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

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THE WORLD NEEDS A POLICE FORCE

BIG STICK FOR BRIGANDS

In the summer of 1939 we knelt in the Vatican at the feet of the Vicar of Christ to receive his blessing. Anxiety was on his careworn face, as he perceived from his watch tower the clouds of the approaching storm. A few weeks later, just before the thunderbolts were released, he addressed a moving plea to the rulers of Europe, begging them not to plunge again into the miseries of war. "Nothing is gained by war," said the Pontiff, "that cannot better be achieved by peace. In war all may be lost."

A few weeks later in a sidewalk cafe in Paris we read in the *Echo de Paris* the exchange of letters between Daladier and Hitler. Both ended with substantially these words: as an old front line trencher, I ask you to yield, as the only victors from recourse to arms will be death and destruction. In his appeal to Hitler and Mussolini not to attack other countries, President Roosevelt echoed the same sentiment, declaring a military victory "sterile."

That Sunday morning I said Mass at the main altar of the Church of the Madeleine, where the people were praying for peace. That afternoon in the great pilgrimage to Church of the Sacre Cœur on Montmartre, Cardinal Verdier led a vast assembly in prayers for peace. Their prayers were echoed by some 10,000 gathered outside.

With the rumblings increasing and with the English channel about to be closed, we flew to London. That evening in Westminster Cathedral crowds prayed through the night for peace. People remembered the previous war.

They wanted peace. They got war. Why? Because the Nazi ruler invaded Poland and set Europe and the world in flames. True. But we ask: how could one man or a group of men set the world in flames? The answer is: because of the complete lack of international machinery that would compel rulers to submit their controversy to a court for a just adjudication and to abide by its decision. A state of anarchy prevailed. There was no world court with mandatory jurisdiction. There was no world sheriff with power to enforce the verdict.

In the 21 years since the World War, we nullified the League of Nations and erected no effective machinery to lubricate the frictions which lead to global war. We had ignored the most obvious lesson of the first World War, that war cannot be averted by words but only by the establishment of an adequate international organization with legislative, judicial, and executive powers.

Why would such an organization be more effective than the League of Nations? Because the League failed to provide effective sanctions for its decisions, or to adjust growing grievances and inequalities, and was used instead merely to perpetuate the *status quo*, and lastly because America failed to join. By correcting those errors we can remove the frictions that lead to war. The human mind can think of no other way out.

Establishment of such an organization would require modification of the traditional concept of sovereignty. In the past each nation claimed to be supreme judge, jury, and sheriff. It under-

took to impose its decision upon other nations at the point of the sword. Absolute sovereignty has spawned the nationalism which issues in such slogans: "Germany above all"; "Britannia rules the waves"; "Our country, right or wrong." That concept with its brood of fanatical and irrational loyalties must go. In a closely interwoven world, where nations are brought side by side through the marvels of modern transport and communications nations now occupy the place of states in a federal union.

A few illustrations show how reasonable, practical, and essential is an international organization with judicial and executive powers. Suppose the courts in any country, as well as the sheriff and police forces, were abolished. If two citizens had a disagreement and had no court to settle the dispute, they would take to shooting irons, and soon the whole county would be a bedlam of disorder.

What would happen to Chicago or New York if the agencies of law and order were removed for one month? Even a small community cannot preserve peace and order in the absence of machinery for peace; how can a community of nations with 2 billion citizens preserve them in the complete absence of enforcing agencies? We can summarize a hundred volumes on the theme by saying: as the peace and order of a county demand a county court and a county sheriff, the peace and order of the world demand a world court and a world sheriff.

A milestone in the struggle of mankind for collective security and peace was reached when on Nov. 4, 1943, the U. S. definitely pledged "that the U. S., acting through its constitutional processes," would join with other "free and sovereign nations in the establishment and maintenance of international authority with power to prevent aggression and to preserve the peace of the world."

The Moscow Pact, which commits Great Britain, Russia, China and the U. S. to the same co-operative undertaking, shines as a rainbow in a darkened sky. Long ago Isaiah spoke of the day when nations "shall turn their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into sickles: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they be exercised any more to war." From time immemorial man has dreamed of the dawning of the day when he could walk out under the open sky, sing his songs, say his prayers, whisper love's age-old story into the ear of his beloved, rear his children, and enjoy the comforts of family life without the sword of war hanging forever over his head.

By winning the peace and anchoring it on the solid rock of an international organization representing all the peace-loving nations of the world, we shall go a long way toward freezing man's age-old dream of permanent peace into an abiding reality. All who are striving to achieve that peace are fighting for America no less truly than those in munition factories or on the battle fronts.

Some may say that there have always been evil men, and that there always will be. Yes, there will be Hitlers, Tojos and Mussolinis. But we will be-

CONFESSION OF FAITH

ST. CHRISTOPHER ON THE JOB

The sleek little plane turned over and over as it continued to lose altitude in a mad rush towards the earth. By the altimeter, I could see I was dropping almost 500 feet a second with only a few thousand feet separating me from the ground and the almost certain death that awaited me there. I grasped the stick and pulled with every ounce of strength in my body, while the blood pounded in my ears and my stomach muscles quivered like jelly. Fear stiffened my limbs and drew every last bit of strength from my arms.

"It's no use," I thought. "I can't bring it out. This is it: the end I prepared for every morning, when I received Holy Communion before going up, but still had never really believed would happen to me."

But it was happening, and thoughts raced through my roaring brain, one on another. It was too late to jump, so I uttered a brief prayer through clenched teeth as I steeled myself for a landing impact. The ground was spinning beneath me, closer and closer; wind screaming through the wings and braces, almost drowned out by the roaring in my ears, the pressure forcing me against the seat until my breath came in gasps. Now I wanted to reach the ground and destruction—anything to end that paralyzing suspense which gripped me fiercely until mind and body seemed to separate from each other, making even the slightest movement impossible.

It has been said that a person reviews his entire past life, including all his sins, in those last few moments before the end, but it seemed that my being would not give up, although my body had. Suddenly I was projected back to my father's lap, where I sat listening to a story which impressed me very greatly, considering that I was only seven at the time. I listened intently as my father told me of a kindly man, who used to carry little children across a roaring torrent, and of the Boy he bore across, in spite of an increasing weight which almost drove the man himself to his knees. Regardless of the weight of his burden and the angry strength of the rushing waters, he delivered his charge upon the farther shore, only to discover that he had been bear-

prive them of the instrument by which they have turned 200 million subjects into automata to execute their crimes.

Evil minds and wicked hearts will always be with us. We can deprive them, however, of the instrument by which they have written their villainies on the mangled millions, on the smouldering ruins of bombed cities, and in the wreckage of planes falling from the skies. We shall remove firebrands from the hands of the world's incendiaries and dynamite from international brigands. Instead of inflicting their evil upon the world, they will be merely private villains in a hick town with the constable waiting just around the corner.

For, let us say it with all emphasis: worse than Hitler, worse than Tojo, worse than Mussolini, yes, a thousand times worse is the international anarchy which has permitted a single, half-mustached incendiary to set the world in flames. That anarchy is the real criminal that must be driven forever from the face of the earth.—*Catholic Digest*

ing the Christ Child, who blessed him and told him that he would henceforth be known to all as the protector of all who travelled.

After he had finished the story, he gave me a small medal and told me that the picture it bore was that of St. Christopher, the man in the story. He told me that I should remember the story and wear the medal as a prayer to St. Christopher to watch over me.

"Never forget nor hesitate to call upon him when you are in danger," he concluded.

For many years I had worn the medal unceasingly and I had many occasions to remember that story and my father's final advice.

When 11, I had been saved from drowning by my brother, who had been brought to my aid by an unexplained feeling that I was in danger. When in college, three companions and myself were dragged from a tangled mass of wreckage, which only a moment before had been a shiny new car, speeding along the highway. Not one of the crowd of spectators which gathered along the road after the accident could believe that anyone could have lived in that mess. But St. Christopher had helped us, and aside from a few bruises we suffered no injury. There were many other instances that I saw in those few moments, but these are the clearest in my memory of the nightmare like reminiscences that sped past my vision.

Suddenly, like a spark, it occurred to me that St. Christopher might again help me, and with a silent prayer I kicked the rudder and wrenched back on the stick in a final hope.

"Oh my God, forgive me! Never again will I give up to despair," I screamed into the wind as the nose came up in response to my pull.

At first the wings threatened to tear loose and the whole ship shuddered under the sudden strain. It hung as though suspended from a string, and then began to climb slowly back toward the clear blue sky above.

I settled back shakily and came in for a landing, having been only a short distance from the field while falling. It was a good landing, considering that I was shaking from head to toe and to the tips of my fingers. I climbed from the plane and knelt on the ground and thanked God and his servant, St. Christopher, for saving me, that I might yet return to my wife and daughter after the war.

The fellows had rushed over, as soon as the plane rolled to a stop. They gathered around and gazed first at the plane and then at me, and questions flew like bullets.

"How did you manage to pull it out?" one fellow asked.

"I don't see how the wings stood the strain," another added.

"You must have been born under a lucky star; or have you got an Aladdin's lamp?"

"He certainly must have a dozen rabbit feet. That's the only thing I can figure out."

So then I told them all of St. Christopher and how he had guarded me from harm for so many years. I showed them the medal and told them the story that my father had told me so long ago. Probably I didn't tell it so well as my father, but it had its effect because of

(Continued on Page 4.)

Church Calendar

AUGUST 1947

FRI. ...22 Immac. Heart of Mary.
SAT. ...23 S. Philip B.
SUN. ...24 11 P.—S. Bartholomew.
MON. ...25 S. Louis.
TUES. ...26 S. Zephyrinus.
WED. ...27 S. Jos. Calas.
THURS. ...28 S. Augustine.
FRI. ...29 Beheading of St. John Bap.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Accounts of Weddings, Funerals etc., will be published only in the case of subscribers and those who give announcements of family occurrences in our paper.—Manager, C. G.

The Catholic Guardian

AUGUST 22ND 1947

THE CRISIS AND THE CURE

The world is going through a crisis such as it has rarely experienced before. Two world wars one quickly following on the heels of the other successively plunged the world in a pool of blood and tears and now another world war, probably an atomic war with still more disastrous consequences seems humanly unavoidable. At the end of the first war a League of Nations was formed for the ostensible purpose of avoiding all war for all time; but it failed because it contained within itself the seeds of dissension. At the end of the second war a United Nations' Organisation was formed for the same purpose, but this organisation containing such irreconcilable elements as the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. threatens to meet with failure even more quickly than the League of Nations. If an atomic war is let loose upon the world, what will happen to civilisation we dare not think.

The cure was indicated exactly thirty years ago in a little village of Portugal named Fatima. That the Blessed Virgin there appeared repeatedly to three little children, that to confirm the truth of her apparitions she performed marvels in the sky which on the last day of the apparitions were witnessed by a crowd of more than fifty thousand persons are the facts which have stood the severest scrutiny, ecclesiastical and civil. She appeared to the children while the first war was raging at its highest pitch. She pointed out the evils through which the world was passing and through which it would pass if it continued in its path of estrangement from God. As the sure means of avoiding these evils she pointed out prayer, penance and especially devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mankind has run away from God and pursued the path of sin. The only return is by the path of prayer and penance. The Blessed Virgin told the children that so many souls are doomed to eternal perdition because there is none to do penance for them. Let us by prayer acknowledge our dependence on God. Let us by penance make atonement for our sins as well as for the sins of all mankind.

Above all let us cultivate devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. To-day August 22nd is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The best form

of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is, as the Blessed Virgin herself revealed at Fatima, the daily recitation of the Rosary. She exhorted the children to recite the Rosary daily and offer it for the conversion of sinners. When asked what her name was, she said she was Our Lady of the Rosary. The devotion of the Holy Rosary is the dearest devotion of the Jaffna Diocese. The two greatest shrines of the Diocese, Madhu and Sinnamadu are dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary and the most shining example of the Diocesan devotion to the Holy Rosary is the Monastery of the Rosarians at Tholagatty where Our Lady's desire is being hourly fulfilled. Let us then cultivate a devotion which is so dear to our own hearts and which is so effective to obtain God's pardon for poor sinners and for the war-wearied world.



The Late Very Revd. Fr.
P. M. Francis, O.M.I.,
and Catholic Solidarity

"The reason for our policy of solidarity is this: the Catholic body is a minority in a minority. We cannot afford to dissipate our votes; if we do, we cease to count at elections and would be powerless to do the service we could do for the country with our unified votes. The past two elections bear out what we say. Catholic block vote is one that is feared by contesting candidates. It gives us a power which our numbers cannot give. We will not throw it away for the sake of placating the irreconcilables. This is our considered position. But there is no necessity for labouring the point. If people still persist in thinking that we have intruded religion into an election contest they are welcome to do so. We have no remedy against obstinacy."

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gospel

(St. Luke: Ch. 17: 11—19)

A time came when He was on His way to Jerusalem, and was passing between Samaria and Galilee; and as He was going into a village, ten men that were lepers came towards Him; they stood far off, crying aloud, Jesus, Master, have pity on us. He met them with the words, Go and shew yourselves to the priest; and thereupon, as they went, they were made clean. One of them, finding that he was cured, came back, praising God aloud, and threw himself at Jesus' feet with his face to the ground, to thank him; and this was a Samaritan. Jesus answered, Were not all ten made clean? And the other nine, where are they? Not one has come back to give God this praise, except this stranger. And He said to him, Arise and go on thy way, thy faith has brought thee recovery.

The Miraculous Medal

Early in the XIXth century, the newly canonised saint Catherine Labouré was born on the Cote de'Or in France of peasant parents. When she was only eight years old, she lost her mother. Embracing a statue of our Lady she consecrated her life to Her and asked her to be her mother. At the age of twenty four, she joined the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris. The holy year pilgrims in 1934 visited this convent and saw there her preserved body and also the chair on which the Blessed Virgin sat and spoke to her in 1830. How it happened is told in the very words of the saint herself: "On the eve of the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, 8th July, our good Mother gave us an instruction on devotion to the saints, especially on devotion to the Blessed Virgin. This greatly increased the desire I had had for many years to see the Holy Mother, which was my last thought that night. At 11 30 I heard my name called three times. Awakening, I looked in the direction from whence the sound came. Drawing back my bed curtains, I saw a child, four or five years of age, who said to me: "Come to the Chapel; the Blessed Virgin awaits you, I quickly dressed and went towards the child.....I followed him.....As we went along, I was surprised to find all the lamps alight, but I was truly amazed when, at the light touch of the child's hand the Chapel door swung open, revealing the Chapel ablaze with the splendour of a mid-night Mass. The child led me to the Sanctuary, over to the chair used by the Director. I knelt.....I then heard a sound like the rustling of a silk dress. I saw a Lady descend the steps of the altar and seat herself in the chair. I advanced, and throwing myself on my knees, I rested my hands on the knees of the Blessed Virgin.... She said..... "My child, the Good God wishes to charge you with a mission. The times are evil.....The whole world will be afflicted with the miseries of every kind. But come to the foot of this altar. Here graces will be bestowed on all who ask with confidence and fervour. They will be given to the great and to the lowly. Have a medal struck upon this model. One side of the medal shall contain an image of myself, standing with outstretched hands. Persons who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck. Graces will be abundantly bestowed on those who have confidence. The rays that you see are graces which I bestow on those who ask for them.....Graces will be bestowed.....but they must pray; they must pray."

According to our Lady's instructions the other side of the medal was to have embossed the figures of two hearts, on which was a bar, which supported a large letter M, surmounted by a cross. The two hearts here represented the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, to show us the close union that existed between the Son of God and His Immaculate Mother, and to teach us that the sweet way of reaching the Son is by the mediation of the Mother.

Except to her Superior, saint Catherine never spoke of her great privilege of seeing her Heavenly Mother face to face. No one else in the convent knew, that she was the favoured child through whom the Miraculous Medal had been given to the world. Soon it was being distributed in thousands, and working wonderful miracles. There were cures of soul and body, conversions such as that of the wealthy Jew, Alphonse de Ratisbonne, who afterwards became a priest.

The devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary having been revived by the apparitions at Fatima and by the consecration of the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the XXVth anniversary of the apparition by the present sovereign Pontiff Pope Pius XII, now gloriously reigning, let each family according to the wishes of the Pope consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart and wear on their person the Miraculous Medal.

CWM. SERIES.

What the "Times" Says

The Tamil Congress is trying to perpetrate a joke on the country. Having gained for it an unenviable notoriety as the only communal political party in the field, its leader is now pointing the finger of opprobrium at all the other political parties as tainted with communalism.

Speaking at Point Pedro the other day, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam is reported to have said that "there were no non-communal parties in Ceylon." In his opinion the U.N.P. is communal, and the Leftists were no less communal. They are all, it seems, "thinking in terms of race." How he penetrated to their thought-processes and made this discovery he did not say. All that we know is that both the U.N.P. and the various Leftist sects are open to members of all communities. The Tamil Congress alone is open to none but Tamils.

All this time the Tamil Congress gloried in its racial exclusiveness. Has it now begun to be ashamed of it? If not, why this unconvincing attempt to tar the others with the same brush? If it is wrong for the U.N.P. and the Leftists to be communal, as Mr. Ponnambalam's words imply, why is he still running his racial rump?

LOST ITS TAIL

Perhaps the Tamil Congress has gone for inspiration to the fable of the fox which lost its tail. A last desperate attempt is being made not to persuade the other foxes to curtail their extremities but to persuade the public that all the other foxes are tailless.

In justice to the others it must be said that, whatever their defects, they have not found this use for the brush with which the Tamil Congress has tarred itself.—Times August 16, 1947.

Mr. C. W. D. Alwines Honoured

His Majesty the King has conferred the Dignity of Serving Brother (Member) of the Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem on Mr. Cosmas W. D. Alwines, Teacher, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, and District Officer of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in the North.

Honours of the Order of St. John have hitherto been awarded only to members of the Police and Medical Departments.

During the last 18 years, Mr. Alwines has trained more than a thousand persons for First Aid examinations. During the war he was Deputy Officer in charge of the Casualty Service of the Jaffna A.R.P. In 1945 Lady Mountbatten paid a special visit to Jaffna to inspect Ambulance work in North Ceylon, and complimented Mr. Alwines on his devoted service in the cause of First Aid.

Mr. Alwines is a prominent health and social worker and an organiser of exhibitions and carnivals in the North. He is also an author and publisher of "Talks, Verses, Songs, Plays, Recitations on Health." Two editions of this book have been published. This year a modified Tamil edition has been published.

Mr. Alwines has also written two books in Basic English for the Orthological Institute—"Your body and its Care" and "Basic Verse and Plays."

Mr. Alwines is the organiser, and continues to be Secretary of St. Patrick's College Teachers' Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society. This year he is busy organising Ceylon's first Co-operative House Building Society.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Vatican News.—His Holiness the Pope left the Vatican for Castel Gondolfo (14 miles from Rome). He will return to Vatican by October.

The Third Order of St. Francis.—The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 5-30 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 25th of August, 1947. Plenary Indulgences can be gained in September on these dates:—1, 4, 8, 14, 17, 18, 24, 27 and 29. Conditions:—Confes-

sion, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions. General Absolution will be granted on the 8th and the 17th.

Justice Nagalingam Feted in his Home Village.—The Village of Urumpiray clustered strong to felicitate Mr. Justice C. Nagalingam, a son of the soil who was made the first permanent Tamil Judge of the Supreme Court. Addressing the gathering Mr. Nagalingam said, "This is a red letter day in my life. This day would live indelibly impressed in my mind. This is one of the few landmarks which would ever stand out prominent when I think over my life." Continuing further he said that the people of Urumpiray had got the necessary inventive resourcefulness, the brains and the energy. But what was required was the direction of these talents along correct lines. Mr. S. R. Gnanaratnam, on behalf of the residents, read an illuminated address and presented it to the Judge in a cylindrical casket of silver, exquisitely worked.

Sinhalese and Tamils are Blood Brothers.—At a Public Welcome accorded to the Tamil Poet, Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai at Galle presided over by Mr. W. T. Wijekulasuriya, Mr. Ramalingam Pillai remarked, "I am overwhelmed at the warmth of the welcome given me by a Sinhalese who very significantly has presided over a meeting at the Tamil Union. From the presence of so many Sinhalese I am convinced that the stories spread about differences between Sinhalese and Tamils are false. The Sinhalese and Tamils have lived like blood brothers and life here is certainly more pleasant than in India."

Dr. Ivor Jennings on Ceylon Women.—Presiding at the Prize-Distribution of Girl's School, Kandy on Aug. 8, Dr. Ivor Jennings declared, "One of the questions which I have not been able to answer in the course of the past six years is how the middle class people of Ceylon spend their time, especially the women. They have domestic help on a scale which in my country would be deemed grossly extravagant. The women in Ceylon have Ayahs to look after their babies. They do not stand in queues or cook meals. They do not read or sketch or make lace or knit or make embroidery or write novels or play games. I have been informed on high authority that it took some time to adjust a saree. Though nobody has given me a demonstration it would seem that one could spend all day in adjusting sarees." The Vice-Chancellor prescribed Social Service to those who found time hanging on their hands. He proposed to find a Professor of Social Service in the United States and start a course of training in Social Service in the University of Ceylon.

Sanitary Inspector's Entrance Exam.—We are glad to learn that Mr. Abraham Antony of the Staff of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna has been selected for training as a Sanitary Inspector from the 26th inst. We wish him success.

An Old Patrician in Malaya Commended.—We have pleasure publishing a copy of the certificate granted to one of the Old Boys of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna in Malaya for meritorious services to His Majesty's Forces in Malaya during the time of travail under the Japanese. Mr. Saverimuttu who was the Chief Clerk in an Estate in Negri Sembilan played the part of the faithful servant for which he is now promoted Superintendent of an estate.

Copy of Certificate :

This certificate is awarded to Mr. Joseph Saverimuttu as a token of gratitude for and appreciation of the help given to the Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen of the British Commonwealth of Nations, which enabled them to escape from or evade capture by the enemy.

(Sgd.) LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, 1941-1945.

Inauguration of the Jaffna Tamil Sangam.—Speaking from the chair, at a meeting of the Tamil Poets, Vidvans, Pandits and Research Workers held on Saturday July 19, at the Mallakam English School, Mr. S. Shivapadasunderam, B.A., Retired Principal, Victoria College and author of several Tamil works hailed the report of the Select Committee on Sinhalese and Ta-

mil as official languages as a pointer to great communal harmony in this Island and expressed great satisfaction at the move of Tamil Scholars to organise a Sangam to develop the Tamil Language in such a way as to make it fit into the New Order.

In proposing the name of Mr. S. Natesan, B.A., B.L., F.R.E.S., for the Presidency of the Jaffna Tamil Sangam Mr. S. Shivapadasunderam said that Mr. Natesan's high degree of proficiency in Tamil, Sanskrit and English and his great services to the cause of Tamil Education and to the development of the Tamil Language entitled him to such a recognition. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Vidvan Brahama Sri S. Navaneetha Krishna Bharati blessed the new Sangam and expressed the hope that it would work hard and earn rightful recognition for Tamil Scholars.

Pulavar T. Kumarasampillai, Mr. S. R. Benedict, Vidvan K. K. Nadarajah, B.O.L., Pandit V. Sangarapillai, Pandits Mr. Ponnudurai and Mr. R. N. Sivaprakasam also spoke.

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:—

President: Mr. S. Natesan, B.A., B.L., F.R.E.S.

Vice-Presidents: Brahma Sri Vidvan S. Ganesha Iyer, Brahma Sri Vidvan S. Navaneetha Krishna Bharati, Mr. S. Shivapadasunderam, B.A., Pulavar Sri K. Somasunderam, Pandit Sri S. Kanapathipillai.

Joint Secretaries: Vidvan S. R. Ananthar, B.O.L., Mr. R. N. Sivaprakasam.

Treasurer: Mr. A. Vettivetpillai. A committee of 34 leading Tamil Scholars also was elected.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chairman and others proposed by Mr. R. N. Sivaprakasam.

Nehru's Jail Ticket for Allahabad Museum.—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was on a short visit to Allahabad, presented on Aug. 12 the jail ticket issued to him during his first incarceration in the struggle for independence, to the Director of the Allahabad Museum. A section of the Museum is housing a large number of caskets, garlands etc., in gold and silver received by Mr. Nehru in the course of his several tours both within the country and overseas.

Teacher Becomes President of Parliament.—First elected President of the Legislative Council of Cochin State, South India, is a Catholic, Mr. L. M. Pylee, Principal of St. Albert's College, Ernakulam, and an educationist of long standing.

On Adaptation to Changing Conditions.—Declaring open the Alagappa College at Karaikudi, S. India on Aug. 11, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam, Education Minister, Madras said: "We are moving fast, the world is changing and with it, we must also adjust to changing conditions. No man or woman and no society or country can live and be effective unless it adjusts itself to the changing conditions of the environments within which it lives. Those who stop or falter will be thrown to the wind by nature and so it is absolutely essential for us that we must take stock of the existing and changing conditions in the life around us in the world and plan with vision for the future. If we plan well to-day and infuse courage and strength in our children then and then only we lay the foundations for a great and glorious future for this country."

Hyderabad Refuses to Accede.

—The Hyderabad Government have definitely decided not to sign the Instrument of Accession to the Indian Union and will negotiate treaties with both Dominions on a footing of equality. The Nizam has addressed a lengthy letter to the Viceroy, explaining the position of Hyderabad.

Indian Union Becomes a Member of the U.N.O.—According to the ruling of the U.N.O. Legal Department the Dominion of India will become the legal and constitutional successor to British India as a member of the United Nations Organisation. The Status of Pakistan will be considered as a separatist State breaking away from the Indian Dominion. If the ruling of the Secretariat is accepted, the new saffron, white and green flag of India will be ceremoniously raised in front of the

United Nations Headquarters in place of the present flag after Aug. 15. Pakistan will be free to apply for membership and its application of membership will go through without any difficulty in time for Pakistan to take its place as the 5th member of the United Nations.

Egyptian Envoy at the Vatican.

—It is officially announced by the Vatican Secretariate of State and the Egyptian Government that the Egyptian Government and the Holy See have agreed to establish diplomatic relations. Egypt's representative at the Vatican will hold the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. The Holy See's envoy will be an Internuncio. Egypt is the first Muslim State to enter into relations with the Vatican.

Cardinal Writes 14,000 Letters.

—When Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York visited the battle fronts in North Africa, Britain and the Far East, he promised the soldiers he met personally—Catholic and non-Catholic—that he would write to their parents. Keeping that promise meant that His Eminence had to write 14,000 letters. This fact is mentioned in the citation accompanying the award to the Cardinal of the Medal of Merit for war-time services to the United Nations.

25th Anniversary of G. K. C's Conversion.

—Catholics from seven countries—America, France, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Ireland and England—commemorated the 25th anniversary of G. K. Chesterton's reception into the Church by gathering, on July 7, in the studio of his old home, Top Meadow, Beaconsfield to hear Fr. Ignatius Rice, O.S.B., headmaster of Douai school and G.K.C.'s intimate friend, speak of the great writer.

Fr. Rice said that Chesterton was worthy to rank with Sir Thomas Moore, adding that a first class book awaits writing on the parallels in the lives of the two men. He hoped that Top Meadow would be visited by increasing numbers.

Hanged Sergeant a Catholic.

—Sgt Clifford Martin, one of the two British soldiers hanged a few days ago by Jewish Terrorists in Palestine, was a Catholic. Requiem Mass was offered for his soul before the burial with military honours.

Diamond Robbery on Dutch Plane.

—The Dutch News Agency reports that uncut diamonds to the value of about £53,000 have been stolen from a K.L.M. Dutch Civil Air Lines between Amsterdam and Karachi. No trace has yet been found. The Amsterdam Criminal Investigation Department has started inquiries.

20,000 Catholic Boys take part in World Scouts Jamboree.

—The first post-war International Boy Scout Jamboree is being held in Moisson forest, overlooking the Seine, about 60 miles from Paris. Approximately, 40,000 Scouts have gathered for the event from all parts of the world. 20,000 of the Scouts are Catholics. For the Catholic boys attending the Jamboree a Solemn Pontifical High Mass was sung by His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. Canon Jean Rupp, has been named the Chief Catholic Chaplain of the Jamboree. The celebrations which began on the 9th inst, will come to a close on the 29th.

Australia—Britain in 24 hours.

Lord Nathan, British Minister of Civil Aviation, said in an interview, "A huge aircraft, "Beast of the Air," carrying 100 passengers and flying 400 miles per hour will cut the flying time between Australia and Britain to 24 hours within measurable period. The immediate objective is to cut the flying time to 48 hours."

Coal Statue of a Saint.

—During his tour of a mining area in Upper Silesia Cardinal Griffin was presented by the Polish miners with the statue of a Saint made of coal. Speaking of the gift His Eminence said jokingly: "I hope I will not be forced to burn this gift during the coming winter."

Assailant on Priest Declared Mad.

—Some time ago we reported in these columns that one Don Laurentz slashed Fr. James Courtney, S.J., as he was giving Holy Communion in New Orleans Church U.S.A. Laurentz has now been declared insane and committed to a mental institution.

Letters to the Editor

Catholics Shouldn't be Communal

Sir,—“Catholicus” in an undated leaflet the length of which shows his depth of desparation comments on your Editorials of 15-8-47 and 11-5-47 and accuses you of inconsistency of policy. Your policy is world wide and in complete agreement with the ideals of democratic principles.

In short you are whole heartedly opposed to communalism of any sort even if it springs from one whose "education was in Catholic Colleges." In his call to the nation Nehru said, "We cannot encourage communalism or narrow-mindedness, for no nation can be great whose people are narrow in thought or action."

The Catholic Clergy of Jaffna are exhorting their flock not to be "narrow in thought or action," not to be communalistic and not to lose the benefits that will accrue to the country, the Tamils and especially the Catholics through a national outlook, by an isolationist partisanship with the Tamil Congress which is neither representatively Tamil nor completely a Congress.

The Catholic Clergy devoid of all selfish motives are guiding the people, mindful of the welfare of the Catholics and of the welfare of the country as a whole. How then can they be infringing the advice of His Grace and least of all that of His Holiness? "Catholicus" is as much irresponsible as he is mischievous and misleading.

Chundukuli, Yours etc.,
20 8 47. S. B. M. RAJADURAI.

Bury the Past and Look Ahead

Sir,—Your editorial on India appearing in your issue of the 8th instant serves a useful purpose. While rejoicing at the attainment of Independence by India, we in Ceylon should draw our own lessons from the happenings in India and the example of its leaders. Mere rejoicing by the people of this country at the occurrence of great events in India is not sufficient. Indian Independence would not have been achieved but for the great qualities of realism, moral and physical courage, disinterested service and avoidance of recrimination displayed by its political leaders. In Ceylon the avoidance of recrimination at this juncture over past failures and present failings is an indispensable requisite for the political harmony and progress of our country.

Dr. C. R. Reddy, one of the Indian leaders and Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University, who recently renounced his knighthood, made the following observation in the course of a statement issued by him to the Press: "The most foolish and futile thing to do is to indulge in criticism of the past and speculate on how things would have been, had the course of events been otherwise. The past is dead never to be revived. We won't think of it except for drawing lessons with caution and with the understanding that they could never be more than probables. We must prepare for the future on the basis of the present. There is no other basis."

We in Ceylon shall do well to take to heart these words of wisdom and accept the present in a spirit of realism and face the future with an attitude of goodwill and co-operation. The words of Dr. Reddy that we must prepare for the future on the basis of the present and that there is no other basis should be read and re read by all of us and the spirit of those words woven into the texture of our lives and political conduct.

Yours truly,
S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM,
156, Hultsdorf, Colombo.
13th August 1947.

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province, up to 12 noon on Tuesday, August 26, 1947, for strengthening and raising the bund of Mulai Kulam in Pooneryn, N.P. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Kacheri, where all particulars can be obtained. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on Saturday, August 23, 1947, only on production of receipt for Rs. 50 deposited each form at the Jaffna Kacheri.

M. SRIKHANTA,
for Govt. Agent, N.P.
Jaffna, 9th August 1947.

An Appeal to Tamil Youth

By K. NESIAH

May I commend for your most earnest consideration the timely advice given by such venerable leaders like Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Dr. S. Subramaniam, and Mr. S. Shivapadasundaram. It has been so cheering to hear their call to sanity at the moment we needed it most. I venture to add a few words of mine to you of the younger generation in whose midst I have been working for over two decades now. On you depends the destiny of the Tamils as on the youth of Lanka as a whole the destiny of our dear motherland. I would like to make it clear that I am not a member of any political party; my appeal is actuated by love of my people.

When in November, 1944, I pointed out in a letter to the daily press the danger of a communal organisation for the Tamils I did receive a few messages of approval; I know that what I say now will find an echo in many more hearts than then. I am especially concerned however with pleading with those hitherto unconverted. My thesis is that the very existence of the Tamil Congress imperils the future of the Ceylon Tamils. That some of its leaders are clever men or even sincere does not justify the movement, any more than the existence of certain communal politicians among the Sinhalese and Muslims justifies it.

Let me remind you that ever since political awakening began in this country Tamil leaders have been in the forefront of the movement for freedom. Even twenty years ago I breathed a fresher air; I felt it was worth while living in Ceylon, particularly in Jaffna. For then we were moved by a longing for freedom, a passion for social reform and a deep interest in a cultural revival. Where is all that ardour that held us in thrall not so long ago. Now, does the agony of Indonesia move us or the independence of India enthrall us or, tragic enough, do we feel the throb of our own coming freedom? Our fathers dreamed of the day of freedom; the imminence of that day has become a nightmare to us. The youth of Jaffna was once the Island's pride; now our case is truly pathological. Almost every man is a careerist; every other has a grievance, well-founded or ill-founded; in either case his obsession ill serves his country. He would cut his nose to spite his face. Taking all in all, we have lost our share in the leadership of the country at least in the political sphere.

How has all this happened? It is easy enough to blame it on others. But, if you would really think about it, the sources of weakness of a community are within, not without. Tamil leadership was accepted in the past because of its moral quality and its national outlook; in other fields than the political it is still accepted and for the same reasons. In the political field we have lost ground because the men who became Tamil leaders were only Tamil leaders; Tamils were persuaded not to accept the leadership of men with a more national outlook. In fact with one or two good exceptions, the leadership of the Tamil Congress consists of men with little service to their credit in other nation-building activities either for the Tamils or for the country; they just rode to power on the tide of passions they fomented. Once there, instead of reviving the ideals which have made us what we are, they quenched the old fire by a mass of memoranda and mob oratory, schemes, slogans and shibboleths. Mark the irony, the sons of those who led the struggle for freedom were, up to the hour of the acceptance of the Soulbury Constitution, found encamped with those who were opposed to freedom for Ceylon! There are no doubt other factors, but our present sad plight is primarily due to the misleadership supplied by the body that has arrogated to itself the name of the Tamil Congress.

Let us look for a moment at the realities of the situation. The Ceylon Tamils form 12% of the population of Ceylon while the Sinhalese form 70%. Very little of the wealth of the soil or sub-soil belongs to the former. As it is 2½ lakhs out of the 8 lakhs of Ceylon Tamils live and work outside the two

provinces which are predominantly Tamil. The greater number of the earning members of the middle class have likewise to work outside these provinces. With Malaya no longer open the need for us to find our living everywhere in Ceylon will increase. No formula will assure us these opportunities, but the good-will of all communities. At a higher level, it is necessary that we should have a share of the ministerial posts. That again cannot come by rigid formulas but by conventions set up on a friendly basis. The time-honoured example is the Swiss practice of not confining ministerial posts to one language group, or one religion or one canton. An example of today is the new Nehru Cabinet. Granted the cabinet system, the team has to be chosen from amongst those who will work together and work with their leader.

If only we would realise that we are living at a critical moment in our history and a mistaken decision now may mean for us and for generations to come all the difference between a historic role for the Tamils and a tragic fate. Asia, led by India, is on the march and Ceylon too is getting caught in this advance. Freedom will lead to a creative life. Soon we will be called upon to make epoch-making decisions—make a new Constitution, evolve a National Flag, decide our foreign policy, define our attitude to India, plan our economy, reconstruct our education, open new fronts in the fight against ill-health, ignorance and poverty, pattern a social order and in fact choose a new way of life. Is this the moment for those who were once in the vanguard of the freedom movement to step out of the ranks and sulk in the tents? Is this the moment for us to sit out in the cold and blame our fate? If we do, we may slow down the pace of the advance, but also forego the right to influence its direction. If we adopt the defeatist attitude of the Tamil Congress and form a racial block, we invite the formation of other racial blocks and loose our own cause. If on the other hand, we rejoin the rest and take a national attitude we just take our rightful place in the national life. No one need give it to us; it is automatically ours. I have faith in Tamil youth and invite them to take that path of courageous and constructive statesmanship.

Confession of Faith

(Continued from Page 1)

the proof before them. The thing that amazed me was that Catholic and non-Catholic alike were convinced of the power of the great protector and wanted to know where they could get medals to take into the air with them in the future. I promised to get them for them, as soon as I could get into town.

After they had left, the field-maintenance officer came over to where I was leaning against the tender of the crash wagon, which had been there in preparation for the worst.

"You," he said, "are a very fortunate man. This wrench, left by some careless mechanic was on the floor of your cockpit. Evidently it jammed your controls. The fact that you didn't give up, even when a crash seemed inevitable, saved your life. That wrench must have jarred loose at the very last moment. Come with me; I want to show you something."

I followed the captain across the field to the hangar. We walked around the ship and he pointed to the left wing.

"Look at that, mister," he said, pointing to a cluster of grass and dirt clinging to the underside of the wing tip.

"The Almighty was watching over you today. You will never have a closer call and live to tell of it."

Until then, I had not understood why the fellows had been so quickly converted to St. Christopher, although I had told them of my faith in him many times before. But I hadn't quite understood this sudden change of opinion and belief until I saw that dirt and grass clinging there in mute evidence of how close I had been to death. I knew how utterly they had given me up, only to see me snatched from the very jaws of death; seeing that little plane lifted into the sky and to safety, as if by a giant hand. Then I knew why they were so anxious to enlist the aid of St. Christo-

Some doubters have been heard to say that belief in St. Christopher is superstition, and that the wearing of his medal is like the carrying of any talisman. However, I should like to point out that no talisman nor superstition could have made me rise from my lethargy of despair and guide that plane to safety. It was a strong, burning faith in a power that had never failed that led me to grasp the stick with only a fraction of a second to spare.

Those buddies of mine, who watched the scene with terror in their hearts, will always have trust in the outcome when they invoke the guardian whose medal they cling to in firm belief and gratitude. There is no superstition there, only strong faith in a power they have witnessed and know to be worthy of their intercession.—*Catholic Digest*.

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 31st 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 duty 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. VAIRAMUTTU,
for Civil Defence Commissioner.
Civil Defence Office,
Union Place, Colombo,
August 10, 1947.

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province, up to 12 noon on Tuesday, August 26, 1947 for the necessary improvements to Ravalai Vinnathiyai Vaikkal in Kaithady Navatkuli, N.P. Tenders should be made on form obtainable on application from the Kachcheri, Jaffna, where all particulars can be obtained. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on Saturday, 23 August 1947 only on production of receipt for Rs. 50 deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

M. SRIKHANTA,
for Govt. Agent, N.P.
Jaffna, 9th August, 1947.

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

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

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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