

Hindu Organ

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சு-ம்புத்தகம். } MARCH 6, 1895

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NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.
ORDER NISI.

Testamentary } No 652.
Jurisdiction }

In the Matter of the Estate of the late
Thaivanaipillai widow of Santhirasekarer of Munthuvil. Deceased

Thiyager Vaitilingam of Munthuvil, Petitioner

1. Arumugam Santhirasekarer of Munthuvil
2. Vallippillai widow of Thiyager of do

Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of Thiyager Vaitilingam of Munthuvil praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased Thaivanaipillai wife of Santhirasekarer of Munthuvil coming on for disposal before H. Nevill Esquire, District Judge, on the 4th day of February 1895 in the presence of Messrs Casippillai & Cathiravelu Proctors on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 1st day of February 1895 having been read it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the heirs 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 11th day of March 1895 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

Signed this 4th day of February 1895.

Sigd H. Nevill
District Judge.

THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 1895.

THE LIBEL CASE

The case of criminal libel against the Very Rev. Father Mauroit and Katigaser Andrew, the Proprietor, and the Printer and Publisher, respectively of the Jaffna "Catholic Guardian," which was at our instance committed for trial before the Supreme Court, and which was the all-absorbing topic of discussion among all classes of people here for some months past, resulted on the 26th Ultimo in the acquittal of the accused. The verdict of the special Jury which tried this case is generally disapproved of by all right-thinking persons who listened to the evidence and understood the summing-up of His Lordship the presiding Judge. The defamatory nature of the words complained of against the Editor of the Hindu Organ was not denied by the defence, nor

was any attempt made to justify the libel. It was not denied that the complainant in this case was the Editor of the Hindu Organ. It was also proved by the Declaration made by the accused, a certified copy of which was produced in evidence, that the first accused was the Proprietor of the Guardian and the second accused the Printer and Publisher of that Paper. This was admitted by the accused in their statements, although Father Mauroit pleaded that he was only the nominal Proprietor for the Mission, and Andrew excused himself by saying that he published the article complained of not knowing that it was a libel, as he could not read and write the English language. The law as to the criminal liability of the Printer and Publisher is beyond all manner of doubt; and the Proprietor also is criminally responsible unless it is proved that he exercised proper care and caution in the management of his paper. And Father Mauroit's statement went to show that he was grossly negligent in the management of the Guardian, which he undertook in his Declaration to "print and publish as Proprietor." It was a startling proposition, as his Lordship Mr. Justice Withers observed, that the Printer and Publisher of a newspaper should have come forward and stated that he was ignorant of the language in which he published the libel. The Declaration is intended by law to hold the makers of it responsible for any libellous matter appearing in their paper. The acquittal of both the Proprietor and the Printer of the "Jaffna Catholic Guardian" by the Special Jury composed of six Europeans, two Tamils, and one Mahomedan shows that no value is hereafter to be attached to the Declaration which is required by Ordinance No 5 of 1839 to be made before a news paper is printed and published in Ceylon.

It is possible that the Jury were influenced by the specious arguments of the learned Counsel for the defence to the effect that the accused never meant to harm the reputation of the complainant who was not known to them. as Editor of the Hindu Organ, and that the word "pettifogger" in the last paragraph of the article complained of showed that it referred to a lawyer and not to the complainant who is a layman. It was not disputed, as we said before, that the Guardian libelled the Editor of the "Hindu Organ," whom it particularized as "the present Editor of the Hindu Organ," and the imputations against whom were on one occasion printed in capital letters and on another in italics; and any imputations against him, whether the terms applied were appropriate or not, must refer to the person who was at that time Editor of this paper. A libel is a libel whether it was on the complainant or somebody else. The imputations being against the Editor of the "Hindu Organ," and the complainant in this case and no other being that Editor, the person defamed was therefore no other than the complainant himself. If A mistakes B for C. and murders B, will law or equity condone A's guilt? The article in the Guardian complained of as defamatory, if read as a whole, will also show that the word "pettifogger" was metaphorically used, as we stated in our evidence, to imply that the Editor of this paper pleaded the cause of the chetties as a pettifogger. We therefore say that the verdict of the Jury cannot be defended on this ground also.

In order to bring about the transfer of this case to Colombo the accused solemnly swore an affidavit to the effect that the vast majority of the jurors who would try them in Jaffna would be Hindus and that they could not have a

fair and impartial trial here. But experience has proved that it was possible to have a panel composed almost exclusively of non-Hindus. According to the list published in the Government Gazette of the 8th ultimo, half the number of Special Jurors for Jaffna are Hindus, yet there were only six Hindus out of the eighteen jurors cited to try this case. With four jurors challenged on each side, the jury before whom this case went was composed of only one Hindu who is an officer of the Jaffna Kacheheri, one Madomedan who is also a Kacheheri Officer, and seven Christians. We allude to these facts simply to shew that the alarm raised by the accused as to the predominance of the Hindus in the jury box was without any just cause or foundation, and tended greatly to prejudice the prosecution in the eyes of the Christian public.

It cannot be denied, even by our opponents, that morally the victory is ours and that the Guardian has not come out of the prosecution with flying colours. False imputations having been made and reiterated against us, in the columns of the Guardian, we were obliged to criminally prosecute the person whom we at that time believed to be its Editor, and its registered printer and publisher. Having had no wish or inclination to resort to unfair means in proving our case, we cited the Proprietor, Manager, and other persons on the staff of the "Guardian" as our witnesses, in the belief that either their evidence would lead to the detection and punishment of the actual writer of the scurrilous article complained of, or some settlement would be come to by the unqualified withdrawal of the imputations against us on the part of the Guardian. Any one with a shred of manliness, or sense of justice and fairplay about him will agree with us that the Guardian should have either apologised to us for the wrong it has done us, or the writer of the article should have come forward and justified his imputations. Neither the one nor the other was done. On the 17th October last when the case first came on for investigation in the Police Court, a settlement was proposed and we obtained a postponement for the 24th of that month, on the understanding that a retraction of the imputations would be published in the "Guardian" of the 20th of that month, and that we should, if that be done, withdraw our case. No retraction was, however, published, and on the 24th the inquiry went on. Father Mauroit, the Proprietor, whom we called as our first witness deposed that Father Dunne who was then the first accused was not the Editor of the "Guardian," although there was a notification in the "Guardian" of the 20th February 1892 which had never been subsequently cancelled to the effect that he (Father Dunne) was appointed Editor of that paper. He further stated that Mr James H. Martyn was the Editor since June 1892, that he did not know who wrote the article in question, and that he did not even care to ascertain who wrote it. Mr. James Martyn while admitting that he was Editor, denied that he wrote the article in question, being then on sick leave. Father Delpech, the Manager of the "Guardian" who was examined on the 5th November stated that Mr. John Martyn, brother of Mr. James Martyn, was the acting Editor and Father Mauroit acting Manager at the time the libellous article appeared. But Mr. John Martyn came and deposed that he did not write the article, nor did he know who wrote it. Even the compositor whom we called as a witness would not give any clue as to the writer of the article in question.

[illegible]

Father Dunne was thereupon discharged, and we had to make Father Mauroit, the Proprietor, an accused in this case. He and Andrew, the Printer and Publisher, were duly committed for trial before the Supreme Court, and they have now been acquitted of the charge against them after a most sensational trial.

Father Mauroit should thank himself and his friends alone for the difficulties, mental worries and anxieties which this case brought upon him, and from which he has now been relieved by the verdict of the Jury pronounced in his favour on the 26th ultimo. Had he but used his authority, not only as Proprietor of the paper, but also as Vicar-General and Bishop's Commissary, and caused a retraction to be published in his paper, he would not have had to pass through the ordeal of a trial before the Supreme Court.

Was the game of the Guardian after all worth the candle? Has it enhanced its reputation as a consistent and truthful journal? Or has the Editor of the Hindu Organ been proved to be a "Public liar" as the Guardian was pleased to call him? If the accused had stood to their guns and proved the truth of their allegations against the Hindu Organ, instead of, as they did, screening the writer of those most scurrilous and indefensible libels in question and setting up the shuffling plea that they did not know that the complainant was the Editor of this paper and that the imputations did not refer to him, then only the Guardian can claim any victory over the Hindu Organ, on account of the result of this case. The acquittal of the accused, under the circumstances, is neither creditable to them, nor in any way dishonourable to the prosecution.

In a place like Jaffna where there are few or no short-hand writers, it is almost impossible to publish a detailed report of the proceedings of this case. The report in the Guardian of the 2nd instant is imperfect and inaccurate in several important particulars. We publish elsewhere the evidence as taken down by a reporter during the trial in the Supreme Court. The very interesting proceedings in the Police Court of Jaffna, a certified copy of which we have in our possession, will throw further light on this case, and we hope soon to publish it as a supplement to the Hindu Organ.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The first Sessions of the Supreme Court in its criminal Jurisdiction for 1895 was opened here on Tuesday the 26th Ultimo. The Hon. Mr. Justice Withers presided, with Mr. F. R. Dias as Crown Counsel, Mr. G. Grenier as Registrar, Mr. Prins as Private Secretary, and Messrs. Muttiyah and Silva as Tamil and Singhalese Interpreters. His Lordship mounted the Bench at 11.30. A. M. The Court House was crowded to suffocation and the gathering outside it was unprecedentedly large, composed of Hindus and Roman Catholics from all parts of Jaffna.

The Guardian Libel case, the only case in the Calendar, against the Very Rev. Father Mauroit and Katigaser Andrew was then taken up.

Mr. Crown Counsel Dias prosecuted, assisted by Advocates Allegakoen and Nagalingam; and Mr. Advocate Dornhorst defended the accused, assisted by Advocates Sumpayo, Fernando, Senathirajah, and Vanniasingam, and Proctors, Nicholas, Johnpillai, Strantenberg and Santiagopillai.

The following special Jurors were empanelled to try this case:—

Messrs H. T. S. Ward, Provincial Engineer (foreman); W. E. Thorpe, Office Assistant to the Government Agent; J. J. Patterson, Planter; W. M. S. Twynam, Planter; N. M. Walker, District Engineer; M. Geddes, Planter; N. Subraman, Clerk, Jaffna Kachcheri; A. Thamotharampillai, Clerk, Jaffna Kachcheri; and Abdulkader Lebba, Clerk, Jaffna Kachcheri.

Messrs Bastiampillai Mudaliyar, M. B. Swampillai, C. Sapapathy, and Alexander Toussaint were challenged by the prosecution; and Messrs. Muttucumaru Arunachalam, R. Kantaiyah, I. Mudaliyar Tillainadar and V. Mudaliyar Muttuvelupillai by the accused.

The Crown Counsel opened the case in a lucid speech, explaining to the Jury the law of libel, and the circumstances under which this prosecution was commenced and concluded by calling upon the jury to bring in a verdict without being influenced by any considerations for the age and position of the first accused.

The complainant Arunachalam Sapapathy examined by Mr. Dias deposed as follows:—

I am the Editor of the Hindu Organ, a newspaper published in Jaffna. Since July 1892 I have been the sole Editor of that paper.

Of the English portion. The 1st accused is the proprietor of the Catholic Guardian published here and the 2d accused is the printer and publisher. I wrote to the Colonial Secretary and got a copy of the Declaration made by these accused as proprietor and the printer and publisher. I produced that copy. I have had correspondence with the Colonial Secretary in the course of this case. I have had papers signed by Mr. Crawford, and I received official replies from him. I am acquainted with the signature of Mr. Crawford. I am acquainted with the signatures of the Assistants, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Levers, Mr. White and Mr. Green. This is Mr. Crawford's signature. The name of the proprietor is Leo Mauroit. He is one of those indicted today. He is the 1st accused. The name of the other is C. Andrew, the 2d accused. I applied also to the Colonial Secretary in terms of the 6th section of the Newspaper Ordinance to give me copies of the Guardian of the 14th and 28th January 93 and 29th September 94. I have the original copies signed by the publisher and sent to the Colonial office. [Guardian of the 14th and 28th January 93 and 29th September 94 were read by the Registrar.] I read these two articles of the 14th and 28th January 93. I took these words to apply to me, I being the sole Editor at that time. I am described in the 2nd article by a big print. I felt myself very much humiliated by it. In addition to being Editor I am also a large landed proprietor and merchant of large credit and capital. I can get a credit of Rs 50,000 without any security here. Originally Mr. Cathiravelu was joint Editor with me. He severed his connection in July 92. He never had anything to do with the paper subsequently, except as an acting Editor when I was in India in December 93 and January 94. In April 93 when I was in Batticaloa for three weeks there was only one issue during that time. I was described as a public liar. Since that time I refused to exchange the Hindu Organ with the Guardian. From the time the Hindu Organ was started we exchanged but after January 93 I refused. I wanted then to bring a case against the Guardian, but dissuaded by friends I dropped the matter. In the article of the 29th September 1894. I am described as a public liar, slave-driver, a Hindu of doubtful orthodoxy and a pettifogger. I then filed a prosecution criminally against Father Dunne as the Editor and Andrew as Printer and Publisher. There was a notification in the Guardian of 20th February 92 to the effect that Father Dunne was appointed Editor of that paper. After Father Dunne was discharged, I prosecuted Father Mauroit the first accused as Proprietor. I offered to withdraw the prosecution if they would apologise. On the 17th Oct. when the case first came on for inquiry in the Police Court, a settlement was proposed and I have been always willing to withdraw this case if they would come to terms.

CROS-EXAMINED BY ADVOCATE DORNHORST.

The Hindu Organ belongs to the Saivapari-palana Sabai. Sinnatamby Sinnayahpillai is the registered Proprietor of the paper. He is the chief Proprietor of the press. The Hindu Organ belongs to this Society. I replied to the article of 14th January 93. I don't remember to have called the priests by name. I did not call them "emissaries of the devil." I simply quoted from the Bombay Gazette what the Protestant Missionaries in the Decennial Conference thought of the Jesuits. If you give me the paper I will show you what I wrote. The Christian Fathers of the Jaffna Mission are not Jesuits. The word "baby" alluded to all along in the Guardian might refer to the Hindu Organ and the people connected with it. All of them come under that comprehensive term. The Hindu Organ was started at the end of 1889. There must have been one or two editorials written by others and they passed through my hands, and I entirely recast them because I must follow a certain line of policy in conducting the paper. I believe during the period of 6 weeks Mr. Cathiravelu might have written some editorial articles. There must have been one or two articles by Mr. Nagalingam also, and I published them as editorials on my responsibility after recasting them to suit my views and policy. Mr. Nagalingam is the Vice-President of the Sabai. He is a Hindu. He belongs to the Society. I never heard of the paper getting out with the name of Mr. Nagalingam as Editor. I am not a member of the Bar, neither an Advocate nor a Proctor. There was a case about the boatmen's strike at Kayts. I heard Mr. Nagalingam was counsel for the prosecution in that case. The word pettifogger refers metaphorically to me.

[Mr. Dornhorst: But literally to the members of my unfortunate profession?] Yes. Literally pettifogger is a petty lawyer employed in mean professional business. But here it was used to imply that I advocated the cause of the chetties as a pettifogger. The excitement between the Hindus and the Catholics began not at the time of the strike, but after this case. It was confined to the boatmen and the chetties. I did not advocate the cause of the chetties. I attacked the boatmen after they grew very lawless. I did not run down the R Catholic Mission. The majority of the boatmen were Catholics. The Chetties who are Hindus wanted to levy a contribution to build a temple at Mantbai near Mannar. To the best of my knowledge the article complained of was the first article written by the Guardian about the strike. This is not a new tax. The boatmen paid the chetties 12½ cts formerly, but they refused to pay the additional 12½ cts which the Chetties newly imposed. The Roman Catholic priests also exacted a contribution from the boatmen. The boatmen were not all Catholics. In the article complained of it is said 'the boatmen Hindus as well as Christians refused to work.' I have known the 1st accused for the last two years. I did not see him before that. He is the Vicar-General. The Catholic Guardian is published once a week. It was a bi-monthly English and Tamil newspaper, called the "Catholic Guardian."

The Guardian in which the article complained of was written was printed in English. The name of the paper said in the Declaration is "Catholic Guardian". The name of the paper in which the article in question appeared is the Jaffna Catholic Guardian. In the first Number of the Hindu Organ there was an announcement that it had no paid Editor and that a number of gentlemen had promised to contribute to the paper. It means that the editor was not paid and that several gentlemen promised to send contributions other than editorials. Even now the editor is not paid. I don't remember if there was an announcement in this paper that the Hindu Organ was under the management of two editors. I made no announcement in the paper of my appointment as Editor, but there are passages in some of my articles which would show that I was the Editor. I instituted no action in 93 when there were a series of broad charges. I wanted to take action but my friends dissuaded me from doing so. I did not write to demand an apology. I did not then try to find out or demand the name of the editor. I only discontinued the exchange of the paper. Public liar means a liar well-known to the public. After this publication of Sept. 94 I believed Father Dunne was the editor and charged him criminally in this case. I did not write to any one to ascertain the editor. I believed that Father Dunne was the editor and the writer of this article and cited the 1st accused as a witness. I have known Father Mauroit for nearly two years and I have had nothing to do with him. I know the old clergyman has no illfeeling towards me personally; but the Roman Catholic priests do not like that we should have a paper like the Hindu Organ, an organization like the Saiva Paripalana Sabai and a school like the Hindu High School.

I never spoke to him in my life. I was in court when he was examined as witness in Fr. Dunne's case. His answers were conveyed to the Magistrate through an interpreter who spoke in French. I don't believe Father Mauroit wrote the article. I can get a loan of Rs 50,000 without any security. I don't know exactly how many times I got a loan of Rs. 50000. I borrowed from one man. I have an account with him always. As I have brought this action to vindicate my honor I have not lost credit. That gentleman who deals with me to the extent of Rs. 50,000 is a Hindu. The fact of my being the editor was known in 93 to some people but it was not then so well and generally known as now.

RE-EXAMINED BY MR. DIAS.

The paper of the accused was issued twice a month. It is now converted into a weekly. They publish it now one sheet entirely in Tamil. Previously half in English and half in Tamil. Now it is divided into two journals. The Tamil is published once a fortnight and English once a week. The foot-note in the issue of the 29th Sept. corresponds exactly with the declaration filed at the Colonial Secretary's office. If we have to alter anything in our paper we have to file a separate declaration. The declaration produced was the last made by the Proprietor and the Printer and Publisher of the Guardian. (Continued on Supplement)

ARUMUGAM CATHIRAVELU (AFFIRMED)

I was joint Editor of the English portion of the Hindu Organ with Mr. Sapapathy in 1891. I am a Proctor of the District Court of Jaffna. I am now in no way connected with that paper. I think I gave up the Editorship in July 1892. Since that time Mr. Sapapathy has been the sole Editor. After I had severed my connection I contributed a few articles. In my time I don't recollect whether any contributions other than mine and Mr. Sapapathy's appeared as editorials. I read the article in the Guardian of the 29th September 1894. The article referred to Mr. Sapapathy and to no other, because he was the Editor of the Hindu Organ. Several other people besides me knew him to be Editor. After I had severed my connection with the Hindu Organ there was a reference in the Guardian of the 14th January 1893 to "a couple of young busibodies." I thought the Editor of the Guardian was under the impression that I was then connected with the Hindu Organ with Mr. Sapapathy. I told some Roman Catholic gentlemen that Mr. Sapapathy was editor and that I had nothing to do with the Hindu Organ.

CROSS EXAMINED BY MR. DORNHORST

The Guardian said that the Editor of the Hindu Organ was a public liar. As I knew Mr. Sapapathy to be the Editor I concluded that the article referred to him.

Mr. Dornhorst—Do you know of a case against the Roman Catholic boatmen at Kayts?

Witness.—I heard there was a case at Kayts.

Mr. Dornhorst.—You are a lawyer, you know what you heard is no evidence. Do you know of a case at Kayts?

Witness.—I heard of a case at Kayts, but you know hearsay is no evidence.

The word *pettifogger* is generally applied to a lawyer who uses mean tricks, but I can't say what the writer of the article had in mind when he used the word. French men sometimes misuse English words. [Mr. Dornhorst: Just as Tamil gentlemen do.] At the time I read the article I did not pay much attention to the words, "Can't the pettifogger shout when the proper time comes." As in the first paragraph of the article the Editor of the Hindu Organ was called a public liar, the words being printed in italics, and as I knew Mr. Sapapathy to be the Editor, I concluded the article referred to Mr. Sapapathy. I did not attach much importance to the word *pettifogger*. Perhaps the writer in using the word had in mind some lawyer. If the concluding paragraph stood alone I would suppose it referred to a lawyer. As the words "the Editor of the Hindu Organ" and "public liar" were placed in juxtaposition I at once concluded that the writer meant Mr. Sapapathy. The imputations referred to him as a public journalist and not as a private individual. But I don't know what distinction is meant to draw thereby, Mr. Sapapathy being the person defamed.

TAMPO KAILASAPILLAI (AFFIRMED)

I am the Tamil Editor of the Hindu Organ and Manager of the paper. The English portion is edited by another. Mr. Sapapathy has been the sole Editor of the English portion for the last three years.

NOT CROSS-EXAMINED.

R. KANDIYAR (AFFIRMED)

I was the Chief Clerk of the D. Court of Jaffna. I am now the chief clerk of the Minor Courts of Jaffna. All official correspondence between the Colonial Secretary's office and the Courts pass through my hands. I am well acquainted with the signature of the Colonial Secretary and the Asst Colonial Secretary. (Documents shown) The document that I hold in my hands is certified as true copy of the declaration. This is Mr. H. L. Crawford's

signature. I also produce the original letter from the Colonial Secretary forwarding the three copies of the Guardian to Mr. Sapapathy. The papers were delivered to Mr. Sapapathy on giving security. These three papers bear the endorsement of the Police Magistrate.

The Crown Counsel then formally moved that the following documents be put in evidence against the accused, viz. (1) the Declaration, (2) the Guardian of the 14th January 1893, (3) the Guardian of the 28 January 1893 (4) the Guardian of the 29th September 1894 and (5) the statements of the accused in the Police Court.

At this stage the Court adjourned for half an hour. The trial having been resumed at 2-30 P.M., Crown Counsel Dias summed up the evidence for the prosecution and contended that he had proved a *prima facie* case against the accused and that the jury could not but convict both the accused unless the defence called sworn evidence to prove under Lord Campbell's Act, the application of which to Ceylon was also doubtful, that the proprietor exercised proper caution and care in the management of his paper. He reserved his right to call rebutting evidence.

The first accused then made the following statement:—

I am not the real proprietor of the Guardian. I am only the nominal proprietor. I spend no money at all and I receive nothing from it. I did not know the article in question until it came in print. I did not ask anybody to publish it in my name. I as the Vicar-General have a connection with it. I can read and write English generally but not very well. With the editing of that paper I have nothing to do. Before Mr. Martyn was appointed Editor, for a space of perhaps 18 months, there was no Editor. It is not my business to see who wrote the articles. I don't remember exactly when Mr. Martyn was appointed. I take no part in the management of the paper. James Martyn is the Editor now and must have been in 94. The Bishop appoints the Editor. The Guardian is published not for the purpose of any profit but for religious purposes. I read the paper when I have time. I don't know who wrote the articles that are impeached.

The second accused stated as follows:—

I don't understand English and I know nothing about it. I did not know what was put in the paper. I did not know what was written in the Guardian of the 29th September 94. I get the works connected with it done.

As there was a Tamil portion also, I attended to that portion. The people would understand that I managed only that part. I understand Tamil and therefore I attended to it. It is I that give work to compositors. The editor corrects the proofs.

Mr. Dornhorst then addressed the jury on behalf of the accused, admitting the libellous nature of the words complained of, but contending that they did not refer to the complainant. He called no evidence for the defence.

His Lordship summed up the case. His Lordship's charge was not clear as to the guilt or innocence of the first accused, but he was for the conviction of the second. The jurors retired to consider their verdict, and after a deliberation lasting 15 minutes they returned a

veidict in favour of both the accused. One of the European jurors on leaving the jury box was heard to remark that the veidict was not a unanimous one.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Weather—No rain has yet fallen here. The heat is intense. A shower will be very welcome now and prove very beneficial to man, beast and vegetation.

The Hindu High School—The Hindus throughout the Island will be glad to learn that this Institution has been registered by Government as a Grant-in-aid School. The number of boys in the school is now over 300, and bids fair to become 400 before long. The new building will be ready for use in a month or two.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lee—This gentleman who was our acting District Judge and is now the acting Principal Collector of Customs, has arrived in Jaffna on a tour of inspection. We hope he will see to the necessity of additional accommodation being provided at the Jaffna Customs for the storing of paddy, a large quantity of which is now heaped outside on sand till the import duty is paid.

The Jaffna District Court—Mr. Tampe still continues to act as District Judge till the arrival of Mr. Nevill who is expected here on the 11 instant.

Personal—We are glad to learn that Mr. Proctor Caspillai who has been for the last few weeks in indifferent health on account of an attack of malarial fever and who is now staying at Kangasanturai has fully recovered and is expected to return to the Town in the course of next week.

COLOMBO.

THE CLERICAL Examination—Of the 30 candidates, who were successful in this examination, the following are Tamils:—P. S. Saravnamuttu, A. Chellappa, J. J. Puvimanasingham, W. S. Wadsworth, D. V. Abraham and A. D. Vaitialingam.

A NEW BUDDHIST COLLEGE—The laying of the foundation stone of the Buddhist College, which will be called the "Ananda College," took place under the auspices of the Colombo Theosophical Society on Friday evening last. There was a large and representative gathering consisting of the High Priest and others. The ceremony of laying the stone which was a gravestone was performed by Mr. Tudor Rajapakse, Gate Mudaliar. After the ceremony, the priests chanted "gathas" and blessed the stone. The High Priest, Sri, Sumangala gave a speech, and others speeches followed. The opportunity was taken by the Secretary of the Theosophical Society to read a report of the progress of the school from its establishment in 1886. The college is to be built in Maradana opposite to the Sangamitta Girls' school. Arrangements have been made to engage the services of three graduates, one of the Cambridge University and the other two of the Calcutta University. The college has our best wishes, and there is every prospect of a useful career before it.

—Cor.

EXTRACT.

A CAUSE CELEBRE—At the next criminal sessions in Jaffna a rather sensational case will come before the Judges. The leader of the unofficial bar and two Romanist lawyers has been retained by the revered editor of the JAFFNA CATHOLIC GUARDIAN against whom the HINDU ORGAN of Jaffna has filed an action for criminal libel. Rumour has it that Mr. Dorschner is to be paid the

meagre sum of Rs. 4,000 for his trouble! Evidently it is money that has dropped from the clouds into the coffers of holy men. We reserve whatever we have to say on this subject for our next issue. But it is not too much to expect if we hope that truth may come off victorious, and that British law may not shew itself a respecter of persons and moneyed insolence. We have had the sad spectacle of mitred men trampling the Ordinances of the country with impunity. When laws remain dead letters and can be broken like cob-webs then demoralisation is not far off.

—Independent Catholic.

NOTICE

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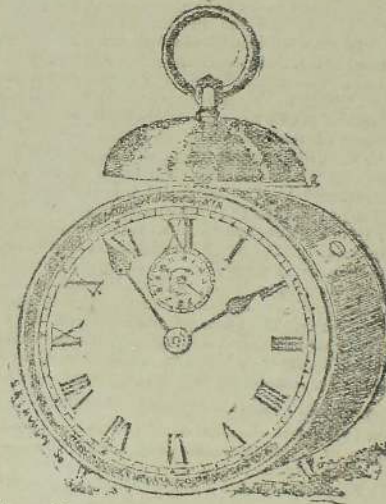
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