

# Hindu Organ

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## NOTICE

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI

Testamentary } No. 920  
Jurisdiction }

In the Matter of the Last Will of the late Annamalai Chettiar Arunasalam Chettiar alias Ravanna Mana Meyna Arunasalam Chettiar of Vannarponnai Deceased.

Between

Ravanna Mana Meyna Palaniappa Chetty of Vannarponnai Petitioner.

And

Ravanna Mana Mena Raman Chetty of Vannarponnai Respondent.

This matter of the Petition of the abovenamed Petitioner Ravanna Mana Meyna Palaniappa Chetty of Vannarponnai praying for grant of Letters of Administration with copy of the Last Will of the late Annamalai Chetty Arunasalam Chetty alias Ravanna Mana Meyna Arunasalam Chetty coming on for disposal before C. Eardley-Wilmot, Esquire, District Judge, on the 26th day of October 1898 in the presence of Messrs Casipillai and Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner and of the witnesses to the Last Will which are dated the 12th day of August and the 26th day of October 1898 respectively having been read: It is ordered that the will of the late Annamalai Chettiar Arunasalam Chettiar alias Ravanna Mana Meyna Arunasalam Chettiar dated the 12th day of May 1896 now deposited in this court be and the same is hereby declared proved unless the abovenamed Respondent or any other person shall on or before the 5th day of December 1898 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

It is further declared that the Petitioner is agent of one of the Executors named in the said Will and that he is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Annamalai Chettiar Arunasalam Chettiar alias Ravanna Mana Meyna Arunasalam Chettiar with copy of the said Will annexed issued to him accordingly.

The 26th day of } Signed/ C. EARDLEY WILMOT  
October 1898 } District Judge.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

ORDER NISI

Testamentary } No 931  
Jurisdiction }

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Sithamparam widow of Charavanai of Manthuvil Intestate.

Valayutar Malavarayar of Meesalai Petitioner.

Vs

1. Kantar Katiramar and wife
2. Sathupillai both of Meesalai
3. Vyavanatar Arumugam and
4. wife Mulaikudy both of Manthuvil

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Valayutar Malavarayar of Meesalai praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed Intestate Sithamparam widow of Charavanai of Manthuvil coming on for disposal before C. Eardley Wilmot Esquire, District Judge, on the 24th day of October 1898 in the presence of Mr. S. Kandayya Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated 21st October 1898 having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is related to the intestate as nephew 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 15th day of December 1898 show cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 24th day of October 1898

C. EARDLEY WILMOT  
District Judge.

## THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1898

### THE "MORNING STAR" AND THE ABDUCTION CASE.

The "Morning Star" of the 3rd Instant, publishes a "contributed" article headed "Public Opinion," which occupies the place of a leader. From the language and substance of the article, we have reason to conclude that it is from the pen of a Padre or Professor engaged in evangelizing work in the Peninsula. The ostensible object of the article is to show that public opinion is not always formed and regulated according to the demands of truth and justice, but is sometimes "swayed by the mad force of prejudice and of passion." But the real object of the author seems to be to condemn the jurors' verdict in the Abduction Case, which he ascribes to a faulty marriage system. If this were all, we should fain refrain from condemning the article. But several passages are found in it, which condemn wholesale the character of the people of Ceylon, indeed of all Asia, and their public institutions, though he dares not to take the sting out of it, reference is made to the fickleness of public opinion in all climes and countries. The Editor does not append a single word of dissent or comment, and tacitly endorses the opinions of the writer.

The hearing of the Abduction Case was concluded on the 23rd September last. Between that date and the 3rd Instant, there were two issues of the "Morning Star." But not one of them contained a single reference to the Abduction Case, though the parties chiefly concerned in it were members of his flock—the grand-children of one of his earliest converts, of whose morals he is the custodian and guardian, and whose praises he never loses an opportunity of singing in the columns of the "Morning Star", but whose sins of commission and omission never find a place there. Presumably, the silence of our contemporary was due to a want of moral courage. He did not like to incur the odium of either of the contending parties. For, is it not the truth that ninety nine per cent of the Christians of Jaffna including a large number of native Padres and the vast majority of European residents and colonists, stood by the principal accused in the case? On the one hand, there was "the mad force of public opinion swayed by passion and prejudice," on the other hand, there was the displeasure of a Christian minister and his influential relations to reckon with. Though our contemporary is slow to expose the faults and failings of Christians, who are his charge, he is forward enough to talk glibly, from the pulpit and in the press, of the so-called foibles of the Heathen. Two years ago, when that sage of world-wide fame and renown—Swami Vivekananda—visited our shores, at the earnest request of the Hindus of Jaffna, among whom our contemporary has come to labour, he descended to personalities, even to abuse, in speaking of the nonoffending Swami. Behind the back of the revered Swami, and for weeks after he left Jaffna the "Morning Star" continued to pour

abuse on his devoted head. Evidently, our contemporary has no sense of proportion. The morals of Native Christian society do not concern him as much as the Swami's lecture on Hinduism does. The part played by the "Morning Star" in the political history of Jaffna during the regime of a retired official is still fresh in our memory. Furthermore, in one of the recent issues of that paper the Editor quotes with approval the statement of the "Calcutta Englishman" that the number of literate persons imprisoned on conviction in India is proportionately more than twice as large as the illiterate so imprisoned. Does he know that in Ceylon the number of Christians imprisoned on conviction is proportionately more than that of non-Christians so imprisoned? If the result quoted from the "Englishman" arises from a Christless education, from what does the result of the statistics of Ceylon arise? Such is the character and such are the antecedents of the "Morning Star", which, in the course of a homily on public opinion, seeks to exterminate by one stroke of the pen the customs and institutions of the natives of Ceylon, India, and Asia.

We should not be understood to travel beyond our province and dictate to the "Morning Star" what to say, and what not. If the article of the 3rd Instant does not pass under review our habits and customs, laws and institutions, we should have nothing to say against the action or inaction of that paper as regards the Abduction Case. But when our contemporary rises from his lethargy only to show up to public scorn and ridicule our customs and institutions, we should be wanting in our duty to our country to pass his effusions or rather those of his correspondent unnoticed. Here are the precious passages to which we take exception.

"What then must be the character of the individuals of a community which will permit brigandage in capturing the persons of females whatever their moral character may be? A country which has a marriage system which differs little from traffic in the persons of women might naturally be expected to countenance such outrages and so it does. Is it any wonder that a community which abridges the liberties of the female sex should persecute those who have the courage and Christian grace to run against strong prejudices to grant their daughters more liberty....."

The prejudice of custom commits such crimes, yet men fear to resist the on rushing current of public opinion. In a community where the general moral tone is low men despise virtue because goodness is unpopular, jurors settle verdicts according to the demands of a vitiated public opinion before all the evidence is heard rather than in accordance with the demands of justice, and men domineer over their fellows as if they were sticks and stones instead of rational souls, and glory in the genius which can make the worse appear the better reason."

Time was when tourists and visitors from the West, who had no insight into the inner life of the people of the East and who did not understand the rationale of their moral and social rules scoffed at them. Christian Missionaries who, unlike Christ Jesus, never moved among or mixed with the people, were the greatest sinners in this respect. The more sensible of them have now ceased to decry against the alleged vices of the Heathen. But in their ranks are still to be found men, who, at Exeter Hall meetings, delight to dwell on the "horrible" marriage customs in vogue among the natives. But impartial observers from the West, who are not Missionary ridden, have, since the last two decades or so, tried to dispel the wrong notions infused by Christian Missionaries into the heads of men and women in the West, with the view of drawing from their pockets sixpences

(continued on the 4th page)



கொலை—அப்புத்தளை வெல்லாக என்னும் கிராமத்  
தில் ஒரு குடியிருநகரம் தன் வயலில் அறுப்பு அறுத்  
தப்பொருள்கள்திருந்து களைந்தக் காவல்காக்கும்பொ  
ருட்டு இவ்வில் தகவியிருந்து அயர்ந்து நித்திரையோய  
லிட்டோம். அச்சமயம்பாத்துத் அவனுடைய வறிகா  
ளியொருவன் தன்னுடைய கிரெதிரில் ஒருவனைக்  
கூட்டிக்கொண்டு அக்ளெந்தைக்குப்போய் ஒரு கோட  
ரியால் அவனுடைய தலைமைய வெட்டி போய் கொடு  
ங்க உடைத்துக் கஞ்சிக் கழாக்கிவிட்டு துரமான் துரி  
த்திற்கு இருவரும் இழவிட்டார்கள். இதுவிலைய  
த்தை அவ்ளூர் றட்டோமர் தமையா அறிந்து அவர்களை  
ப்பிடித்து மறியல்கொய்தவைத்து அவ்விடத்துத் து  
ரைத்தன ணுண்டெய்ய மெல்ல. பரமகாடனர் அவர்க  
ளுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கவே குறித்துத் துரைமகளும் டாக்டர்  
வேதகண்ணனும் அவ்விடத்துக்குப்போய் விசாரணை  
கொய்து அடக்கஞ்செய்தார்கள். இக்கொலைக்கு  
க்காரனும் ஒருமடக்கலையாம். மு—



இங்ஙனம்  
சர்ச்சனாசனைய சாதிப்பிக்கணி.



and sovereigns. Thanks, moreover, to the labours of Western Savants in the field of Oriental Research, the religions, languages, and literatures of the East have become better understood and better known. Even Doctors of Divinity have begun to appreciate the beauties of Eastern religions. Hinduism is not the Heathenism which it was twenty-five years ago.

We believe that the Editor of the "Morning Star" and his correspondent know the truth that man is a creature of his surroundings. The marriage system of the people living in hot countries differs from that of those inhabiting cold countries. Each is the growth of ages, and each takes its shape from its environments. The Natives of Asia view with disavour, nay with abhorrence, the ball-dances of Europe and America. Such is the case with courtship before marriage. We in Asia cannot boast of broken hearts and discarded lovers. The climatic conditions of Asia will not permit of a free commingling of the sexes. The "Morning Star" states that our marriage system differs little from traffic in the persons of women. Can misrepresentation go further? Perhaps the writer had in his mind's eye the practices of Colonists from the West, who regard Asiatic women as chattels, and whose vices have become so glaring that a leading dignitary of the Anglican Church had to publicly censure the whole number of them recently. Is the "Morning Star" going to conceal the fact that in Europe and America old grand mammas induce young ladies to hunt after titled young men and millionaires. Are not young men encouraged, if not instructed, by their parents to run after rich heiresses? Policy and expediency so much influence the actions of men and women in the West as in the East. When the Western man hates his wife, he treats her more cruelly than the Eastern man in similar circumstances. The most inveterate wife-beaters are found in Europe and not in Asia.

Do we despise virtue? If so, we do it in a much lesser degree than the people of America and Europe, where, we learn from all sources, vice reigns rampant. Look at the number of prostitutes and illegitimate children found in the streets of London and New York. Did our contemporary or his correspondent ever hear of Asiatic women causing illegal operations to be performed on their persons to avoid the burdens of maternity lest they be prevented from taking part in the festivities of the London Season? Space will not permit of our exposing in full the vagaries and idiosyncracies of the "Morning Star." Before we conclude we shall quote a few passages from a sermon of the Rev. Dr. De Costa, a Protestant Minister of America. The learned Divine says:—"I say the immorality of the present day is something awful, and what are we doing to check it? ..... In highly Protestant, strict Scotland the monthly reports of vice, published in the papers almost without a shame, are something awful. What I said in my sermon and what I repeat is that Protestantism is fighting a losing battle not only in religion and theology but in morals ..... Not one clergyman in one thousand dares preach a sermon on the Seventh Commandment ..... Instead of putting our shoulder to the wheel and fighting against the awful spread of social vice and drunkenness and Sabbath breaking we are squabbling among ourselves. ...." We ask our contemporary why Western clergymen do not dare preach sermons on the Seventh Commandment. If the breach of the Seventh Commandment is general, is not the marriage system of the West at fault?

We hope we have not given offence to the parties to the Abduction Case, with whom we sympathise in their misfortune. If the "Morning Star" had not labelled and defamed the whole native community, we should not have adverted to the subject at all. Let the parties to the case cry "save me from my friends."

#### THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS ON OPENING THE SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR 1898.

(continued from our last issue.)

The people of Ceylon, especially of the North, must congratulate themselves on the fact that in His Excellency they have a Governor who far from regarding the Northern Railway a "tantalising vision," believes that a light broad gauge line will pay *ab initio*. Here are His Excellency's weighty words on the subject:—

The main Northern Railway, the railway which will eventually connect us with India, will run via Madawachchi to Mannar. There will also be the railway from Madawachchi to Jaffna, which I recommended should be on the 2 ft. 6 in. gauge. The Secretary of State has however directed that, like the main Northern Railway, it should be a light railway on the broad gauge. The trace chosen by Mr. Waring for the Madawachchi-Jaffna Railway was for reasons of economy as straight and direct as possible, but on the representation of the Government Agent, Northern Province, and of a Commission which I appointed to examine the question, I considered it desirable to adopt deviations which would bring the railway through the centres of traffic. A fresh survey was consequently necessary, and this was conducted by Mr. Cantrell and has just been completed. The cost of a light broad gauge railway on the new trace will be about three million rupees, but even at this increased cost the railway I believe will still pay *AB INITIO*.

I congratulate you, Gentlemen on the prospect of Railway Extension in this Colony. Especially do I congratulate you on the commencement of the railway which is eventually to connect Galle and Colombo with Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta. I should have been much disappointed if, when the Government of India were pushing on the railway to Paumbeh, we had remained idle and taken no steps towards establishing that connection, which is so necessary in the interests of both countries. The extension of the railway towards India is very desirable for strategical and commercial reasons, and is the only satisfactory solution of the Labour Question, wherein lurks, in my opinion the chief danger to our tea industry. And it is preposterous that in these days of progress, when railways are being constructed through wild and almost unexplored districts in Africa and other parts of the world, the prosperous Peninsula of Jaffna should be cut off from the rest of this rich Colony, and means should not be given to its overcrowded population of spreading into and opening out the once fertile lands of the Vanni. But if arguments cogent and convincing in favour of this railway are required, let me refer you to the very able document dated 25th September, 1889, signed by the late Mr. A. M. Ferguson as Chairman of a very representative meeting, which I submitted to the Secretary of State with my despatches of 6th May, 1897, in support of my proposals for the construction of a Northern Railway via Kurunegala and Anuradhapura.

On the re-organization of the Clerical Service the Governor's utterances are as follows:—

It is proposed to divide the Clerical Service into four classes. The highest class will include appointments of Rs. 3,000 and upwards, and the lowest class appointments beginning at Rs. 500 and rising to Rs. 1,100. For each class a system of increments will be adopted. By this the following advantages will be gained. Every clerk who works satisfactorily will receive at the lowest a salary of Rs. 1,100 at the end of nine years' service. At present there are many clerks of that length of service who are still drawing, and would never draw more than, Rs. 660 per annum. Promotion will be equalized, and there will be no longer cases of great stagnation in one Department, whilst in another it is exceptionally rapid. Above all, frequent transfers and changes will no longer be necessary, and the State will be saved great trouble and inconvenience. The scheme will not involve any increased expenditure except when it is first started, and indeed eventually there may be a small saving. It is a great satisfaction to me to have had this opportunity of improving the position and prospects of the meritorious and devoted servants of Government who compose the Clerical Service, and to have removed their grievances. By the appointment of one of the most efficient members of that service to the Second Division of the Civil Service I have shown that there is no impassable gulf between the two services which faithful and efficient service will fail to bridge.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The New Criminal Procedure Code—It is notified that the Ordinance No 15 of 1898 known as the Criminal Procedure Code, will come into operation as from and after the 1st day of March 1899. The Code effects some important changes in the existing Procedure, one of which is that in the case of an indictable offence (offence triable by a District Court or the Supreme Court) the complaint shall be made to the Magistrate orally, and in the case of a summary offence (offence triable by a Police Court) the complaint, if in writing, shall be drawn and countersigned by an Advocate or a Proctor and signed by the complainant. The Petition-drawers who infest the precincts of the Minor Courts will hereafter practically cease to exist as far as the Police Court is concerned. Most of the false cases now brought are due to their skill in magnifying offences of a trivial nature into serious crimes in order to avoid the necessity of paying the stamp duty which is leviable chiefly on processes issued in summary cases. The Petition-drawers thus pocket the money taken by the parties to buy stamps. In Mullaitivu and other places where there are no pleaders, the Magistrates themselves will have to examine the complainant and reduce the complaint to writing.

Obituary—We deeply regret to chronicle the death, on the 13th Instant, of Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. J. S. Sathupathy, one of the leading merchants of Jaffna, and sister of Mr. M. B.

Swampillai, one of the most popular gentlemen of Jaffna and a leading merchant and cocoanut planter. The funeral took place on the 14th Instant and was largely attended.

Pilgrimages to India—The local authorities of the Province have notified that those who proceed to India on pilgrimage or trade will on their return run the risk of not being allowed to land if coming from a foul port and that in any case they will be quarantined.

A Ceylonese Employed in India—Mr. Aserappa, a Colombo Chetty gentleman who took his degrees in Engineering at Cooper's Hill College some time ago has been appointed to the Indian State Railways.

The Director of Public Instruction—Mr. J. B. Cull having proceeded to Europe on leave of absence, Mr. Harward, Principal of the Royal College, has been appointed to act as Director of Public Instruction. Mr. Hartley acts as Principal of the Royal College in addition to his own duties as a Master in the College.

Marriage in High Life—Mr. S. Muttatamby the Interpreter Mudaliyar of the Mannar Kachcheri and the eldest son of the late Seemampillai Mudaliyar, Adigar of Musaly and Nanaddan, who was one of the most influential and well-known headmen in the North, was married on the 19th Instant to Miss Annappillai daughter of Mr. V. Vraspillai, the present Adigar of Musaly and Nanaddan, who is held in high esteem both by the Government and the people. We congratulate the married couple and the two families on the happy event. The parties being Catholics the ceremony was performed at St. Mary's Church, Mannar.

The Government Agent—Mr. R. W. Ievers left for Colombo on the 23rd Instant on public business.

Changes in the Clerical Service—Mr. A. Chinnappa, Head clerk, Mannar Kachcheri has been appointed Head Clerk Trincomalee Kachcheri. Mr. C. Mtu Coomaru of the Batticaloa Kachcheri has been appointed Head clerk of the Mannar Kachcheri.

Housebreaking by Night—We understand that on the 22nd Instant some thieves entered into the house of Mr. Broker Velopillai of Vannarpounai and made away with jewellery worth about Rs. 750. This theft following so closely on that committed in the boutique of the Bombay merchant at Grand Bazaar, must induce the Police authorities and the headmen to be on the alert.

Astronomical—An extraordinary conjunction of the heavenly bodies, such as has not occurred, it is said for five thousand years, takes place to-day (November 30). The Sun, Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and Herschel are in conjunction in one sign of the Zodiac Sagittarius. Hence we have copious rains this year and particularly in these days. Such a conjunction happened once before.

Obituary—We are sorry to record the death, on the 22nd Instant, of the Rev. Mr. Asbury, a native minister belonging to the American Ceylon Mission. He was the father of the late Mr. R. O. D. Asbury and father-in-law of the late Strong Arasarkone Kulatunga Mudaliyar, and was eighty-nine years old.

Yet another death—We extremely regret to chronicle the untimely death of Mr. W. M. S. Twynam, which took place on the morning of the 28th Instant. He was a son of Sir William Twynam and was engaged in cocoanut planting. The deceased was a Justice of the Peace and Un-Official Police Magistrate for the Division of Chavakachcheri.

An Offshoot of the Abduction Case—Mr. H. Rasaiiah Solomon, the first accused in the Abduction case stands charged before the Police Court of Jaffna with intentionally giving false evidence in a judicial proceeding under section 190 of the Ceylon Penal Code, and with fraudulently and dishonestly uttering a forged document knowing or having reason to believe the same to be forged under sections 456 and 459 of the Ceylon Penal Code. Mr. Solomon filed in evidence in the Abduction case a letter which he stated on oath was written and sent to him by Miss Niles. The latter denied that she addressed to Mr. Solomon any such letter. The present prosecution will determine whether Miss Niles wrote the letter in question to Mr. Solomon, and whether the statement made by him on oath was true. We hope that the public will not discuss the merits and demerits of the case while it is *sub judice*, and will be content to let the law take its own course.