

# The Catholic Guardian

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

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## HOLY FATHER UPHOLDS POLISH RIGHTS

While the Polish Premier, M. Mikolajczyk, was on his way from London to see Marshal Stalin in Moscow, the Holy Father on July 28th in an audience granted to the Polish Commander-in-Chief, seven other Generals, Bishop Gawlina, Chaplains, and some 500 Officers and men, expressed the firm hope that, because "your right is so secure" all the nations "will bear in mind their debt to Poland" and will seek to vindicate for Poland "the full place due to it according to the principles of justice and of genuine peace."

### 'YOUR RIGHT IS SECURE'

General Sosnkowski, C.-in-C., with members of his staff, General Anders, Commander of the Polish Army fighting in Italy, six other Generals, Archbishop Cortesi, Papal Nuncio to Poland, and the Polish Ambassador to the Holy See, Dr. Papee, and Bishop Gawlina, Ordinary of the Polish Forces, were received by His Holiness in solemn special audience before the Holy Father gave his address.

On entering the Clementine Hall for the general audience, His Holiness was greeted with a military salute and a three-fold acclamation.

The Pope greeted his visitors in Polish with the traditional Polish salutation, "Praised be Jesus Christ." Every officer and man in the hall at once repeated it.

"Praised be Jesus Christ" were the words chosen by Pope Pius XI—at one time Nuncio to Poland—for his world broadcast. They are the opening words of every news bulletin from Vatican Radio.

Then, having taken his seat on the throne, and speaking in French, His Holiness said:

"It would be difficult for us to find words with which to express our feelings of keen and profound emotion, which

we experience at this moment, dear sons of beloved Poland.

"From the very first warning sounds of this terrible storm, and in the course of its ever more furious progress, in preoccupation of heart for your heroic nation, we followed day by day—we might say hour by hour—with sorrow and anxious grief the succession of events which overwhelmed it, as yet scarcely risen and forged together, with new and ever harder trials. And, no less than you, who did not for an instant despair of a new resurrection of your country, we repeated in unison with you the inspired cry of the Just Man in affliction: 'Although He should kill me I will trust in Him.'

"At the sight of you gathered now about us, our thoughts go back to five years ago, to Sept. 30, 1939, when, oppressed by anguish, the Polish colony in Rome came to give us testimony of its unshakable confidence, and to receive from us in return words of consolation and encouragement. Then there was indeed only the beginning of sorrows, and the flood of those sorrows mounting ceaselessly, submerged your fatherland...

"Despite it all, after those five long years of agony, we can still today, as then, read in your eyes the same confidence, the same fidelity; but this time we see shine there, too, the proud flame of a noble pride and hope.

"Your fidelity to Christ, to His Church and to His Vicar has remained indefectible and came through the troubled period of the 16th century without great damage.

"It cost you many combats borne intrepidly and many sufferings courageously supported.

"Despite the problems and preoccupations which may still darken the horizon, we trust that Divine Providence, in reward of those thousand years, will yet give you to enjoy a lasting peace together with a joyous well-being."...  
.....—The Universe.

## IT'S A BATTLEFIELD OCTOBER MEMORIES

X. S. THANINAYAGAM, D.D.

Mission Sunday in the Liturgical year brings back to the mind a number of possibilities not thought about, a host of ideals not realised, immense spiritual resources not developed. One experiences a sense of helplessness before the mighty work to be achieved, and a feeling of humiliation and remorse at the mighty little as yet accomplished.

### OCTOBER MEMORIES

October is rich in mission minded stimuli, and what is striking is that the stimuli are suited to the faithful of every walk of life. St. Teresa of Lisieux, Patroness of the Missions, and Almoner of Roses, stands at the threshold of the month, she whose driving desire was to be a missionary at all times and in all places. What Alexander is match for this young saint's desire of conquest? She prayed Moses-like in her convent, and is it not an encouragement to the missionaries of the hearth to know that to a pair of uplifted cloistered hands in Normandy must be attributed our victories in African and Asiatic battlefields? She reminds us that one can be a very successful missionary without stirring out of home. The vision of Christ robed in His Kingship fills the closing days of the month. The feast is a compendium of the theological motives that urge missionary co-operation on every side. In between, fall Mission Sunday, as well as the feasts of St. Francis of Assisi, a great builder of churches and the Church, and of St. Teresa, this of Avila, whose missionary zeal while yet a child has been perpetuated for literary memories by Crashaw. St. Luke, probably the leader of the first medical mission and certainly author of the first history of the missions, is another whose memory we keep green during the month. October is indeed the month of the Missions; it is no mere chance that Mission Sunday falls in October.

### CHRIST'S EMPIRE DAY

Mission Sunday is Christ's Empire day. I believe in the new world of the future, men will plan an annual world-wide observance of a day dedicated to internationalism. We Catholics are celebrating already such a day. Wendell Willkie in "One World" says that there are no distant points in the world any longer, that our thinking in the future must be world-wide. The Catholic has been always world-wide in his thought; that flows necessarily from his name. Mission Sunday is the annual reminder and exhortation to that aspect of practical and effective Catholicism which consists in brotherly love towards the peoples that we call "foreign" in popular jargon, and a breadth of view and interest as broad as Christ's embrace. A baptized person cannot be insular in his outlook or in his spirituality. His horizon is as universal as the Church to which he belongs, as all embracing the Mystical Body of which he is a member. Animated and characteristically fervent are the Pope's frequent exhortations at the end of his encyclical *Corporis Mystici Christi*; "First of all let us intimate the breadth of his love, genuine love of the Church is not satisfied with our being within this body. We must also recognize as brothers of Christ according to the flesh those others who have not yet joined us in the

body of the Church." The Catholic, the true citizen of the world, counts as his brethren the Catholics and non-Catholics of the Empire of Christ which is the world. With a consciousness of the solidarity in the Mystic Christ, a Catholic finds a new meaning and a new interest in whatever information he gathers of another country, no matter from where he gathers it, be it from Pearl Buck, or Pandit Nehru, or the morning newspaper.

### VICTORY DAY

Mission Sunday is the Victory Day of the Church. There are Catholic pacifists who would eschew words and phrases that even distantly savour of war. But can the ideals of the Church Militant be expressed without militant terms? We need not improve on the Bible or the Fathers, and the whole of scripture and Tradition echo the words of Job recast by Graham "It is a Battlefield." On this 'V' day of the Church, the Home Front is reminded of its duties and urged to greater and greater sacrifices while being presented with the review of the spiritual war situation. It is a day when we revise and bring up-to-date the facts and figures about the progress the Faith has made since last time we were interested in its propagation. It is a day when we renew our resolutions of helping by prayers and alms the extension of Christ's Kingdom. It is a duty that is inherent in us by Baptism to propagate the Faith by every means direct and indirect. To the vast armies of missionaries engaged at the battle front it is we who should send every possible form of help and comfort.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

So that Mission Sunday is Remembrance Day too, the poppy Day of the heroes and heroines, not only of those dead but also of all those actually on active service overseas, forgotten at the front, red with glory of a bloodless martyrdom. On this day we remember them, the sacrifices they have made, the privations they endure, the loneliness that must be theirs. They are more or less doing our work. They substitute us. Hence our obligation to them of unstinted aid. What the cult of the Unknown Soldier is to the nation, the apotheosis of the missionary on Mission Sunday is to the Church. Within the Ark it is productive of the finest feelings of reverence for that consummate heroism incarnate in the messengers of the Gospel. Not infrequently does this reverence in the young blossom into a desire to follow their steps.

### SPIRITUAL RED CROSS

Asia and Africa, the mission continents are, we are told, the most backward in missionary co-operation. The motherly solicitude of the missionary co-operation of the west has created in us an indifference to the movement not unlike the indifference and self-satisfaction noticed in pampered and spoiled youths.

There is a feeling that a Catholic in a Mission country need not be mission minded, that he only receives the charity from the West. The presence of this feeling explains much of our silence in the press, the pulpit, and the class room about missions and the work  
(Continued on Page 4.)

## COMMUNIST GOVT. IN POLAND WOULD MENACE CHRISTIAN CIVILISATION

### HIERARCHY OF SCOTLAND

While the Polish Premier, Foreign Minister and the President of the Polish National Council were in Moscow discussing the future of their country with Marshal Stalin, the Scots Hierarchy issued a statement declaring that the arbitrary establishment of a Communist system of Government in Poland would "undermine the very foundations of our Christian civilisation" and "might prove the death-blow to the hopes of the tortured countries of Europe."

M. Mikolajczyk, Count Romer and Prof. Grabski, besides meeting the Soviet leader, have also had discussions with the "National Committee of Liberation," composed largely of Communists, who have set themselves up as a rival to the legitimate Polish Government.

It is generally admitted that the Polish leaders did not go to Russia on their own initiative.

The Hierarchy's statement is signed by Archbishop McDonald, St. Andrews, and Edinburgh; Bishop Bennett, Aberdeen; Bishop Campbell, Argyll and the Isles; Bishop Toner, Dunkeld; Bishop

Mellon, Galloway, and Mgr. Daly, Vicar Capitulor of Glasgow. It reads:

"The recent ominous developments in the setting up by the Soviet Government of a so-called National Council of Liberation to take over—without any valid authority or legal mandate—the government and administration of Poland cannot but cause grave anxiety and distress in the minds and hearts of all who have followed with sympathy the agony and sufferings of the people of that country since the day of invasion in September, 1939.

The arbitrary establishment of a Communist System of Government not only alien to the traditions, religion and morality of the people of Poland but also a cynical defiance of International Law and the rights of nations would—if it were to succeed—undermine the very foundations of our Christian civilisation. Likewise it might prove the death-blow to the hopes of the tortured countries of Europe.

### THREAT TO SOVEREIGNTY

"While trusting in Almighty God that  
(Continued on Page 4.)

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(சத்தியவேத தர்ப்பணம்)

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## Church Calendar

OCTOBER 1944

FRI. ... 6 S. Bruno.  
SAT. ... 7 HOLY ROSARY.  
SUN. ... 8 19th Sunday after Pentecost.  
S. Bridget.  
MON. ... 9 S. Dionysius.  
TUES. ... 10 S. Francis, B.  
WED. ... 11 Mat. B.V.M.  
THURS. ... 12 S. Wilfrid.  
FRI. ... 13 S. Edward.

## The Catholic Guardian

OCTOBER 6TH 1944

### UNOFFICIAL COMMITTEE CANNOT PROCEED

According to reports in the papers the Unofficial Committee appointed by the State Council to draft a Constitution has failed in its objective. This will not come as a surprise to people who have been following the controversy on representation. When the Committee began to tackle this crucial question then came the deadlock. The meeting was to break up when on a suggestion it was decided to refer the matter as it stood to a meeting of the State Council to be summoned on next Tuesday afternoon. The proceedings at the meetings of the Committee are said to have been in camera but fairly full reports have appeared in the papers and we must take them as fairly accurate as no representations have been made to the contrary by persons concerned. Mr. Jayah is said to have stated that as far as the minorities were concerned they were prepared to deviate from the 50:50 position and accept a reasonable proportion provided they were given adequate safeguards. But who authorized Mr. Jayah to make this statement on behalf of the minorities? We do not believe that the Tamil representatives from the North would consent to play the weather-cock in this fashion. They were expressly enjoined by the Tamil Congress not to deviate from the principle of Balanced Representation without its knowledge and consent. If Mr. Jayah had spoken as he is said to have spoken, then he spoke not for the minorities but for himself. "A reasonable proportion" and "adequate safeguards." What do these words mean? On what are they to be based? These expressions disclose a slave mentality. We do not believe that self-respecting Minorities wish to continue to live under the reformed constitution in a state of tutelage. They want no protection, they want no safeguards; they demand an effective participation in the government of the country. Politicians of the majority community must recognise this

that the Minorities do not consider it a privilege to substitute to British rule, Sinhalese rule if they are to have no effective part in it. The promise of protection must amount to an insult to self-respecting, manly communities who have played an honourable role in the history of the country. There is nothing sacred about the provisions of a form of democratic government. These provisions must undergo drastic modification to suit the conditions of a country if the government there is to be a success. The 50:50 is a symbol for balanced representation or balance of power—a provision to prevent any one single community exercising absolute power, a prudent measure in these days against party dictatorships. It points to the ratio of representation and not to the number of representatives. It is nothing less than muddle-headedness to increase the number to a hundred and more in the hope of satisfying the minorities with a few more additional seats. This extravagant increase forebodes a pandemonium with an increased expenditure of about quarter million rupees.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

**An Honest and a Courageous Statement.**—Presiding over the Prize-Giving at the Central College, Jaffna, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, our genial Government Agent in the course of his speech made the following statement:

"While as Hindus we would all like to send our children to Hindu schools, I feel that the Hindu children who for certain very good reasons are compelled to be in Christian schools, should not miss the benefits of the religious classes. I have no hesitation in saying that it is far better to attend the teaching of the Christian religion and develop a wider outlook and a religious background than to go out into the world without any religious education at all."

Mr. Coomaraswamy also said that as a Hindu he did not fear that Hindu children who attended the religious classes in Christian schools would thereby lose their faith. On the other hand, he was confident that it would widen their outlook.

Several other Hindu gentlemen of standing in their community expressed to us their same view but perhaps they had not the courage to speak out so openly as Mr. Coomaraswamy has done. The study of a world religion like Christianity with its sublime teaching and marvellous history is bound to develop a wider outlook in all students, Christian and non-Christian alike. It will not only broaden their outlook but enable them to view things in their proper perspective. There is nothing in Hinduism to forbid such a study. As far as beliefs are concerned, it allows all beliefs and even no belief but insists on the strict observance of its social code. The speaker was again right in saying that a mere study of Christianity by Hindu students will not lead to their conversion. Conversion depends on the dispositions of a student and the grace of God. The danger is not conversion by religious indifferentism by the neglect of the study of religion.

**The Future of Poland.**—In his war-review speech Mr. Churchill's reference to Poland was most disappointing. He seems to think that the British Government must support the claim of Stalin for a good half of Poland on the plea of security against attack which Russia fears. We are tempted to think that this readiness to accommodate the Soviets is an unconditional surrender to Stalin even before Hitler makes his to the United Nations. The plea of the necessity of security is patently frivolous. After the present experience, Germany will not be in a hurry to attack Russia. Another war is not going to come tomorrow but, perhaps about twenty-five years hence. And it has been calculated that in 1970 the Soviet Republics will have a population of 270 millions and Germany 70 millions. Danger for the future will come from Stalin. A committee of Communists is being trained in Moscow to grasp the ruling power in Poland and according to the London "Universe" hundreds of Soviet agents have been let loose on that unfortunate country to prepare the ground for a Communist regime. The joint letter of the Scottish Catholic Hierarchy which will be found on our front page is timely and gives a good deal of information. Their Lordships request the Archbishops and Bishops of Canada, Australia and South-Africa to do likewise. If only the Catholics all over the world could understand the value of joint action!

## "The Song of Bernadette"

### Saint Filmed in Hollywood

"The Song of Bernadette" will be coming to Ceylon in the near future. It will be of particular interest to Catholics as it is one of the few films on a religious theme sacred to Catholics. Incidentally, "The Story of the Vatican", which was in the Island some months ago is again in our midst, and it is hoped that the outstations will not be overlooked.

"The Song of Bernadette" has been well received by the Catholics in America and there is a possibility of it being followed by others. So reports the London "Catholic Herald" and adds: "Catholic pleasure at Bernadette has resulted in a move to show its producers how much Catholics would like to encourage really sincere attempts at portraying faithfully on the screen themes sacred to them."

Imagine Franz Werfel's best-seller becoming Hollywood's latest roaring success! Is it that Hollywood has turned towards Heaven? Or is it merely a change, perhaps well needed, to provide variety to the cinema fans? Of course, some of them who often mistake Hollywood for Heaven will make capital out of it.

The Illustrated Weekly of India reviewing the film recently gave some interesting details about its get-up. It also published some shots of the film, one of which is the scene of Bernadette (Jennifer Jones), who is to become a nun, wishing good-bye to the boy who loves her, Poor St. Bernadette! The other day Mr. J. P. de Fonseka gave us an instance (in the Messenger) of an actor, no other than St. Genesius, Comedian and Martyr, who in the act of mocking Christian Baptism, himself became the object of a real baptismal rite. The apparent realism of the mock-heroic had suddenly barged into stark reality. But here is a case of a true story turned into a fiction. The big fellows of the cinema world have gone and done it, not only to quench the thirst of picture-goers, who are never satisfied unless a few love-scenes are

doled out to them, but also to make sure of their money. Can they, (the cinema houses) of all, be lacking in that modern genius for compromise?

The film has cost over 66 lakhs of rupees. About a 1,000 experts worked on that film, which was in process of production for nearly a year. Some of the wonderful things made to create the setting for the play was a man-made river, water being pumped from two 75,000 gallon tanks; and the banks of the stream were planted with a grove of 100 full grown trees. Five hundred candles burned throughout one long scene, it is said. The music for the film has been taken from Church music, old chants and French peasant songs.

The cast includes a player-saint, (Jennifer Jones), a player-priest (Charles Bickford) and a player-nun (Gladys Cooper). If the priest is a difficult role for Hollywood, then what of a Saint? Who can act the real Bernadette Soubirous, the poor, simple, child-like maid, who had the distinct privilege of having been chosen by Our Lady, to be the sole witness of Her Apparitions at Lourdes? She was young and weak, but she was strong in Faith. The stars of the screen may succeed in imitating her externally, in her acts and looks, in things visible. But what of things that cannot be reached by human eyes, her thoughts and feelings, her doubts and fears, her joys, sorrows and mental sufferings?

The Story of Lourdes is a Play of the Supernatural, and any attempt to put it on the screen can only be a partial success.

V. A. P.

## The Impending Scheme of Reforms and the Crisis

I am designedly using the word impending, for, the distrust that exists among various sections of the Minorities, forebodes nothing but evil. There must be unity, but sad to say, there are various influences working against it. Will the reform, if and when it comes be worth its name? Will it give us a large measure of self-determination? Are we going to have the real form of it, or merely its phantom? Is the mountain to bring forth only a mouse? Are our politicians following only a will-o'-the-wisp? Will the reforms drop on us as the gentle rain from heaven or is it going to descend on us like one of its thunderbolts? These are chilling thoughts, that perplex those who reflect on them.

**THE MINISTERS:** Like the seven wise men of Gotham, our ministers are unable to see what is before them. Their attitude towards the Reform is one of dictatorial arrogance. What bathos there was in the words of their leader, when he said with tears in his eyes, "we Sinhalese have a right to live!" Have not the minorities, I demand, a right at least to exist? They may perhaps see wisdom, when the "foreigner" comes to them with his big stick. Let us not forget that British Imperialism is still very much alive. Even this war will not kill that, what man or nation willingly parts with power, once enjoyed? British Imperialism realises now, as it never realised at any time before, how indispensable our little island is to the preservation of its vast empire in the East. To the Britisher, Ceylon was "Lipton's tea-garden", before the war; now he sees that it his strongest 'fortress built by nature', to help him to lord over millions in the East. What particular brand of self-government, will our Ministers get for us, from the gods of the West?

**FIFTY-FIFTY.** Both in season and out of season, G.G.P., the Leader of the Tamils, (none but a dolt will dispute that now) has more than explained to the leaders of the Majority community, that Fifty-Fifty is not a nicely calculated Arithmetical formula, but that it is only a sign or a symbol, that stands for the fundamental principle—No domination for any group or community. Pray answer me. Where they cry "Away with foreign domination," what is wrong if I shout out from the house top, "Down with all forms of domination at home! Ceylon Hitlers to... Heaven!"

**THE OMINOUS 100.** Here is a bit of advice to you Ceylon politicians. It

is as good as gold. Take it or leave it, just as you please. The idea of letting loose upon the country 100 and odd state councillors, is simply frightful to contemplate—dreadful, staggering, appalling! I have two objections (a) If the future State Council is meant to be a sort of side show to the Ceylon University, in propagating knowledge of Anthropology, Zoology, Physiology etc; if it is going to be a kind of Noah's ark, or a local Babel, then by all means, let us have not 100, but 500. Only the specimens must be selected carefully. Imagine Johnny Silva proposing the Resolution that there be an aerial service to the moon. Everybody will want to speak on such a profoundly useful subject. The debate may start in January and go on till December. I leave the rest to the reader's imagination. My suggestion is, cut down the burly figure of 100 by half, while preserving balanced representation. Say, give the Low country Sinhalese 20 seats; Kandyan 5; Ceylon Tamils 12; Burghers, Muslims, Indians and Europeans 3 each. Grand total 49. This is a workable group and would give the added advantage of saving 3 lakhs of rupees for agricultural purposes. Do not please charge me with penning either profound wisdom or reactionary nonsense. Mine is plain common sense, and if you, Sir, do not agree with me, then let us like gentlemen, agreeably disagree.

Main Street, S. A.  
Jaffna, 25-9-44.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**An Ordination.**—The ordination of Rosarian Bros. Francis and John of the Tholagatt Monastery will take place to-morrow Saturday not in the Bishop's Chapel as announced last week but in the Cathedral at 7.45 a.m.

**The Ladies of Charity.**—The Ladies of Charity of Our Lady of Refuge parish will hold their annual general meeting in Father Joseph Vaz Hall attached to the presbytery on Wednesday, the 11th inst. at 6 p.m. The Rev. Fr. Chas. S. Matthews, O.M.I., has kindly consented to preside. Benefactors, friends and well-wishers are cordially invited.

**Keerimalai Highway Robbery Case.**—The trial of three young men of Keerimalai, who were accused of having been members of an unlawful assembly to commit robbery and further accused of having robbed a thalikody, gold chain and pendant belonging to Mrs. Ponniah, wife of Dr. A. Ponniah, ret'd. Medical Officer, F.M.S., two bags of Epsom salts belonging to Dr. Ponniah and his surgical instruments and of having voluntarily caused hurt to Dr. Ponniah and his carter Eliyathamby, was concluded last Monday at the Jaffna Assizes before Justice Cannon.

The three accused were found guilty and sentenced to ten years rigorous imprisonment and also ordered to be given ten lashes each or two years more in lieu of ten lashes.

**Negotiations on the Status of Indians.**—The communication from the Government of India expressing its willingness to negotiate with the Ceylon Government on the question of the status of Indians in Ceylon was presented to H.E. the Governor on Wednesday by Mr. M. S. Aney, the Indian Government's representative in Ceylon.

Mr. Aney called at Queen's House for the purpose.

**Success in Examinations.**—Mr. J.F.X. Bastiampillai has passed the first examination for Medical Degrees held by the University of Ceylon. Young Bastiampillai is the only son of Mr. J. Ignatius Bastiampillai, D.I.T., Colombo North, and a nephew of Mr. A.J. Selvadurai, Headmaster, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

Mr. R.H.S. Phillips has passed the Proctors first examination held in Aug. 1944. He is the youngest son of the late Mr. A.E. Phillips, Sanitary Inspector, Jaffna.

Messrs. Bastiampillai and Phillips are both Old Boys of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.

**Promotions.**—Mr. A. R. Benedict of the Surveyor General's Office has been promoted from Class II to Class I of the Survey Clerical Service and Mr. J. A. Tisseverasinghe has passed over the 2nd efficiency bar of Class II Survey Clerical Service.

## Lourdes Film in the Vatican.

The *Song of Bernadette* was shown in Vatican City on June 23th, Cardinal Pizzardo attending a special E.N.S.A. performance, which included this and other items. Others present included Prince Pacelli, the British Minister to the Holy See, and the American Charge d'Affairs.

## U.S. Radio Starts Daily Prayers.

To provide spiritual solace for a nation at war, U.S. National Broadcasting Company has introduced a new feature: opening and closing its broadcast day with prayer. Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen have been invited to deliver one minute prayers following the playing of the national anthem in the morning, and at night preceding the playing of the national anthem.

**Multum in Parvo.**—Prof. Samuel Stehman Haldeman—Professor of Natural Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, was once asked what led him to be converted to the Catholic Faith.

"Bugs!" he replied. Then seeing the amazement of his enquirer, he added: "No matter how tiny the insect, I have found that the God Who made it, provided one organism that controlled all parts, and kept them working together. I believe that when He was making so big a thing as His Church, He would do as much for it. There is only one Church with such a single controlling organism. That is why I became a Catholic.

Surely a tremendously intellectual reason deduced from a very tiny speck of creation!

## Mr. Aney on the Rights of Indians in Ceylon

The Ceylon Ministers and members of the State Council have been of late meeting together to evolve the principles of the future constitutional reforms of Ceylon by common agreement of the various interests in this Island. I sincerely wish them success in their great effort.

Government and the people of India are naturally watching with utmost interest and attention the various stages through which the discussion of the Reforms Committee is going on. I will not like to say one word to make their task difficult. Indian population in this Island forms about 1/6th part of the total population. They are not aliens but British subjects. Even the labourers have been brought here with an understanding of an equality of treatment for them with their brothers—the Ceylonese.

I wish that those who are engaged in the patriotic work of framing a constitution will shake off any petty prejudices they may have, all the differences and rise to the occasion. Greatest statesmanship and breadth of vision and a thorough international outlook are needed urgently. There is one point on which I find that the members of the State Council and even some of the Ministers seem to be labouring under some kind of misapprehension. It appears from the remarks alleged to have been made by the Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike as the Chairman of the Reforms Committee at its meeting held on last Tuesday, if the newspaper report be right, that he thinks that Government of India does not want the question of the status of the Indian residents in this Island to be discussed before the end of the war and therefore he considers it not wise for the Reforms Committee to take it up. The question was therefore not discussed.

It will like to point out in all humility that the view expressed by the Hon'ble Minister is incorrect. In the correspondence which took place between the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon which is published as Sessional paper No. III of 1943 there are letters addressed by the Government of India to the Representative of the Ceylon Government in which the Government of India have not only expressed their anxiety to take up the question of the status and rights of the Indian people immediately for coming to a settlement but definitely laid down the lines and the principles along which it wants the two Governments to come to an immediate settlement leaving the details to be filled in at the end of the war if necessary.

The Board of Ministers replied that

they were unable to consider the proposals based on the demand contained in the Government of India's letter.

I am mentioning this fact with a view to remove the misunderstanding which I find somewhat common among the members of the State Council and even the Ministers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the problem of minorities which you have been tackling now is not peculiar to you. In India we have it in a much acuter and complicated form. Most of you may regret that Gandhi-Jinnah talks have broken down. Let me confess that I am not at all surprised. Agreements and understandings are made with a view to strengthen a nation and not to weaken it. Any compromise between the Congress and the Muslim League on the acceptance of the demand of Pakistan can mean nothing else than the destruction of the Indian nation. No nationalist Indian can consent to or even connive at it.

There are still other ways open for the Hindus and Muslims to come together and work out a common formula. If the politicians championing the cause of the two major organisations will cease to bother for some time to bring about any artificial agreement, the natural forces that have bound together these two great communities for several centuries in the past and are keeping them even now in a mood to work harmoniously in their day to day life in thousand and one ways will begin to assert effectively. The forces of fanaticism will be at a discount in course of time. Commonsense, justice, fairplay and nationalism will triumph. That is my faith. It will be in India and it will be so in Ceylon also.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Balanced Representation

The Editor, "Catholic Guardian," Jaffna.

Dear Sir,—The Conference of State Councillors to arrive at an agreed settlement just to all parties is now sitting. It will be useful therefore, for members of the public to express their views through the Press on subjects which are under consideration, lest we miss the bus. In view of this need, may I be permitted to make a few observations through the courtesy of your columns.

One important feature in the current political life of the country during the last two or three months is the accession of strength to the cause of Balanced Representation. Any impartial observer would have been struck by the growing volume of public opinion on the matter as evidenced during the last two months. A meeting of Tamils held in Colombo for the formation of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress expressed its views in support of this demand. Thereafter, another meeting of the Tamils numbering over 3,000 assembled at Jaffna and reiterated the same principle. Again, we find that on last Friday, a meeting of over 2,000 met at Batticaloa and endorsed this demand. The expression of opinion on all these occasions was unanimous; not that unanimity is a pre-requisite in such a matter.

We also find from the report in the papers that at a recent meeting of the Committee of the Jaffna Association which met on Sept. 10 the opinion was expressed that Balanced Representation was the principle which the Association had always stood for. The European Association has expressed itself in favour of the principle. The Working Committee of the Ceylon Indian Congress has also intimated its adherence to the same ideal. Further, the Ceylon Muslim League, in its last sessions, has supported this demand. It will thus appear that jointly with the other minority communities, the Tamils have again declared their faith in this principle. It is necessary to emphasise this point at this stage in view of the present conference among the State Councillors to arrive at an agreed settlement regarding the future constitution of Ceylon and the distribution of political power.

The Hon. Mr. Mahadeva is reported to have submitted of his own accord and without any mandate from his constituency, an allocation of seats between the various communities which does not embody the principle of Balanced Representation. It would be interesting

to recall that after the meeting of Tamils at the Zahir College, Mr. Mahadeva wrote to the local Press that "a definite body of enlightened Tamil opinion" was in favour of arriving at a settlement even at the cost of surrendering the principle of Balanced Representation. We are thus called upon to examine the correctness of the Home Minister's statement. The expression of public opinion gives no support whatever to his statement. On the other hand, it has been totally contrary to Mr. Mahadeva's claim; and it is significant that there has been no expression of opinion either enlightened or otherwise by the Tamil public on any occasion or in any part of the Island in support of Mr. Mahadeva's statement. I might incidentally mention that there is no unenlightened opinion among the Tamils, as the Tamils as a community are enlightened. The principle of Balanced Representation has been explained and supported by you in the columns of your esteemed paper from time to time during the last 10 or 12 years with great clarity and vigour. With equal pointedness and emphasis, you have referred, whenever occasion required, to the depth of feeling among the Tamils behind this demand. Even recently in giving your blessings to the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress and also a little earlier, you have drawn attention to the increasing support the demand for Balanced Representation has received. In spite of such authentic expressions of public opinion, Mr. Mahadeva is trying to mislead people by stating that he has enlightened Tamil opinion behind him.

Mr. Mahadeva's estimate of Tamils and their opinions and views appears to be at times very defective. Recently he labelled the poor Jaffna farmer without any justification. Such misrepresentation of public opinion by one who is said to be a representative of the people is to be deplored and I would respectfully submit should not be persisted on, if the safety of the State is to occupy the first place in our mind.

In view of these repeated expressions of public opinion in favour of the demand for Balanced Representation and communal non-domination, it is trusted that Mr. Mahadeva will see his way to retrace his steps and subscribe once again unreservedly to the principle of Balanced Representation, on which he was elected to the State Council, and keep faith with his electorate and community. Some of us are aware that Mr. Mahadeva is capable of retracing a wrong step and leading the public on the right lines again. Let me refer to an incident of the past. Some years ago when Jaffna got involved in the boycott of the State Council, Mr. Mahadeva was one of the chief participants. Thereafter

(Continued on Page 4.)

## Partition Sale

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Stephen Alphonsus of Chundikulai Plaintiff.

Vs.

1. C. Anthonipillai of Pattalam Kachcheri, Pattalam.
2. & wife Ellen of do—
3. Vincent Navaretam and wife
4. Margaret, both of Swartz Lane, Chundikulai.

Defendants.

Under partition decree in D.C. Jaffna Case No. 404, I shall sell at the spot on Wednesday the 8th Nov 1944 at 3.30 p.m. first among the co-owners and, if there is no bid from them, then by public auction, the following property:

All that piece of land situated at Chundikulai, Jaffna, called "Purakkithoddam" in extent 3 lms. V.C. and 9 kls. with house, kitchen, well and latrine and plantations etc. and bounded on the East by Lane, North by the property of the heirs of Morris Thru-chelvam and wife Rosammah and John Manuelpillai, West by the property of Ellison Rajasingham and South by the property of Ellison Rajasingham as per plan No. 58 dated 12th Feb. 1943, prepared by Mr. John Manuel, Licensed Surveyor.

J. MANUEL, Commissioner.

Jaffna, 5-10-44.

## WANTED

An experienced business assistant, with knowledge of typewriting and business correspondence. Salary according to qualifications. Apply in writing to the Manager, Jaffna Co-operative Stores Ltd., 150, Hospital Road, Jaffna on or before 6th October 1944, and call at the Stores on 7-10-44 at 3 p.m. for an interview.

## Communist Govt. in Poland Would Menace Christian Civilisation

(Continued from Page 1)

the discussions which have been initiated between the two countries may lead to a just and peaceful settlement of Poland's rights, yet we must, in view of the threat which has been made to the independence and freedom of Poland as a Sovereign State in Europe, point out in no uncertain way that we have a duty to proclaim to the rulers and citizens of our own beloved country that we must not remain silent if the sovereign rights of the Polish nation are to be filched from them either by undue pressure or by open violence on the part of another State.

We take this opportunity of assuring the Polish people that we share with them in our hearts the trials and sorrows to which they are at present subjected and we earnestly exhort the faithful to pray that the cause of justice and truth may triumph and that the right of Poles to determine their own form of Government and to live their own lives in accordance with their national traditions and aspirations may ultimately prevail."

Many thousands of Poles, civilians as well as soldiers, have been residing or stationed in Poland during the war.

Copies of the manifesto have been sent to Canada, South Africa and America, whose Bishops are asked to make similar statements.

Archbishop MacDonald has also asked Mr. J. J. Campbell, noted Catholic layman of Glasgow, to write to M.P.'s to ask for their attitude to the British pledge to Poland.—*Universe*.

## It's A Battlefield

(Continued from Page 1)

of the Spiritual Red Cross sub-divided into the three mission-aid societies. The time may not be far off when we shall have to return to Europe and America the charity that we have so long and so assiduously received. There are no two different varieties of Catholicism, one for the West and one for the East. Every Catholic has a certain minimum of missionary duties to perform viz., prayer, the apostolate of holy life, alms. On every Catholic therefore, irrespective of the geographical setting of his birth and the generation of Catholics in the family tree, devolves the observance of the missionary mandate. This observance is a part of Catholic life, not an annual thought expressing itself in an annual alms.

Roughly only one person in every five of the world's population is Catholic. If even in the twentieth century such an overwhelming majority is yet outside the Church, they must be held partly responsible who have not done everything they possibly could have done to increase the membership of the Body of Christ that is the Church. Let us then on Mission Sunday strike our breasts "Mea Culpa" in token of a firm purpose of amendment.

## CORRESPONDENCE

(Continued from Page 3.)

when he found that it was a false move and that public opinion was against it, he worked hard for lifting the boycott and for Council entry. Some of us still remember with pleasure and gratitude the valuable services rendered by Mr. Mahadeva along with the late Mr. Nevins Selvadurai, Mr. Natesan, and Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam and your own revered self during the days of the lifting of the boycott and subsequently. The Tamils and the rest of the people in the Island are now concerned with a very much greater crisis than the one that arose out of the boycott of the State Council by the people of Jaffna. The Jaffna boycott pales into insignificance when compared with the present grave situation which faces the whole Island fraught with consequences bound to affect the future safety and happiness of all our peoples permanently.

REGARD for the past services of Mr. Mahadeva should not blind us to the grave injustice and disservice he is doing us at this zero hour, even as his present

services need not make us forget his past services.

In view of the strength of public opinion behind the demand for Balanced Representation as evidenced recently at the various meetings of Tamils from all parts of the Island including his own electorate, it is trusted that Mr. Mahadeva will gracefully retrace his previous steps and again work whole-heartedly for the principle to which he originally pledged himself. As a first step, it is trusted that Mr. Mahadeva will withdraw the tentative allocation of seats which he is said to have submitted at the conference of State Councillors. There is an illustrious precedent to enable him to take such a step. The Board of Ministers including Mr. Mahadeva has withdrawn the draft constitution submitted by it to the Secretary of State. Likewise, Mr. Mahadeva could withdraw his scheme of allocation of seats suggested by him, tentatively in the very nature of the circumstances. If he does that, it will not be the first time that Mr. Mahadeva, or for a matter of that, any politician has retraced his steps on finding that he had taken a step contrary to public opinion, which an elected representative of the people is expected to voice.

It must be strongly urged, assuming but not granting, that even if Mr. Mahadeva had not stood for Balanced Representation at the time of his election, it is his inescapable duty to adhere to it now, in view of the marked deterioration in the political situation during the last ten years and the upward rise of Sinhalese communalism. It is significant to recall here that Mr. Balasingham, the veteran politician of the pre Donoughmore days who was prepared to give the Sinhalese politicians a trial fifteen years ago and who was leading a retired life has been compelled by the logic of events to come out of his retirement and actively and strongly identify himself with the movement for Balanced Representation. There is also the noteworthy instance of Mr. J. Tyagajah, who though he once did not believe in the necessity for Balanced Representation, taking into account the prevailing conditions in Ceylon, has subscribed to this principle and fought and won the Mannar bye-election on this issue.

In Mr. Mahadeva's case the fact that he had in the past subscribed to the principles of Balanced Representation and was elected by his constituency on this ticket makes it more obligatory on his part to support the principle wholeheartedly at this critical juncture and maintain the continuity of service which he has rendered in the days gone by.

A special and very heavy obligation is cast on you in this connection, if I might be permitted to say so with the utmost deference to you. More than any other single individual, you have contributed to Mr. Mahadeva's success at the two elections to the State Council. We are all well aware that but for the strong support given by you and the Church authorities, Mr. Mahadeva would not be a member of the State Council representing the Jaffna constituency today. You will bear testimony to the fact that he was elected on the ticket of Balanced Representation. The time has come for Mr. Mahadeva's supporters and friends to tell him plainly and publicly that he is doing a grievous wrong—no more grievous wrong could be imagined—at this critical hour in the history of the Tamils and of Ceylon by his present conduct and activities, and to call upon him to keep faith with his constituency and the general public. And again addressing you with utmost deference, I would respectfully submit that the obligation to tender this much-needed advice to Mr. Mahadeva falls on you heavily more than on any one else and I trust that you will come to the rescue of the community and the country as you have done in the past, at times against heavy odds.

Yours truly,  
DIVASUBRAMANIAM.

## The Fifth Standard Selective Examination

Sir,—An island-wide examination with the title "The Fifth Standard Selective Examination" has been introduced this year to test the attainments of the little children of standard 5. These pupils, be it noted, have been in most cases only three years in an English school. To test their promotions to

standard 6 solely by means of written tests in English, Number and Intelligence is a cruelty which should receive the immediate attention of the Child Protection Societies. Apart from being educationally unsound, it becomes a very cruel infliction on children. That the oral aspect of language teaching should receive emphasis during the early stages in a dictum accepted by all educationists; but how the children's language ability and their attainments in a foreign language can be determined by written tests passes all sane men's understanding. An intelligence test conducted in a foreign language! Is there no remedy for these ill-conceived notions of the Director of Education?

In the past promotion tests for standard 5 held in December on the eve of the Christmas vacation enabled all schools in the island to begin their academic year for all classes in January. By advancing this test by a month the Director of Education becomes responsible for much anxiety on the part of pupils and much waste of time on the part of schools where both pupils and teachers will have nothing to do but to mark time until the promotions are announced.

An island-wide examination would imply that the same standard is required of pupils both in Colombo and elsewhere. This amounts to ignoring the difference between one set of pupils who have been taught English under very favourable conditions for five years (in urban areas) and another set of pupils who have been struggling with the new language under very unfavourable conditions only for 3 years (in rural areas).

There is much speculation and anxiety on account of the term "selective" finding a place in the title to the examination. We hope that the Director will explain the full purpose and scope of this test to the public.

It is never too late to mend. May we hope that wisdom will prevail and that the Director would take steps to make these tests educationally sound.

Yours faithfully,  
M. A. THANGARAJAH,  
General Secretary, N.P.T.A.  
Hindu College,  
Chavakachcheri, 21-9-44.

## Prime Minister's Son at the Vatican

When Captain Randolph Churchill, the Premier's son, was received in audience by the Holy Father in June, he was renewing an experience he had at the age of 15. His father, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, took him to the Vatican to see Pope Pius XI in 1927.

The Holy Father went out of his way to grant the future Premier a long audience. It had been arranged for the morning; the Pope postponed it till the afternoon when he had more time, and they spent 25 minutes together.

Mr. Churchill, who is not averse from colourful and traditional ceremony, was received on his arrival according to his rank of Cabinet Minister by a guard of honour of the Swiss Guard, and another guard awaited him as he passed through the halls on his way to the Papal apartments.

The Holy Father invited him to take a seat beside him.

### BLESSING FOR FAMILY

After the audience, Mr. Churchill accompanied by the British Minister to the Holy See, Sir Odo Russell, presented his son. His Holiness gave the youthful Randolph a medal in a red case bearing the Papal arms.

What the Pope and the Premier said to each other was not announced since it was a private audience. It has been assumed, however, that among the topics was the Catholic Relief Bill which had been enacted the previous year.

Like his father, Capt. Churchill after his audience visited the Papal Secretary of State.

A news agency correspondent indicates that the Holy Father conferred his blessing upon the Prime Minister as well as his son. This is customary when a non-Catholic desires the Apostolic Blessing: the Holy Father at the same

time naturally offers it to those "nearest and dearest" to the person received in audience.

## Freeing and Rebuilding Asia

Colombo Broadcast on S.E.A.C's.  
Task.

"The light has gone out in the east, extinguished by Japan, and only the strength of our arms will enable it to be relit for all the millions of various races and creeds who are awaiting liberation." This was the message of a broadcast talk from Colombo Radio Station on Monday night, on the countries of South East Asia, introducing a weekly series on the lands lying between Ceylon and Japan. The speaker said:

"Now that the war with Germany is nearing its inevitable end, it seems a good moment to take stock of the war against Japan and to consider what we are fighting against and what we are fighting for.

"What has been the result of Japanese aggression in the territories she has overrun? Not until after the war will it be possible to reconstruct the picture in detail, but enough filters through to make it clear that Japan has followed the same policy she pursued in Manchuria and in occupied China at an earlier stage, a policy of oppression and of exploitation. Entire populations have been harnessed to the Japanese war machine and are being dragged to ruin in its wake. National liberty and personal liberty have been abolished; national wealth and individual earnings have been despoiled to furnish the means for Japan's aggrandisement.

"The peoples of occupied territories are short of everything they need and are supplied with virtually nothing; the whole economy of the East has been ruthlessly upset to enable Japan to increase her war potential. In such conditions the Japanese slogans of Co-prosperity Sphere," "Asia for the Asiatics" and the "Four Corners of the World under one Roof" can be but a hollow mockery to the people they have enslaved. The light in fact has gone out in the East, extinguished by Japan, and only the strength of our arms will enable it to be relit for all the millions of various races and creeds who are awaiting liberation.

"If that is what we are fighting against, what are we fighting for? I should say that we are fighting for the right to live as individuals as opposed to the Nazi-Fascist-Japanese doctrine of making the individual the slave of the State. That is the real basis of the conflict which still has to be fought to a finish with Germany and Japan. If we take our own British Commonwealth, it is composed of widely scattered territories peopled by almost every race and creed. Yet everywhere, whatever the form of government, every citizen of the commonwealth, enjoys the right to live as an individual. We take that so much for granted that perhaps we hardly realise how important it is for us, and how it is the very foundation of our being. We are fighting to restore that right to be an individual to the peoples of the territories overrun by the Japanese and we may be sure that they are very conscious of the liberty which has been taken away from them.

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