

Hindu Organ

VOL IX. } JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY
 கூ.ம் புத்தகம். } OCTOBER 6 1897

{ இந்திய தினம். }

சுவியகரூப ஸககக. { NO. 4
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பகஷத் துக்கொருமுறை புதன் கிழமைகளிற் பிரசுரிக்கப்படும்.

NOTICE.

I Thaivanaipullai widow of Mootatamby of Vannarponnai East do hereby give notice that I cancel from this date the power of Attorney granted by me to Velauthar Pandaram of Vannarponnai East

Thaivanaipullai

21st September 1897.

FOR SALE

A second hand 5 inch Transit Theodolite with stand and Box. A second hand 4 1/4 inch Prismatic compass, of best quality with stand.

A Brass Parallel Rolling rule 12 inch.

For Particulars Apply to

G. C. Ganapathipillai
 Licensed Surveyor
 Point Pedro

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
 ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
 Jurisdiction } No. 864

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Marimuttupillai wife of Kulanthavelu of Vaddukoddai East

Deceased
 Chapapathiyar Kulanthavelu of Vaddukoddai East
 Petitioner

Vs

Sinnappillai widow of Somanathar of Vaddukoddai East

Respondent

This matter of the Petition of Chapapathiyar Kulanthavelu of Vaddukoddai East praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Marimuttupillai wife of Kulanthavelu coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 15th day of September 1897 in the presence of Messrs Casipillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 13th day of September 1897 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondent or any other person shall on or, before the 4th day of November 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 15th day of September 1897.

SAMUEL HAUGHTON
 District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
 ORDER NISI

Testamentary }
 Jurisdiction } No 865.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Abubekkar Neinapilly Maracair Mohamatu Meerapilly Maracair of Vannarponnai

Deceased
 Meerasaibo Mohamatu Ossen of Vannarponnai
 Petitioner

and

1. Mohamatu Ossen Meerasaibo and
 2. Abubekkar Neinapilly Maracair Mohamatu Lebba Maracair both of Vannarponnai

Respondents

This matter of the Petition of Meerasaibo Mohamatu Ossen of Vannarponnai praying for Letters of Administration to the Estate of the abovenamed deceased Abubekkar Neinapilly Maracair Mohamatu Meerapilly Maracair of Vannarponnai coming on for disposal before Samuel Haughton Esquire, District Judge, on the 1st day of September 1897 in the presence of Mr. V. Kathiravelu Pillai Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Affidavit of the Petitioner dated the

21st day of September 1897, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the brother-in-law and Creditor of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the Estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or, before the 26th day of October 1897 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 28th day of September 1897

SAMUEL HAUGHTON
 District Judge

THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6, 1897

THE TAMIL SEAT.

Now that the Honourable P. CoomaraSwamy's term of office as Representative of the Tamils in the Legislative Council is drawing to a close it becomes the duty and interest of every member of that community to see that it is worthily represented for another five years—as worthily as it has hitherto been by its present Representative and by his predecessors, Sir Coomara Swamy and Mr. Ramanathan. When this seat fell vacant five years ago there was hot contest for it, as the Government had to be convinced of the superior claims and fitness of one candidate over those of the other; and His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, yielding to the wishes of the vast majority of the Tamils of this Island, as expressed in the meetings held in different parts of the Island, deputations that waited upon him, and numerous signed Petitions presented to him, appointed Mr. P. CoomaraSwamy in February 1893 as Tamil Member of the Legislative Council. Mr. Coomara Swamy being now no longer new to the Legislative Council, and his ability, independence, devotion to duty, and solicitude for the welfare of his constituents being fully known and admitted, there is a general expectation among the Tamils in all parts of the Island that, in their own interests and in the interests of the Colony at large, he will be re-appointed for a term of another five years. This accounts for the comparative calmness that now prevails here, compared with the active demonstrations that marked the closing months of 1892 in favour of the candidature of Mr. Coomara Swamy.

The five years rule is an advantage so far as it can be used to force the retirement of an inefficient and unpopular member. But it was never intended to deprive the country of the services of so worthy and tried a Legislator as Mr. CoomaraSwamy. It takes a new member some years to learn the rules of debate and become fully accustomed to the business of the Council. "The difference," says Lord Macaulay, "between a new member and an old member is as great as the difference between a recruit just taken from the plough and a veteran soldier." Mr. CoomaraSwamy's service in Council for the last five years has been, as it were, his apprenticeship for his real work as a Legislator. The country expects, therefore, greater and more distinguished services from him during the next five years, if the Government would be pleased to re-appoint him for the Tamil Seat. If he be not re-appointed a great injustice would be done not only to him but to the Tamil community; and an impression would be created in the public minds that the Government do not value at their true worth experience, independence, and free and fearless criticism of their measures on the unofficial side of the Council.

His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock re-appointed Messrs Seneviratna, and Abdul Rahiman, and Sir John Grisinton when their respective seats fell vacant by the effluxion of time, although they had served in Council for a longer period than Mr. CoomaraSwamy, and although they had rival candidates most influentially and strongly supported by the Sinhalese and the Muhammedans. There is no reason to believe that His Excellency Sir Joseph West Ridgeway will adopt a different policy in regard to the Tamil seat, more especially as the present member enjoys the unbounded confidence of his community and as the other Tamil aspirants for legislative honours are gentlemen who could afford to wait for another five years and become better qualified to perform the responsible duties of a legislator by such waiting. We would advise such of the rival candidates as are residents of Colombo to qualify themselves for a seat in the Legislative Council, by becoming first members of the Municipal Council as Mr. CoomaraSwamy had done. We mean no offence to the gentlemen who would oust Mr. CoomaraSwamy from the Tamil seat and aspire to get into it when we say that they have not his experience, and all the other qualifications required to make a successful and useful Representative.

So far as we are aware the only argument used against the re-appointment of Mr. CoomaraSwamy is the long exploded family argument. If it had any validity in it Mr. Coomara Swamy would not have been appointed successor to his brother, Mr. Ramanathan, in the Tamil seat; and having been appointed by the Government as the Representative of the Tamils in the Legislative Council the question now is if there is any one among the Tamils who are better qualified than he to represent them in our Legislature. We unhesitatingly say that there is none. In conclusion we cannot do better than quote what we wrote in refutation of this argument in the *Hindu Organ* of the 9th November 1892 and in support of the candidature of Mr. CoomaraSwamy when the Tamil seat fell vacant by the appointment of Mr. Ramanathan as Solicitor-General:—

"Another argument frequently advanced against the selection of Mr. CoomaraSwamy is that he belongs to the family which has held the Tamil seat for the last 30 years or so. The Tamils support his candidature solely on the ground that he is the fittest available Tamil gentleman to represent them, and not because he is a nephew of Sir CoomaraSwamy and brother of Mr. Ramanathan. The family argument is the outcome of malice and envy, and no un-biased person will be influenced by it. Honour is all the more due to the family that has produced such brilliant and distinguished legislators as Sir CoomaraSwamy and Mr. Ramanathan, whose eminent services to the Government and their country have earned for them the love of the people and the esteem of the Sovereign. If all the qualifications of a Representative are centred in Mr. CoomaraSwamy, which even the bitterest of his enemies cannot and do not deny, his connection with the family should be an additional claim instead of being a disqualification for the honour he seeks."

KANKESANTURAI.

This is the most important port of this Province during South-west monsoon. We had more than once called attention to the insufficiency and inadequacy of wharf accommodation at this port. We are glad that during the last two years some of the temporary sheds have been converted into substantial buildings. Though

these are not quite sufficient to accommodate all the goods brought or landed there during the busiest part of the year, yet we should be content with what has been already done, and hope that in course of time all the temporary sheds will become substantial buildings.

Our present object in reverting to this subject is to bring to the notice of the local authorities the neglected condition of a shed at this port which was put up by the Government for the convenience of the public—to accommodate goods that are brought for export and to keep those imported till the government duty is paid. We found it last week when we went to Kankasanturai to meet some friends coming from Batticaloa by the Lady Havelock in a disgraceful condition. It contained a large quantity of goods, mostly perishable articles such as tobacco, copra, chillies &c brought to be shipped in the steamer, but the shed having not been thatched in due time most of the goods were exposed to the rains that fell on that day.

The thatching of the shed would not cost more than Rs. 50 or Rs 60 once in two years. We believe the Government recover rent from those goods if they were allowed to remain there for more than a certain number of days and also wharfage from all imported dutiable articles landed and stored there even if they were immediately removed. Why should Government then neglect their duty in regard to the thatching of this shed, and cause great inconvenience and loss to the public? We earnestly hope that Mr. Fisher, our Government Agent, who is always ready to attend to the needs, and promote the welfare, of the people committed to his care, will order the repair and thatching of this shed.

ASTROLOGY.

(communicated)

We have received some papers relating to astrology from Mr. Suryanarain Row of Bellary, who intends to pay a visit to Ceylon shortly and lecture on astrology. The testimonials from several leading Hindus speak highly of him, and we dare say that those who take an interest in the study of astrology will most gladly welcome his visit. Though some educated Hindus think, with the late Raja Sir T. Madhava Row, that there is no truth in astrology, the vast majority of them, nay even some Christians, have faith in the science. In Europe also astrology has its place. Witness Zadkiel's almanac and similar publications in Continental Europe. Zadkiel's predictions about the Indian plague and famine have proved true.

Mr. Suryanarain Row is a graduate of the Madras University and a lawyer. He has not cultivated the science with the view of making money, as is the case with the Sastri astrologers of Jaffna, who are as innocent of astrology as of chemistry or physics. Mr. Row's object is to disseminate a right and correct knowledge of astrology among the people. The true province of the science is generally misunderstood. It is not that the planets counteract the will of God, or that they exercise any influence on mankind irrespective of, and apart from, the power and will of God. What astrology teaches us is that certain positions, conjunctions, and aspects of the planets are *indicia* of certain events.

The province of astrology is to make us foreknow the destinies of individuals, countries, and nations. For example, if the Indian Government had paid attention to the predictions of Zadkiel they would have taken timely steps to minimise the effects of the plague and famine. By means of astrology, which is closely allied to astronomy, and is worked on the same principles as astronomy we can foretell, among other things, what will happen to a man in certain periods of his existence. It is a very intricate science, and astrologers often miscalculate and err. In this materialistic age, there is a growing tendency among men to underrate the importance of astrology. Can a man who knows nothing of chemistry or physics condemn it as a false science? How is it then that people who do not know even the alphabet of astrology condemn it as an unmitigated superstition? The science of medicine though cultivated so long, has not attained to perfection. So it may be with astrology. If a person has no knowledge of astrology or any other science it is his duty to suspend his judgment, but to condemn it as false does not argue the possession of a well-balanced mind.

Astrology has come to be regarded as part and parcel of Hinduism, as it has been cultivated most assiduously by the Hindus. True that Hindu writers on astrology have incorporated in their books certain rules and precepts of their

religion in that they have prescribed Puja ceremonies, prayers, invocations, &c. to Hindu Deities. But the rules of religion found in works on astrology are not the essentials of astrology. They may be expunged from them without in any way trespassing on the true province of astrology. A Muhammadan or a Christian may consistently with the principles of astrology invoke Allah or Christ to avert the calamity which is to befall him. In fact, many Indian Muhammadans are believers in Hindu astrology, but not in the religion of the Hindus.

Mr. Suryanarain Row, unlike most Astrologers is a gentleman of high culture, and has come in contact with Western thought and literature. Combining in himself the learning of the West and that of the East and having no private ends to serve, Mr. Row's exposition of the science must carry conviction even to the most sceptical minds. We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Row, and hope that his lectures will be the means of dispelling the false notions and ideas prevalent about astrology. He is the editor of the "Astrological magazine" issued monthly in Southern India, and is eminently fitted to perform the task he has set himself. Shorn of the superstition which has overgrown it, astrology must prove as beneficial to mankind as Astronomy.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Weather—After some welcome showers which fell last week in all parts of the District the weather is now clear, and the South-west wind blows strong. The prospects of the paddy crop are excellent, the sowing having been completed earlier than in previous years, and the plants coming up very well. A bumper crop is expected provided there will be good and reasonable rains this month and in November and December.

The Government Agent—Mr Fisher returned to the Town on the 1st Instant from circuit. We understand that he will again leave shortly on an extended tour to Vavuniya and Mullaitivu. He will remain at the former place for a week or so and act for Mr. Fox who goes to Colombo to stand his examination in the vernacular.

Personal—Mr. R. H. Leembruggen, Inspector of Schools and Mr. F. Strays, Secretary of the Jaffna District Court, returned to Jaffna from Batticaloa by the last trip of the "Lady Havelock."

Mr. A. C. Krishnapillai of the Batticaloa Kachcheri who has been appointed Head Clerk of the Vavuniya Kachcheri also arrived here by the same steamer with Mrs. Krishnapillai and children and proceeded to Vavuniya to assume charge of his duties. He is a son-in-law of the late Dr. Covington.

Mr Advocate Tiruvavukarasu—We have to extend a hearty welcome to this gentleman who arrived here from Colombo with Mrs. Tiruvavukarasu on the 1st Instant by the Lady Gordon. He has fixed his residence in the Town and commenced practice in our Courts. We have no doubt that he will find sufficient encouragement to remain in Jaffna as he intends doing. His long connection with and training in the Metropolitan Bar, not to speak of his natural abilities, are recommendations in his favour.

New Advocates—The following gentlemen have passed the Advocates Final Examination, viz, Messrs G. Schneider, H. Sandrasegara, E. H. Prins, I. Tambayah and C. Vanderwall. Mr Sandrasegara is the eldest son of Mr. Sandrasegara Superintendent of Minor Roads, Jaffna, and is a young man of abilities and promise; Mr. Prins is the genial Private Secretary of Mr. Justice Withers; and Mr. I. Tambayah is a native of Jaffna, who has already made his mark as an able writer. We wish them success in their profession.

The Sixty Years Circular—If this circular be strictly enforced several officers of Government in this Province will be forced to retire by the end of this year. There are a few who must retire by having completed their sixty five years of age. The younger members of the service, therefore, feel jubilant at the good prospects that are in store for them. We learn that the local authorities have asked the Government whether the Headmen also come under the operation of this circular or not. If they do, three Maniagars—the Maniagars of Jaffna, Valligamo West and Valligamo North—also will have to retire.

The Victoria Reading Hall—As we have already announced, this institution is now supplied with a large number of papers owing

to the generosity of some public-spirited gentlemen, who are known to the managing Committee. The institution is however specially indebted to a gentleman who prefers to remain unknown but who regularly sends by post to the Hall the "London Spectator" and "Truth," one or two days after their receipt by every mail here. They are posted in the Kachcheri Post Office, and speculation is rife as to who this anonymous donor is. There is no doubt that he is one who wishes well of all useful native undertakings. The thanks of the members of the Victoria Reading Hall are specially due to him not only for sending to this institution two valuable English weeklies, but also for the manner in which he renders this unsolicited help to it. Though he wishes to help the institution in this unostentatious fashion and to remain unknown to the authorities of the Institution yet they recognize him to be a young Government Officer of great promise and ability and feel extremely thankful to him.

Mr. Casie Chitty—This Gentleman has, on the expiration of his leave, resumed duties as Police Magistrate of Pt. Pedro and Chavakachcheri.

Arrack Rent—We learn that Mr Hendrick Appuhamy who was the Jaffna renter for some years past has purchased the rent of this District for 1898 and 1899 for the sum of Rs 200,000.

The Jaffna College Miscellany—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of this periodical. It contains a likeness of Dr. Hastings, the constitution of the College, the names of the Directors, teachers and students, besides other useful informations concerning this College.

Acknowledgment—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt from Government of the Ceylon Blue Book for 1896.

EXTRACT.

A LETTER FROM MR. TILAK.

It will be remembered there was a talk of an amicable settlement of Mr. Tilak's case. The proposal was that the case would be withdrawn if he made a suitable apology; and here is the letter which Mr. Tilak addressed to a friend in connection with it:—

"The other side expects me to do what amounts to pleading guilty. I am not prepared to do so. My position amongst the people entirely depends upon my character; and if I am cowed down by the prosecution, —in the heart of my hearts I know the case for the prosecution is the weakest that was ever placed before a Jury—I think, living in Maharashtra is as good as living in the Andamans. On the merits of the case I am confident of success, though I cannot in this letter and in the present state of my health give you all my reasons. I am afraid only of a non-Maharata-knowing Jury, and not of justice. You as well as I know that we are incapable of nourishing any sinister feeling against British rule, and it is thus impossible for any of us to be convicted of such a heinous charge as sedition. Such risks, however, we must take if we dabble in politics. They are the risks of our profession, and I am prepared to face them. If you all advise, I am prepared to go only so far as this: "I don't think that the articles are seditious, but the advisers of the Government think otherwise. I am sorry for it." But this will not satisfy the Government. Their object is to humiliate the Poona leaders, and I think, in me they will not find a 'kutchra' read as they did in Professor Gokhale and the editor of the "Dnyan Prakash." Then you must remember, beyond a certain stage we are all servants of the people. You will be betraying and disappointing them if you show a lamentable want of courage at a critical time. But above all, as an honest and honourable man, how can I plead guilty to the charge of entertaining sedition when I had none? If I am convicted, the sympathy of my countrymen will support me in my trouble."

This shows what Mr. Tilak is. Although six European Jurors who know neither Maharati nor the people among whom the *Kesari* is circulated, have found him guilty, the evidence produced for the defence must have removed a good deal of the misconception in regard to his attitude, not only in regard to the Government plague policy, but also to Lord Sandhurst personally and to the Crown and the Government which His Lordship represents in Bombay. The strong prejudice which was created against him in the Anglo-Indian mind has not been removed by the trial; but we are sure that every true Briton will admire the inherent sincerity, independence and courage which the above letter displays. It does infinite credit to his high manly character. —Hindu.