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# Hindu Organ

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## TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We would earnestly entreat all our subscribers in arrears, to remit their dues at once. Although the paper was prized as low as possible, and any surplus income from it was to be devoted towards a noble cause, we regret very much to have to complain that owing to the remissness of our subscribers, we have not been able to carry out even the necessary reforms in the paper. Still we hope that better times are in store for us, and that all our subscribers would promptly pay up their arrears and subscribe to the proposed new series of the Hindu Organ.

The Manager

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The Manager

Ceylon Technical College, Colombo.

DEPARTMENT OF TELEGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

## Entrance Examinations.

An Entrance Examination for admission of students to the above Department of the Technical College will be held in Colombo at the College on Wednesday, March 22, and following days, commencing at 10.30 A.M. The examination will be held in Jaffna also about the same date.

Forms of application containing all particulars can be obtained from the Superintendent of the College, Colombo, and from the Government Agent, Jaffna.

Candidates who intend coming to Colombo to be examined will forward those forms to the Superintendent of the College before March 22 and those who wish to attend the Jaffna examination will forward the forms to the Government Agent, Jaffna.

There are upwards of forty vacancies to fill at the Technical College in this Department of it.

Those who are admitted as students and pass the course and gain the diploma will be eligible for selection to appointments in the Post Office and Railway Departments of Government Service.

N. B.—Entrance Examinations for the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Departments of the College will be held after Easter on dates which will be duly announced.

E. HUMAN

Colombo, February 13, 1899. Superintendent

## NOTICE.

All Money Orders, Postal Orders, Cheques and other remittances must be made payable

To

THE MANAGER  
 "HINDU ORGAN"  
 Jaffna

## THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1899

## HEATHEN AND PAGAN.

We did not expect, at the time we drew the attention of the Christian public to the offensiveness of the words "heathen" and "pagan", that "a student" of the "Catholic Guardian" would instead of going directly to the point at issue, treat us to a definition of the words, and their primary and secondary meanings. He thinks that Stormonth's Dictionary and Century Dictionary are authorities superior to Webster. But we never relied on Webster nor quoted Webster; in fact we did not refer to any dictionary at the time we wrote the article. The relative merits of Webster's Dictionary and those quoted by our contemporary's correspondent, do not concern us; nor is there any practical difference between his authorities and Webster. It is admitted on all hands and by all authorities that *heathen* and *pagan* are offensive terms applied by the Christian Churches to non-Christians. They denote and connote much more than the words "non-Christian" "non-Muhammadan" and "non-Jew"—they are words of contempt. Besides, a strange inconsistency is involved in the non-application of the words to Muhammadans, while Hindus and Buddhists, whose religions, according to Dr. Barrows and others, are superior to Muhammadanism, and who are regarded by the generality of Christians as more civilized and cultured than Muhammadans, come under the category of heathens and pagans. We should not, however, be understood to imply that our Muhammadan fellow-countrymen should be characterized as heathen and pagan. Two wrongs do not make a right. If we refer to Muhammadans, it is simply to show the fickleness of usage.

According to Christian notions, Hindus are worshippers of false Gods, and if Christians are senseless enough to believe that Hindus pay homage to pieces of wood and stone, they are idolators too. But the meaning conveyed by the words *heathen* and *pagan* is not restricted to the worship of false Gods and idolatry. They mean also unlettered and uncultured persons—nay, very ignorant and rude persons. One of the "Guardian's" own authorities defines "heathen" as a very ignorant person, and Webster defines a "pagan", as distinguished

from a "heathen", as a rude and uncivilized idolator. The original meaning of the words—a villager (who was actually an uncivilized, rude, ignorant person, while a townsman was a civilized, cultured, refined person)—still lingers in their use. The original use of the words coincided with the real state of things. The inhabitants of the towns and cities of the Roman Empire—Dr Trench's seats and centres of intelligence—who were cultured and enlightened became converts to Christianity, long before the inhabitants of the villages, who were rude ignorant, and uncivilized, so that for several years after the introduction of Christianity into the Roman Empire, and when the word "pagan" began to be used in its secondary sense, Christianity was synonymous with culture and refinement, while the ancient religion of Rome was synonymous with rudeness, ignorance, and barbarism. But at this day, Christianity counts in its ranks many "very ignorant" persons, while among Hindus and Buddhists are found many whom Christians themselves regard as enlightened persons. Christianity is not always associated with enlightenment nor is Hinduism always found to keep company ignorance. There are most rude, ignorant, and ill-mannered people among Christians as well as among Hindus and Buddhists. These reflections must suggest to the various Christian Churches the desirability, if not the necessity, of dropping from their vocabulary the offensive epithets *heathen* and *pagan*.

We have neither the right nor the power to dictate to Christians the course of conduct they ought to adopt towards Hindus. It is a duty we owe to our co-religionists to state in the columns of the "Hindu Organ" our objections to the use of the words and the grounds of our objections. Having expressed our sense of the action of the Churches, we remain contented that we have done our duty by our countrymen. If the Christian Churches have not the good sense to desist from using the words, it is not our fault, nor is it a matter over which we feel called upon to raise a quarrel either with our Catholic contemporary or anybody else.

As to our indulging in "rhapsodies against Christians and Christianity", the less said the better. We are not aware of having rhapsodized against Christianity, the true spirit of which has not been imbibed by many of the so-called Christian Churches. As to our rhapsodying against Christians, were Christ and his Apostles in the wrong when they "rhapsodized" against Pharisees and Saducees? We respect all good and sincere Christians. It is the Judases we decry against. If the cap does not fit him why should "a student" try to don it?

Taking for granted that we have been "rhapsodying" against Christianity, we wish to know why Christians desire us to follow a line of action different to theirs. In the "Guardian" of 24th January, Professor Drennan speaks of "so much pagan darkness" around Catholic Jaffna. But, as the professor has not seen enough of Jaffna, we do no more than allude to it. In the address presented to the Rev. Marshall Hartley, the Christians of Batticaloa, are glad to announce that they are "a people of the living God in the midst of a heathen land." Apart from the contemptuous reference made to the Hindus, which is our chief concern, the words of the address depict a state of things which is not altogether consistent with the truth. It is Christian Batticaloa, and not "heathen" Batticaloa, that is known to be a hotbed of factions and feuds. Then, how can the

(continued on the 4th page)











Christians of Batticaloa, one and all, be "a people of the living God"? It is such hollow professions that throw discredit on Christianity. Here, in Jaffna, people who preach "glory to God, peace and good will unto all men", are found to be the most inveterate haters.

A "student" has evaded or missed the point. Our article did not call for a lecture on the etymology of the words. We took exception to the words "heathen" and "pagan" on the ground of their being offensive terms. He does not deny that they are calculated to give offence to the Hindus. Will not the Catholics be offended if we call them and His Holiness the Pope by such names as have been given to them by some narrow-minded Protestants? Certainly the "Guardian" will not consider it a good defence if we say that Webster and other lexicographers give to the offensive words the meaning in which we employ them. If the "Guardian" reverts to the subject, we should like to have a pronouncement from the Editor himself. People who do not write above their names may say anything and everything. Their words carry little or no weight. Why should the defender of a cause, if good, take shelter in anonymity?

#### SRI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMANAMSA.

The life of this true *Yogin*, the spiritual guide of Swami Vivekananda and his brother *Sannyasins*, is just out from the pen of Prof. Max Muller. Without possessing much of book knowledge, which, more often than not, tends to the narrowing of the intellectual vision, the great master whose name "has so often been", the Professor says, "in Indian, American, and English newspapers", exercised by his personal teaching and through his disciples, a powerful influence in creating clearer, deeper, and more liberal ideas about religion and philosophy than with few exceptions, any other spiritual teacher, ancient or modern, has done. The Master, a poor priest of a temple, probably never wrote a single line in his life, but his words frequently outpouring from the abundance of a most simple and guileless heart, as water from a clear spring, were listened to and treasured by numbers of highly educated men and women in India. These have been preserved, and from time to time published in the "Brahmavadin." The sayings of the *yogin* exhibit a love and toleration towards all creeds, and a wonderful insight into humanity, which is most re-assuring and comforting. An account of the Gurn's life has not yet been published in India, but a short sketch by Mr. Moozooandar is sold at one anna, and a collection of the "Sayings of Sri Ramakrishna Parahansa" at eight annas, both by the late Manager of the *Awakened India*, Mylapore, Madras, which is now published at Almora. Each saying is well worthy of being most carefully pondered upon. His watch words were:—"Let there be peace, peace be to you and to all religions." His is not a message breathing antagonism to other faiths but of one united religion. A dissemination of this message, will end the religious bigotry and antipathy that mar the peace of the world.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

**A Sanitary Officer for Jaffna**—We understand that the Government Agent is about to recommend to the Government the desirability of appointing a sanitary officer for Jaffna, who will look after the sanitation of the Town and superintend the scavenging operations performed under the direction of that out-of-date institution known as the Board of Health.

**A new Telegraph Office**—It is said that a telegraph office will be opened at Manippay this month.

**At Home**—Mrs. Ievers held an *At Home* on the 18th Instant, which was attended by almost all men of light and leading in the District. Many Tamil ladies also graced the occasion by their presence.

**The Government Agent**—Mr. Ievers in his capacity of Chairman of the District Road Committee, is busy in disposing of the claims of candidates for exemption from the payment of poll-tax.

**An Appointment**—We learn that Mr. J. B. Tambiah of Jaffna is employed as Assistant Post-Master at Haputale.

**Mr. T. Twynam**—The Assistant Collector of Customs Galle, who came to Jaffna in connection with the death of his brother, the late Mr. W. M. S. Twynam, has returned to Galle.

**A Fiscal's Surveyor**—We are glad to inform our readers that Mr. J. N. Sandrasegara, the

well-known Licensed Surveyor, has been appointed Fiscal's surveyor by the Fiscal of the Northern Province.

**Mr. Tranchell**—The Assistant Superintendent of Police and Deputy Fiscal, who was at Pallai on a month's leave, has resumed his duties.

**A Successor to the late Mr. Navaratnasingam**—We understand that Mr. Nicholas, a relation of our well-known Townsman Mr. Manuelpillai Rajakarier, has been appointed Superintendent of the Board of Health coolies.

**The Department of Public Instruction**—Mr. Cull retires from the Directorship at the expiration of his leave and will be succeeded by Mr. S. M. Burrows of the Ceylon Civil Service. Mr. Ashley Walker, the Senior Inspector of Schools, is also to retire shortly. This is likely to give an onward move to the other Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors.

**The Clerical Examination**—The result of the Clerical Examination is out. Seven Tamils have passed whose names are as follows:—K Chinatamby, B Emmanuel, J. J. Jacob, K. Kanagasagar, M. Joseph, R. Raju, and S. Velupillai.

**Kayts**—The Minor Courts of Kayts will be held in the Island of Delft during the month of March.

**Obituary**—We regret to record the death of Mr. D. Christian, a son of the late Mr. Deogupillai well-known as a Translator attached to the Jaffna Courts. Mr. Christian was employed as a clerk in the "Jaffna Catholic Guardian" Office.

**Two more Deaths**—We regret to announce the death, from fever of Mr. Bates, Dresser at the F. N. S. Hospital, which took place on the 25th Ultimo. We also regret to announce the death of a child of Dr. Paul, of brain fever, which lasted not more than three days.

**American Methods**—General Woodford who was United States Minister at Madrid, when war was declared between Spain and the United States, made an important statement in the course of a speech delivered by him in New York, on 29th January last. He said that when the Maine explosion occurred, the United States Government possessed only two rounds of powder per gun. He added that he was instructed to endeavour to ensure the postponement of a rupture for two months. In this he had succeeded, but certainly would have failed had it not been for the unflinching friendship of England. In other words America pretended to be willing to settle her differences with Spain without going to war while she was actually preparing for war and only wanted time to make herself ready.

**Missionary Methods**—The raising of the Chetty Street English School to the status of a High School with a University Graduate as Principal was a step towards the establishment of the Hindu College. Such intolerance on the part of Missionaries is by no means confined to Jaffna or to the Wesleyan Missionary Society. We read as follows in a contemporary:—"The Missionaries of Erode have raised the local London Mission Primary School to a High School to compete with the Hindu High School, which is said to be doing very good work under a patriotic Hindu Graduate. The Missionary gentleman is reported to have issued a notice stating that a specially low rate of fee will be charged."

**The Central Hindu College at Benares**—About half an hour is now daily allotted in this College to the instruction in the principles of the Hindu religion. A portion of the *Gita* is first read in Sanskrit by one of the *Pundits*, then follows reading of selections from the sacred books, the compilation *Saswata Dharna Dipika* being found specially useful. The texts are first translated into the vernaculars of the students, and then moral precepts are emphasized with the help of Puranic stories. The lesson is then concluded by a few words from the Principal in which an endeavour is made to lead the students to practise some moral precept during the day's work. What is aimed at is to make the lesson interesting as well as instructive, and to present the practical side of the Hindu religion in a way that will tempt the students to apply it in daily life. Hence although the religious instruction imparted is of half an hour's duration, it lasts the whole day. In addition to the regular course of religious instruction, special lectures are given to the students who voluntarily attend—*The Hindu*.

**The Meeting at the Saivite School**—We hold over for our next issue the interesting proceedings of a public meeting presided over by Mr. C. W. Kathirvelupillai, and convened at the instance of the College of *Pundits*, Jaffna, on the occasion of the awarding of gold and silver medals to the three students who passed the examination recently held by the College

for testing the qualifications of candidates for the degree of "Bala-Pundit."

**The Meeting at the Police Court House**—A public meeting of the residents of Jaffna was held on the 28th Instant under the presidency of Mr. Ievers, the Government Agent, to consider the desirability of erecting a Town Hall at Jaffna. There was a fair attendance. The first resolution which was moved by Mr. S. A. Allegakoon was to the effect that the establishment of a Public Hall was necessary for holding meetings, social gatherings, &c. The Very Rev. Father Collin moved, as an amendment that the question of supplying the Town with fresh water, which was a necessity, must be considered and dealt with before that of building a town-hall, which he regarded as a luxury. The amendment which was seconded by Mr. Bastiampillai, the energetic Kachcheri Mudaliyar, was put to the meeting and lost, and the original resolution carried by a majority. Several gentlemen abstained from voting either way. Much credit is due to Mr. M. Chinnappa who was instrumental in calling the meeting.

**The late Mrs. Sundaram**—We extremely regret to record the untimely death at Colombo of Mrs. Sundaram, the wife of the Senior Landing Waiter of Customs, Colombo. She was ailing from Pneumonia which lasted for about a week. All that medical skill and nursing could do was done to rescue her from the fell disease, but to no purpose. She was a member of a well-known and respectable family at Vannarponnai, and was married to Mr. Sundaram only a few years ago. We express our condolences with Mr. Sundaram in his sad bereavement. Our readers are no doubt aware that Mr. Sundaram is a generous and public-spirited citizen always ready to promote all charitable undertakings and institutions.

#### THE CRIMINAL SESSIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT.

The first Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court for Jaffna for the year 1899 commenced here on the 27th Ultimo, Mr. Justice Withers presiding, Mr. Swan being Registrar, Mr. E. H. Prins Prosecuting Counsel, Mr. Wijeyesekara Private Secretary, Mr. M. S. Ramalingam, Tamil Interpreter, and Mr. De Silva, Sinhalese Interpreter. There were 8 cases on the Calendar, of which case No. 1 was first taken up. In this case one Nagapper Arunan, a noted thief of Vannarponnai, was charged with theft of a bag of rice from a Chetty's godown. Mr. Advocate Kanagasabai defended the accused. An English speaking Jury of which Mr. J. N. Sandrasegara was foreman was empanelled, Verdict—not guilty by a majority.

Case No. 8 also was disposed of on the same day. In it the same accused Nagapper Arunan was charged (1) with theft alleged to have been committed on the 26th of January last (2) with dishonestly retaining stolen property knowing it to have been stolen. Mr. Kanagasabai defended the accused. The evidence for the prosecution in this case was not very reliable, and the Jury of which Mr. Sandrasegara was foreman again found him not guilty on the first count by a majority of 7 to 2, and on the second count by 5 to 4.

On the 28th Instant, case No. 2 was taken up, in which Ratnasingam Thalainsingam, a son of a late Manager of the Maruthady Pillayar Temple at Manipay was charged with mischief by setting fire to a dwelling house on the 19th July 1898. An English speaking Jury with Mr. Rodrigo as foreman was empanelled to try this case. Mr. Advocate Sandrasegara defended the accused who was convicted and sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment. His accomplice was tried in the last Sessions and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

#### A BEAUTY BALLOT.

The people of the East strongly resent their mothers, wives, sisters, or daughters being made the subject of public talk for their beauty or dress. But this is not the case in the West, where people seem to take a pleasure in advertising the beauty and dress of women. Recently, the Anglo-Indian papers of India described the wife of a very high official there as a very beautiful person, and even proceeded to the length of giving details relating to her beauty and dress. The native society was shocked at such conduct on the part of Europeans. But it is no wonder that people who kiss in public, court in public, and make love in public, do such things. The London correspondent of the "Hindu", a most well-informed person on subjects relating to the West and the East, writes as follows:—"The superabundant energies of both men and women in England, whenever they fail to find natural outlet, in the ordinary avocations of life, seek to get out through other channels. The aristocracy and others who enjoy the leisure of realised wealth are always in search of new excitements and occupations. The social parties of the nature of fancy dress balls and masked dances, afford some opportunities. But these are becoming rather too stale, and so newer excitements and occupations are wanted! The Earl of Roslyn started an excitement recently—in the form of a beauty ballot. Votes were taken upon the question who is the most beautiful woman (1) in England; (2) Scotland, and (3) in Ireland. The results of this beauty competition show that in Ireland—the daughter of the Marchioness of Londonderry—Lady Helen—stands at the head of the ballot with 4,365 votes. Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales coming out in competition with her, with only 1,211 votes. In the English division, Mrs. James Beck of whom little seems to be known, heads the poll with 3,126 votes, the Princess of Wales, though coming after her is higher than Mrs. Langtry. Civilization is a queer thing. Not to speak of Royalty, there is no lady even among the respectable lower classes in India, who would not feel sorely insulted, if her name was being discussed by a circle of men and women in this public way, in connection with a beauty competition. But Indians, as Lord George Hamilton is reported to have said, are a savage people!"