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

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MANNAR EUCHARISTIC RALLY UNIQUE DEMONSTRATION OF OUR TIMES

By W. L. S. CANDAPPA.

Never in the annals of the history of Mannar did one witness a more glorious and splendid demonstration as the one staged there, an island in the extreme north-west of Ceylon on the 21st and 22nd of April, 1945. Mannar-Mantotte District Catholics swelled by the pilgrims from Jaffna have taught us what is possible by a united front. The rest of the Island was not represented owing to the difficulties of war-time travel, save a score of them from Ampitiya, Dehiwela and Colombo. The elements smiled approval and blessed the occasion with bright sunshine tempered by the rain 2 days previously. The Rally was to commemorate the martyrdom of 650 Catholics who were put to the sword for their Faith on the orders of the then cruel and heartless Sangilly, King of Jaffna. The whole town wore a festive garb and beautiful pandals studded the town every 25 yards on the main route. Overhead flew strings of white crispy streamers and the sidelines were strung off with tender palms while every home had a red light announcing the profession of Christ in their hearts.

Everyone was Christ-minded and no one had a moment to spare for idle talks and giddy laughter. Children were busy cleaning the streets while beautiful maidens were stiffening their white frocks and adorning their hair with red flowers and bands. The women were busy tidying their homes to welcome their pilgrim friends while the men were out bodily labouring in the streets giving the finishing touches to an year's preparation when at 5-30 p.m. on Saturday was the switch-hour announcing the arrival of the Bishops of Jaffna and Tuticorin at the Mannar bridge. There was assembled to greet Their Lordships a very large crowd and a Guard-of-honour by the Askaris was provided at the entrance. The Police arrangements left nothing to be desired and all credit go to the Police Officers on the scene who excellently discharged their duties on the two days without any incident. The crowd was very orderly and responded well. Thieves and wicked-hearted were conspicuous by their absence. Our Muslim and Hindu brethren were equally interested in the historic celebrations, while donkeys and mules grazed away unconcerned. The procession headed by the Band entered the precincts of the Residency for the Civic Reception by the A.G.A. as Chairman of the Sanitary Board.

CIVIC RECEPTION TO THEIR LORDSHIPS

Mr. C. Sittampalam, A.G.A., welcomed Their Lordships into the historic town of Mannar said that he was proud to discharge this duty as he was equally concerned as the Catholics of the town. While the Western Powers were engaged in bloody battles, we the people of Mannar are conducting ourselves under democratic principles; he added "as members of the human race, we are proud of the brave deeds of the 600 Christians who suffered martyrdom at the hands of Sangilly, King of Jaffna-pattam." He hoped that Their Lordships will carry away pleasant memories after the celebrations accorded them by the people of Mannar.

His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna, in reply thanked Mr. Sittampalam and the Residents of Mannar for the kind words of welcome and observed that there had been very good co-operation between the Civil and Ecclesiastical authorities at Mannar, and he expressed the hope that spirit of co-operation would continue to flourish. He extended to them his filial affection and trusted that they as Romain Roland did would sacrifice themselves for the betterment of one another. Dr. Roche, Bishop of Tuticorin spoke movingly of the times of the martyrs and associated himself with the people of Mannar in giving vent to their feelings of pride at the tremendous cost at which Mannar forefathers handed down the Faith to the present generation. He said the conversion of Mannar coincided with the conversion of the pearl fishery coast of India and he is proud to note that his clan too counted among the first martyrs. In common bond of unity we shall march forward to bring all men of all climes to a better understanding of the principles of Christianity. The speeches were ably rendered into Tamil by Mr. Alacacone excepting Dr. Roche's. As Dr. Roche spoke in Tamil, one could see his strong and verile body moving feelingly. He said the greatest gift of the people of Mannar to their Muslim and Hindu brethren should be their Faith which shall be the bridge uniting all men to their Common Father. As children of one mother he can see the people of Mannar moving forward to greater heights of glory in civic and religious life.

"God Save the King" brought the civic reception to a close and the huge concourse of people led Their Lordships to the Stadium in the esplanade. I have yet to see the like of it. The Stadium was a masterpiece of art and engineering skill. It's dome looked upon the crowd as a towering eagle and the unforgettable sight of the lighting effects will remain in the minds of the faithful as a tasteful expression of our unique Faith. It was the work of the leading artists from Jaffna. The people of Mannar should have built it in lime and bricks and handed down to future generation as a symbolic gift to the town. It is too beautiful to be pulled down. The Stadium ground was laid out in box-seat plan with its streets and squares numbered and the personal of the Committee did well in the orderly admission of the crowd within. No confusion and nor did a child break away from the guiding Pastors who studded to Stadium-box-planned-grounds. The arrangements were worthy of note and the organizers are recommended to preserve the plan for future use at the National Eucharistic Congress which is giving birth in the hearts of many Catholics in Ceylon.

Children in white and Maids-of-honour filled the centre block and at a distance it appeared as a white sheet drawn over the grounds. Men and women in spotless white were arrayed on the sides while Revd. Priests and Nuns flitted past ably assisted by spirited young men in amulet-badges and rosettes. The Stadium and grounds were exquisitely illuminated by multicoloured lights and the public reception timed up by the

reading of an address by the upright Adigar Muttuthamby, J.P., after which the Bishop of Jaffna was presented with a silver casket.

The Stadium was equipped with a public address system of amplifiers, which afforded even those who were unable to enter the enclosure, the opportunity to follow closely the speeches and instructions that were given.

The text of the Cablegram sent to His Holiness the Pope, Pius XII, was read together with Messages sent by His Excellency the Delegate Apostolic, the Archbishop of Colombo and the Bishops of Trincomalee, Kandy, Galle and Chilaw. After the singing of the Mannar Anthem, Benediction or the Most Blessed Sacrament was given.

HIS LORDSHIP'S REPLY

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

The Commemoration of two great events, of special importance to the Christians of these parts, has brought so many of us together this evening—namely, the introduction of the Christian Faith into Mannar island 400 years ago, and the subsequent martyrdom, at a short interval, of most of the new converts. Such events so closely concerning us-Catholics cannot be passed over without a reference; have they not a special significance for our lives, do they not constitute the treasure of our religious traditions, are they not a landmark in the history of our country.

I am sure you are very thankful for the gift of the true Faith which was brought to you from India, so many years ago. It will stand for ever to the credit of your forefathers who were no doubt impressed by what they heard of the Christian Religion and of the wonders operated by St. Francis Xavier, that they sent to him from these shores a deputation to invite him to come over and receive them into the Church. Though he could not come himself, in spite of his great desire to do so, he sent—as we read in history—one of his Indian missionaries, perhaps one of whom His Lordship the Bishop of Tuticorin could possibly trace a relationship, to Mannar to announce the Gospel to the inhabitants of this island and bring them over to Christianity.

From that day on South India and Mannar, already connected by the ties of blood, were further united by a spiritual partnership, which proved very beneficial to the people of this island; for immigration of Christian Indians from the great Continent to the Mannar District followed as a result and, colonists have quietly added themselves ever since to the populations of our bigger villages along the coast.

It would be interesting to review the religious history of Mannar from that time up to the present day, to show how Catholics have kept the faith under circumstances of stress and trial and how they came to develop that consciousness that the Mannar division is especially a Christian land. But this study has already been done by Catholic historians and need not detain us here.

But now a question arises: how do you appreciate this Gift of Faith bequeathed to you by your ancestors. Do you appreciate it better than any other gift granted to you by nature, the gift

of riches, worldly position or social standing, etc., in a word, do you feel that God has really a place in your life which nothing else has—or do you allow yourselves to drift at the mercy of circumstances, not caring if God has a right over you or not. I feel I am interpreting the feelings of all present aright when I say that your attachment to religion is common knowledge, that you have often given proofs of it, the last being your contribution towards this great celebration taking place tomorrow.

Faith is a gift that we can never appreciate sufficiently it is above every kind of blessing we enjoy in this world, including even the greatest of all, the blessing of life. Placed between the two alternatives: Losing their lives by a public confession of their faith or keeping their lives and renouncing their faith, the martyrs of all times have had only one answer: we give away our lives but we keep our faith. That is the true stand point and this thought brings us to our martyrs in whose honour tomorrow's celebrations are especially to be held.

We learn from history that information having reached the King of Jaffna that the people of Mannar island had embraced the Christian faith he at once despatched a detachment of soldiers to put all the converts to the sword. The soldiers executed the cruel orders and massacred 600 persons, including the priest who had converted them. So much is certain and what is also certain is that Mannar from that time is referred to as the land of the martyrs. Mannar then was given at the very outset that authentic form of the Christian faith which is sealed with the blood of its adherents. It is a proud privilege indeed that no one should ever forget. The first converts of this island passed the supreme test of the faith by giving up their lives for Christ. The Master had said "greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends." He gave the example. They followed him to the letter. You, people of Mannar, must draw the conclusion: as the spiritual heirs of the martyrs you should not only revere their memory but also derive inspiration from their courage and their loyalty to the faith.

There may be reason indeed for some to feel small when they contemplate the simple heroism of these 600 souls and compare it with their own standard of Christian life, in which bargaining with the enemy of souls is a common occurrence. Let them pluck up courage however and pray to the martyrs for a share in that gift of fortitude which they possessed in such a high degree.

One word more, to-morrow's celebration takes the form of a Eucharistic Rally. This calls for an explanation. Our object in commemorating the two events described above is to give thanks to God for the great blessing of faith granted to you people of Mannar and of the Mannar Division. It is also to revere the memory of our martyrs by offering up to God, in return for the glorious example of heroic fortitude in the Faith they have left us, our undying gratitude and praise.

(Continued on Inner Page)

Church Calendar

APRIL 1945

FRI. ...27 S. Peter Canis.
SAT. ...28 S. Paul C.
SUN. ...29 4 E. S. Peter M.
MON. ...30 S. Cath. of Sien.

MAY 1945

TUES. ...1 SS. Philip & Jacob.
WED. ...2 S. Athanasius.
THURS. ...3 Finding of the Cross.
FRI. ...4 S. Monica.

The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 27TH 1945

EUCCHARISTIC RALLY AT MANNAR AND ITS LESSON

With pleasure we offer our cordial congratulations to the priests and people of the Mannar-Mantotte District on the very signal success that has attended the Eucharistic Rally which they held last week-end to commemorate the 4th centenary of the introduction of Christianity into the island of Mannar and the subsequent martyrdom of 6 to 7 hundred of the new converts who shed their blood for the faith. That heroism can be compared only with the glorious martyrdoms of the early Church and of the nascent Church in Japan. Mannar has splendidly risen to the occasion and has worthily commemorated this ever memorable event. All those who went over to Mannar to assist at the celebration have come back well pleased and edified. They said it was a marvel of Catholic faith and Catholic organisation. It was more than a Rally. A Regional Eucharistic Congress would be its truer name. Six years ago we had a similar celebration in Jaffna but in a bigger scale. It was a gorgeous homage to our Eucharistic Lord which absolutely surpassed all expectations. But it was in Jaffna and only a few days after the commencement of the War. Everything wanted was easily obtained at reasonable prices. But now conditions have totally changed for the worse and yet those who planned the Rally undeterred by the present difficulties carried their project through and in so fitting a manner to deserve the greatest credit. The Rally was over in about 40 hours but it entailed more than a year's preparation, and hard work. The chief element that worked for success was the co-operation of all the sections of the community. The A.G.A., Mr. C. Sittampalam not only looked after the Sanitary and Police arrangements but gave a hearty and public welcome to Their Lordships the Bishops of Jaffna and Tuticorin showing thus his personal interest in the celebration. Dr. Guyomar took occasion to express his lively satisfaction at the good understanding and co-operation that were in evidence and wished them to continue. Not only the civic authorities but the ordinary non-Catholics, the Muslims and the Hindus manifested their good will by their large attendance and reverent attitude, at the Stadium and again at the great Procession. Every one was ready to help and no discordant note was heard. We need not dwell on how things

went on as the beautiful descriptive account from Mr. Candappa, always a friend of this paper, has done it for us. The Eucharistic Rally has indeed brought about a spiritual renovation in the district; it has deepened the faith of the Catholics, increased their attachment to religion and renewed their sense of Catholic solidarity. They have seen and touched, so to say, what marvels unity and organisation can accomplish. Therefore it is that we ask the people of Mannar District, especially the leaders among them to employ the power of union and organisation which they can have at their command to improve also the social conditions of the place. Mannar-Mantotte District is distinctly a Catholic District and said to say it is also one of the most backward districts in the Island. Many causes have operated to bring this about but people, both rulers and the ruled, must bestir themselves and devise ways and means to mend matters.

A DISCLAIMER AND A REPLY

We welcome the letter of the Hon. Mr. Mahadeva, printed in another column. It is in reply to a leading article we wrote based on a report of his speech as given publicity in by the *Ceylon Observer* and the *Ceylon Daily News*. His communication creates a necessity for us to comment. True, that we sharply repudiated the statement alleged to be his that we Catholics were opposing free education. He writes to say that he never made such a statement and finds fault with us for our criticism without hearing from him. But the report of his speech was given much prominence in the two daily papers which are widely read and we waited for a full week for a correction of that report. Nothing in the way of correction or modification appeared and we naturally thought Mr. Mahadeva holding a position of responsibility, as he does, would not allow himself to be so grossly misrepresented without sending a protest to those papers. We have not seen so far any regret expressed by the two editors. We are, however, quite prepared to accept Mr. Mahadeva's assurance that he did not make against Catholics the charge that was attributed to him.

Mr. Mahadeva further says there is only one point where he differs from us on the question of education. But that point being a capital one we must quote his own words:

"I feel that you are treading on very dangerous ground when you assert the right of a parent to choose the school for his child. In other words you would wish freedom to be given to a Hindu or a Buddhist parent to send his children to a Catholic school, while you would use all the powers of your Church to deny the same freedom to Catholic parents. That attitude to my mind is not only inconsistent but capable of great mischief by rousing religious animosities which are dormant at present."

Mr. Mahadeva is using totalitarian phraseology, when he says, "you would wish freedom to be given to a Hindu or a Buddhist parent to send his children to a

Catholic school." We must protest that we have no such wish for the simple reason that they have that freedom already. By the very fact that they are parents they have the right as well as the duty to bring up their children, to feed and clothe them, to educate them in schools of their choice. Nature or rather nature's God has given it to them. They are not indebted for it to any human power. Parents existed with that right before the State came into existence and they created the State to protect that and other fundamental rights of individuals as well as of families. To pretend that sacred right is given to parents by the State is pure, undiluted Totalitarianism, Nazism, Fascism or Sovietism, whichever ism you prefer. Again, we do not see how we could be rousing religious animosities. We do not ask Buddhist and Hindu parents to send their children to our schools but we tell them to use their judgment and make their free choice. Only do not allow the State to interfere with and encroach on your right. The State now has come to mean a group of politicians who happen to have grasped power. When we are thus defending the rights of non-Catholic parents how can we be accused of arousing their religious animosities? That is merely a phantom of the mind. As to Catholic parents, they have *qui* parents the same right of choice as Buddhist or Hindu parents but they have voluntarily renounced the use of that right in exchange for the benefits of Catholic Church membership.

MANNAR EUCCHARISTIC RALLY

(Continued from Page 1)

Our words, our prayers, our adorations taken by themselves have very little value in the eyes of God Almighty to fulfil such duty but added to those appeals of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist they reach the throne of God, they are acceptable, they are welcome. We shall never realise enough in this world the value of the treasure we possess in the Eucharist for the discharge of those many obligations we have towards Almighty God. If we carry away from this Rally a deeper sense of the abiding presence of Our Blessed Lord in our midst we shall have derived great profit indeed for our souls.

I am very happy in declaring the Eucharistic Rally open.

Loud speakers carried the proceedings clear to the waiting crowd. Revd. Fr. B. Philip, O.M.I., Parish Priest then welcomed Their Lordships and the pilgrims on behalf of the parishioners of Mannar. The crowd orderly broke up only to meet again at St. Sebastian's and St. Lucia's Churches for the Holy Hour at 10 p.m. The Children's choir under the able baton of Revd. Fr. De La Haye O.M.I., assisted admirably in congregational singing.

After the gathering broke up, the tired Revd. Priests took their position at the various confessionals and attended to the needs of the pilgrims. The surging crowd was again seen wending its way for the Holy Hour preached by the able and eloquent preacher the Revd. Father S. Peter, O.M.I., Parish Priest, Pesalai. He conducted the same in a unique manner so far unparalleled and the devotees hardly felt the hour passing. He preached on the lines of Fr. Matteo of Sacred Heart fame on the love of God and one could see all the eyes and ears turned on the Revd. Preacher listening and yearning

for more. He ably prepared the crowd for the following morning's Holocaust and to satisfy the yearning hearts for more sacred lore, the Rev. Fr. Peter was again billeted to preach at the Pontifical High Mass to a crowd of 6,000. Our non-Catholic brethren who were on the outer ring numbering thousands listened in rapt attention and verily looked at each other after the sermon was over with astonishment at the love of the Sacred Heart for all men of the human race. May the grace of God do the rest for them.

After the High Mass on Sunday, some of the 50 priests celebrated Mass in the two churches and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sessions for men, women, children and priests engaged Mannar's attention. At 6-30 p.m. the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament started from the Pallimunai Pavilion led by a devout crowd of 6,000 men, women and children. It was a consoling feature to note several Hindu-Muslim men and women among the pious crowd. The Sacramental-car with the imposing Bishop of Jaffna with the Blessed Sacrament was pushed along by white-robed acolytes surrounded by a Military Guard-of-honour. As all Catholic processions, this was a unique symbol of Christian docility and the faces of the pious crowd denoted their pure hearts in complete thanksgiving for the gift of Faith so sacrificially handed down to them by the First Martyrs. It was past 9 p.m. when the crowd once again took up their allotted positions on the Stadium grounds for the final celebration of the day. The good Bishop Roche addressed them once again in his Feverino followed by the consecration of the Diocese to the Eucharistic Lord, prayer for the Canonisation of the Martyrs of Mannar, Demonstration of Faith, Messages and resolutions and God bless the Pope. Fireworks at the Mannar bridge brought the proceedings to a close past midnight.

Hearty congratulations to the Parish Priest Revd. Fr. Philip and Mr. V.X.B. Fernando, District Engineer and the whole Committee for their splendid show which has been made possible by their steadfastness to resolutions made an year ago. May God bless all workers and those responsible, and may the rest of the Island give birth soon to a National Eucharistic Congress, the seed for which has been now sown in Jaffna and Mannar.

[We very much regret that the text of H. H. Pope's Cablegram and of the Message of His Excellency the Delegate Apostolic has not been made available for publication to-day. Ed. C.G.]

Fr. LeGoc and the Literature Movement

(BY I. V. FERDINANDUSZ)

(Continued from our last issue.)

In 1926 he had another interesting controversy in the local papers with the Anglican Minister, Rev. H.E.C. Mendis on 'The Unity of the Church and the Supremacy of Rome.' When the local papers closed the Controversy, Rev. H. E.C. Mendis sent an "Open Letter" of 42 pages to his Catholic opponent, covering a whole range of Christian Apologetics. All that could be said about 'Romanism', Honorius, Liberius, Dolinger etc. not excluded was there! Fr. LeGoc was more than a match for the Rev. Mendis. He answered him in five instructive, weighty lectures, which were later published in a book by the I.C.T.C. of Trichinopoly, and which is still popular in Ceylon as in India. It could be ranked with the work of Allies and Rivington on the same subject. Fr. LeGoc did not stop there. He subsequently delivered a lecture on and published a review of a publication entitled 'General Councils and Anglican Claims' by an eminent Anglican Divine, Dr. Herbert Scott of England which proves the Supremacy of the Church of Rome from evidences from the Early Church, as against the findings of the Anglican Minister here.

A vote of thanks was passed by the Anglican Synod on the Rev. H. E. C. Mendis for the firm stand he took against Fr. LeGoc, who however required no such demonstration from the Catholic bodies of this Island, but now we realise that a doughty champion of

the Catholic cause and a Defender of the Faith we have lost.

It was characteristic of Fr. LeGoc that he could not allow any remark against the Church of which he was a humble Missionary to pass unchallenged. He belonged to the Church Militant. He made use of his researches in Science and Biology, in Theology and in Philosophy to give a convincing reason for the Faith that was in him.

Whether with Dr. Ingram of London (who was on a visit to Ceylon) on the definition of the word 'Catholic' or with Professor Burt on 'Evolution', or with students of astrology on 'Fate & Stars', or recently with the Minister of Education on 'Intelligence Tests', or with Protestants, Pentecostals, Seventh-Day Adventists and a host of others, Fr. LeGoc proved not only to be a controversialist capable of the toughest intellectual encounters but who had mastered a wide range of subjects.

A TRIBUTE FROM FR. MARTINDALE

Revd. Fr. Martindale, S.J., of international fame who visited Ceylon and lectured here refers to Fr. LeGoc in two of his recent publications 'African Angulus' and 'Athens, Argentine, Australia.' In the later work he says: "This amazingly versatile man has taught Biology for many years in the University here; half the Doctors in Ceylon have passed through his hands; he makes original planispheres and globes. A Cambridge man—I met him first at Cambridge—he knows the Canadian and United States Universities no less well, and must be on half the Committees of Colombo."

It pleased God that this great and good man, capable of many more years of useful work in this part of our Lord's Vineyard, should have been removed from us so suddenly and so tragically. How many people have been moulded in the correct path by his wisdom and direction, how many souls he converted to God with the gifts with which he was so abundantly bestowed, we can never say but we are sure of his reward for as the Book of Daniel says 'They that instruct many to justice shall shine like stars for all eternity!'

The last respects paid to him can never be erased from our minds. Hundreds of non-Catholics too followed his mortal remains. All those present were visibly moved. Tears poured down the cheeks of his brother missionaries, pupils and friends in loving remembrance of one who had been to all of them a great and lasting influence in their lives. The writer too, though not an old boy of St. Joseph's or any of the Schools founded by him could not refrain from tears in memory of this holy man of God who had been such a loving father, friend and guide.

Fr. LeGoc died while on duty—in fact on his way to perform a religious act.

"Greater love than this no man hath....."

Let his sorrowful old boys and friends, missionaries and other religious complete the moving verse.

A Requiem High Mass was held at St. Philip Neri's Church Pettah on Monday the 9th morning, at the instance of the Literature Committee. Very Revd. Fr. D. J. Anthony, O.M.I., officiated assisted by Revd. Frs. G. Joseph Perera and H. Rodrigo as Deacon and sub-Deacon. Revd. Fr. J. B. Gregory delivered an inspiring sermon taking for his text "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of the Saints." He stressed that whatever Fr. LeGoc did, in any sphere it was for the Glory of God.

A large gathering was present including the Parish Priests of St. James' and St. John's, Mutwal, A Naval Chaplain, Revd. Bro. Christianian, Visitor of the De La Salle Brothers, Revd. Mothers from the St. Peter's Home, Borella, St. Bridget's Convent, Good Shepherd Convent, The Staff of St. Joseph's College, the Catholic Union and the Diocesan Union were represented.

Conversion and Divorce

We are indebted to the *Indian Social Reformer* of March 17th for a report of an interesting judgment delivered—it took five hours—by Mr. Justice Ormond in the Calcutta High Court on March

9th and 10th. The suit was brought by a woman converted from Hinduism to Islam who asked for a declaration that the marriage between her and her former Hindu husband had been dissolved because of her conversion and the refusal of her husband to embrace Islam.

Delivering judgment His Lordship held 'inter alia' that there had been an effective conversion of the plaintiff with all the consequences that might follow from it. In view of the circumstances of this case, even if it were necessary or proper for the court to go into the reason for the conversion, which in his view was definitely not proper for a court to do, His Lordship found that the plaintiff's conversion was an effective change from one religion to another with all the legal consequences that might follow and the conversion was made in this case *bona fide*.

It had been argued that no matter whether the conversion was *bona fide* or not, a court should not support a Hindu wife in by-passing her being governed by the Hindu law by making a detour of conversion. But if it were the policy of the Crown or the India Government or the Legislature to prevent dissolution of marriage in consequence of conversion such as that which had taken place in this case, then steps should be taken to make conversion of a Hindu wife illegal or an offence under the criminal law. If the conversion was legal and if there was no statutory restriction then the court was bound to give the legal effect. His Lordship referred in this connexion to the proclamation of Queen Victoria made in 1858, and said that freedom of thought and religion resulting from the Proclamation had been the policy of the Crown in the administration of India ever since 1858. This freedom of thought and religion must include not only the right to think without any interference but to act to the extent of being a convert to any other new or different religion, without interference. To forbid or penalize conversion generally or for a particular class of citizens would be inconsistent with the Proclamation, and would not therefore be a course which a court of law should adopt. There were no statutory directions that in this case His Lordship should not give effect to this conversion.

His Lordship continued that the legal incidence affecting the question of dissolution of marriage would be governed by the personal law at the time of the institution of the proceedings. After going at length into Muslim and Hindu laws as they affected both parties, he eventually declared the marriage in the suit dissolved under section 42 of the Specific Relief Act.

CORRESPONDENCE

A Disclaimer

To The Editor,

"Catholic Guardian," Jaffna.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to an editorial in your issue of 6th April. Sentiments are attributed to me to which I did not give utterance. I am charged with having, at Urumpiray, slandered the Catholic Church by asserting that it is opposed to Free Education. If anyone gave you that information, he has grievously misled you. By discussions with me you are perfectly acquainted with my views on the educational proposals now before Council. And my regret is that you did not choose to enquire from me before making me the target of unfounded charges.

It would be well if I indicate where my views differ from yours, as gathered from conversations between us, and thus place myself beyond the reach of any misrepresentation of my views. I can think of only one point where I differ from you. I feel that you are treading on very dangerous ground when you assert the right of a parent to choose the school for his child. In other words you would wish freedom to be given to a Hindu or a Buddhist parent to send his children to a Catholic school, while you would use all the powers of your Church to deny the same freedom to Catholic parents. That attitude to my mind is not only inconsistent but capable of great mischief by rousing religious animosities which are

dormant at present. You know there are innumerable Hindu and Buddhist parents who are convinced this attitude is solely prompted by a desire to undermine a child's faith with a view to ultimate proselytisation. An insistence on your point of view can only result in counter propaganda and the inflaming of religious passions which are more dangerous than the communal suspicions with which we are at present troubled.

Yours faithfully,
A. MAHADEVA.

Colombo, 20th April, 1945.

LOCAL & GENERAL

About V-Day.—Mr. Churchill in reply to a question in the House of Commons said:—

"I do not know why all this talk of V-Day has got about. No one in His Majesty's Government and no responsible gentlemen in any of the parties has, as far as I know, given any such encouragement to this."

Consultations on Ceylon Reforms.—The members of the Ceylon Reforms Inquiry Commission, who recently returned to Britain after visiting Ceylon to discuss proposals for statutory changes in the administration of the Island, are now putting the final touches to the report.

Sir James Rees, Principal of the University College of South Wales, who is a member of the Commission, told Reuter in Cardiff on Monday that consultations are taking place between the members of the Commission in connection with the report, which will later be issued by the Colonial Office.

Sovereign Pontiff's Message to Roosevelt's Death.—In a telegram to Vice-President Truman, who has since become the President of U.S.A., His Holiness Pope Pius XII says: "The unexpected and sorrowful word of the passing away of President Roosevelt brings to our hearts a profound sense of grief born of the high esteem in which we held this renowned statesman and of the friendly relations which he fostered and maintained between the United States and the Holy See. To the expression of our condolences we join the assurance of our prayers for the entire American people and the new President, to whom we extend our fervent wishes that in his labours may be efficacious in leading the nation at war to an early peace that will be just and Christian."

Eire Gives £57,000 to Missions.

—A national grant of £57,000 is being sent to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome from the national council of Eire, Canon Fitzgerald, of Cashel, told the half-yearly meeting in Dublin. This is £10,000 more than last year.

Pax Romana to Meet in Mexico.

—The international association of Catholic university graduates, Pax Romana, will meet this year in Mexico for its first world gathering since that at Washington in 1939.

This was announced during a regional conference in Manchester of the Newman Association and the Union of Catholic Students, both affiliated to Pax Romana.

After the 1939 congress in Washington a secretariat was set up there through which Catholic students have been able to keep in touch. Dr. Hugh O'Neill, president of the Newman Association, stated. Since the developments have been remarkable and 13 new foundations have joined Pax Romana from North and South America and India.

The Manchester conference dealt with the international group and post-war reconstruction. Speakers included Mr. James Henderson, World Student Relief Officer in Great Britain, Mrs. M. M.C. Kemball, Mayor of Eccles and chairman of the Manchester Newman Association's social science committee, and Dr. Walter Ullman, of Ratcliffe College.

Vatican and Crimea: 'Calumny.'—Vatican Radio on February broadcast the following statement published in the "Osservatore Romano":

"Moscow Radio in Italian on the afternoon of February 16 said that the Vatican was not pleased with the results

achieved in the Crimea because it was not invited to take part in the conference itself.

"We are authorised to state that the Holy See has never had even the remotest thought of taking part in that conference. Thus, in this case again, it is a matter of deliberate calumny."

"The same Moscow Radio has attributed to the Holy See the sending by the Italian Government of an Ambassador to the Spanish Government. This assertion is equally false."

Papal Broadcast in 'Congressional Record.'—The Holy Father's Christmas broadcast, dealing with true and false democracy, has been incorporated in the "Congressional Record," the official report of the proceedings of the U.S. Congress.

Senator James Murray, of Montana proposing its insertion, remarked. "Those who have criticised this message as an utterance of sentimental appeasement should re-study the document and should be sure that, in criticising the contents of the message, they do not also criticise some of the fundamental tenets of American democracy."

Count Sforza's Tribute to the Pope.—A former anti-clerical, the well-known Count Sforza, writes in an article for the "New York Times":

"Some day the world will appreciate the fact that in Italy (where there has been such a long tradition, I shall say not of anti-clericalism because the world is vulgar but of 'Ghibellinism') all men without exception have given full recognition, along with a sincere gratitude, to the office of His Holiness the Pope."

"In the midst of the most horrible disasters of our history he has stood up in defence of his people; like the great Pontiffs of the Middle Ages, he has condemned the most anti-Christian regime of his day, whose devilish hordes still sweep and loot across northern Italy."

"Well knowing the high moral standards of men like De Gasperi (Foreign Minister) and Don Sturzo (the priest-leader of the now defunct Popular Party), I feel sure that a providential union of minds and spirits will remain a permanent factor of a renewed Italian political life."

Oxford Union.—Mr. Rudolf Weisweiler, 22-year-old Austrian Catholic and old boy of Downside, has been elected President of the Oxford Union—the first under-graduate from Europe to receive the honour.

The "Dublin Review" has a new editor, Mr. T. S. Gregory, who was for several years a Methodist minister before he was received into the Catholic Church in 1935. He wrote "The Unfinished Universe," a study in the cosmology and social consequences of scepticism and faith.

'Bulletin' Lines for Vincentians

1. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is "an association of hearts where no member is above another member and where there is no authority nor obedience but deference and advice."

2. Who loses his life for a cause however small is a hero; who loses his soul for a cause however great is a fool.

3. In matters spiritual as well as secular it is wise to unite with those having the same objective.

4. Vincentian charity is in truth, the layman's virtue.

5. When we adopt a family we should search carefully to see if there is any way in which we can be of real assistance.

6. Charity means the love of God for His own sake and the love of our neighbour because he is child of God.

7. The object of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is to make the members real Christian followers of Christ, imitators of Christ.

8. Our object is to show the people we visit Christianity in action by our kindness and by our true spirit of charity and sympathy.

9. Kindness has converted more souls than zeal, eloquence or learning.

10. In these days of materialism and moral bankruptcy it is the Catholic viewpoint, the Catholic way of life—now more than ever before perhaps—which alone can save the nation and the world from chaos.

P. S.

DOLLARS MAY SPEAK 'Pattern of Peace' put to U. S. Congress

That tradition—the greatest pride and perhaps the greatest contribution to civilisation of this country—should to-day be making Britain the steadfast and open opponent of all State making by force. It was this tradition which was invoked, seriously by responsible authorities, hysterically by Left-publicists, before the war as against authoritarianisms. And it is this tradition which at present is overlooked by Government and publicists alike when it is a case of applying it to the authoritarianism of to-day who have ousted the authoritarianism of yesterday.

This is bad enough, but it is at least possible that we may yet be put to shame in a rather unexpected manner. It will not have been overlooked that America is beginning to put up a much tougher resistance to present trends than this country. America has committed herself much less far in the case of Poland. It is said to be due to her views that King Peter of Yugoslavia has been enabled to modify in important respects the political game that has been going on in this country, and it is uncertain as yet whether his action may not prove the first and real challenge to Tito. Mr. Harry Hopkins is travelling in Europe, and we believe that he has something to say. He is not omitting the Holy Father in his list of priority calls, and at the Vatican he is sure of a welcome.

What is it all about? Perhaps it has something to do with the Soviet request to America for the loan of many millions? However that be, there is no sort of doubt about the fact that all Europe will be initially dependent on the readiness of American industry and American credit to help set a devastated and worn-down Continent on its feet. It may be that there are important people in America who have realised that here is a handle by which even the Soviet can be held.

Frankly, we do not like it. We do not like to think that the good name of Europe should depend upon American dollars for its preservation. Still less do we like the thought that a Britain which has broken with her grand tradition and compromised with evil should have shamefacedly to retreat towards her own ideals because of the bargaining power of money. It would be the last indignity. Let us hope that America has been kind enough to acquaint us in good time with any such plans so that at the last meeting of the Big Three Britain may be one of the two Powers ready to tell the third that even the greatest friendship and admiration must recognise certain limits in the name of self-interest as well as justice and the common good.—C.H. London.

Sight of Four Persons in Mexico City Saved

Nun's Gift of Eye

Sister Emma of the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception, Mexico City, originally from Senora, has made it possible for four persons to regain their sight through the donation of one eye, and has arranged for her other eye to be put to a similar use at the time of her death.

The Hospital of Nuestra Senora de la Luz has an "eye bank." Sister Emma had a tumour which was affecting one eye and she was advised to have this eye removed before the other became impaired. She readily consented, but on condition that the eye be used to benefit others, since until the moment when the surgeon cut the optic nerve she could see perfectly with this eye.

One of the persons who benefited from a portion of the cornea of Sister Emma's eye was a chauffeur who for a year had visited the hospital daily in the hope of saving his sight.

About 300 persons a day visit "Our Lady of Light" eye clinic where they are cared for by Religious. It was because of her first-hand knowledge of how many people, especially among the poorer classes, are clamoring for preservation of their sight that Sister Emma required no time to "think it over" when she heard the doctor's verdict.

'Pattern of Peace' put to U. S. Congress

A Catholic, Mr. Michael Feighan, a Protestant, Mr. Charles La Follette, and a Jew, Mr. Samuel Weiss, have jointly introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives a resolution which would bind both the House of Congress to accept as the basis for America's attitude at the Peace Conference the seven principles contained in the now famous "Pattern of Peace" declaration of U. S. Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders.

Representative Feighan, the Catholic, declared in his speech that the people of the U.S.A. have been "bewildered, disheartened and confused" partly as a result of recent "utterances by responsible statesmen both here and abroad, particularly with respect to Poland." These circumstances, he said, have caused concern among the American people that "the ideals for which their boys are fighting are in serious danger of being compromised."

The Protestant, Representative La Follette, pointing out that the declaration has been supported by the Archbishop of Westminster, the Anglican Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain and the Moderator of the Scottish churches, declared:

UNPRECEDENTED UNANIMITY

"We are thus represented with an unanimity of agreement among the religious leaders in the English-speaking democracies that is unprecedented in the history of the passed 400 years."

Representative Weiss, the Jewish member, asserted: Peace cannot be lasting unless built upon a firm foundation supported by all religious faiths, endorsed by all political elements adopted by all nations."

Telegraphic Summary of News

46 NATIONS GATHER AT SAN FRANCISCO

Twelve hundred delegates had assembled in San Francisco for the World Security Conference, which was formally opened at 5 p.m. on Wednesday. India's delegates are Sir Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Sir Firoz Khan Noon and Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar. The delegates will represent forty-six nations who have received invitations. Eighteen other countries failed to qualify for invitations, firstly, they did not declare war on Germany as laid down at the Yalta Conference, and secondly, because they did not sign the United Nations declaration.

General Smuts, who has already arrived, has met several other delegates, including the chief Republican member of the U.S. delegation, Senator Arthur Vandenberg. Senator Vandenberg said on Monday: "A world formula for collective security in the world must be developed. It is in America's self-interest to be part of it."

SAN FRANCISCO'S FIRST SUBJECT WILL BE POLAND

The San Francisco Conference opened on Wednesday with the Big Three on the Polish question—that is the construction which well informed quarters put on the White House statement.

The statement said: "President Truman twice received M. Molotov during his short stay in Washington. The Secretary of State has conferred with M. Molotov and Mr. Anthony Eden on the Polish situation and matters connected with the San Francisco Conference."

The Netherlands will oppose the Yalta Plan for the great nations to hold the power of veto in the new League of Nations, the Dutch Foreign Minister (Dr. Van Kleffens) told newspaper men in San Francisco on Monday.

HITLER 'STAYING IN BERLIN'

Hitler is in command of the German suicide battalions on Monday night's fighting on Berlin's barricades against Soviet street fighting experts, the veterans of Battles of Stalingrad who are driving for key strongholds in the centre of the doomed capital.

RESTORING FRANCE TO POWER

France's restoration to power in less than eleven months after D-Day is indicated by an important announcement on Monday by General Eisenhower that with effect from May 1, the French Provisional Government will assume responsibility for the entire French supply programme, which until now has been handled by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom.

This follows recent conferences held in the United States and at S.H.A.E.F. in collaboration with the French Provisional Government.

SUMMONS ON PETAIN

Marshal Petain has been summoned before the French High Court of Justice. His trial will open on May 17th.

[Petain and other men of Vichy are at present somewhere in Germany. The German town of Sigmaringen which Hitler placed at their disposal was captured this week by the French Army.]

EIRE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Mr. A. N. Okelly, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, was on Monday night selected by the Fianna Fail (Mr. de Valera's Party) as their candidate for the presidential election.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the estate of the late Mathesupillai Clement of No. 32, Temple Road, Jaffna.

Deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 382

1. John Muthiah Aseerwatham and wife
2. Mary Aseerwatham of Martyn Road, Jaffna.

Petitioners

Vs.

1. M. C. Thuraiarajah
2. Mariammah daughter of Clement
3. Theresa daughter of Clement
4. Jesuthasan Clement
5. Anjaleena widow of Clement all of No. 32, Temple Road, Jaffna.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before H.A. de Silva Esq., District Judge, Jaffna on the 12th March 1945 in the presence of Mr. Vital A. Moses, Proctor for Petitioners and the affidavit and Petition of the Petitioners having been read. It is ordered that the abovenamed 5th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minors 2, 3 and 4 respondents for the purpose of watching their interests in this administration proceedings and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the said deceased be issued to the Petitioners as son-in-law and daughter of the said deceased unless the said respondents shall appear before this Court on the 14th day of May 1945 and shew sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

The 12th day of March 1945.

Sgd. H. A. DE SILVA,
District Judge.

FOR SALE

Land situated at New Road leading from Maravakula Road over 30 lms. in extent, half of it planted with bearing coconut trees, one fourth of it with high class mango trees and one fourth paddy field.

For further particulars apply to:

M. A. RASIAH,
Martyn Road, Jaffna.

Notice of Sale of Bran

Large quantities of Mannar bran are available for sale at the Forage Store, Banksball Street, Jaffna at Rs. 8-96 per cwt. Intending purchasers are requested to apply to the undersigned for their requirements.

Sgd. E. GOONERATNE,
A.G.A. (E), Jaffna.

Jaffna, 21-4-45.

Toddy Rent Sale, 1945-46, Mannar District

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase of exclusive privilege of selling toddy in Mannar District during the period 1 July 1945 to 30th June 1946. Tenders should reach the Assistant Government Agent, Mannar not later than 11 a.m. on Tuesday May 15, 1945.

The conditions of sale and any other particulars can be obtained on application at the Mannar Kachcheri.

(Sgd.) C. SITTAMPALAM,
Assistant Government Agent, Mannar.
14-4-1945.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the estate of the late Daisy Eleanor Kanagamma Retnanandam of Chundicully, Jaffna.

Deceased.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 396

Joy Kathiravelu Retnanandam of do

Petitioner

Vs.

1. Anandaram Retnanandam of do
2. Gnanasothy Kanagamma Retnanandam of do
3. Peter Mortimer of do

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before H. A. de Silva Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 4th day of April 1945 in the presence of Mr. J. A. J. Tisseverasinghe, Proctor for Petitioner and the affidavit of Petitioner having been read:

It is ordered that the 3rd Respondent abovenamed be appointed Guardian-ad-litem of the 1st and 2nd Respondents abovenamed and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the deceased abovenamed be granted to the Petitioner abovenamed as widower of the said deceased unless the Respondents abovenamed show sufficient cause or objection to the contrary on or before the 18th day of May 1945.

This 4th day of April 1945.

Sgd. E. WIJEWARDENE,
Addl. District Judge.

Absolute or Discharging Order Nisi Declaring Will Proved etc.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the estate of the late Pavilnapillai widow of Vaithiapillai Manuelpillai of Karayur deceased of Karayur.

Testamentary Jurisdiction } No. 369

This matter coming on for final disposal before H. A. de Silva Esq., District Judge, Jaffna on the 6th day of March 1945 in the presence of Mr. V. A. Moses, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit of the petitioner and of witnesses to the Last Will having been read:

It is ordered that the order of this Court made on the 6th day of March 1945 be made absolute and that Probate of the Will of the abovenamed deceased be issued to Pavil Chellappah of Anaikodai, Manipay and Mariampillai Emmanuel of Karayur.

(Sgd.) H. A. DE SILVA,
District Judge.

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