrown overboard, as others had been previously, when the object for which their services were secured has been attained. It is an article of faith with these Christian Missionaries that the end will justify the means.

It is not again true that the vast majority of the so-called opposition schools have been started by the "heathen" teachers turned out of the Mission Schools in order to eke out a living for themselves. Their establishment has been due solely to a revival of religious feeling on the part of the Saivite community, which is admitted, though grudgingly, even in the report under notice. They cannot be blamed for making an organised effort to see their children educated in their own schools, and not in those of the Missionaries which have been started chiefly, if not solely, with the object of proselytizing the "heathens." The people of Jaffna have been long subjected to Missionary tyranny in the matter of education. As long as there was no Government school here, and as long as the Hindu community were powerless to take care of their own interests, so long the Missionaries had their own way and subjected the Hindu children attending their schools to all manner of religious' intolerances and indignities. Times have, however, changed. There have sprung up during the last few years nearly 80 schools under Saivite agencies, of which 27 are in the receipt of Government grant in-aid. A just and impartial Government cannot withhold its support to schools established under these circumstances. In spite of the Quarter Mile Clause and other contrivances which have been brought into requisition in support of the Mission cause, the number of Saivite Schools continues to increase here, at the expense of the Christian schools. This shows that the mission of these Missionaries is not the success which they want their employers to believe. In sending Missionaries to India and Ceylon, in the beginning of this century, the Home Societies would have hoped to see the whole population of these countries converted to Christianity, before the century is out. But instead of that being the case, the close of the nineteenth century sees a great revival of Hinduism and Buddhism, which even these Missionaries cannot deny and which they do admit, though, as is naturally to be expected of them, in a half-hearted manner.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Weather—We have had refreshing showers of rain since our last issue. They were very timely for sowing, and the farmers are very busy in the fields.

The Government Agent—Mr Twynam has not yet arrived here from Colombo. He is in the Mannar District.

The Jaffna Police Court—Mr Constantine, our Police Magistrate, will leave here for his new station on the 13th Instant. It is a great pity that he should be ordered by Government to another station, just as he was becoming thoroughly acquainted with the criminal section of our community. Since late he has been a terror to evil-doers, and we would have wished, if His Excellency, the Governor had allowed him to remain at Jaffna for some time longer. It has been always our misfortune to lose our Magistrates just as they had gained experience of the place and the people. Mr. Constantine has been a very popular Magistrate, and his conscientious and impartial discharge of his duties is very much appreciated by the Bar and the public.

A plucky Jaffnese—We have to welcome back to Jaffna Mr. M. Mailvaganam of Chulipuram after an absence of seventeen years, five of which he spent in Australia and ten at Bangkok the capital of Siam. He had extensive Railway contracts in both the places. To Australia he had been with four hundred coolies under his command, all natives, and he was very

successful in his enterprise. He is very much pleased with the treatment he received at the hands of the Colonists in Australia. We commend his pluck and enterprise and hope that others will follow his example.

The Strike among Boatmen at Kaiti—No understanding has been yet come to between the boatmen and the Chetties. The Officers of the Customs at Kaiti have an easy time of it, having little or no work to do, and hundreds of boatmen and coolies have been during the last two months thrown out of employment and must suffer greatly from want. The boatmen would have, it is said, long ago come to some understanding with the Chetties if not for the evil advice of some designing persons. With the approach of the winter season matters must soon come to a crisis. During that season the Chetties cannot land their goods from Kangasanturai as they do now, but must do it at Kaiti. It is their intention, we understand, if the boatmen will not consent to the increased rate for the benefit of their temple, to start a boat company of their own and carry on their shipping business. We earnestly hope, however, that, in the interest of both parties, some amicable settlement will be soon effected. There is also some talk of the dispute being settled by arbitration.

The Chulipuram Riot Case—The famous case of unlawful assembly mischief and theft from a dwelling house brought against the Veilales of Chulipuram on the complaint of certain Nalavas of that village with respect to the tying of white cloth came on for trial before Mr de Livera our District Judge to-day. As there were 18 accused in the case there were two indictments, one against the first ten and the other against the remaining eight. After the first indictment had been read and the accused had claimed to be tried, the learned District Judge intimated to the Crown Proctor and to the Counsel for the accused that the offences of unlawful assembly and mischief should be tried by Police Court only and that the District Court had no jurisdiction to try those offences. After some argument he ruled that he would not allow evidence to be adduced by the prosecution with respect to those offences. The Crown Proctor then called the evidence he had to prove the charge of theft from a dwelling house, and after four witnesses had been examined the learned District Judge without calling upon the accused for their defence acquitted them of the charge. As the Crown Proctor desired to have the opinion of the Attorney-General on the ruling of the District Judge with regard to the charges of unlawful assembly and mischief the District Judge allowed the case as against the other accused to stand postponed until the 8th of October. These cases created considerable sensation in the place and the court was crowded during the trial.

The Nellore Kandaswamy Temple—There was some scuffle in this Temple on the last day of the festival between some youngmen of Vannarpounai and Kocuvil. It was, however, promptly put down, and nothing serious occurred. But the affair has been magnified into a serious riot in a telegram sent from here to the Ceylon Independent by some one who wants to be an alarmist.

Personal—Mr. Proctor Narayanaswamy of Colombo is in Jaffna with his family. He intends leaving here for India on a short trip.

—Mr. Cameron Smith, the Ceylon Agent of the Oriental Life Assurance Company was here lately with a view to extend the business of the Company.

—Mr. Proctor Canagaretnam of Trincomalee has come down here for a change with his family and is residing with his cousin Mr. Advocate Allegaon.

—Mr. C. Ponniyah, Salt-Storekeeper of Batticaloa, has arrived at Vathiyir his native place, on a visit to his friends and relations.

Matrimonial—The marriage of Mr. Wilson Kock with Miss Elizabeth Toussaint, daughter of the late Mr. John Toussaint is fixed for the 12th September. Invitations are already out to a very large number of their friends.

—The marriage of Mr. M. S. Ramelinkam brother Mr. M. S. Nagalingam and Chief clerk, Minor Courts, Matala, with Miss Seenitamby the daughter of Mr. Seenitamby ex-notary of Kurumbagaddy was celebrated to day.

—The marriage of Miss Mailvaganam, third daughter of Mr. R. Mailvaganam of Vannarpounai with Mr. S. Ponnampalam, took place at the bride's house on the 31st Ultimo.

The Hindu High School—In addition to the sum of nearly Rs. 3000 subscribed by the Nagarams at

Colombo, Kandy, and Galle, the Nagaram of the Natucotai Chetties of Jaffna have voted the sum of seven-hundred and Fifty Rupees for the Hindu High School. The Siva Paribalana Sabai should be congratulated on this liberal donation. When the Chetties have contributed such a large sum it must be evident that they have confidence in the undertaking of the Sabai. The spacious Hall of the Hindu High School cannot be completed before the end of this month as was hoped by the Committee, on account of the recent rains. This has been a great disappointment to the Committee and to the well-wishers of the school. It is however hoped that the building will be completed before the end of next month.

—Mr. Leembruggen, the Provincial Inspector of schools has not returned to Jaffna as yet from his inspection tour in the Eastern Province.

Acknowledgment—We have to acknowledge with thanks the several Administration Reports and Sessional papers issued by Government.

—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the July number of the Jaffna College Miscellany.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARE THE HINDUS CHRISTIANS?

The "Morning Star" of the 16th August has an article on this subject. It is founded on Dr Palny Andi's lecture on the same subject. The "Morning Star" notices twelve points about the Purusha as described in the Hindu scriptures and after a little bit of reasoning, says, "We should like to know what answer would be given by expounders of modern Hindism." The answer is briefly this:—Christians are fond of confounding the essences of the Vedas contained in the Upanishads from which twelve broken passages have been taken and mistranslated in the "Morning Star," with the symbolical principles of the Avatars of Vishnu. It may be that God should have revealed himself in various forms, in various countries and at various times. The Hindus do not and will not deny that Christianity embodies some truths. But let it be understood that they are only some of the truths of God-head and its relations to mankind and these some do not form even the essentials of a true doctrine of God-head. What God was, is and will be what he has suffered for mankind and what he will hereafter do for mankind do not form a complete religion. These points, however, Christianity has tried to explain to a very great extent. But with the other side of the question, what man was, is, and will be what his motives for action are, what the ways to correct himself, and to attain God's grace, what his punishments shall be if he should neglect to follow in these paths, these, Christianity has failed satisfactorily to explain. Christ died for mankind and all mankind can exonerate itself by repentance. This is the doctrine of Christianity which is as different from Hinduism modern or ancient which says that on man's action alone depend his merits and punishments as chalk from cheese. Repentance! a vague word within the mazy gabdeens of which those that delight in sinning find a safe refuge.

First when shall a man repent, how is he to repent; in fact what is repentance? Does not Christianity say that to kill a cow and to eat it is not a sin? On the other hand Hinduism considers it a sin. The Christian considering it not a sin need not and will not repent for it. Yet "the Morning Star" will not find any difference between Christians and Hindus. "Hurt" says the one and "Hurt not" says the other, and yet the missionary finds a concord in this discord.

Again, we see that in very many cases, repentance is always attained by external force. A drunkard does not find his way to repentance till after he is implicated in a criminal case and stands before a Judge condemned as a felon and sentenced as such. Repentance seems therefore possible only in prisons, and when the prisoner is out of jail, out goes his feeling of repentance and in comes his old way of thinking when he sees his former associates. Such a man according to the Christian is therefore saved and not saved.

Our object here is not to dilate upon the doctrines of the two religions and we have shewn enough to disprove the statement that "The Hindus are Christians in a corrupted form" as the Missionary will have it. We only request the missionary will not make such haphazard statements and creep into a sin for which he will not repent and from which consistently with his doctrine, he will not be saved.

A. B. C.