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PATSY LI

By FREDERICK P. GEHRING, C.M.

At the height of battle on Guadalcanal, a handful of the natives came to us through the Japanese lines carrying a cruelly injured and bleeding little Chinese girl. The Christian natives brought their precious cargo to the marines; for only they would be able to save her life.

Who was she? The natives did not know. They thought she might be the child of a Chinese couple who had lived on the neighbouring island of Tulagi before the war. Of one thing they were sure: life had been beaten almost out of her. They had found her in a pool of blood after the Japanese attack. In pity, they had lifted her up gently and made for the American camp as fast as they could, dodging Japanese patrols.

The commanding officer of our base turned the poor waif over to me. A navy doctor and corpsmen soon had her wounds cleansed and the deep gash on her head, made apparently with the butt of a rifle, expertly bandaged. Her arms and legs had been slashed with a saber or knife. The doctor held out only faint hope that she would live.

I placed a medal about her neck and commended her to the care of Mary Immaculate. All through the night we prayed in vigil beside her bed. In the morning she rallied; but when she opened her narrow eyes and saw us she cried out in terror, for she could not tell one man in uniform from another and seemed to think anyone in uniform would beat or stab her. By and by I was able to calm her.

She fluttered between life and death for days. The Japanese were concentrating their attack upon our base, which was only a stone's throw from Henderson field. Daylight brought in enemy bombers; the night was filled with shellfire from Japanese warships standing off our island. This was, in fact, the last bid of the enemy to take back the precious island we had conquered at such enormous cost.

During the attacks we carried the whimpering child into our foxhole. Our boys, who had weathered four months of such attacks without flinching, now were shaken with fear for the safety of the nameless Chinese girl. Perhaps her childish screams at the exploding shells brought memories of their own little ones at home. Each man seemed to hold his breath in dread that something might happen to the battle waif.

"What shall we name her?" a marine asked me one night as we crouched in a foxhole. Scores of Chinese names ran through my mind while I thought of the many orphans I had baptized during my missionary days in China before the war. Into my head popped my own Chinese name, Li.

"We'll call her Patsy Li," I said. "It means 'little white plum blossom.' The Chinese go for a name like that." The Chinese girl unfolded and Patsy's quivering tongue was loosed, she became the belle of Guadalcanal. Marines from all over the island would trudge in to the padre's tent just to see the little Chinese girl. Mud-spattered fighting men, whose long days in the jungle made them look like savages, came laden with tropical fruits and bits of candy for our princess. She began to like us.

As Patsy grew in strength we felt that she had to be taken out of the range of enemy guns. The only place I knew where she would be safe and taken care of properly was on Espiritu

Santo, an island 600 miles south of us. There, a kindly French missionary, known to me as Pere Jean, conducted a hospital for natives and plantation owners. My commanding officer approved transfer of our little charge. Patsy Li had her first ride in a jeep and her first sky ride, the dangerous 600-mile hop over the open sea in a navy plane.

We made Espiritu Santo safely and found Pere Jean. I told him Patsy's story and—but I had better hurry over my parting with Patsy. Being with the marines was one thing; I was among them when everybody was afraid that Guadalcanal might turn out to be another Bataan, and I did what a priest could for them. I saw them die in swarms, held their heaving bodies while they whispered their last messages of love for the dear ones at home. I buried them by hundreds. I consoled many a lad who had lost his buddy during the jungle battles. But parting with Patsy was something different. I handed her into the arms of Pere Jean. She cried bitterly. I turned on my heel and stumbled off.

I spent the night on the island with my good friend, Captain Joel White, USN, who built the first naval hospital in the Solomons. He had a guest staying in his tent, Foster Hailey, a New York Times war correspondent. I told them about Patsy Li. Hailey leaped to his typewriter. Before morning, Patsy's story was flashing across the Pacific. We didn't know it then, but this was only the first chapter in the story.

That was in January, 1943. Three or four months later, when Patsy was fairly well recovered, she was transferred to a larger orphanage on Efate, an island still farther south. When Hailey followed her south several months afterwards, he went to the orphanage on Efate to see her. He wrote another article for his paper, telling of the wonders the Sisters had worked in bringing Patsy back almost from the grave to excellent health and spirits.

Meanwhile, in New York, an energetic Chinese woman physician from Singapore was doing research work on cancer. She was preparing to return to the East at the end of the war to aid her afflicted people. Her name was Katherine Li. She read Hailey's articles in the Times. She was struck by the name of Patsy Li, for her married sister in Singapore, Mrs Ruth Li, had a daughter named Patsy. Katherine Li had not heard from the Singapore family since the beginning of the war.

Not until it was over did she receive news from her sister. It was bad news. Mrs. Ruth Li and her family had suffered greatly. On Feb. 14, 1942, this mother and her two daughters, Patsy, 6, and Lottie, 2, were aboard the S.S. Kuala, which was attempting to escape from Singapore with refugees. Japanese aircraft attacked the small ship and sank it.

Mrs. Li and her two children were thrown into the water. She placed Patsy astride a bit of wreckage and told her to hold on. She herself clasped the baby. Unable to swim, Mrs. Li was sucked under the foundering ship and lost her hold on Lottie. Coming again to the surface, Mrs. Li was picked up by the Japanese. She did not see her two children again.

Katherine Li in New York, on learning of the fate of her little nieces, wrote to her sister about Hailey's articles.

PURGATORY

By FULTON J. SHEEN

There is one word which to modern ears probably signifies the unreal, the fictional, and even the absurd in the Christian vision of life, and that is the word *purgatory*. Although the Christian world believed in it for 16 centuries, for the last 300 years it has ceased to be a belief outside the Church, and has been regarded as a mere product of the imagination, rather than as the fruit of sound reason and inspiration.

Belief in purgatory has declined in just the proportion that the modern mind forgot the two most important things in the world: the purity of God and the heinousness of sin. Once both of these vital beliefs are admitted, the doctrine of purgatory is unescapable.

Purgatory is a place where the love of God tempers the justice of God. The necessity of purgatory is grounded upon the absolute purity of God. In the Apocalypse we read of the great beauty of His city, of pure gold, with its walls of jasper and its spotless light which is not of the sun nor moon but the light of the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world. We also learn of the condition of entering into the gates of that heavenly Jerusalem, "There shall not enter into it any thing defiled, or that worketh abomination or maketh a lie, but they that are written in the book of life of the Lamb."

Justice also demands that no one unclean but only the pure heart shall stand before the Face of a pure God. If there were no purgatory, then the justice of God would be too terrible for words, for who are they who would dare assert themselves spotless enough to stand before the immaculate Lamb of God? The martyrs who sprinkled the sands of the Colosseum with their blood in testimony of their faith? Most certainly! The missionaries like Paul who spend themselves and are spent for the spread of the Gospel? Most assuredly! The cloistered saints who in the quiet calm of a voluntary Calvary become martyrs without recognition? Most truly! But these are glorious exceptions.

The day we were baptized, the Church laid upon us as a white garment, with the injunction, "Receive this white garment which mayest thou carry without stain before the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ that thou mayest have life everlasting." Few of us during life keep that garment so unspotted and unsoiled by sin that we may enter immediately upon death into the white-robed army of the King.

Patsy Li. One Patsy Li had disappeared. One Patsy Li had been found. Could it be...? It was unthinkable Singapore is 4,000 miles from Guadalcanal.

Christmas day 1945, Hailey, in New York, received an urgent letter from Mrs. Ruth Li. She asked for all the information he could give her about the little waif I had happened to name Patsy Li.

I returned to New York in March, 1946. Hailey got in touch with me at once to tell me the new chapter about Patsy Li. This was the first time I ever heard of Dr. Katherine Li or of Mrs. Ruth Li and her two children in Singapore. For the past six months I had been shuttling back and forth between Tokyo and the west coast, as chaplain aboard a navy transport. This new

(Continued on Page 4.)

Take even our national heroes, whose names we venerate and whose deeds we emulate. Would any Englishman or American who knew something of the purity of God, as much as he loves and respects the virtues of a Lord Nelson or a George Washington, really believe that either of them at death was free enough from the slight faults to enter immediately into the presence of God? Why, the very nationalism of a Nelson or a Washington, which made them both heroes in a war, might in a way make them suspect of being unsuited after death for that true internationalism of heaven, where there is neither English nor American, Jew or Greek, barbarian nor free, but all one in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All who die with some love of God possessing them have beautiful souls, but if there be no purgatory, then because of their slight imperfections they must be rejected without pity by divine justice. Take away purgatory, and God could not pardon so easily, for will an act of contrition at the edge of the tomb atone for 30 years of sinning?

Purgatory is a place not only where the love of God tempers the justice of God, but where the love of man may temper the injustice of man. I believe that most men and women are quite unconscious of the injustice and ingratitude of their lives until the cold hand of death is laid upon one that they love.

One of the reasons why the bitterest of tears are shed over graves is because of words left unsaid and deeds left undone. "The child never knew how much I loved her." He never knew how much dear he was until he was gone." It does little good to water last year's crop, to set a snare for the bird that has flown, or to gather the rose that has withered and died.

Purgatory enables hearts who are left behind to break the barriers of time and death, to convert unspoken words into prayers, unburned incense into sacrifice, unoffered flowers into alms, and undone acts of kindness into help for eternal life.

Purgatory enables us to atone for our ingratitude, because through our prayers, mortifications, and sacrifices, we can bring joy and consolation to the ones we love. Love is stronger than death and hence there should be love for those who have gone before us. The Church assures us that, not being able to give more to them in this world, since they are not of it, we can still seek them out in the hands of divine justice and give them the assurance of our love, and the purchasing price of their redemption. Just as the man who dies in debt has the maledictions of his creditors following him to the grave, but may have his good name restored and revered by the labour of his son who pays the last penny, the soul of a friend who has gone to death owing a debt of penance to God may have it remitted by us who are left behind.

Surely God will not forbid such communication of the living with the dead, since the act of redemption has guaranteed such a transferring of merits through Christ. That great mass of unarmed warriors of the Church suffering cry out to our responsive hearts the plaintive and tender plea, "Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, at least you, my friends, for the hand of the Lord has touched me."—*Catholic Digest*.

Notice to the Reverend Missionaries

ANNUAL RETREATS

1st—Sept. 15th to 22nd.
2nd—Sept. 23rd to 30th.

Please inform the Procurator which Retreat you will follow.

Church Calendar

AUGUST 1947

FRI. ...15 ASSUMPTION. (Obligation)
SAT. ...16 S. Joachim.
SUN. ...17 12 P.—S. Hyacinth C.
MON. ...18 S. Helen.
TUES. ...19 S. John Eudes.
WED. ...20 S. Bernard.
THURS. ...21 S. Jane Chan.
FRI. ...22 S. Immac. Heart of Mary.

The Catholic Guardian

AUGUST 15TH 1947

WE DIFFER NOT

The circular letter of His Grace the late Archbishop of Colombo that appeared posthumously is a document which redounds to the credit of the late prelate.

Basing his teaching on the principles enunciated by His Holiness the Pope on the eve of the Italian election, Dr. Masson lays down certain directive directives for his clergy in the elections that are now engrossing our attention. He keeps to general principles which are all that can or should be expected in such a document.

What was the special care of His Grace in penning such a document for publication? Three points emerge pretty clearly.

(1) That the right and duty to vote should be inculcated and grasped. The moral responsibility of the voter is especially grave as the constitution and laws of the country are, what are at stake.

(2) The instructing of the voters—the more effective the better—is the “essential right and duty” of the clergy. Gandhi had already said, “If religion has nothing to do with politics with what on earth has it anything to do?”

(3) His Grace, like His Holiness the Pope does not name any individual party. He does warn Catholic voters however against parties committed by their ideologies to a policy that is destructive to all that Catholics hold sacred—their social and religious institutions, their liberties, individual, political and religious.

The position is therefore clear. The Catholic must exercise his right as a voter and he is warned against using it in favour of the forces of disruption, of the enemies of human liberty and of the dignity of human personality.

His Grace's mind is therefore for practical purposes quite clear. We in the North are faithful to the spirit and letter of His Grace's proposals. In the South the question of national unity and co-operation, of trusting the Sinhalese has not arisen for obvious reasons. Co-operation with the Sinhalese and trust in them are indispensable to us. All that the Northern Catholics are being asked to do is to range themselves solidly behind the national movement and leadership. They are therefore being given practi-

cal guidance how best to serve the interests of Jaffna and the whole country, strictly following His Grace's directive.

In short the policy for which we stand in this election is *above all parties*. We stand for co-operation with the Sinhalese. We are not particularly enamoured of any party—still less are we the members, tools or partisans of any party. We stand outside all parties but we are willing—in fact we are anxious—to support those that best look like achieving national unity and national well-being. Thus the Church in the North is fulfilling her historic function and mission.

We are anxious that these points should be clearly grasped. That we are in the completest agreement with the mind of the late Archbishop will be clear if the following points are remembered:

(1) His Grace, in his last public speech at St. Peter's College a few months before his death clearly pointed out the policy he wanted the Catholics to follow and the leader he desired. That leader he mentioned by name. It is that leader and that policy the Northern Catholics are supporting to-day.

(2) What the Catholics of the peninsula are being asked to do is to vote with the Catholics of the rest of the country in the interests not merely of Jaffna but of the whole country.

(3) The alternative is to play into the hands of the forces of disorder and disruption.

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gospel

St. Luke: Ch. 10: 23-37

Then, turning to His own disciples,

He said,

*Blessed are the eyes that see

what you see;

I tell you

there have been many prophets & kings

who have longed to see

what you see,

and never saw it,

to hear what you hear,

and never heard it.

It happened once that a lawyer rose up,

trying to put him to the test;

Master, he said,

What must I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus asked him,

What is it that is written in the law?

What is thy reading of it?

And he answered,

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God

with the love of thy whole heart,

and thy whole soul,

and thy whole strength,

and thy whole mind;

and thy neighbour as thyself.

Thou hast answered right, He told him;

do this, and thou shalt find life.

But he, to prove himself

blameless, asked,

And who is my neighbour?

Jesus gave him His answer;

A man who was on his way

down from Jerusalem

to Jericho fell in with robbers,

who stripped him and beat him,

and went off leaving him half dead.

And a priest, who chanced to be going

down by the same road,

saw him there and passed by

on the other side.

And a Levite who came there saw him,

and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan,

who was on his travels,

saw him and took pity at the sight;

he went up to him

and bound up his wounds,

pouring oil and wine into them,

and so mounted him upon his own beast

and brought him to an inn,

where he took care of him.

And next day he took out

two silver pieces,

which he gave to the inn keeper,

and said,

Take care of him,

and on my way home I will give thee

whatever else is owing to thee

for thy pains.

Which of these, thinkest thou,

proved himself a neighbour

to the man who had fallen in

with robbers?

And he said,

He that shewed mercy on him.

Then Jesus said,

Go thy way,

and do thou likewise.

THE ARCHBISHOP AT ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

Presiding at the Prize Giving at St. Peter's College on Saturday 15th Mar., 1947 His Grace the Most Revd. Dr. J. M. Masson, O.M.I., Archbishop of Colombo proclaimed his faith in the State Council and its leader Mr. D. S. Senanayake.

Circular of His Grace the Archbishop

DEAR REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED BRETHREN.—On the eve of the Italian elections last year His Holiness the Pope made clear two things:

i. It was not for the clergy to become members of, or take any active part in, any political party;

ii. It was, however, their “essential right and duty” to explain to the faithful “the moral duties involved in the right to vote.”

The moral responsibility of the voter was especially grave, added His Holiness, when it was a question of electing those who would be called upon to give the country its constitution and its laws.

Ceylon is today entering upon a new era when the fate of the country will rest in the hands of its own people, that is to say, in the hands of those whom they elect to be members of its first Parliament.

On the eve, then, of the impending General Election We feel it incumbent on us, in the discharge of the duties of Our office, and in imitation of the Holy Father himself, to give you certain directions and lay upon you certain injunctions.

1. We enjoin the Rev. clergy of the Archdiocese not to become partisans, or allow themselves to be made the tools of any political party, however excellent or irreproachable it may be. As religious teachers and moral guides, let them remain outside and above party politics.

2. We earnestly exhort them at the same time to impress deeply on the Catholic voters in their missions the heavy responsibility attached to the vote. Let them be made to realise that if by their vote they enable inefficient men, or dishonest men, or evil men to secure power and position, they themselves will be responsible for the harm that will result.

Adding Our own appeal to the warnings and exhortations Our clergy, We would ask Our beloved children, the faithful, to take to heart the following directions which We give not because We have any wish to meddle in politics, but solely because We are deeply concerned for the welfare of the country and the happiness of its people.

1. Let no qualified voter abstain from voting.

2. Let each one vote well—that is, using every care to select the best candidate.

3. In choosing your candidate do not be led by purely personal considerations or selfish motives; do not be influenced by the glowing promises made by the candidate—but, rather, base your judgment on his abilities and, above all, on his character. Moral integrity should be the decisive factor. Men of high moral character, who will be proof against corruption, who will stand for just and fair dealing, you will find especially among those imbued with deep religious convictions.

4. And because We have so deeply at heart the prosperity of the country and your happiness, We particularly

ask you not to vote for any adherent friend or supporter of any of those so called parties which whatever may be their title or designation are committed by their ideology to a policy that is destructive of all that you hold as most sacred: your social and religious institutions, your liberties, individual, political and religious.

5. Lastly, dearly beloved brethren, whether you be of the electors or the elected, remember always that it is by being consistently faithful to the teachings and principles of your holy religion that you can be of the greatest service to your country, for God made the nations to their salvation and the peace, prosperity and happiness of peoples ultimately depend on fidelity to the law of God and maintenance of the order established by Him in the world.

Given at Colombo on this the 26th day of July, 1947.

✠ J. M. MASSON, O.M.I.,
Archbishop of Colombo.

NOTE: The Revd. Missionaries of the Archdiocese are requested to read and explain this Circular to their faithful at Mass.

J. MAJOREL, O.M.I.,
Administrator.

Colombo, 31.7.47.

Teachers and Elections

The role of the teacher in the coming General Election has been the subject of comment by the Director of Education and other responsible men in public and official life. So far as teachers in Government schools are concerned the position is clear enough. They, like all other public servants, are definitely prohibited from dabbling in politics. The teacher, by virtue of his unique position as the custodian of the children entrusted to his care, possess a profound influence over the parents of the children, and if this influence is exercised in a partisan spirit to further the cause of candidates whom he would like to be returned, it would be tantamount to exercising undue influence and the prostitution of the teachers' privileged position in society. The school should on no account become a cockpit of warring political factions and any infringement of the Public Service regulation forbidding Government teachers from participating in electioneering propaganda should be severely dealt with.

It is, however, not within the power of the State to prohibit non-Government teachers from taking sides in the coming elections. These teachers may claim right to support candidates who subscribe to a particular educational policy. Whatever they may do, their activities should have nothing to do with the school because a school has no politics. And they must do nothing that would infringe the democratic freedom of the parents of their pupils.—*Observer*, Aug. 7, 1947.

Fatima—Hill, Pandateruppu

Feast of the Immaculate Heart

For the second year the universal Church will celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Heart on the 22nd of this month and for the second year also that feast will be celebrated at the same liturgical date in the only Church presently dedicated in our Tamil Nad to that Immaculate Heart and Our Lady of Fatima, at Fatima-Hill, Pandateruppu.

Before the feast a triduum will be conducted. On the 19th, 20th and 21st of August Holy Mass will be celebrated in the morning, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be imparted in the evening at 5.30. On the 21st evening Benediction will be given at 6 o'clock. On the 22nd, the feast-day itself, a High Mass will be celebrated at 7-30 a.m. and a procession with the statue of the Immaculate Heart will take place in the afternoon.

I hope that all the friends of Fatima-Hill will be pleased by such news. That a good number of them will be able to be present at our celebrations and that the others who will be prevented from coming will join their prayers with ours in humble supplication to the Immacu-

ate Heart for that Heavenly Peace men need so much everywhere.

I am glad to inform the numerous friends of Fatima-Hill that, with their help and encouragement we have been able to erect a strong temporary church. All the pilgrims of Fatima Hill remember the cadjan shed we put up just two years ago. It was not at all secure. There was no room also for a large congregation and our temporary chapel stands on solid pillars. It is spacious and the sanctuary looks nice. But I need not describe it more. Let our friends come, see and judge for themselves.

I learn anyhow that they will regret something as I regret it myself: the roof is always thatched with cadjans! Really, we could not put tiles. But why despair? When I appealed to our friends last March for a pillar in honour of Saint Joseph replies came generously and now encouragingly I appeal for the roof of the Immaculate Heart's Chapel. One tile will cost 30 cents. We need 3,000 tiles. There are surely more than three thousand friends of Fatima-Hill. Let every one of them offer at least thirty cents for a tile. I know, many will send donations for several tiles and once more I will have the proof that I can always entertain great hopes in the good will of the friends of the Immaculate Heart and Our Lady of Fatima.

REV. FR. HENRI GESLAND, O.M.I.,
Fatima-Hill, Pandaterappu.

LOCAL & GENERAL

The Unity of the Catholics Threatened.—At a public meeting held in support of Mr. A. Mahadeva, the candidate for the Jaffna Town Constituency Mr. C. Ponnambalam, Chairman, Urban Council said: "The Catholics of the Northern Province, by exercising their votes unitedly on the advice of the Church, have returned members who have always safeguarded the interests of their religion and the cause of the Tamils. The voting power of the Catholics has earned for them further considerable influence in the Government of the Island. Attempts are now being made to break that unity and to lead the people away from the guidance of the Church." He further said: "The return of the Tamil Congress candidates will seriously endanger the Catholic interests and jeopardise the interests of Ceylon Tamils."

Assize Judge on Communal Co-operation.—At the First Agricultural Field Day held in the North Mr. Justice C. Nagalingam exhorted the Tamils to learn Sinhalese. Continuing further he said: "It is of the highest importance that all the communities in the Island should co-operate and stand together. Let nothing be said or done now or hereafter to mar the harmony that has always been there between the Sinhalese and the Tamils."

Election News.—Arrangements are complete for the Parliamentary Elections which will commence on the 23rd inst. The personnel required for election duty would be between 23,500 to 24,000.

Obituary.—The death on Monday the 4th inst. of Mr. M. Joseph of the tutorial staff of Maris Stella College, Negombo, and a member of the Negombo Urban Council, at a private hospital in Colombo. The remains were interred in the General Cemetery Negombo.

The late Mr. Joseph who was 53 years of age is the second son of the late Mr. A. Manuelpillai of 3rd Cross Street, Jaffna. He was on the Staff of Maris Stella College for the last 20 years and a member of the Urban Council for the last seven years. For three years he was Chairman of the Council.

On the day of the funeral the Urban Council flew its flag at half-mast and closed at 3 p. m. as a mark of respect, Maris Stella closed half day. All shops in town also closed and black flags were flown.

Pass Degree in Arts.—We are glad to learn that Miss T. Patrick, the daughter of Mr. Patrick Rasam of Russell Square Road, Jaffna has been successful in her Final Examination in Arts in the University of Ceylon. Miss Patrick is an old girl of the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna.

Manipay to Celebrate the Silver Jubilee of its College Principal

—Old boys, parents of the present boys and teachers of the Manipay Hindu College held a meeting presided over by M. Chandiram C. Thiagarajah and resolved to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Principalship of Mr. V. Veerasingham, the Principal of the College. It was decided to collect at least Rs. 50,000 for the erection of a Jubilee Memorial to commemorate Mr. Veerasingham's services to the school.

Private Cars Allowed to Convey Voters.—The Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order in-Council has been amended to permit candidates contesting Parliamentary seats to use private cars belonging to others for the conveyance of electors to or from the polls.

What is Wrong With Our Youths?—Under the auspices of the Badulla Social Service League Mr. M. S. C. Pieris of the Medical and Sanitary Services read a paper on "The Three Social Problems." Mr. Pieris said: "The increase in crime during recent years is due to the low moral standards of youth. Young people should be made to spend their leisure in healthy games and in reading good books, instead of cheap novels which corrupted their tender minds."

Pakistan Constituent Assembly.—The inauguration of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly at Karachi on Tuesday the 12th inst. was marked by solemnity and simple ceremony, and the proceedings were conducted in a dignified and businesslike manner. Mr. N. A. Jinnah was declared elected President of the Assembly.

Indian Independence Day and Prisoners.—In celebration of Indian Independence Day on August 15, the Government of Bombay has decided to remit 10 per cent. of the land revenue demand so far as recoveries of the current year's agricultural assessment were concerned, about 2,500 prisoners will be released on August 15. Those prisoners on whom sentence of death have been passed and have not been executed will receive commutation of the death penalty to one of transportation for life.

Princes and the Indian Union. All States which for geographical and economic reasons can accede to the Indian Union, with the possible exception of three, will join forthwith the Indian Dominion. The three States whose attitude is not yet clear are Bhopal, Indore and Hyderabad. Indications are that Hyderabad will accede to the Indian Union and agree to hand over Defence, External Affairs and Communications to the Indian Union subject to certain conditions.

Political Activities of Students.—The Hyderabad Government has issued a Press Note advising all students to refrain from political, communal or other disruptive activities and thereby not jeopardise their future. The Press Note says: "It is being noticed that certain political and communal organisations inflame the feelings of the young and ignorant students through inflammatory speeches and use them as their tools for organising strikes, demonstrations, processions and for raising slogans calculated to disturb public peace. As a result, not only is the precious time of the students being wasted, but also the peace and tranquillity of the country as well as its best interests are being put into serious jeopardy. Leaders of public organisations are warned that they will be dealt with severely if they endeavour to exploit the students for their own ends. Parents and guardians of students are advised to exert all their influence to check the students from taking part in objectionable activities. If they do not make a determined effort to stop the students from taking a wrong course, they will be solely held responsible for their actions."—The Hindu, Aug. 7, 1947.

A Marshall Plan at the Vatican.—It was officially announced on Sunday the 10th inst. that the Vatican authorities are studying a plan to bring Catholic relief to countries which need it most.

The scheme which would include the setting up of an "international office of charity" is regarded in Roman Catholic circles as the Vatican's Marshall Plan.

Advantages of Co-operation.—Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Pro-

hibition, Madras, inaugurating the first anniversary celebration of the Staff Association of the Madura-Ramnad Co-operative Wholesale Society on Aug. 3rd said:

"With the advent of freedom the old order shall give place to a new scheme of things in which the generality of the people will rise in economic status and get the benefits of education. The co-operative movement has a vital part to play in securing the general well-being of the people. The co-operative principle can be applied in manifold ways. I advise you, members of the Staff Association, to make yourselves increasingly useful to the Public by your service."

The President advised the members of the Association to pay attention both to their duties and to their rights. Dwelling on the benefit of the co-operative movement he said that it was wrong to imagine that the interests of the employers and the employees were always opposed to each other. Whatever might be the position in capitalistic joint stock concerns, things were different in co-operative concerns. He appealed to the people in authority in co-operative institutions to treat their employees with kindness and sympathy. He suggested the formation of Reconciliation Boards consisting of Representatives of employers and employees and a few public men, which would tender advice and suggestions in cases likely to lead to disputes. Strike was no doubt a legitimate weapon, but it should be used only under certain conditions and at proper times. It should not be resorted to until other ways of securing redress had been tried and found ineffective."—The Hindu, Aug. 6.

The Disability of the Ceylon Students in England.—Dr. Griffith S. Rockwood, the retiring President of the Association of Ceylon Students in Great Britain said in his address at the annual general meeting: "Two hundred Ceylonese students are living in London without a place of their own to spend an evening together, I appeal to all Ceylonese going back home to tell their people about the great difficulties of the Ceylonese students in London."

The Association decided to affiliate with the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Round the World in Three Days.—In a converted bomber "Reynolds Bombshell" Charles William Odum landed at his starting point Chicago after encircling the world in a little more than three days. After his solo-flight he was received by his wife, two children and Mr. Milton Reynolds, the millionaire pen manufacturer who sponsored the flight.

Crisis Bill Passes the Second Reading.—In spite of the Conservative Opposition the Economic Crisis Bill piloted by Mr. Herbert Morrison was passed by 251 votes to 148 in the House of Commons on August 8 in its Second Reading. Mr. Churchill who led the attack described the Bill as a "blank cheque for a totalitarian government." Mr. Herbert Morrison denied that there was any "deep, dark plot to conduct a Social Revolution by Defence Regulations."

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY NOTICE

The Railway Level Crossing at 247 miles 58 chains, Northern Line, between Kokuvil and Kondavil, (Kondavil to Iruvalai Road), will be closed for vehicular traffic from 9.00 p. m. on 23-8-47 till 5.00 a. m. on 24-8-47 for effecting repairs.

During this period urgent traffic will be diverted through Kokuvil-Naima kadu Road.

J. F. S. BODGER
General Manager.

30-7-47

TOLL RENT

Tenders will be received by the Government Agent, N. P. at the Jaffna Kachcheri up to 12 noon on 25th August, 1947, for the purchase of the Keratiyu-Pooneryn ferry rent for the period 1st October, 1947, to 30th September, 1948. For further particulars apply to the Govt. Agent, N. P.

P. J. HUDSON,
Government Agent, N. P.
The Kachcheri,
Jaffna, 6th August, 1947.

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province, up to 12 noon on Thursday, August 21, 1947 for the necessary improvements to the Pathuveduvan Manattulam in Pooneryn Divisional Revenue Officer's Division N. P. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Kachcheri, Jaffna where all particulars can be obtained. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on Tuesday, August 19, 1947, only on production of receipt for Rs. 5/- deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

M. SRIKHANTA,
for A. G. A., (E)
Kachcheri,
Jaffna, August 4, 1947.

Department of Civil Defence

The Defence Medal

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the institution of a Defence Medal to be granted to individuals who have served whole time or part time, for not less than three years, in the Ceylon Civil Defence Organisation during the period 3rd September 1939 to 8th May 1945 in any of the categories named in paragraph 7 below. The qualifying service of 3 years need not necessarily be continuous but should be in one or more of the categories enumerated. Service in more than one category may be aggregated provided the periods of service were not concurrent. To be eligible for the award of the Defence Medal a member—

- must have been available for duty up to the standard required from time to time, the number of hours of duty in no case being less than 48 hours a month; and
- must have performed such duties as and when required.

2. Persons who served in the Civil Defence Services throughout Ceylon in the eligible categories and who have the full 3 years qualifying service to their credit, should forward a claim on form DM. 2 to the Civil Defence Commissioner, Union Place, Colombo, if they wish to be considered for the award of the Defence Medal. Copies of form DM. 2 can be obtained from any Post Office in Ceylon from August 15, 1947, to September 30, 1947. Only one form will be issued to any one applicant. Applications not on the prescribed form will not be considered. In filing the application forms claimants should carefully follow the directions given on the form and furnish the required information in full.

3. A claim for the Defence Medal will be accepted only after verification of the particulars furnished by the applicant in respect of his qualifying service. It would, therefore, facilitate consideration of the application if claimants attach to the application any documents in their possession in support of their service.

4. Applications for the award of the Defence Medal will be received up to October 15, 1947. Those received after that date will not be considered.

5. The result of the claim will be notified to the claimant in due course. All claims which have been approved will be registered and the Defence Medal issued to the claimants after due notice in the Press. The question as to who should pay for the cost of the Medal is under consideration and if it is decided that the cost of the Medal should be paid for by the claimant the amount payable will be indicated to him when the decision to award him the Medal is notified.

6. Persons who were dismissed or discharged from the Civil Defence Organisation on account of misconduct or who left service in contravention of an order made by the Head of his Service are disqualified for the Defence Medal. Persons who are awarded the Defence Medal and are subsequently found guilty of misconduct may be required to forfeit the Medal.

7. The following are the categories eligible for the award of the Defence Medal:

Colombo (including the suburban areas Kotte, Kolonnawa and Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia) and the urban areas of Kandy, Galle, Jaffna and Trincomalee.

A. R. P. Controllers
Deputy A. R. P. Controllers
Warden Service
Casualty Service
Communications Service
Rescue Service
Control and Report Centres
Messenger Service
Ration Service
Transport Service
Depot Service
Observer Corps
Mobile Squad
Bomb Reconnaissance Parties
Incident Officers
Colombo Port Area A. R. P. Services
A. R. P. Services in Industry and Government Departments
Auxiliary Fire Service.

OTHER AREAS

A. R. P. Controllers
Deputy A. R. P. Controllers
Wardens Service
Casualty Service
Fire Fighting Service
Communications Service.

M. VAIRA MUTTU,
for Civil Defence Commissioner,
Civil Defence Office,
Union Place, Colombo,
August 10, 1947.

Religious Situation in Germany

World's Loneliest People

The Allies blamed Nazism for the dreadful war: but their own hatred for Germany has shown itself in the exploitation and unreasonable depression of a captive nation that the Germans are now desolate and without consolation.

Rosaries are disappearing from the shops in the Russian zone of Germany.

This is not a new Soviet move against religion. On the contrary, the rosaries, and other religious objects, are being bought up by Red Army soldiers to send home to their families.

Whether or not the rosaries reach their destination is another question, says Max Jordan, N. C. W. C. special correspondent in Berlin, because so far the Soviet authorities have done everything possible to prevent their people from receiving anything from abroad apt to arouse an interest in Western civilisation and influence them in favour of religion.

The Soviet authorities in their zone continue to avoid interfering with religious practice among those already accustomed to it, at any rate in the churches—but are also continuing to oppose religious influence among youth outside the churches.

Facilities were granted by the military administration of Mecklenburg to Bishop Berning of Oznabruock to visit the part of his diocese in the Russian zone.

The Bishop visited more than 70 parishes and confirmed about 11,000 children.

But Bishop Legge of Meissen—the only Bishop remaining in the zone—has been warned by these same authorities that in no circumstances will he be allowed to appoint a priest to take charge of Catholic youth activities in his diocese.

If any priest is appointed, they declare, he will be deported to Siberia.

POLICE WATCH

The warning is backed up by the fact that a priest appointed last year was kept under arrest for three months.

All youth groups in the Soviet zone must be incorporated in the Communist controlled Free German Youth.

Catholic youth meetings are closely supervised by police, and priests must supply the police with detailed reports of such gatherings.

On the other hand, reports from Mecklenburg indicate that the Soviet authorities have restored orphanages and homes for old people to Catholic orders deprived of them during the Nazi regime.

In Berlin the Soviet military administration has refused an application of the diocesan chancery to authorise the circulation of *Petrusblatt*, diocesan organ—with the result that some 6,000,000 Catholics are left without a Press of their own. *Petrusblatt* is a religious organ shunning all political controversy.

'SPIRITUAL ISOLATION'

In the American zone General Clay has received an order from the State, War and Navy Departments in Washington to speed up the establishment of "international cultural relations which will overcome the spiritual isolation imposed by National Socialism on Germany and further the assimilation of the German people into the world community of nations."

G. R. Brunst, N. C. W. C. special correspondent recently in Germany, points out that public attention in the U. S. A. has up to the present been concentrated mainly on economic objectives.

On the basis of my recent observations in Germany (Brunst writes) I venture to say that this economic aim—necessary as it is—must fail of achievement unless and until much greater and speedier progress is made towards overcoming the spiritual isolation.

In the rebuilding of minds and hearts progress has been even more painfully slow than in the rebuilding of bridges and houses.

No visitor to Germany can help being astonished at the enormity of the intel-

lectual, moral and spiritual ruins left by Nazism and the catastrophe of war.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Germans to-day are the loneliest people under God's sun.

They need no reminder that they have lost the war. They are quite aware that even under the most favourable circumstances they face a bleak future.

So far the Western powers have done very little to counteract that spirit of loneliness. They have largely left it to the Russians to pose as Germany's friends, to commiserate with them and to poison their minds with vicious hints at the advantages to be derived from teaming up with the Soviets.

It would be foolish to assert that Moscow's skilful catering to the sentiments of a lonely people and its exploitation of psychological openings have been a complete failure.

I was surprised at the great number of Germans who at least toy with the idea of "selling out" to the Russians.

I was reminded of the old truth that a desperate and lonely person is strongly tempted to keep company with the devil, particularly when there is little or no opportunity for other companionship.

It is hard to find any convincing reasons why the Germans in the Western zone should have been kept for more than two years in a state of spiritual isolation which has delayed "the assimilation of the German people into the world community of nations."

PATSY LI

(Continued from Page 1)

development was fantastic. Why, Patsy Li was simply a name I made up for a little girl from nowhere, in a fox-hole on Guadalcanal.

I'll let Hailey tell the final chapter of the story of Patsy Li. After all, this is his part of the story.

"I was skeptical. Father Gehring, now back in this country, also was skeptical. We both wrote Mrs. Li, however, suggesting without collaboration, that although we doubted that the little girl could possibly be her Patsy, it would be a blessed thing for both of them if she would adopt our 'Patsy Li' as her own.

"For many weary months, Mrs. Li had been struggling, through mountains of red tape, towards Efate. She was dissuaded by nothing. Vicair Jules Halbert, at Efate, wrote her that he believed the little girls to be Leong Me Fong, daughter of a Chinese couple killed by the Japanese. Disregarding all counsel except that of her heart, Mrs. Li finally won her way to Efate. A cable from her on Aug. 4, 1946, triumphantly announces that the little girl is her own daughter and that she is returning with her to Shanghai.

"The only explanation, of course, is that Patsy Li was picked up by the Japanese and carried by one of their camp women to the Solomons, where she was found by the natives and turned over to the marines and Fr. Gehring."

Hailey concludes his story by writing, "Who can say that the age of wonders is past? Certainly there never was a story with a happier ending, nor one that gave me more pleasure to write."

NALLUR KANDASWAMY TEMPLE ANNUAL HIGH FESTIVAL—1947

The public is hereby notified that traffic will be diverted from the section of the Point Pedro Road and Old Store Road adjoining the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple along Wyman Road, Navanturai Road and Nallur Cross Road No. 1. From 6 a.m. to 12 mid-night daily from 21st August, 1947 to 15th September 1947 on account of the Annual High Festival at the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple.

Sgd R. E. BLAZE, Superintendent of Police, N.P. Police Office, Jaffna, 2nd August, 1947.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the estate of the late Velupillai Appakuddy of Vannarponnai East Jaffna.

Deceased. Testamentary } No. 717 Jurisdiction

Samuel Velupillai Solomons of Manipay, Petitioner.

Vs. Edwin Velupillai Jesudason presently of Coimbatore in India. Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esqr., District Judge Jaffna on the 29th day of May 1947, in the presence of Messrs. Aboobucker and Sultan Proctor, on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read: It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner as heir and brother of the abovenamed deceased, unless the Respondent or other persons interested shall appear before this Court on the 11th day of July 1947 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 29th day of May 1947. Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI, District Judge. Time to show cause extended till 22-8-47. Intd. R. R. S. D. J.

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the estate of the late Elizabeth Sinnammah widow of David Ponniah Aseervatham of Hospital Road, Jaffna. Deceased.

Testamentary } No. 718 Jurisdiction

Samuel Velupillai Solomon of Manipay, Petitioner.

Vs. Edwin Velupillai Jesudason presently of Coimbatore in India. Respondent.

This matter of the petition of the abovenamed petitioner coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esqr. District Judge Jaffna on the 29th day of May 1947 in the presence of Messrs. Aboobucker and Sultan Proctors on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the petitioner having been read: It is ordered that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be issued to the petitioner as heir and brother of the abovenamed deceased unless the Respondent or other persons interested shall appear before

this Court on the 11th day of July 1947 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 29th day of May 1947. Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI, District Judge. Time to show cause extended till 22-8-47. Intd. R. R. S. D. J.

WANTED

Wanted for a Motor Transit Company two capable young men as Traffic Inspectors. Should possess own Motor Cycle.

Appy stating educational qualifications and experience attaching two recent testimonials.

c/o THE CATHOLIC GUARDIAN, Jaffna.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, S. Chas. Pathirana of Main Street, Jaffna, Licensed Dentist and Optician inform the inhabitants of the Northern Province that I have once more started my business and beg their kind patronage.

At present I have imported a large stock of Optical goods, Artificial teeth and Artificial eyes. Consultation Hours: 9-12 a.m. 2-5 p.m. daily

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