







particularly to Mr. Leembruggen for his pathetic references to it in his report. He writes:—

"The Vannarponnai east Boy's English School, under the management of Mr. S. Nagalingam is a fairly large middle school on a vernacular basis. It was established to meet the educational needs of the large Sivite population of Vannarponnai and the neighbourhood. It was examined for a grant-in-aid during the year. The results of the examination compare favourably with those of other schools of the same grade. A great deal of opposition was offered to the registration of this school, but its acceptance by the Department has not, I am led to believe, sensibly affected the attendance of old established schools in its vicinity."

ANIMAL SACRIFICE IN JAFFNA.

(communicated)

The practice of offering animal sacrifices is supposed to have existed among men in their primitive stage, and all such wild habits peculiar to the primitive man are expected to disappear before the dawn of civilization. But it is very painful to find that the case is otherwise in Jaffna, although the place is reputed to be the stronghold of Hinduism which preaches a crusade against taking of animal life.

Large numbers of animals—chiefly goats and fowls—are slaughtered annually in various parts of the peninsula in a most horrible and frantic manner, and that too in the presence of a large concourse of people, under the pretence of appeasing some Deity or other. The practice is mostly confined to the ignorant masses and lower classes, and it may be said that the practice is gaining ground every year instead of declining and ultimately dying out.

The festival of offering animal sacrifices commences in March or April and lasts up to September or October. Sheds are put up under a banyan or tamarind tree where a Kali or Bairava is supposed to preside, and on the day appointed, people flock in from various directions—some with a goat, some with a fowl and others with the object of enjoying the scene. The animals—numbering in many cases between five and six hundred—are most brutally slaughtered in open day light and in the presence of an immense crowd consisting of men and women, children and adults, upon whose mind the festival is sure to implant a demoralizing tendency.

The scene is too atrocious to be adequately described. The goat is dragged on one side with a rope attached to its neck, and on the other side with its two hind legs, where the massacring hero steps in with a hideous knife and goes on striking as many blows as his physical strength and the sharpness of the knife would require for the purpose of severing the head—the poor creature in the meantime struggling for life and striving hard to get off in a most pitiful manner. The fowls are chopped off, their heads and thrown aside and their trunks may be seen flying in the air until the life is totally extinguished. The bleating of the terrified goats and the chuckling of the awestricken fowls combined with the hubbub of the noisy crowd present a frightful scene. Blood may be seen running in streams over the sacrificial ground and the clothes and clothing of the bystanders are more or less soiled with blood. I may safely say that not less than 50,000 animals are slaughtered every year in this fanatic style, and it is high time that such a state of things must be put a stop to.

The Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals must take some immediate steps to prevent this anomalous torture and bloodshed. Common sense would forbid any sane man from having recourse to a practice like this, and still it is a wonder that the practice has been going on in Jaffna for many years past and no notice seems to have been taken of this very objectionable state of things.

There was a time when the suttee system was itself considered to have the sanction of religion, and the ignorant masses will always try to take shelter under their religion when they are detected in any filthy practice. But if the question is fully sifted it may be found that the practice is only the outcome of ignorance and superstition and that religion had nothing to do with it.

Sir William Twynam, our late Government Agent had sometime back the opportunity of witnessing one of these scenes, and he was greatly shocked at this horrible torture.

I think the government should take some notice of this anomalous practice and try to

stop to it, as it tends greatly to demoralize the people at large.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Weather—The drought still continues, and its evil and destructive effects are felt equally by man beast and vegetation. Our fields were sown last year in August, but this year they have not been even ploughed and manured yet preparatory to sowing, owing to want of rain.

The Government Agent—Mr. and Mrs. Ievers with the Chief Mudaliyar returned to Jaffna from Colombo on Saturday last by a native vessel.

The Puttoor Well—The pumping out of the water of this well was resumed on the 31st Ultimo and will be continued till today. The experiment has proved we learn, that there is an inexhaustible supply of fresh water in this well sufficient to the needs of the Jaffna Town. We hope early steps will be taken to supply this town with pure drinking water from this well.

Personal—Mr. Advocate Tirunavukarasu who came to Jaffna on a visit to his friends and relations has returned to Colombo by the last trip of the Lady Havelock.

—Mr. Murugasa Pillai, Superintendent of Roads under the Municipality of Singapore, who came to Jaffna last month on account of the sad death of Mrs Murugasapillai to whom he was married about a year ago, has returned to the Straits after performing the Anthiaddy and other ceremonies here.

—We are glad to learn that Dr S Hallock L R. C. P., & S, Edinburgh and L F. P & S, Glasgow, Deputy Asst. Colonial Surgeon stationed at Chilaw has been promoted to an Asst. Colonial Surgeoncy from the latter part of last month.

—Dr. M Candiyah, retired sub-assistant Colonial Surgeon is now in charge of the Senior Medical Officer's office here, Dr. Thoru hall having gone to Mullativa on circuit and Dr. Ebell having gone to Colombo on leave.

Fire Wood—We hear serious complaints from all classes of people regarding the vexatious conditions under which firewood could now be purchased here from the Government. We hope our Government Agent will redress this grievance as soon as possible, as he will find that this complaint proceeds not from one section of the people but from the whole people of the Town and its suburbs.

The Supreme Court—The second Criminal Session of the Supreme Court for the year 1896 will commence here on the 18th Instant. There are only four cases on the Calendar. It is likely two more will be added we understand.

RAMBLING NOTES.

I see the Jaffna Commercial Corporation is to do business in a grand and business-like style. The general meeting will be held on the 8th Inst when I think several important business matters will be discussed. I venture to suggest at this time that the amount of capital be raised a little. The promoters of this corporation might say that it is impossible; to which I tell them to recall to their minds what Napoleon said of the word 'impossible'.

So the Jaffna Railway is not a "tautalizing vision" I learn from a very high authority that His Excellency the Governor has 'decided' to open the Railway to Jaffna and that we will have our Railway soon. And it is a piece of pleasant news to hear that the Jaffna Railway question does not hang on the three word, "will it pay."

Mr. Pate and a Coast Moorman came to Jaffna on the 1st Inst by coach and, I hear from a very reliable source, proposed to buy the whole stock in trade consisting of horses, coaches, bulls &c from the present Contractor. But Mr. Pate learning from him that he did not like to part with them as he intends to run a private coach between Jaffna and Matala he (Mr. Pate) left Jaffna the next day that is yesterday to Colombo. So what appeared in the local TIMES about Mr. Pate sending his son to India to buy horses seems to be a canard.

I am glad to see that 4 Colleges out of 5 in Jaffna have joined together and formed a union under the name of "Inter-Collegiate Union." It is a very grand idea indeed. The members are elected from the Entrance, F. A. and B. A. classes and the masters of higher forms. A meeting was held in that

spacious hall of the "Hindu College" on the 23rd Ultimo and on that day Mr. Chelva Rivan, who has keeping terms in Lincoln's Inn, London, and is on a visit to his native place, delivered a lecture on the Social Evolutions of the West. The next meeting I hear will be held on the 3rd week of this month at the Jaffna College, Batticotta.

Wanderer.

EXTRACT.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN LONDON. (INDIA)

During the London season, Swami Vivekananda has been teaching and lecturing to considerable numbers of people who have been attracted by his doctrine and philosophy. Most English people fancy that England has a practical monopoly of missionary enterprise, almost unbroken save for a small effort on the part of France. I therefore sought the Swami in his temporary home in South Belgravia to enquire what message India could possibly send to England, apart from the remonstrances she has too often had to make on the subject of home charges, judicial and executive functions combined in one person, the settlement of expenses connected with Sudanese and other expeditions.

"It is no new thing," said the Swami composedly, "that India should send forth missionaries. She used to do so under the Emperor Asoka, in days when the Buddhist faith was younger, when she had something to teach surrounding nations."

"Well, might one ask why she ever ceased doing so, and why she has now begun again?"

"She ceased because she grew selfish, forgot the principle that nations and individuals alike subsist and prosper by a system of give and take. Her mission to the world has always been the same. It is spiritual, the realm of introspective thought has been hers through all the ages, abstract science, metaphysics, logic, are her special domain. In reality my mission to England is an outcome of England's to India. It has been hers to conquer, to govern, to use her knowledge of physical science to her advantage and ours. In trying to sum up India's contribution to the world, I am reminded of a Sanskrit and an English idiom. When you say a man dies, your phrase is, 'He gave up the ghost,' whereas we say, 'He gave up the body.' Similarly, you more than imply that the body is the chief part of man by saying it possesses a soul. Whereas we say a man is a soul and possesses a body. These are but small ripples on the surface, yet they show the current of your national thought. I should like to remind you how Schopenhauer predicted that the influence of Indian philosophy upon Europe would be as momentous when it became well known, as was the revival of Greek and Latin learning at the close of Dark Ages. Oriental research is making great progress; a new world of ideas is opening to the seeker after truth."

"And is India finally to conquer her conquerors?"

"Yes, in the world of ideas. England has the sword, the material world, as our Muhammadan conquerors had before her. Yet Akbar the Great became practically a Hindu; educated Muhammadans, the Sufis, are hardly to be distinguished from Hindus; they do not eat cow, and in other ways conform to our usage. Their thought has become permeated by ours."

"So that is the fate you foresee for the lordly sahib? Just at this moment he seems to be a long way off it."

"No, it is not so remote as you imply. In the world of religious ideas the Hindu and the Englishman have much in common, and there is proof of the same thing among other religious communities. Where the English ruler of civil servant has had any knowledge of India's literature, especially her philosophy, there exists the ground of a common sympathy, a territory constantly widening. It is not too much to say that only ignorance is the cause of that exclusive—sometimes even contemptuous—attitude assumed by some."

"Yes, it is the measure of folly. Will you say why you went to America rather than to England on your mission?"

"That was a mere accident—a result of the World's Parliament of Religions being held in Chicago at the time of the World's Fair, instead of in London as it ought to have been. The Raja of Mysore and some other friends sent me to America as the Hindu representative. I stayed there three years, with the exception of last summer, and this summer, when I came to lecture in London. The Americans are a great people, with a great future before them. I admire them very much, and found many kind friends among them. They are less prejudiced than the English, more ready to weigh and examine a new idea, to value it in spite of newness. They are most hospitable too; far less time is lost in showing one's credentials, as it were. You travel in America, as I did, from city to city, always lecturing among friends. I saw Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Des Moines, Memphis, and numbers of other places."

"And leaving disciples in each of them?"

"Yes, disciples, but not organisations. That is no part of my work. Of these there are enough in all conscience. Organisations need men to manage them; they must seek power, money, influence. Often they struggle for domination, and even fight."

"Could the gist of this mission of yours be summed up in a few words? Is it comparative religion you want to teach?"

"It is really the philosophy of religion, the kernel of all its outward forms. All forms of religion have an essential and a non-essential part. If we strip from them the latter, there remains the real basis of all religion, which all forms of religion possess in common. Unity is behind them all. We may call it God, Allah, Jahve, the Spirit, Love, it is the same unity that animates all life, from its lowest form to its noblest manifestation in man. It is on this unity we need to lay stress, whereas in the west, and indeed everywhere, it is on the non-essential that men are apt to lay stress. They will fight and kill each other for these forms, to make their fellows conform. Seeing that the essential is love of God and love of man, this is curious, to say the least."

(To be continued)