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The Jaffna Catholic Guardian.

கத்தோலிக்குப் பாதுகாவலன்.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

"Gloria Domini custodierit cibitatem frusta vigilat qui custodit eam."

VOL. XVII.

NOTICE.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE now enters on the SCHOOL YEAR of 1892-93, the annual Govt. Examination having just taken place. The NEW CLASSES have been already formed, and therefore INTENDING PUPILS should lose no time in applying for admission. All particulars may be had from

THE PRINCIPAL,
P. DUNNE, O.M.I.

MADHU CHURCH.

The festivals at this Church will begin as usual on the First Sunday of May, and close with the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, on October 1st. Every Saturday night a Novena will be celebrated at the Sanctuary, and every Sunday after Mass, or in the evening, the Statue of Our Blessed Lady will be carried in procession round the Church.

Persons wishing to take part in those Novenas, or desirous to have a special festival celebrated in their name, are requested kindly to communicate directly with the undersigned.

C. MASSIET O.M.I.
Administrator of Madhu,
Vavuniya.

WONDER

NEW Writing Case of German Silver calculated to be of immense service.

This case of writing materials has been recently imported here from England. It has been very nicely got up and serves a variety of useful purposes. This extremely round and narrow case with its chief components, Pen, Pencil, Rubber, Stamping and Pad, is so beautifully struck that one cannot refrain from the temptation of offering thousands of one's best thanks to the inventor. It is curious as a masterpiece of art. Every one should have one or two of these nicely got up dainties for life. In fact, nothing more is required than a piece of paper to one in possession of it. It is very pleasant to say "give a little stress upon one end of it with your finger, you will see all it contains on the other." No more indulgences to great many words. The use will justify all. We can say about it to Students, Pleaders, Teachers, Magistrates, Doctors, Clerks and other worthies that it is very dearly welcomed now-a-days. Price Rs. 3 per case. Dozen Rs. 30.

Name and address must be written legibly on a separate paper for the Rubber Stamp it will contain.

Apply to P. LEZARS & Co.
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Telegraphic Summary

The Irish Local Government Bill

London, May 24th.—The debate on the Irish Local Government Bill continues in the House of Commons. Mr. Chamberlain, in a speech last night, strongly supported the measures and taunted the Irish members with stimulating anger and opposing the Bill for election purposes.

Read a Second Time.

London, May 25th.—The Irish Local Government Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons last night by a majority of ninety-two votes. Mr. Gladstone ridiculed the meagreness of the Bill after the great promises held out by Government. He condemned the speech made by Lord Salisbury at Hastings which, he said, was an incitement to civil war. Mr. Balfour said the Bill showed the policy of the Government towards Ireland, and he challenged Mr. Gladstone to submit his scheme to the electors.

It is believed that, owing to the large majority obtained on the second reading of the Irish Local Government Bill, Government will press on the Bill, thereby delaying the dissolution.

The American Presidency.

Washington, May 23rd.—A strong movement is on foot to induce Mr. Blaine to stand for the presidency at the forthcoming election, and it is believed, if he did so, that his election would be certain. Otherwise, Mr. Harrison's election is regarded as sure. Ex president Cleveland movement (sic) is Democratic favorite.

American Purchases of Silver.

The Treasury to day purchased 510,000 ounces of silver at 83.35.

The Czar's Movements.

Copenhagen, May 24th.—The Czar and family have arrived here for the celebration of the golden wedding of the King and Queen of Denmark. His Imperial Majesty did not go to Berlin on his way as was expected.

Captain Osborne

Captain Osborne of the Carabiniers resigned his commission.

Particulars of the fighting in West Africa.

Advices from Lagos state that the Jebus opposed to Colonel Scott's force numbered seven thousand men and were armed with Snider rifles. They fought for four days, and finally their army fled. The King was captured. The British officers who were wounded are doing well.

The Bill for the Registration of Electors.

London, May 26th. In the House of Commons last night Mr. Stanfield's Bill to facilitate the registration of electors was read a second time. The Government recognised the necessity of reform in the matter, and were willing to take the sense of the House thereon.

Accident to Lord Salisbury

London, May 27th. An alarming accident happened to Lord Salisbury yesterday evening. The horses attached to His Lordship's brougham took fright and bolted down St. James' Street. The carriage was overturned and badly smashed, but His Lordship, who was severely shaken, was able to walk to the Foreign Office.

The India Council Bill read a third time

London May 27th. In the House of Commons last night, the India Council Bill was read a third time without the introduction of any amendments.

Petroleum tank steamers in the Canal

London, May 27th. In reply to a question in the House of Commons, Mr. Lowther said the Government had no ground to interfere with the sanction given by the Suez Canal Company for the passage of petroleum tank steamers through the canal, and that the security of the canal would in no way be endangered by the passage of such ships.

Mr. Stewart's Free Gold and Silver Bill

Washington, May 26th. The Senate by a majority of eight have agreed to discuss Mr. Stewart's Free Gold and Silver Bill.

The conversion of the Domain loan in Egypt.

London, May 27th. In the House of Commons last night Mr. Lowther, replying to a question, said that the Government was not desirous of interfering with the able financial advisers in Egypt, in favour of the conversion of the Domain Loan.

The new Italian Cabinet

Rome, May 26th. In the Italian Parliament S. Giolitti read the programme of the new cabinet, which is based on retrenchment and reform in every branch of Government. The ordinary military expenses are to be reduced to two hundred and thirty million francs. The chamber is markedly hostile to the new programme, and a fresh crisis is considered imminent.

Vote of confidence in the Italian Government

Rome, May 26th. The Italian Chamber has passed a vote of confidence in the Government by a majority of nine. The situation nevertheless remains doubtful.

Designation of the Italian Cabinet

Rome, May 27th. The Italian cabinet have resigned; but the King has refused to accept their resignation. It is believed a dissolution of the Chamber will take place.

The small holdings Bill

London, May 28th. In the House of Commons the Small Holdings Bill was read a third time without a division.

German Justice in East Africa

London, May 27th. A German Judge in East Africa has sentenced seventeen Arabs to be hanged for holding a slave market at India.

The Czar to visit the Kaiser

London, May 29th. The Czar and Czarewitz go to Kiel on Thursday to visit the Emperor William.

நகரமாப்பவிக்கம் .ஏ.ஏ.	ஏ.ஏ.க்கு முற்பணம்.....4-00
கா-மாச்சத்துக்கு முற்பணம்...2-00	கா-ம. க-கு பிரபணம்.....6-00
ஸ்ரீ. க-கு பிரபணம்...3-00	கா-மாச்சத்துக்குப் பிரபணம்...3-00
தபால்லவை { இவங்களுக்கு.1-00	தபால்லவை { இதியாவக்கு.1-00

விவரம் விகிதம்

12 வரிகளுள் வரி-க-கு.....16
12-க்குமிக்கு வரி ச-க-ல.....19
கால் கொவத்தக்கு (2 வரி).....300
அரைக்கொவத்தக்கு.....5-00
முக்கால் கொவத்தக்கு.....7-00
ஒருக்கத்தக்கு9-00

JAFFNA, SATURDAY JUNE 4TH 1892

NO. 22

The fighting at Uganda

London, May 30th. Conflicting accounts have reached Paris and Berlin confirming the report of the fighting at Uganda in January, and the defeat and flight of the King. Catholic Missionaries and French Priests have written to Paris, protesting warmly against Captain Ingards and Williams supporting the Protestants. Mons. Ribot has made representations to Lord Salisbury on the subject.

The latest news of Emin Pasha

London, May 30th. Letters have been received at Berlin from Dr. Stuhlmann, Emin Pasha's Lieutenant, in which he states that he left Emin on the 10th of December, and that owing to disease and famine, he conveyed the healthy portion of the caravan to the Western shore of the Victoria Nyanza, arriving at Bugoba in the middle of February, since which he has heard nothing of Emin.

CHURCH NOTICE.

HOURS OF DIVINE SERVICE

TO-MORROW AT THE CATHEDRAL.

Mass.	5 15 A. M.
"	6 30 A. M.
"	8 30 A. M.
Benediction	5 15 P. M.
AT OUR LADY OF MIRACLES,	
Mass	7.30 A. M.
Wednesday, of Emberdays—Ad oriente	

Local &c.

His Lordship the Bishop, who continues his pastoral visitation of the Missions in the Southern portion of the diocese, arrived at Puttalam on the 11th May and there, on Ascension Day, conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation, on about sixty candidates who had been duly prepared for its reception by the painstaking Father Gouret. The next day His Lordship left to visit Calpantipattu and the other districts of Akkaraiapattu.

The Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be held in the Hall of St. Patrick's College, on Wednesday the 8th Inst. at 6. p. m. when Rev. M. E. Francis will deliver a lecture. The date originally fixed, viz. the 6th Inst., has been altered for the convenience of the majority of those who are expected to attend. All the members in Jaffna are kindly requested to be present on the occasion.

Mr. A. Mearns, the genial and popular Agent of the New O. B. C. Jafins with his family, and Mrs. Twynam intend going to Europe shortly. They leave probably next week by a B. I. boat calling at Kangasanturai and expect to be in Colombo about the 15th Inst., to book their passage to England. It is said that Mrs. Twynam, whose sight is slightly affected, goes to consult a London oculist.—Cor.

Mr. Figg of Messrs Vavasseur and Co paid a flying visit during the week for the purpose of inspecting their local business in connection with the Palmyrah fibre industry, which they have the credit of starting and indeed of so developing as to be a means of honest livelihood to large numbers of the poor people of the peninsula.

Mr. John Kelly. We learn that this gentleman is under orders to proceed to Colombo. During the four years that Mr. Kelly has been in charge of the Jaffna jail, he has discharged his duties with commendable ability. Having been more in touch with the people than any of his predecessors, his removal is widely regretted. We hope he will speedily rise in the service of the Prison Department of which he is a very efficient officer.

Minor Appointment. Mr. Hubbel, one of the Clerks in the Grain Department of the local Kachcheri, whose services have been reported by the Government Agent as not required by him in future, has been provided with an appointment in Batticaloa, in the Land Registrar's Office, on 300 per annum.

Posal.—The acting Post Master General, we are glad to learn, has made the necessary arrangements to attach Saving Banks to all the Post Offices, large and small,

throughout the Northern Province. There are some few centres where it is desirable to open new Post Offices and Wannarpone has been mentioned as one of these centres.

Medical. Mr. N. L. Joshua, the Government Dispenser at Mankulam has been transferred to the newly opened dispensaries at Puttoor and Varany. He is to reside at Varany and pay two visits in the week to the Puttoor dispensary. Cor.

Educational. Mr. G. C. Thampillai schools left for Colombo to examine certain Tamil schools in the North-West Province.

Rows and Riots are the order of the day in Jaffna; and their frequency and seriousness must needs tell against the efficiency of local Police supervision. The latest row was the one which took place on Sunday last at Batticaloa, between the people of two different castes. A cowardly attack, it is reported, was made upon the women of the lower caste, when their husbands were from home, in the pursuit of their avocations. Caste feeling is at the bottom of all the strife of which there have been so many unseemly exhibitions of late. The Kangasanturai row in which the rowdie instituted cases and counter-cases has resulted in the conviction and punishment of some of them. The headmen, who are in fact our rural Police, are not doing their duty and it is even said that they are so pronounced in their views of caste, that they foment rather than quell the dissensions among the different classes.—Cor.

Coolies and Cholera go hand in hand; and so long as the immigration of the former is so freely allowed, it would be simply impossible to safe-guard our population effectively against the encroachments of the latter. According to the latest advices, there have already occurred some sixty cases, chiefly among the coolies who are strictly watched by the authorities and confined to the lines, with a view to stave off the introduction of the disease among the people living in proximity to the coolie route. The only local residents who have been attacked are some Moormen of Mannar, the others having as yet kept themselves quite clear of the infection, according to our informant.

Export of salt. The principal *teawas* in the Jaffna district where salt is self-formed are Karaiavai and Vellaparavai. The salt is stored at Tondamanaar generally for purposes of export. About 15,000 cwt.s of salt have been sent during the week from the Tondamanaar store to Hambantotte where the manufacture of salt is reported to have failed owing to heavy rains.

Administration Reports. We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt, from the Secretariat of the following Administration Reports and Sessional Papers.—Customs and Shipping by the Hon. G. S. Williams; North-Central Province by Mr. B. W. Iversen; Registration by Mr. R. Reid; Colombo Harbour Works by Mr. John Kyle; Amended Estimate of the Railway Extension to Kurunegalle by F. J. Waring; and Revised Estimate of the Railway Extension to Galle by F. J. Waring.

Clerical Examination.—Certain young men, now almost on the threshold of majority, are anxious to know when the next Clerical Examination will be held. We are not in the secrets of the Government to be able to give any definite information on the matter. An examination is announced to be held when there is a large demand for new hands in the Clerical service. But there are at present several clerks connected with the Grain Departments of the different Kachcheris in the Island, whom it is necessary to absorb into other branches of the service; and the probability is that no Clerical Examination will be held this year.

The Acting Postmaster General—Mr. Vane comes to Puttalam by the 5th June to inaugurate a postal service between that town and Anuradhapura. Runners will be employed for a time until a coach service is established. This is one of the good effects of the Governor's recent visit to the place.

See Supplement.

THE

Jaffna Catholic Guardian

JUNE 4TH

THE ROAD TAX.

When, some few months ago, the Provincial Agents and their Assistants were called upon to furnish a statement of the probable reduction in the clerical staff of the several Kachcherries, in the event of the abolition of the Paddy and Road taxes, it was presumed that the Government was seriously bent upon doing away with both the taxes; and the public expectation that relief was at hand ran almost as high in the case of the one as in that of the other tax. Of the two taxes, the one that confessedly bears harder upon the people, but yields less to the Government, is the paddy tax. It has therefore been given up and there is great rejoicing in consequence. As to the road tax, there is, we fear, no probability of its early remission. It is, however, a tax against which not a few officials have written very strongly, from time to time, in their administration reports; and some of the objections to it appear to be so serious that the opinion may be hazarded that it cannot long survive the paddy tax.

One and a grave objection to the Road tax is that it is most unequal in its incidence, exacting as it does, quite as much from him who expends all his bodily strength in providing for the day that is passing over him, as from him who rolls in wealth, and drives, it may be, a four in hand. Another and a graver objection is that, in consequence of the unrelenting severity with which the law pursues the unfortunate man who is terribly out-at-elbows and utterly out of cash, he is exposed to the most demoralizing influences in the process by which he is forced to contribute his quota of labor in default of paying its commuted money value. In one respect the road-tax seems to be more indefensible than the paddy tax. The paddy tax results, at worst, in physical privation, great as it sometimes is, but the road tax, though it can not be said to cause such privation has, year after year, degraded and corrupted hundreds, even thousands of honest, loyal and law-abiding citizens by throwing them into the worst possible company—the criminals condemned to penal servitude in our jails.

The road tax is a capitation tax and the only tax of its kind, we believe, levied in the Island. It is a most peculiar and exceptional tax, in that it starts on the principle that every subject is bound to labor for a certain number of days, with a view to the proper maintenance of the public thoroughfares. This principle, however, is enforced, not in the case of the many who pay the equivalent, in money, of the labor exacted, but in the case of the few, the hopelessly disinherited ones in our midst, who have no means of paying that equivalent. Taxes are, as a rule, derived from the material resources of the population at large, so that those who are utterly resourceless justly claim and are conceded an exemption from taxation. There are, for instance, many poor people who, though they do not own an inch of ground, do nevertheless enjoy, equally with the richest land owners, all the advantages of Police protection without being compelled to contribute anything whatever towards the maintenance of the Police. The road tax is an exception, the only exception perhaps, to the general rule. Other taxes are levied on

property only; and when a man happens to have no property, moveable or immoveable, from which they could be recovered, he goes scot-free. The road tax, on the other hand, is so exacting that, failing a man's ability to pay it, he is seized and flung into a jail and forced to work and treated and punished as a criminal, for no other offence, if offence it could be called, than his extreme poverty. And this drastic and demoralizing measure, it is worthy of remark, is resorted to for the paltry consideration of between two and three thousand Rupees, which is all that may be annually due from the Road Ordinance Defaulters. The harm done to the poorest subjects in a moral point of view is out of all proportion to the gain derived by the Government in a pecuniary point of view. We are at a loss to understand why the funds required for the opening and upkeep of roads should not be secured in the same way as the funds for other public purposes, seeing the exceptional injustice and hardship which the operation of the Road Ordinance entails on the poor classes.

The Road Ordinance Defaulters, that is to say, those very poor people who are unable to pay the Road tax, are faring from bad to worse. Instead of a mitigation, there has of late been an aggravation of the harshness and degradation to which they are subjected. Till lately, a system was in vogue called the labor centre system, the main object of which was to keep the so-called defaulters as much apart as possible from the prisoners confined and punished in the jails for strictly criminal offences or for statutory offences of a quasi-criminal nature. This system was abolished in December 1890; and it is to be deplored that, as regards location and treatment, there is at present no distinction or difference observed between the so-called defaulters and the hardened wretches in our jails convicted of crimes of the blackest dye. This is what Mr. Ellis says on the subject in his last report—"It is singular that efforts should still be made to obtain for the road defaulter very lenient treatment in jail. The contention that he should not be sent to jail at all is intelligible, but I cannot see how any one, with the experience of the past before him, can advocate jail with lenient treatment." We note the official admission, feebly conveyed though it be, that the unoffending defaulter should not be sent to jail at all; and hope that the day is not far off when he will be spared the injustice as well as the ignominy of being confined, worked and even punished as a felon.

A most glaring anomaly in connection with the Road Ordinance which it is impossible to justify is the exemption granted, without rhyme or reason, to the Indian agricultural labourer. By a grossly unjust and absurd provision, the Indian coolie who picks tea or coffee in an up-country estate is exempt; but the moment the same coolie leaves off estate work and takes to cooking or any other occupation even in the same estate, he becomes liable. This provision has always appeared to be flagrantly invidious to the Ceylonese, whether Tamils or Sinhalese, working side by side, with the coolies from India; and they have bitterly complained of it, when brought up on warrants, before the officials, for default. Why does the Government of Ceylon favour the Indian coolie, to the exclusion of its own people, some of whom are far worse off than he is, in every respect? Is it to please or propitiate the European planter? But the planter, we suppose, would

rather than pretend to defend the privilege, freely admit its glaring injustice. The sooner this privilege or exemption is abrogated, the better for the credit for fair play and even-handed justice, to which British administration is generally entitled.

Occasional.

The following notice signed by the Acting Colonial Secretary appears in the Government Gazette and in some of the Colombo papers.

"In consequence of the importation of CHOLERA from Paamben into Mannar and the risk of infection along the North Road and the route leading from Paamben to the interior of the Madras Presidency, employers of immigrant laborers are recommended to send COOLIES returning to India by the route via COLOMBO and TUTICORIN rather than along the North Road.

This is a curiously one-sided precaution recommended in the interests of the Madras Presidency where CHOLERA is known to be endemic and where they do not care to take such precautions themselves. But how about the solicitude of our Government for the safety of Ceylon where cholera is only epidemic and where the people have suffered so long and so much from the terrible scourge?"

Would it not be more reasonable to ask the employers of immigrant coolies to get them down from India by the route via Taticorin and Colombo and thus prevent the risk of infection and importation along the North road which has in fact to serve either as the quarantine ground for Indian Cholera to exhaust itself, or worse as the centre from which it spreads as a dead epidemic among the people of the Northern Province where the Indian coolies have no business? That our far-seeing Government "in consequence of the importation of Cholera from Paamben into Mannar and the risk of infection along the North Road" to which the inhabitants of Ceylon are thereby exposed, should take measures to prevent the spread of Cholera in India would be very creditable indeed, if it were reasonable. We think that charity should begin at home.

Referring to the absence of certain unofficial members, Mr. Kelly at the last meeting of the Legislative Council expressed his regret that important measures should be pressed in an attenuated Council. This is what he said.

"Three unofficial members are absent and I should have thought it fitting on the part of Government and fairer to the unofficial members, if further consideration had been deferred until the members who are absent had returned to the Colony."

The acting Colonial Secretary, made the following reply:

"It has been stated that Government has done wrong in going on with this bill in the absence of several members of Council. I would remind the Council that notice was given of these questions before those hon. gentlemen left and there is quite as much to be said in favor of those gentlemen having remained as in favor of the Government postponing them in their absence."

When an official is away from the Island, another official is at once sworn in to take his seat in Council. But when an unofficial is away, neither he nor the Governor who appointed him thinks of a substitute. There are three important unofficials now abroad, M. Grinlinton, the General European Member, and Messrs Rama Nathan and Seneviratne, representing the two largest sections of the population; and a clamour has been justly raised against the absentees for throwing over-board, in an off-hand fashion, the political interests entrusted to their custody. There is no doubt that somebody is to blame in the matter; but who is it?

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

An important meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 25th May last. The Colonial Secretary announced that H.E. the Governor had given his assent to Ordinance No. 1 of 1892 to amend the Forest Ordinance. The Hon Dr. Anthonisz, who is famous for making long speeches, moved in reference to the

DUTY ON SALT.

"that it is desirable that the proposed increase of 40 cents per cwt on salt be reduced to 20 cents and that the difference of Rs 70,000 be recovered by increasing the duty on cotton goods." He said that, at the time the British Government took possession of the Island, there was no tax on salt, levied by the Dutch Government, that it was introduced by a Dutch officer who afterwards took service under the East India Company and that it was this officer who introduced and imposed the tax on his being sent out here by the Company. References were then made to the Government Agents and figures were quoted to show that the Government was making great profits by the sale of salt and that it was unfair to further increase the price of it. The speaker then went on to say that less salt was required for animal than for vegetable diet, that the majority of the people who are Buddhists, and he might have added Sivites, and who live upon rice, fruits, yams and vegetables, require more salt than those who live chiefly on animal food, that when fish is plentiful and ever and above the demand, salt is wanted to preserve it from putrefaction, that a villager requires about a rupee worth of salt per meal, and that the increased price of salt would make the poor man's daily meal costlier. Dr. Anthonisz wound up by saying that "if it is the intention of taxing the poor labourer and rice-grower for the benefits they have derived by abolishing the paddy-tax, it is well to tax them properly not only through the stomach, but also the calico rag which covers their nakedness." Mr. Panabokke seconded, but Mr. Mitchell opposed the motion. The Acting Colonial Secretary observed that the proposed Salt duty was reasonable, that the increase on the duty on cotton was condemned by two hon. members and that the Government was not prepared to alter the duty on cotton. On a division being taken the motion was lost. The next subject dealt with was

IRRIGATION AND PADDY ORDINANCE, and an "Ordinance to amend the Irrigation and Paddy Ordinance 1889" was read a first time. This Bill put at the disposal of the Central Irrigation Board Rs. 200,000 out of the general revenue. The Colonial Secretary in moving the first reading said: "It is necessary that, as in past years, we should assist native agriculture by spending large sums of money on irrigation. No expenditure which the Government has undertaken is more satisfactory or of more advantage in advancing native industry". The next measure discussed was.

THE ABOLITION OF THE PADDY TAX.

The Acting Attorney General in moving that the Council go into Committee on the Ordinance to abolish the paddy tax, said that certain amendments were to be made, first in order to defer the operation of the Bill till the 31st Decr. next, secondly to enable the Crown to recover the Crown share of the paddy grown on Crown lands and to protect the interests of the Crown in respect of any tax that may be due on the 31st Decr. of this year. To the questions put by Mr. Panabokke on the subject, the Attorney General gave the following explanation: "Where the paddy tax is due this year, that tax will be collected, but where paddy is only sown this year, the tax will not be due till next year and consequently it cannot be collected". The increased duty on

KEROSINE OIL, SPIRITS AND TOBACCO was strongly opposed by the unofficials, though without success, when the report of the sub-committee was read. Mr. Mitchell, in his protest appended to the report, stated very justly that the enormous increase in the duty proposed on Kerosine oil was one to be resisted on every ground. The last bill taken up was the one referring to

SUCCESSION AND LEGACY DUTIES.

The report of the Sub-Committee was read and considered in which Mr. Mitchell recorded the following protest:—I dissent from the report of the Sub-Committee on the ground that the imposition of succession and legacy duties and the increase of duties on deeds of gifts and settlement are unnecessary and undesirable.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF COLOMBO.—We are happy to learn, from our contemporary the C. O. Messenger, that His Grace the Most Revd. Dr. Bonjean is in a fair way of recovery. We earnestly hope that His Grace's health may be soon re-established and that he may be long spared to the Catholics of Ceylon.

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