

# The Catholic Guardian

ESTABLISHED AS A FORTNIGHTLY, 1876; ISSUED AS A WEEKLY, 1878.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN", JAFFNA.

"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

Telephone: NO. 100.

Vol. 72, No. 12.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1947.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

## "THE HISTORICAL CHRIST"

### LECTURE BY THE BISHOP OF CHILAW

Before an assembly of Catholic Doctors, members of St. Luke's Guild, Colombo, and their wives, His Lordship Dr. Edmund Peiris, O.M.I., Bishop of Chilaw, delivered a learned address on "The Historical Christ" on Monday 24-2-47 at St. Peter's House, General Hospital, Colombo. Professor W. A. E. Karunaratne, President of the Guild took the chair and welcomed the lecturer.

His Lordship in the course of his address said: History understood as the record of man's achievements and failures, is based on documents, written or unwritten; documents to be of historical value must be authentic, intact and truthful. What is meant by authenticity is this: that the document is written by the author to whom it is attributed, or, if the author is unknown or doubtful, at the period assigned to it. The integrity of a document is another important consideration in determining its historical value. It must have come to us just as it left the hands of the author, without having undergone any substantial alteration, bearing on the main subject of the history. Lastly the document must be truthful: the moral qualities of the author and the circumstances under which it was written should protect it from all suspicion of error or falsehood.

We are considering this evening the history of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The chief documents which relate to our subject are the Gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Are these documents of real historical value? In other words, are these Gospels authentic, intact, and truthful? They are and we can prove it.

The Gospels were written in the First Century A.D. and by the Authors, whose names they bear, that is by Matthew and John who were Apostles of Christ, and by Mark and Luke who were their Disciples. All Christians, Catholic or heretical have always regarded and still regard, the Gospels as authentic and on this point, they are in peaceful and perpetual possession. We might say that they held this truth by prescriptive right, and the burden of disproving lies on the opponents. Besides this we have positive proofs from both Christian authors and pagan writers. Saints Ignatius and Papias, both of them of the First Century A.D. and Disciples of St. John the Apostle speak of the four Gospels and the names of the writers. Saints Justin and Irenaeus, who had it from the Disciples of the Apostles name the four authors, and even give an analysis of some of the Gospels. Even the heretics of the early centuries made no attempt to dispute the authenticity of the Gospels. Pagan writers e.g., Celsus in the Second Century, Porphyrius in the Third Century, and Julian the Emperor in the Fourth Century, attempted to discover in the Gospels, materials to dispute the Divinity of Christ, but they did not deny their authenticity. Moreover, the Gospels portray so exactly and correctly the religious and social status of Judea at that time, that only eye witnesses could have known and described the events related.

The next question is: are the Gospels intact? There are about 500 manuscripts of the Gospels dating from the time of Constantine the Great, to the 16th Century. All these manuscripts

even the most ancient, substantially agree among themselves, and with the numerous quotations made by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. Therefore, their integrity cannot be doubted. Nor can we doubt the truthfulness of the Gospels. Their writers were eye-witnesses of what they narrated, or learned the events from eye-witnesses worthy of belief. They had no intention of deceiving others for they had nothing to gain by it: and the truth of what they related, they sealed with their blood. They could not have deceived, even if they wanted to, because eye witnesses were alive in the opposing camp, the Jews, at the time the Gospels were written. It must therefore be admitted that the Gospels are documents of real historical value.

What do these documents say about Christ? They say that Christ was born of Mary, through the action of the Holy Ghost: that certain events of His Birth proclaimed His Divinity: that He spent 30 years in the obscurity of Nazareth: that during the three years of His public life He taught with authority, worked miracles, asserted His Divine Sonship and His Divinity, and proclaimed to all, that He was the Messiah, and the Redeemer of the world, and that the prophecies were fulfilled in Him. He chose 12 ordinary men to be His Apostles, gave them power over souls, taught them His Doctrine, gave them the Holy Ghost, instituted the Church and commissioned them to carry on His work of salvation and sanctification to the end of time. His enemies put Him to death, by crucifying Him on Calvary but on the third day, He rose from the grave by His own power, and for 40 days appeared to His Apostles and many others, individually and collectively, until He went up to Heaven in broad daylight, in the sight of a vast crowd of people.

Thus, the Christ as clearly proved by first rate historical documents, is no other than the Christ in whom we, the children of the Church, believe, whom we love, whom we worship, with whom we are united by Divine Grace, especially through the reception of Holy Communion, and whom we hope to see and enjoy in Heaven. This Christ is true God and true Man and His Church is the only true and infallible Church.

There are people outside the Church who admire the personality of Christ: they respect Him and call Him one of the greatest religious teachers. But they deny the Divinity of Christ, and repudiate the Church He founded, to teach His truths, and communicate His Grace. They even say, that Christ never considered Himself God, and if He did, that was only a passing thought, or a subconscious persuasion due to the respect others paid to Him. His disciples considered Him a great religious hero and posterity by a subtle psychological process, deified Him.

But what are the facts, as we can clearly gather from the Gospels? We find that Our Lord asserted His Divinity in unequivocal terms. His friends and enemies understood Him as stating so. When challenged He worked miracles to prove His contention. His enemies had to admit that He taught with authority, and even when He was in their hands, He was yet the Master.

## THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

### BY REV. DR. FULTON SHEEN

(CONDENSED)

#### Introduction:

Three elements conspire in the making of every great message: a pulpit, an audience, and a truth. These three were present in the two most notable messages in the life of Our Blessed Saviour. The pulpit of His first message was the mountain side; His audience, unlettered Galileans; His truth, the Beatitudes. The pulpit of His last message was the Cross; the audience, saints and sinners; the sermon was the Seven Last Words.

In the four thousand years of Jewish history, the dying words of only three are recorded: Israel, Moses and Stephen. In His goodness, Our Blessed Lord has left us His thoughts on dying. Every word He says from the pulpit of the Cross is set down for the purpose of an eternal publication and an undying consolation.

#### The First Word:

*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!*

It seems to be a fact of human psychology that when death approaches, the human heart speaks its words of love to those whom it holds closest and dearest. If Our Saviour spoke in a graduated order to those whom He loved most, then we may expect to find in His first three words the order of His love and affection. His first word went out to enemies: "Father, forgive them"; His second to sinners: "This day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise"; and His third to saints: "Woman, behold thy son." "Enemies, sinners, and saints—such is the order of Divine Love and Thoughtfulness.

The executioners standing at the foot of the Cross expected a cry, but not the kind of cry that they heard. Like some fragrant trees which bathe in perfume the very axe which gnashes them, the great Heart on the Tree of Love pours out a prayer of pardon and forgiveness: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." If they knew what a terrible crime they were committing by sentencing Life to death; if they knew what a perversion of justice it was to choose Barabbas to Christ; if they knew what they were doing and still went on doing it, unmindful of the fact that the very blood which they shed was capable of redeeming them, they would never be saved! It is not wisdom that saves: it is ignorance!

If we knew what a terrible thing sin was and went on sinning; if we knew how much mercy there was in the Sa-

crifice of Penance, and still refused to bend a humble knee to a hand that had the power to loose both in heaven and on earth; if we knew how much life there was in the Eucharist and still refused to take of the Bread which makes life everlasting, we should be lost! It is only our ignorance of how good God is that excuses us from not being saints! And there is only one real tragedy in life, that of not being saints.

His miracles, His doctrine, His prophecies and His Resurrection are unassailable facts, and prove His Divinity beyond doubt. His Apostles laid down their lives for Christ, the Son of the living God; and their immediate successors followed their example. Christians of every generation since then, have on their knees, had their profession of faith in the Divinity of Christ, repeating the words of St. Thomas, "My Lord and My God."

#### The Second Word:

*This day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise.*

Dismas, hangs on the cross at the right hand of Christ; he sees a Cross and adores a throne; he sees a condemned Man and invokes a King: "Lord, remember me when Thou shalt come into Thy Kingdom." "The only one outside the small group at the foot of the Cross to acknowledge Him as Lord of a Kingdom was a thief. And on that day when Herod and his whole court could not make Him speak, nor all the power of Jerusalem make Him step down from the Cross, He turns to a thief with a promise of Heaven.

It was the thief's last prayer, perhaps also his first. He knocked once, sought once, asked once, dared everything and found everything. Christ who was poor, dies rich. His escort into Heaven was a thief. May we not say that the thief died a thief, for he stole Paradise? What greater assurance is there in all the world of the mercy of God? Lost sheep, prodigal sons, broken Magdalens, penitent Peters, forgiven thieves! Such is the rosary of Divine forgiveness.

#### The Third Word:

*Woman, behold thy son.*

From the Cross, Our Saviour completes His last will and testament. He bequeaths the two treasures whom He loved above all others, Mary and John, to one another. "Woman!" It was the second Annunciation! "Behold thy son!" It was the second Nativity! Truly indeed, Mary who had brought forth her First-born without labour in the cave of Bethlehem, is undergoing the pains of child-birth, for she brings forth her second-born, John, in the labours of the Cross.

It was by the weakness and disobedience at the foot of the tree of Good and Evil that Eve lost the title of the Mother of the Living; it is at the foot of the tree of the Cross that Mary, by sacrifice and obedience, regained for us the title of the Mother of Men. What a destiny to have the Mother of God as my Mother and Jesus as my Brother!

#### The Fourth Word:

*My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?*

The fourth and fifth words betray the sufferings of the God-man on the Cross. The fourth word symbolizes the sufferings of man abandoned by God; the fifth word the sufferings of God abandoned by man.

It is a common remark that nature is indifferent to our griefs. But the sun refused to shine on the Crucifixion! Truly, all was darkness! He had given up His Mother and His beloved disciple, and now God seemingly abandons (Continued on Page 6)





In Memoriam

Elizabeth Saverimuttu

BORN 16TH APRIL 1921  
DIED 29TH MARCH 1943

Inserted by her sorrowing husband and children.

No. 1, St. Patrick's Road, Jaffna.

Church Calendar

MARCH 1947

FRI. ...28 Seven Dolours.  
SAT. ...29 S. Eustace.  
SUN. ...30 PALMS.  
MON. ...31 S. Guy.

APRIL 1947

TUES. ... 1 S. Hugh.  
WED. ... 2 S. Francis Paula.  
THURS. ... 3 HOLY THURSDAY.  
FRI. ... 4 GOOD FRIDAY.  
SAT. ... 5 HOLY SATURDAY.  
SUN. ... 6 EASTER.  
MON. ... 7 S. Epiphanius.  
TUES. ... 8 S. Dionysius.  
WED. ... 9 S. Mary of Egypt.  
THURS. ...10 S. Mechtildes.  
FRI. ...11 S. Leo.

The Catholic Guardian

MARCH 28TH 1947

CALVARY

Facts we are told are the power in credit in our modern world. Calvary presents us with a fact, a fact brutal enough to impress even the casual passer-by. Let us in all humility try to assess some of its more essential elements.

In the third chapter of St. John's Gospel the visit of Nicodemus to our Blessed Lord is narrated. Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night: he comes, a searcher after truth, a searcher bewildered by the failure of centuries of purely human speculation and depressed by the proved inadequacy of purely human efforts to help man in his striving to realize himself and attain to God. And as he sits on the earthen floor with the little flame-lamp etching the profile of the Master and as he listens, the scales fall from his eyes. He sees that thought, the finest thought is good—but it was not of much help to the Greeks: he sees that a high moral code is good—but yet, despite such a code, the Jews were not in much better case. Throughout the ages fine thought, high moral codes or both have proved insufficient to help man. Without something more, man is merely trying to lift himself in the air by tugging at his sandal straps. That something more is Life, a new Life, a rebirth, a rebirth from above, a spiritual rebirth. To become God-like, he must share the Divine Life and that Life is incarnate in the Superman beside him. 'I am the Life.' It is to impart that life, that Super-nature, that the Superman has come. And that Superman "must be lifted up, as the serpent was lifted up by Moses in the wilderness, so that those who believe in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." Then everything will be crystal clear. They will look upon the man whom they have

pierced and they shall mourn for him as one mourneth for an only son and they shall grieve over him.' (Zach. 12-10).

Realization comes to the man who meditates on Calvary, a multiple realization. A realization firstly of the heinousness of sin, of the terrible underworld in each of our souls. This is the work of sin when God coming on earth as one of ourselves, puts himself at our mercy. Sin is anti-God, it is deicidal. That is a fundamental realization.

But there is a second realization without which the first in isolation would be soul-paralysing. Calvary tells us in ineffable fashion of the mercy and love of God. When man was at his beastliest and most diabolical, that was the moment that God kept repeating—that is the sense of the Greek where the verb is in the imperfect 'Father forgive them, they know not what they do.' If man's outburst on Calvary can be forgiven and forgiven precisely because Calvary is the God-planned means of at-one-ment no one need despair.

There is a third realization, closely linked up with the second. The realization of the nature of sin has struck deep roots as is clear from the history of the human soul's groping after God. There is the fact of blood sacrifices groping after an expiation that should not be inadequate; man's sense of justice was feeling after an atonement that would satisfy the justice even of God. Such an atonement only Calvary offers. The gravity of an offence is measured by the dignity of the person offended and the value of an atonement is measured by the dignity of the person atoning. Thus in the context, if perfect justice is to be achieved in the atonement, such atonement must partake of the nature of the infinite and yet man who is the guilty party must be the atoner. These conditions are satisfied only by Christ's Sacrifice, the atonement of the God-man voluntarily taking upon Himself the sins of the world. No merely man-made or man-offered atonement will meet the needs of the case. 'The flesh profiteth nothing.'

The final realization is that of the Catholic whose faith makes him realize in the Mass the daily commemoration and re-enacting of Calvary. Every one of us therefore is daily learning the lessons and appropriating the fruits of Calvary. Every day begun in such an atmosphere and standing on such a spot is a day charged with Vision, Confidence, Generosity. 'It is the Mass that matters.'

Hours of Divine Service at the Cathedral

**PALM SUNDAY**  
5-30 A.M. Low Mass.  
7-15 A.M. Blessing of the Palms by His Lordship the Bishop, Procession and Mass.  
8-15 A.M. Low Mass.  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
5-15 A.M. Low Mass.  
7-00 A.M. Solemn High Mass, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, Mandatum or washing of the feet of twelve poor men.  
5-00 P.M. Stabat Mater.  
7-00 P.M. Stabat Mater.  
11-12 P.M. Holy Hour (Tamil).  
12-1 A.M. Holy Hour (Sinhalese).

GOOD FRIDAY

7-00 A.M. Veneration of the Holy Cross and Mass of the Precious Host. His Lordship the Bishop will officiate.  
8-30 A.M. Veneration and Way of the Cross.  
5-00 P.M. Carrying of the Cross.  
7-30 P.M. Crucifixion.

HOLY SATURDAY

6-30 A.M. Blessing of the Fire, Paschal Candle, Baptismal Font and Solemn High Mass.

EASTER SUNDAY

5-30 A.M. Low Mass.  
7-00 A.M. Solemn High Mass.  
8-30 A.M. Low Mass.  
5-00 P.M. Solemn Vespers, Sermon & Benediction.

At Our Lady of Refuge and At St. James'

Holy Week Services will also be held in both these Churches.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

5-30 A.M. High Mass, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose.  
8-00 P.M. Stabat Mater.  
11-12 P.M. Holy Hour.

GOOD FRIDAY & HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Services begin at 6 A.M.

Digest Doubly Distilled from Context

A Cloister is Not the Only Place for Contemplatives

'He's gone to heaven'. 'Poor man! I'm so sorry'. Remarks like that evoke pity in the listeners as if going to heaven were a tragedy. We shun the word heaven in our conversation as is it were unparliamentary. We forget the fact that we are all made for heaven and that heaven is our only and final goal. Instead of being scared by the mention of the word 'heaven' could we not be like the lady who said 'Heaven is within my heart'!

Really heaven ought to begin here. This life is as meaningless without relation to heaven as wealth is meaningless without relation to man. The way to enjoy heaven on earth is not so difficult as most people imagine. Heaven is mirrored in all things created. We have only to put ourselves in the proper attitude to see it all around us in the flowers, stars, seasons and in fact in the myriads of living and non-living objects. The proper attitude is the attitude of contemplation.

We enter the Church. We see the Vigil light twinkling before the Tabernacle. Bow before it and switch on the attitude of contemplation. There sits before you all the Majesty of Christ made Man, the Babe of Bethlehem, the Saviour of mankind, the Crucified, the Risen Conqueror of Death, the Beginning and the End.

See God in everything, everywhere, immanent, transcendent, omniscient, omnipotent. See yourself, so small, so great, made in the image of Himself, so loved that He died that you might live. Familiarize yourself with all that and you will familiarize yourself with the idea of heaven, Heaven really begins here.

This is the contemplative attitude and contemplation is the only way to journey to the stupendous attractiveness of heaven, to the perfect contemplation in heaven. We labour on earth to put to right God's earth without taking God into account, into our confidence. We are counting without our host. No wonder we fail. Our lives become a way of the cross and a heavy cross at that!

But follow the contemplative way and then the way of the cross becomes the way to the crown. Then in the light of glory we shall see the Infinite face to face. Then the life on earth which is no more than a flash blooms into the un fading lustre of the life eternal. The life for which our earthly flash is but a prelude and a preparation.

The ways of men are dangerously bordering on Satanism. That is the naked truth about men who plan the future of God's world without any reference to God or His Vicar. A con-

templative is proof against Satanism. A contemplative begins in time that work which will be his for all eternity. A cloister is not at all necessary to see God. Only a proper disposition is necessary. We are images of God. God sees us. If we are proper images let us see Him even as He sees us everywhere and everytime.

Rev. Fr. J.A. Francis, O.M.I.

Rev. Fr. John Antony Francis, O.M.I. hails from an ancient and God-fearing family that had contributed in many ways to the building of the present Cathedral. He was born in Singapore on the 7th of November 1921. His father Mr. M. P. Francis was the chief Store Keeper of Harper & Co. He was a good musician and was well-known in Jaffna for his munificence. He died early in life on March 24th 1926. Mrs. Elizabeth Francis, the mother was an exceptionally pious lady, whose sole concern was to bring up her children in the fear and love of God.

Father Francis received his primary education at the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna and did his secondary studies at St. Patrick's College. During his school career he was known for his religious inclinations. He was a member of St. Aloysius Confraternity of which he was the secretary for four years. After successfully matriculating he joined the Oblate Scholasticate at Borella in 1940 to prepare for his vocation. He was ordained priest on the 18th of March 1947 at St. Mary's Cathedral by the Bishop of Jaffna in the presence of a large gathering of priests, relatives and friends. His Lordship, after the ceremony congratulated the newly ordained priest and expressed the hope that parents would foster more vocations to the Priesthood, as missionaries were needed in the Diocese. On the following day he said his First Holy Mass, at St. Mary's Cathedral assisted by Rev. Fr. V. N. Tarcisius, O.M.I., while Rev. Fr. A. Gnanaprakasam preached on the 'Dignity of the Priesthood.' Immediately afterwards, the parishioners gathered in the Cathedral premises to congratulate the new priest and receive his blessing.

In the evening, a reception was held in his honour by his brother-in-law Mr. Jacob and Mrs. Jacob at their residence at which there was a large and distinguished assembly of the clergy and the Jaffna public. Tributes were paid by Mr. V. Joseph, President of the Diocesan Union, Very Rev. Fr. A. Gurusamy, O.M.I., the Oblate Superior, Very Rev. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O.M.I., Rector, St. Patrick's College and the Hon. Mr. A. Mahadava, M.S.C., Minister of Home Affairs.

Carroll on Mary

A call to each of us to implement individually the official act by which our Holy Father Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart and to give it its fullest significance of "an agreement with Our Blessed Lady whereby there is made over to her a donation of herself and all one's possession". This is Fr. O'Carroll's avowed climax in his new booklet "Consecration to the Immaculate Heart."

In working up to it, he uses references to history, doctrine, social morality and the technique of Catholic Action to an extent that makes his 90 page production a compact and complete treatise on the subject.

The author's declared aim was to achieve this conciseness while being clear as possible (Foreword). We can see the crowd of Catholic readers rise up to say he has succeeded brilliantly. A special point with Fr. O'Carroll is his idea that a helpful step towards living our consecration "would be to ENTHONE THE PICTURE of the Immaculate Heart of Mary alongside the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with a similar ritual (P. 71). This is sure to catch the eye of our watchful Sacred Heart Bureau (Jaffna) and win its practical support.

To create the necessary atmosphere the best means would be to give Fr. Carroll's booklet the widest circulation. (2/6 from Mercier Press-Cork, Eire).

Review by C. W. M. (Ceylon).



# A PROTESTANT TRIBUTE

BY J. V. CHELLIAH

I have spoken of Protestant Missionaries so far: Now I will speak of a Catholic Missionary at some length because he was from my boyhood an intimate friend. He was such a great missionary that a Catholic Bishop has called him "the Missionary"

When I was a pupil at Mr. Page's school at Manipay in the fourth standard there came into my class a lad by name Kanagaretnam who was golden-plexioned (as his name implied) with ruby ear-studs and golden bangles. Obviously he seemed to be from a well-to-do family. It was said that he had lost his father who was a Hindu in his infancy, that his mother was married to a Catholic and that he and his mother had embraced the Catholic faith. We were exactly of the same age. As regards religion we two were a sort of an island in the midst of Hindu classmates. Naturally we were drawn together, and our tastes strengthened the bond. There was a boy from Sanguvaly much older than ourselves, who was from an orthodox Hindu family, and who had an uncle who was philosophically inclined. We two used to have arguments with him, and what do you think were the subjects? We had the presumption to discuss such subjects as Rebirth, the Eternity of Souls, and Incarnation! Kanagaretnam was very precocious, and would lead the discussion on our side. Our Hindu School mates would stand around, and whenever we had the better of the argument, a big boy would use the *argumentum ad baculum* (Fr. GnanaPrakasas in his Tamil Logic calls it *சான்று கையாண்டு*), and would knock our heads. I may say here that this was the time in which there was a revival of Hinduism, and Arumuga Navalar's preaching aroused the Hindus to oppose Christianity. I remember my friend saying that he was resolved not to marry and devote himself to the defence of his religion. I was tickled by such a small boy talking about marriage and made fun of him for talking like a full grown man. So he dedicated himself to religious work from his boyhood! He kept his resolve unchanged throughout life.

Another circumstance we well remembered was the bad influence of some of our schoolmates who used to indulge in obscene talk. Only a few years ago he reminded me of this, and said that our minds would have been purer if we had not heard such conversation. I was astonished that a priest should say such a thing, but he maintained that such an unfortunate experience could not but have soiled our minds. When I look back I am surprised that he a member of the extreme right of the Christian Church, and I, a member of the extreme left, should have felt and stood together on the same platform. But we had a common enemy! As I will point out presently, we became aware of our differences later in life.

After a year or so we were separated, he going to St. Patrick's College, and I, to the Central school. Some years afterwards, I migrated to Jaffna College. I had lost sight of my friend, and all I heard was that he had passed the Railway Clerical Examination and gone into Government service, and later that he had resigned the position to study for orders. Then the early resolve of my friend flashed into my mind. In 1901 he became a Father in one sense and I, in another. Somehow or other we ran into each other by chance, and the old fires began to burst into flames, and ever after we met often, he visiting me in my home, and I calling at his hermitage. I would sometimes spend a whole day with him, and we would talk of the good old days. But a more frequent topic of conversation was our creeds. It was a wonder that two Christians who were in beliefs poles asunder could carry on a discussion on such very friendly terms. Only once did a spark fly when after discussing the ceremonies of the Catholic Church I said I preferred our Hindu superstitions to Roman superstitions. But straightaway I became cool, and we changed the subject.

I cannot say that Fr. GnanaPrakasas had left no impression on my mind. I must confess that I was a bibliolater and had no use for a Church. Conversation with the Father made me realize the need of a Church to interpret the Holy Scriptures. Generally speaking, the false ideas I had about the Catholic religion which I had been taught were knocked out of my head. For example, I was taught that Catholics were idolaters, that the priests would not allow people to read the Bible, that they trafficked in indulgences, and so on. What Fr. GnanaPrakasas did for me was to make me feel great respect for our Mother Church. In all my arguments with him I felt that when you grant the premises, the Catholic Church was nothing if not logical. But the premises - ay, there was the rub! Whether I made a similar impression on him and made him more sympathetic to our position, I cannot undertake to say. I rather think that he saw that we were not such bad fellows after all.

The zeal with which he established churches in various parts of Jaffna earned my admiration. But there was one thing that I did not like; the easy way with which he baptised ignorant people. I tackled him on the subject and was thoroughly vanquished. I heard of his establishing a church at Moolai and of the persecution he was undergoing. I went to him, and with some heat said: "You are disgracing our Lord by baptising any one and every one who comes to you with worldly motives." He asked me whether I understood the truths of the Christian religion fully. I had to answer in the negative. "How much of life powers is therein an infant? It has the spark of life in the mother's womb. Then it is nourished and trained to grow into its normal height. This is exactly what I am doing. These poor ignorant people know only one infinitesimal part of the truth about Christianity: that it regards all human beings as worthy in the sight of God, unlike Hinduism whose votaries treat these people as dirt beneath their feet. No doubt they do not understand the doctrines of our religion. They are only infants in whom resides this spark. I am, you see, (pointing to the eager people seated around him learning gospel truths) feeding these infants who will some day grow into the full stature of Christian manhood. I baptise them exactly as the new-born baby is admitted a member of the family". I beat a hasty retreat.

On another occasion I rallied him about his missing the greatest happiness in life: having children of one's own, and about being called Father when he had no children. He said "I have my children too. Whenever I go up the pulpit and see my converts, I feel exactly as you feel when you see your children. This is no figure of speech."

He would speak to me about the persecutions he underwent, and I could see his brave spirit and Christian patience. Once he was dragged to court in an infamous charge but he emerged from it unscathed. Sometimes even his own people misunderstood him; yet he would not be discouraged.

I know of no man in Jaffna of my generation who has poured from the Press so much literature as he has. He would always remember me and send me a copy of his work. As regards his scholarship the following is worth telling. When Fr. Heras, the noted archaeologist, came to Jaffna to see the Father he was not sure what the language was which he deciphered from the hieroglyphics at Mohonjo Daro. After seeing Fr. GnanaPrakasas he felt convinced that it was Tamil. The two priests were like two men tunnelling the same hill from opposite sides, one from the philological side and the other from the hieroglyphic side, and met plumb in the middle.

Now that he is gone the refrain from a hymn is constantly sounding in my ears:

Oh we stand on Jordan's Strand  
Our friends are passing over.

(Morning Star, March 14th 1947)

## Letters to the Editor

### A Letter and its Answer

#### The Fruits of Molly-Coddling

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you my child did not attend the play ground for the last six months. Therefore I am unable to pay the sports fees for the above reason. Thanking you.

Yours Faithfully,  
X. Y. Z.

Dear Sir,

The school spends Rs. 500-00 a year for games and sports. Whether a pupil attends or not, the expense is there, and funds have to be found. The Government allows a levy of 50 cts. a month indiscriminately from all pupils for that purpose.

Probably you have no radio, never travel by plane, and have no car, but you pay taxes to maintain the Radio Station, the airport at Ratmalana and the tarring of the roads. Kindly send a remittance at your earliest convenience.

Also remember that you have no school fees to pay. Is it not churlish to refuse 50 cts. a month to the school where you get so much for nothing?

Yours faithfully  
HEADMASTER.

### Old Boys Rally At St. Joseph's College Anuradhapura

On the 19th of March the Principal and members of the staff entertained a large gathering of the past pupils of St. Joseph's College Anuradhapura to a social. At this social it was unanimously resolved to form an Old Boys Union.

In reply to Fr. Principal's address Mr. P. B. Bulankulame M. S. C., thanked the Principal for evincing such a keen interest in the Old Boys of this institution. He confessed with pride that he was an old boy of this school though there were many others in the North Central Province. He paid a tribute to the present Principal for his great enthusiasm, and the pleasure with which he welcomed them all was certainly a sign of success for the association. He also referred to the good work done in the school by Mr. Chas Herat the Head Master for the last 15 years. Further more he exhorted all the old boys present and as well as absent to unify themselves and form into a lively body for fostering close association among themselves and affording guidance and help to their Alma Mater.

In his presidential address, he thanked them all for electing him their president. He wanted them all to take an active part and keep the enthusiasm with which they had come for the rally ever burning. Continuing, he said that for the last forty nine years the College has stood gallantly and served the needs of the Province practically alone. He thanked the Principal and members of the staff for having organised the rally.

Mr. M. Sivaramalingam, the secretary addressed the house on the association formed. He wanted the old boys to co-operate with him in making the association a success, and not allow it like many an association to spring up one day and die the next day. He assured the members that he would do his best for the progress of the association. He also took the opportunity to remind them that next year 1948 their Alma Mater was to celebrate her golden jubilee. She has done her best for the N. C. P. in the production of citizens that are a pride to the land in which they serve. Hence they must endeavour to celebrate with great zest the golden jubilee of the institution. The following office bearers were elected:

Patron Rev. Fr. B. Deogupillai M.S. Ap. President Mr. P. B. Bulankulame M. S. C. Vice Presidents. Messrs M. Seneayake, Mubandram Gunsekera. Hony. Secretary, Mr. M. Sivaramalingam. Hony. Treasurer Mr. R. V. Kandasamy Committee: Messrs. T. B. Galgamuwa, P. B. Munasinghe. W. F. Wijeratne, D. D. Lanarolle A. Salgado and S. T. Philips.

## OBITUARY

MR. M. BASTIAMPILLAI

It is with very deep regret that we record here the death of Mr. M. Bastiampillai beloved husband of the late Ignatiapillai whose demise was announced a few weeks back, and father of Revd. Fr. B. Deogupillai, M.S. Ap., Rector of St. Joseph's College, A'pura and of the Revd. Sister Mary Emilie of Myliddy Convent. After a brief illness at his residence in Karampan he breathed his last on Saturday the 15th night fortified by the last comforts of our Holy Religion and surrounded by his many children, grand-children, sons and daughters-in-law. He was 75 when he died.

The deceased was a very kind hearted man and a daily attendant at Mass during the last few years of his life. The loss of his eldest grand-daughter in January last and his beloved wife in February were blows more than he could endure, and was responsible for his early death.

The funeral took place on Sunday the 16th evening and was attended by about 18 priests and a very large gathering of relations, friends and acquaintances of the deceased. Revd. Fr. B. Deogupillai conducted the funeral service while the Very Revd. Fr. G. A. Gurusamy, O.M.I., performed the last rites at the grave.

He leaves behind Messrs. B. Santhiapillai, Sacristan of St. Sebastian's Church, Karampan, B. Mariampillai, B. Anthonipillai, B. Manueppillai of the P.W.D., Negombo and two daughters besides his priest son and nun daughter and a host of grand-children, sons and daughters-in-law to bemoan his loss.

R. I. P.

MR. B. M. LOPIAH

The death occurred on Monday the 24th inst. of Mr. B. M. Lopiath at his residence St. Patrick's Road. He had been ailing and confined to his sick bed for some months. At the moment of his death he was 78 years of age. He died a happy death, fully prepared and resigned to the Will of God, and fortified by the rites of the Church.

The funeral took place on the following day and was very largely attended. There were over a dozen priests present. Revd. Fr. James, the Parish Priest of the Cathedral officiated. This large gathering was in itself a fitting testimony to the exemplary Catholic life which the late Mr. Lopiath led.

Revd. Fr. Santiago made a touching reference to his simple, humble life and to the noble apostolate in which he was engaged during his long life—a life spent in making church-bells, candlesticks, candles, and in the diffusion of prayer books, hymnals and literature. He referred to his unassuming and deeply humble life and exhorted those present to imitate him. In all he said and did he was scrupulously honest.

He was a descendant of Kantha-Kulothunga Mudaliyar and hailed from St. Antony's parish of Mathagal. Besides his wife, he leaves behind many relatives, among whom are his brother Mr. B. Soosaipillai Pulavar, late of the "Catholic Guardian" Press, Jaffna, and his nephew, Mr. B. M. Joseph Ponrajah, of St. Benedict's College, Colombo.

May his soul rest in peace.

## COFFEE

Tenders will be received by the undersigned at the Jaffna Kachcheri up to 12 noon on Tuesday 8th April, 1947 for the purchase of about sixty two (62) cwts. of Coffee. Tended price should not be less than Rupees one hundred (Rs. 100) per cwt.

2. The Coffee may be inspected at the Subsidiary Foodstuffs Store, Bankshall Street, Jaffna.

3. The successful tenderer will be required to deposit the purchase price within a week from the date of acceptance of his offer.

4. Tenders should be made on approved forms which will be issued on production of a receipt for a deposit of Rs. 50 from Shroff Kachcheri, Jaffna.

M. SRIKHANTA,  
for Govt. Agent, N.P.

The Kachcheri,  
Jaffna, 20th March, 1947.



## A Doctor on Spain

"Any of you who know my voice will accept the fact that I am alive, I say that because on the eve of my leaving London an M. P. told me that if I went to Spain I would be shot. I asked if the Reds were going to shoot me. 'No,' he said, 'but Franco will shoot you.' Thus spoke Dr. Halliday Sutherland, writer, lecturer and physician, on the Madrid Radio. "General Franco told me, this morning, that the best way to remove misconceptions would be to have a frequent interchange of visits, by all classes—and be accentuated 'all'—to both countries. It was the Communists who sent me to Spain. I happened to be in one of the industrial suburbs of Birmingham when a Communist loudspeaker van overtook me in the street. It was blaring: 'Franco must go. Franco has a great German army in Spain waiting to attack Europe, Franco is hiding Hitler. Franco is making atomic bombs. Franco must go.' These words aroused my anger, because the Communists, whose only allegiance is to a foreign Power, were flaunting their contempt for the intelligence of British manual workers by expecting such lies to be believed. When I accepted the Spanish Government's invitation, I made two conditions—that I should be free to go wherever I liked and talk to anyone I chose. These conditions have been observed. I came to Spain as a friend, I have been treated as an honoured guest, I have motored the length and breadth of the country.

"You cannot live in Spain, or in any country, for three months without finding matter for criticism, but when I return to England I shall make no criticism that I have not already made here. In Britain we have freedom of speech and no British subject can really appreciate what that means until he or she has lived in a country such as Spain, where, for the moment, that freedom is curtailed. Nevertheless, let us be fair. In the streets of Birmingham that Communist van did no obvious harm. Here

in Spain it would have provoked a riot. The temperament of the two nations is totally different. The Spaniard is intensely individualist. Before the Civil War there were more than 20 political parties. There were even two Communist parties: one pro-Spanish, the other pro-Soviet. The Spanish temperament demands strong government."

### ADHERENCE TO FRANCO

"I have spoken to republicans bitterly opposed to the restrictions of the present regime," continued Dr. Sutherland, "but when I asked what alternative they had in mind, they answered: 'None. There is none. Only time.' These men told me that Giral and his associates could only return to Madrid over the dead bodies of Republicans and Monarchists alike. The Spaniard knows that Franco saved Spain from Communism. In years to come, historians may decide that he saved Europe.

"I have visited ten Spanish prisons, two of them at literally a moment's notice. My visits lasted from two to three hours, according to the number of prisoners who wished to speak to me alone and in English. I ask you to believe that in no Spanish prison are men either beaten or tortured. It is true that some were ill-treated by the police before they reached prison, and third-degree methods are as reprehensible in Spain as in, say, New York. Such comparisons are necessary so long as it is assumed that Spain is the only country where everything is not perfect.

"Before I left Spain I received a letter from an Andalusian lady who said: 'With regard to your visit to Spain, I hope that you, as an intelligent and sincere man, will proclaim the wishes of all good Spaniards that frequent, or even, if possible, daily visits should be made without warning, so that the world may know how we live and how our country, thanks to our Caudillo, is becoming greater.'

This is a picture of Spain different to that which is drawn by the daily press with materials derived from Russian propaganda.—(Examiner 15th Mar. 47.)

## SUN ' LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

(Incorporated in Canada in 1865 as a limited Company)

HEAD OFFICE:—MONTREAL.

BRANCH OFFICE:—Lloyd's Buildings, Fort, Colombo

The LARGEST purely LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY within the BRITISH EMPIRE, with Branches all over the world.

OUR ASSETS EXCEED £260,000,000/- Sterling.

The following types of policies are available from us:—

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Endowment Policies                    | (2) Marriage Dowry Policies |
| (3) Educational Policies                  | (4) Family Income Policies  |
| (5) Pension or Retirement Income Policies | (6) Three Stage Policies    |

The "Sun Life of Canada" Policy-Contract is by far the BEST POLICY-CONTRACT that any Life Assurance Company can offer to its Policy-holders.

Our Policy-Contract incorporates all the BEST & LATEST FEATURES in Life Assurance, thereby giving every single policy-holder of ours the maximum possible benefits and facilities at the minimum possible cost.

Write now for particulars, or contact me if possible, at "INDRA VASA," HOSPITAL ROAD, JAFFNA.

My Colombo Address: P. O. Box 28, Colombo.

R. WIJAYA INDRA,  
Agent.

## EAGLE STAR

Insurance Company Ltd., London.

One of the Strongest Companies in the World.

### BUSINESS TRANSACTED

MOTOR VEHICLE (all classes) MARINE, FIRE, FIDELITY GUARANTEE, BURGLARY, THEFT AND/OR LOSS OF CASH IN TRANSIT ETC.

Chief Agents:—J. Cherubim & Brother, Jaffna

## CHEMISTS

# Over 50 Years

IN THE DRUG AND DISPENSING TRADE!

## PURITY ACCURACY and RELIABILITY

ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH WE ENDEAVOUR AT ALL COSTS TO MAINTAIN, AND TO THOSE OF OUR CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, WE SHOULD SAY—SEND US YOUR ORDERS.

THE BENEFIT OF THIS CONSOLIDATED EXPERIENCE IS NOW AT YOUR SERVICE

DISPENSARY OPEN AT ALL HOURS

# The Jaffna Apothecaries Co.

CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS SINCE 1890

J  
A  
F  
F  
N  
A  
  
A  
P  
O  
T  
H  
E  
C  
A  
R  
I  
E  
S

J  
A  
F  
F  
N  
A  
  
A  
P  
O  
T  
H  
E  
C  
A  
R  
I  
E  
S



**LOCAL & GENERAL**

**Our Press** will be closed for Easter Holidays from the afternoon of Wednesday the 2nd inst. till Easter Monday the 7th inclusive and there will be no issue of "The Catholic Guardian" on the 4th inst. Work will begin as usual on Easter Tuesday.

**Sacred Heart Confraternity** (Senior Branch).—The monthly meeting of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, S.P.C. (Senior Branch) was held on Sunday the 23rd inst. at 5-30 p.m. at St. Patrick's College. The Very Revd. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O.M.I., presided. Fr. President moved a vote of condolence on the demise of the Very Revd. Fr. P. M. Francis, O.M.I., Revd. Fr. S. Gnana-Prakasara, O.M.I. and Chevalier Philip Moses, J.P. It was seconded by Mr. T. Bartholomew S. M. W. and passed in the usual manner.

Mr. J. A. V. Sylvester delivered a lecture on "Fortifying the Layman." Mr. J. C. Segarajasinghe proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer seconded by Mr. P. J. Constantine. Fr. President congratulating him, spoke at length on the letter of the Delegate Apostolic on the Legion of Mary which appeared in the last issue of the "Catholic Guardian."

**The Third Order of St. Francis.**—The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 5-00 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 31st of March, 1947. Plenary Indulgences can be gained in April on these dates:—4, 16, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 30 and also on Monday Thursday and Easter Sunday. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions. General Absolution may be received on every day of the Holy Week.

**March Feast at Madhu.**—The Church of Our Lady of Madhu drew more than 6,000 pilgrims for the March festival which was concluded on the 16th inst. All arrangements for the convenience of the pilgrims were meticulously seen to by the Rev. Fr. Brohan, O.M.I., the Parish Priest. His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna was present and officiated at the High Mass on Sunday the 15th inst. Rev. Father S. Emmanuel, O.M.I., of Anuradhapura preached a stirring sermon on the Feast Day and a candle light procession to the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes brought the festivities to a close.

**Late Rector and Leader Extolled.**—Speaking from the Presidential chair of the 17th annual general meeting of the Catholic Diocesan Union Dewan Bahadur I. X. Pereira said that the late Rev. Fr. M. J. LeGoc disproved the common saying that no man was indispensable. Referring to the leader of the State Council he described Mr. D. S. Senanayake as the people's man and added that with his varied experience and sincerity of purpose, he would lead Lanka and her people to her appointed destiny.

**The Vicar-General.**—Very Rev. Fr. J. Emilianus Pillai, O.M.I., Vicar-General and General Manager of R. C. Schools who has been in India on medical advice has returned to his duties in the Diocese. He looks completely recovered.

**Extended Term for Urbana Council.**—The life of the present Urban Council for Jaffna has been extended by one year since the Bill consolidating the law relating to Municipal Councils is not likely to become law till May 1947. The new Municipality will be constituted from January 1, 1949. The other towns to have Municipalities are Nuwara Eliya and Kurunegala. The term of these Urban Councils will also be extended.

**Personal.**—We are happy to learn that Mr. M. Jacob 1st Class Trained Teacher and Tamil Pundit, St. Patrick's College has been appointed Asst. Headmaster of the College. Mr. Jacob has been connected with the College for over 40 years both as a student and teacher.

**Food Front.**—The rice ration will be cut by half at the beginning of April if the expected stock of 8,000 tons of rice does not come from Burma. The usual ration will be issued this week in the hope that the Burma rice will arrive by the end of the month.

**Fisheries Advisory Board.**—His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. Veeragathipillai Suppiah J.P. of Tondamannar as an unofficial member of the Fisheries Advisory Board.

Mr. Suppiah who was the first President of the Jaffna Peninsula Maritime Association and a nominated member of the Jaffna Urban Council is today the President of the Malayan Ceylonese Association Jaffna.

**A Public Lecture.**—Under the auspices of the Literature Committee of the Jaffna Catholic Diocesan Union, Rev. Fr. B. Wm. Jesuthasan, O.M.I., Director, C. W. M., Jaffna Branch will deliver a lecture on "The Holy Mass" in the Catholic Club on Sunday 30th inst. at 5-30 p.m. The lecture will be illustrated by charts. All are welcome.

**Sudden Death of Catholic Priest.**—Very Revd. Fr. M. Gunasekera, O.M.I., Parish Priest of Tudella died suddenly at the Archbishop's House, Borella. Fr. Gunasekera worked hard to welcome a newly ordained priest from his Parish and after the ceremony he was taken ill suddenly. While he was being removed to the General Hospital his condition became worse and he was taken to the Archbishop's house where he died soon after. His body was removed to Pamunugama, his birthplace for interment. The remains were kept in state at the Tudella church for his parishioners to pay their respects to their devoted pastor. R. I. P.

**St. Joseph's Feast.**—The Feast of St. Joseph was celebrated with the customary *eclat* by the boys of St. Joseph's College, Anuradhapura. In the morning Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Principal and the evening was occupied with sports and a tea party.

**Pan-Asian-Conference.**—This historic conference opened its sessions at the Old Fort of Delhi. Representatives from practically all the important Asiatic countries are taking part in its deliberations without any "aggressive or acquisitive designs against one another." Mrs. Sarojini Naidu opened the Conference on the 22nd inst. and Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru addressed a gathering of over 10,000 on the 23rd inst.

**U. N. P. Rally at Ratuapura.**—The United Nationalist Party held a Rally at Ratuapura at which Mr. A. F. Molamure called upon Mr. D. S. Senanayake the leader of the party to occupy the chair. "Mr. Senanayake is the fittest person to steer the ship of state in a careful and safe manner," said Mr. Molamure.

**Kandy to be Called Mahanuwara.**—The Municipal Council of Kandy has unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that Kandy shall hereinafter be called Mahanuwara.

**Coal Crisis and Drug Shortage.**—Consequent on the fuel crisis in England British pharmaceutical works have suffered retardation in their usual output. The arrival of many medical necessities for Ceylon will be delayed for at least six months. Mr. Geo. E. E. de Silva, Minister of Health, however, assures us that Ceylon need have no alarm regarding medical supplies in Government Hospitals. "England is not the only source of supply" he said. "We can get what we want from India, Australia and America."

**Hooliganism at a Public Meeting.**—A certain amount of undesirable hooliganism, shouting down the speakers, and a mild attempt at stone throwing manifested itself at a meeting held at Ariyalai for the purpose of explaining why the Tamils should join the United Nationalist Party. The conveners of the meeting carried their programme through. Tactics of this sort defeat their purpose and already a marked revulsion of feeling has manifested itself.

**Tamil Concert by the Western Province Schools.**—A successful Tamil Concert was staged at St. Joseph's College, Colombo by the various Tamil schools scattered throughout the Province on Saturday the 22nd inst. Dr. Jan Sandeman, the Director of Education who was present at the concert as its Patron spoke in high praise of the performances put on the boards. They included oriental dances, koladdams and scenes from plays. Mr. K. Krishnapillai, District Inspector thanked the Director for his presence and patronage, the Asst. Inspectors and the authorities

of the various schools for their kind help and co-operation.

**Infection from Ceylon?**—The S. S. L. C. examination which was begun on the 18th inst. throughout 500 centres of the Madras Presidency had to be cancelled on account of the widespread leakage of examination papers. Altogether 43,800 students sat for this examination. It's catching!

**Compensation for Requisitioned Properties.**—It has been felt that the compensation paid by the military authorities for derequisitioned properties has been inadequate and that there was inordinate delay in making these payments. The Board of Ministers has, therefore, protested to the Imperial authorities.

**The Patrician Teachers' Silver Jubilee.**—As announced in our last issue the students of St. Patrick's College had their function to honour the Jubilarians on Thursday the 20th inst. at 4 p.m. Eight illuminated addresses were read and presented, one to each of the Jubilarians. The addresses bespoke the sterling qualities of each Jubilarian as they struck the student mind. The assessment of the masters by the boys was a splendid testimony to the principle that group thinking can never be wrong.

The reply of the masters was again a testimony to the paternal solicitude the teachers of St. Patrick's extend to their charges.

**American Nursing Sisters at the Kandy Hospital.**—As a result of the visit of His Lordship the Right Revd. Dr. D. B. Regno, O.S.B. to the United States two nursing sisters from Maryknoll U. S. A. are coming to Kandy to study the conditions of service at the Kandy Hospital with a view to entering the nursing service there.

**S. S. C. Candidates Need have no Fears.**—Dr. Ian Sandeman, Director of Education through the *Times of Ceylon* assured the 9,500 candidates who took up the S. S. C. Examination in Dec. 1946 that the irregularities in the compilation of the individual marks scored have been promptly rectified and that no one need fear victimisation.

**The Highest Salary in the Empire.**—The salary of His Excellency, the Viceroy is the highest in the British Empire. It is even higher than the salary of the President of the U. S. A. Excluding sumptuary allowances which are on a generous scale the basic salary approximates to Rs. 30,000 a month.

**Fr. Beschi's Portrait Unveiled at the Annamalai University.**—Under the auspices of the Tamil Department, a portrait of Father Beschi was unveiled in the Convocation Hall of the Annamalai University. The painting is the work of Mr. Rodriguez of Bombay, and is a gift made to the University by His Lordship Bishop Roche of Tuticorin.

Dr. A. Chidambaram Chettiar, Professor of Tamil, who presided, said that Beschi's greatest contribution was his translation into Latin of the "Thirukural", which enabled the West to understand something of the greatness of Tamil and made its German and English translations possible. Mr. R. P. Kulandai of Coimbatore who is a specialist in Beschi's works, and who is undertaking an English translation of his great epic, spoke on the merits of the "Thembavani" and compared it with other Tamil epics. In the course of his lecture he remarked that he had not heard of a single Catholic institution that had unveiled a portrait of Beschi in connection with the second centenary of the poet, and that it was significant that Annamalai University should give the lead.

While thanking the donor, Revd. Fr. Thaninayagam remarked that no language could boast of literary classics expressive of so many different religious beliefs as Tamil, and that in Beschi, the main streams of European and South Indian thought met in happy confluence.

It was evident from the speeches at the meeting that Beschi is more critically studied by non-Catholics than Catholics, and that Catholics have done very little to make others familiar with the Catholic contribution to the Tamil letters. It is to be hoped that Catholic institutions in Tamil Nad will promote greater interest in Beschi and other Catholic writers.

**Nuns' Work on Daily Press.**—Visitors to the offices of "La Liberté," Catholic daily newspaper of Fribourg, Switzerland, are surprised to find that nuns execute all work in the composing room. Though the rotary press and editorial work is done by a lay staff, the Sisters of St. Paul man the monotype and linotype machines as well as coping with ordinary hand-composing. There are five such Orders throughout Switzerland. The Sisters are extremely happy at the work, although they never see the fruits of it in actual print.

**"France for God."**—Members of a missionary movement, which started in Lourdes in 1943, and which is pledged to bring back the whole of France to God, have now enlisted ten million people in a campaign of prayer and penance, travelled 60,000 miles, and visited 12,000 parishes.

A group of the members who recently walked from France to Rome were received by the Holy Father, who called their work "abundant and magnificent" and encouraged them to persevere "along the royal road of the Cross."

**New Era of Development for Catholic Missions in Japan.**—Partial reports covering the year ending last June indicate that the new era for the Catholic missions in Japan is a reality, although there is no sign of hasty or mass conversions. In the Archdiocese of Tokyo, 2,600 persons are reported to be under instruction, compared with only 497 in the last pre war years; in the diocese of Asaka, 1,023 persons are taking instruction, compared with 346 in 1941. Atom-bombed Nagasaki, where only 99 persons were preparing for baptism five years ago now has 2,564, while Hiroshima has 470, against 250 in 1941.

**A Potent Remedy.**—"Do you believe in clubs for Women"? A friend once asked W. C. Fields. "Yes," replied Fields "if every other form of persuasion fails."—British Columbia Digest.

**Do You Know Series XXII of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE**

1. Who was the first Evangelist to write a Gospel?
2. What does the word Emmanuel mean?
3. Who were the scribes?
4. What was St. Matthew by profession?
5. What do you know of the Azymes?
6. Why was the eve of the sabbath called the day of preparation?
7. Who converted St. Luke?
8. Who was the beloved disciple of Christ?
9. Who was the Apostle chosen in place of Judas?
10. What was St. Luke by profession? (For Answers See Below)

**Do You Know Series XXII**

1. St. Matthew.
2. God with us.
3. They were the doctors of the law of Moses.
4. He was a tax gatherer.
5. It was the Feast of the unleavened bread.
6. Because on that day, the Jews prepared all things necessary not being allowed so much as to dress the meat on the sabbath day.
7. St. Paul.
8. St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist.
9. Mathias.
10. He was a physician.

**Vacancies—Supdt. of Food Control Guards**

Applications are invited for one post of Supdt. of Food Control Guards. The post is temporary and non-pecuniary and carries a salary of Rs. 105 per mensem plus war allowance. Candidates should have been educated at least up to the I.S.C. (English) Standard and must be over 30 years of age. Applications accompanied by copies of two recent certificates of Character from responsible persons, close on 30-3-47. Applicants should state their place of birth. Applications should not be addressed to me personally.

M. SRIKHANTA,  
for Deputy Food Controller,  
The Kachcheri (Emergency),  
Jaffna, 19th March, 1947.



# HISTORY BEHIND THE NEWS

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Democracy is essentially English; it thrives best in English soil. The imitations lumped under the term 'Western Democracies' like hot-house ferns are hybrids bearing only a slight resemblance to the parent plant. Like everything English the British Constitution is the result of a series of compromises and makeshifts. When there is a war to be won the English revel in mud and, with equally cheerful doggedness, in muddle when the peace is lost. They have no belief—in belief! Except when their freedom is assailed they will not shed their blood for the copy book maxims which make peoples in other lands see red. And no other people in the world will pack up their troubles in an old kit-bag and smile! That the British Constitution does flourish is a miracle—a tribute to English character. The rest of the world can only envy but not emulate the English and their excellent instrument of Government. In their hands it spells tragedy; as the English use it, it is a hilarious comedy.

Hitler misjudged the English; he was misled by Chamberlain's umbrella and the nation's prayer "for peace in our time." The umbrella was quickly furled and put away; the dangerous animals in the Zoo were destroyed; the communists and anarchists developing their theories under the benign care of the London land-ladies or interviewing the Dean of Canterbury and Bernard Shaw, were put behind bars, and the whole country was ready to defend Britain. Churchill was recalled from the political wilderness to lead a National Government. Conservatives, Liberals and Labourites like the Lion and the Lamb listening to Orpheus' flute camouflaged their distinctive characteristics and stood united for a common purpose. Dr. Temple the Archbishop of Canterbury made a speech which sounded like a Communist Manifesto insisting that the Banks must be nationalised and that there should be more equal distribution of wealth and land—after the war! The Liberal Beveridge issued his Report by which no man need ever again starve or fall ill without medical aid or grow old in a detestable work house or be denied a decent burial when he died. The Soviet had nothing like these to offer, and most surprising of all the British Conservative party worked hard to usher in this millennium.

## NOW THE COMEDY

When the war was over the Coalition collapsed and the Labour party was set the task of practising what the Conservatives professed so loudly during the war. They are now His Majesty's Opposition. But committed to past engagements, a considerable amount of which was actually inspired by enthusiastic Conservative members, they have to content themselves with feeble criticisms and protests when measures which they now intensely detest are carried through Parliament by their erstwhile stable mates, without carrying them to the Division Lobby. On the other hand Conservative fear that the Government will go Red are without foundation. Labour 'rebel' amendments attacking U.K. foreign policy and defence have received short shrift; the extremists are merely a nuisance but Labour is British to the core. Stalin's pay roll is not likely to yield large dividends. The Trade Unions are the creations of the Labour Party, and strikes were its normal procedure for embarrassing the Government. Now strikes give the Labour Government a fright. They discovered that the strikes were well organized and had intimate contacts with leaders in other trades and were able to extend the strikes day by day with the result that strikes extended long after the original dispute was settled. But the Union chiefs closely allied to the Party are following a policy of damping down demands to give their party a chance. How long this will work is not clear for the rank and file are not so considerate! But why worry? Sometime, somehow, some compromise will avert the threatened disaster! The Liberal Party died with Lloyd George; the few who joined the National Government were overshadowed by the Labour team. If a resurrection is not possible it is not for want of trying. The Heroes of the War—Alexander and

Montgomery—were both thought of as possible leaders if not for their intrinsic political abilities. At least for their popularity both with the armed forces and the people; but the country which preferred Atlee to Churchill to plan the peace was not likely to confuse the issues. So that inspite of the few Liberals and other nondescripts the Government of Britain, for all intents and purposes, is a two party Government. Every child born during the next two decades will be either a Conservative or a Labourite!

In the United States more than in Britain the debacle of the Conservative Party at the General Elections was bewildering and inexplicable. American Democracy could not imagine how it could team up with British Labour. This swing to the Left, will it end with a straight left to the jaw of Capitalism so beloved by Wall Street? But the Republicans need not have worried. In Britain the Socialist of today is the Capitalist of tomorrow; worth and push is sure to acquire wealth and sit in the House of Lords. The heroic defenders of Stalingrad must have their ceremonial sword from the King but Britain will have none of their politics.

How much the United States is concerned about the growth of Communism is seen by the answer of the Acting Secretary of State in the House of Representatives to a question by Representative W.A. Judd on Friday the 21st inst. "I understand" said Judd, "our major reason for proposing this legislation [to implement President Truman's programme for aid to Greece and Turkey] is our belief that it would be dangerous to the security of the United States to have Communist dominated Governments in Greece and Turkey. Is this correct?" Mr. Acheson replied, "It is correct." A few days ago Premier Attlee secured a similar vote for the same purpose from the House of Commons. Mr. Acheson further agreed that the Yalta, Teheran and Potsdam agreements "did not have the same force and were not as binding in peace time as during the war." Which meant that the President did not have the same power now as he had during the war to make agreements with the force of treaties. Should there be long delay in the Congress sanctioning aid to Greece, the collapse of the Greek Government would be inevitable—a contingency which Stalin is praying for—if he prays at all.

## THE DENAZIFICATION

of the British Zone in Germany has revealed another muddle. Hitler's Nazification was carried out with such characteristic German thoroughness that almost all the efficient and experienced Germans are Nazis. These have been removed but no efforts have been made, as the Russians have done, to replace the lost elite with another of an acceptable mood and mind. But the British complain that the Germans are inefficient! This complaint will sound familiar to Ceylon and Indian ears! Now Mr. Bevin has announced his Plan for a Central Administration in Germany "envisaging the ultimate formation of a Republican form of Government." How familiar! How true to type! The British have set themselves up as the Constitution Makers for the rest of the world. They can be trusted to turn out Constitutions more or less like their own when the House of Lords possessed the power of veto. There is bound to be a snag somewhere which will provide employment for Diplomats for a decade or two during which the whole edifice will be taken down piece by piece before it gives place to another and more complicated structure! What Comrade Stalin has to say about it is not known yet. Any way it is bound to be equally interesting—to the Germans!

## TENDER NOTICE

The Government Agent, Northern Province, Jaffna will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Friday April 11th, 1947 for the construction of a Masonry Regulator on the outlet Channel and strengthening the bund of Periya Chemman Tank in the Kopay Village. Tenders should be made on form obtainable from Govt. Agent, N.P., on a deposit of Rs. 50 for each form. Further particulars may be had from him.

# The Seven Last Words

(Continued from Page 1)

Him. This pain and desolation He suffered for each of us, that we might know what a terrible thing it is for human nature to be without God. It was the supreme act of atonement for those who abandon God, and those who doubt the presence of God. It was the Divine Act of Redemption for all abandonment of God, for in that moment in which He was forgotten, He purchased for us the grace of never being forgotten by God. It was the reparation for all the questions of a doubting world: "Why is there evil?"... "Why does God not answer my prayers?"... "Why did God take away my mother?"... "why"... and the reparation for all those queries was made when God asked a "why" of God.

## The Fifth Word:

*I thirst.*

Out from the depths of the Sacred Heart there wells through parched lips one awful word, "I thirst!" He asks man, a piece of His own handiwork, for a drink. Not a drink of earthly water, but a drink of love.

If we would know how much God has loved us! Love means to give, and that is Creation. Love means to tell secrets to the one loved, and that is Revelation. Love means to suffer for the one loved, and that is Redemption. Love means also to become one with the one loved, and that is the Eucharist. Love wishes also to be eternally united with the one loved, and that is Heaven. Certainly, love has exhausted itself. Yet, why do we let the Divine Heart die of thirst for human hearts?

## The Sixth Word:

*It is consummated.*

From all eternity God willed to make man to the image of His eternal Son. The revolt of Lucifer echoed to earth, and the image of God in man was blurred and ruined. The Heavenly Father, in His Mercy, willed to send on earth His Divine Son, that the earth might see once more the manner of man God wanted us to be. In the accomplishment of this task, only Divine Omnipotence could use the elements of defeat as the elements of victory. The same three things which co-operated in our fall shared in our Redemption. For the disobedient man, Adam, there was the obedient man, Christ; for the proud woman, Eve, there was the humble virgin, Mary; for the tree of the garden, there was the tree of the Cross. The Redemption was now complete. And with the joy of the strong He utters the song of triumph: "It is finished."

Yes, His work is finished, but is ours? He stands at the door and knocks, but the latch is on the inside, and only we can open it.

## The Seventh Word:

*Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit.*

Christ, the Prodigal Son, is returning to His Father's house. Thirty-three years ago He left His Father's eternal mansion and went off into the foreign country of this world. Then He began spending Himself and being spent; dispensing with an infinite prodigality the divine riches of power and wisdom, and bestowing with a heavenly liberality the divine gifts of pardon and mercy. In this last hour His whole substance is wasted among sinners, for He is giving the last drop of His precious blood for the redemption of the world. There is nothing to feed upon except the husks of human sneers and the vinegar and gall of human ingratitude. He now prepares to take the road back again to His Father's house, and as yet some distance away He breaks out into the last and perfect prayer from the Pulpit of the Cross: "Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit."

## Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.  
In the matter of the Estate and effects of Thirumankalam wife of Nava-

Printed and Published for the Proprietor by BASTIAMPILLAI SANTIAGO PILLAI at his office at 3, 9, Main Street, Jaffna, at St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Catholic Mission Premises Main Street, Jaffna, on Friday the 28th March, 1947.

ratnam late of Karainagar west.  
Deceased.  
Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 670  
Sithamparappillai Navaratnam of Karainagar west.  
Vs.  
1. Ambalavanar Rajaratnam of Karainagar west.  
2. Ambalavanar Gobalpillai of do  
3. Ambalavanar Thirunavukkarasu of do  
Minor's } 4. Savupakkim daughter of Ambalavanar of do  
5. Saraswathy daughter of Ambalavanar of do

Respondents.  
This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esqr., District Judge of Jaffna, on the 21st day of February 1947 in the presence of Mr. P. Casipillai Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner dated 18th February 1947 having been read:

It is ordered that the abovenamed 1st Respondent be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the abovenamed minor's the 3rd 4th and 5th Respondents and that Letters of administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner unless the Respondents or others shall appear before this Court on or before the 31st day of March 1947 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary. The 1st Respondent is further ordered to appear in person before this Court on the 31st day of March 1947 and to bring the said minor's 3rd 4th and 5th Respondents to Court on the said date.

This 21st day of February 1947.  
Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,  
District Judge.

## GUARDIAN SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	English.	Tamil.	Eng. & Tamil
Yearly	6-50	5-50	10-50
Half Yearly	3-50	3-00	5-50

Postage Free.

Subscription Payable in Advance.

THE MANAGER,  
St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

## "How Tamil was built Up"

(In Tamil)

By Rev. Fr.

S. GnanaPrakasas O. M. I.

Price Rs. 3-00

Apply to:

The Manager,

St. Joseph's Catholic Press,  
Jaffna.

## Elephant Brand "R" MARK

Calicut Pattern Tiles.

Three main reasons why these tiles are preferred by many:—

1. Light as asbestos roofing yet sound as bronze.
2. Even in prolonged rain, oozeiness is comparatively negligible, thus a roof of these tiles without ceiling is not at all worrisome.
3. The covering capacity is automatically increased as the brims of these tiles are reinforced and widened.

Patronised for its quality and durability by Government and private building contractors and individuals all over in India and Ceylon.

The price is moderate yet gives more than 100% value for the purchaser.

Importers & Stockists

Joseph Machado & Sons,  
MAIN STREET, JAFFNA,



Use Crown Brand Tiles, for they are the best in the market, and remember that they are Gold Medalist.

English Portland Cement available in packets of 112 lbs.

E. TIRUCHELVAM,  
Main Street, Jaffna. Phone 52.