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The Jaffna Catholic Guardian.

கத்தோலிக்கப் பாதுகாவுலன்.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

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

கையொப்பவிகிதம் . ரூ. ௪
 ஆம் க-க்கு முற்பணம்.....4-00
 சு-மாசத்துக்கு முற்பணம்...2-00
 ஆம்-ம். க-க்கு பிற்பணம்.....6-6
 சு-மாசத்துக்கு பிற்பணம்...3-00
 தபால்சிலவு { இலங்கைக்கு...1-00
 இந்தியாவுக்கு...1-00
 விளம்பர விகிதம்
 12 வரிக்குள் வரி-க-க்கு..... 16
 12-க்குமேற்படிவல் வரி க-க்கு 10
 கரல் கொலத்துக்கு (28 வரி.) 300
 அரைக்கொலத்துக்கு..... 5-00
 முக்கார் கொலத்துக்கு. 7-00
 ஒருசலத்துக்கு 9-00

VOL. XVII.

JAFFNA, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH. 1892

NO. 37

NOTICE.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY AT OODUVILLE.

The Novenas in the church will begin on the 23rd Inst. and close on the 2nd of October next.

For the celebration of these Novenas apply to the Revd. Fr. Louis Poologasingam.

MEDICAL BOOKS FOR SALE.

Homœopathic and Electro-Homœopathic guides in Tamil, translated from the writings of Rev. Aug. MULLER S. J.

Apply to Mr. B. M. Lopiah,

Cathedral Street, Jaffna.

Price Cts. 50, Postage Cts. 2.

MADHU CHURCH.

The festivals at this Church will begin as usual on the First Sunday of May, and close with the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, on October 1st. Every Saturday night a Novena will be celebrated at the Sanctuary, and every Sunday after Mass, or in the evening, the Statue of Our Blessed Lady will be carried in procession round the Church.

Persons wishing to take part in those Novenas, or desirous to have special festival celebrated in their name, are requested kindly to communicate directly with the undersigned.

C. MASSIET O.M.I.

Administrator of Madhu Vavunia

Telegraphic Summary

Christians. Persecuted in China

London, September 8th. The *Times* publishes a telegram from Shanghai stating that three European Missionaries and some native Christians at Shensi have been killed, and their bodies mutilated.

A Franco-Russian Egyptian Agreement. Paris, September 8th. The *Figaro* states that at a recent interview at Aix-les-Bains of M. Ribot and M. Freyheidt with Baron Mohrenheim, the Russian Ambassador, and M. De Giers, the Egyptian question was discussed, and a common line of Franco-Russian action in Egypt agreed upon.

The Cholera in Europe.

London, September 9th. Cholera is still virulent at Hamburg, and two hundred deaths are daily taking place from it. Great Britain still continues free from the disease. Further cases of Cholera have occurred on board Hamburg liners at New York.

Cholera is daily increasing in Paris, and the French Government have now prohibited the entry of emigrants from infected countries.

London, September 11th. Fifty cholera cases, thirty six of which proved fatal, have taken place on board the steamer "Scindia" between Hamburg and New York. The arrival of this steamer with cholera on board has caused a partial panic in New York, and the crew of a tug boat refused to remove the passengers from her for fear of the contagion.

The Germans and Dahomey.

It is reported that the Germans are supplying Dahomeyans with quantities of rifles and ammunition. This will probably lead to a protest being made at Berlin by the French Government.

Terrible Distress in Swansea.

Terrible distress prevails in the Swansea district, owing to the depression in the tin-plate industry. One thousand families are starving.

The Trades Congress.

London, September 11th. The Trades Congress has unanimously passed a resolution that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to promote the Bill to prevent the landing of pauper aliens in Great Britain. A resolution was also passed in favour of appointing workmen magistrates.

The Russian Press on the Pamirs Question.

St. Petersburg, September 11th. An important article has appeared in the *Novo Vremya* on the Pamir question, which says that the sole object of Colonel Yanoff's expedition is to strengthen the Russian authority on the Pamir plateau, which has belonged to Russia since the conquest of the Khokand in 1875. The article adds that Great Britain wishes for a friendly partition of the Pamirs, but Russia will demonstrate her rights to that territory, and will moreover certainly cause them to be respected.

CHURCH NOTICE.

HOURS OF DIVINE SERVICE.

TO-MORROW

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

Mass 5. 15. A. M.
 " 6. 30. A. M.
 " 8. 30. A. M.
 Benediction 5. 15. P. M.

AT ST. JAMES

Mass. 5. 15. A. M.
 Benediction 6. 00. P. M.

Wednesday 21 inst. Abstinence.

New Missionaries. The Archdiocese of Colombo has received a valuable accession to its Missionary staff by the arrival on Wednesday the 7th Instant of the Revd. Fathers E. Nicholas and E. Julien who are Doctors of Philosophy of the Gregorian University, the Revd. F. Helary and three lay Brothers, all of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The Lay Brothers are to join the Industrial School at Maggona.

His Lordship Dr. Pagnani. Bishop of Kandy left the Island on the 10th Inst by the *S. S. Golconda*, on a visit to Rome.

The Public health. The fever now prevailing in and about the town is in many cases attended with headache, catarrh, prostration and pains in the joints, and the doctors are of opinion that influenza has reappeared in our midst.

The Government Agent. Mr. Twynam has directed the packets addressed to him to be sent to Vavunia to which place he proceeds after visiting Mannar, probably to meet Mr. Waring expected at Madawatchi on the 20th Inst. Cor.

Agricultural. There has been no rain as yet: and many of the farmers in the peninsula, after a time of anxious waiting, have sown their fields with paddy—*sown in dust*, as the Tamil phrase goes. This mode of sowing has the advantage of enabling the seeds scattered in the dry loose earth to sprout up as soon as the rain falls; but if there is heavy pouring rain the seeds are washed away or destroyed. Cor.

Marriage in High Life. On Wednesday the 14th Inst. at 11. A. M., the marriage was solemnised at the Cathedral by the Very Revd. Father L. Mauroit, Vicar General, of Miss Mary Toussaint, the 4th daughter of the late Mr. John Toussaint, with Mr. Julien Toussaint, a son of the late Mr. James Toussaint, who is employed in the Railway Department. The bride belongs to a Protestant family of Jaffna and the bridegroom to a Catholic family of Colombo. We wish them every happiness in their wedded life.

Mr. Suprumania Modliar, the late Adigar of Mannar and the present Govt. Storekeeper at Mannar is reported to be seriously ill. Cor.

Suspected murder. The Udayar of Maruthenkani has been arrested and remanded to jail on the presumption or suspicion that he had a hand in the recent murder of a woman. Cor.

Suicide. A woman of Valvetiturai committed suicide on the 11th Inst by throwing herself into a well, after having quarrelled with her husband. Cor.

Palmirah Fibre industry. Mr. Clarke of Messrs. Vavasour and Co paid a visit to their local fibre store under Mr. Silva a few days ago. Cor.

Administration Reports. We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Reports of Mr. Ewart on the Colombo Waterworks and of the Central and Provincial Irrigation Boards for 1891.

The Report of the Central Irrigation Board gives the following information in its concluding paragraph:—

It has been decided from the beginning of 1892 to institute a change in the administration of all votes of the Legislative Council for irrigation purposes, so as to comply with the law which contemplates their payment into the Irrigation Fund and expenditure for the special objects specified under the direction of the Central Irrigation Board, instead of as hitherto by the Director of Public Works under the direction of Government.

The big Madagal case instituted in the Police Court of Jaffna under No. 10231 by Valampulle Loppupullai of Madagal against, 1. Murgar Ampalawar, 2. Sidemperam Vaitianather, 3. Katirgamer Vissavanather 4. Vytianather Sithemperapillai 5. Loppu Anthoni, 6. Anthoni Susai, 7. Sinnayar Vally, 8. Ponnampalam Vaitilingar and 9. Vairavi Veerakatti, all of the same place, on a charge of forming an unlawful assembly, being armed with dangerous weapons, under section 141 of the Ceylon Penal Code, came on for trial before the District Court of Jaffna under No. 1953 and was heard by our acting District Judge Mr. L. F. Lee on the 8th Instant. Mr. T. M. Tampoo conducted the prosecution for the Crown and the accused were defended by Messrs. Advocates Allegakoen, Kanagasabai and Vanniasingam instructed by Messrs. Proctors Casippillai and Champion. Four witnesses were called for the prosecution and three witnesses for the defence. As it was very late that day, the case was postponed for the 12th. On the 12th, Judgment was delivered. The Judge found them all guilty, save the 2nd accused. All the others were sentenced to two month's rigorous imprisonment each and the 2nd accused was imposed a fine of Rs. 75.

I hear that as the result of an appeal made to the Governor by the accused, Mr. Lee has been directed by telegram to send the Case book with any remarks he may wish to make.

There has been another row at Madagal and a false report reached us on Thursday that two or three men were murdered. Cor.

The Puttoor Well. Your readers will be glad to learn, though I cannot vouch for the absolute correctness of the report, that Mr. Creasy, our Provincial Engineer, has submitted a scheme for the irrigation of this famous well, as yet turned to no practical account, and has also sent to Colombo for analysis, the water taken from the well at various depths. I am aware of some adverse opinions having been expressed with regard to the scheme of irrigation for Jaffna by means of this well, but these opinions were formed or propagated by men like the Editor of the *Independent* who have never seen the well and who have no professional knowledge to entitle their views to much consideration. There are so many thousands of Rupees spent year after year for purposes of irrigation in all parts of the Island except Jaffna. Why should not some money be apportioned to the people of this peninsula out of the Irrigation Funds? The experiments proposed in connection with the Puttoor Well are deserving of every consideration at the hands of Government and it is to be hoped that Mr. Creasy will leave no stone unturned to make the irrigation of the Well an ultimate success. Cor.

Cattle disease is prevailing in and about the town and several valuable cows are reported to have died during the week. The carcasses of these diseased animals are eagerly sought by the *Pariahs* who make a meal of them with real gusto. This, however, should be strictly prohibited, on sanitary grounds. A public proclamation should be made directing the owners of the cattle dying of disease to have their carcasses buried; and special instructions should be given to the Police with a view to the rigorous enforcement

of this wholesome regulation. Cor.

Mr. Justice Clarence has retired after a service of twenty years in the Island, first as Solicitor General and then as a Judge of the Supreme Court. He has communicated the news himself in a farewell letter addressed to the members of the Bar through the Chief Justice, Sir B. L. Burnside.

Judicial Changes. Mr. Owen Morgan is expected to retire in November next when Mr. D. E. Browne will be confirmed as District Judge of Colombo. It is reported of the late District Judge of Colombo, Mr. Berwick that he has been called to the Madras Bar and has already got into successful practise, having received a fee of 300 guineas for pleading a case in the Tajoore Court.

The Lord Mayor of the City of London has addressed a letter to the Mayor of Colombo, asking him to invoke the benevolence of his fellow citizens in the work of charity and mercy that has been started for the relief of the thousands rendered homeless and destitute by the destructive fire which devastated the city of St. John's Newfoundland, the oldest British Colony. The sum already raised and sent by the Lord Mayor amounts to over £20,000.

The Post Master General. Mr. Skinner has had his salary raised from Rs. 14,400 to Rs. 18,000. The increment is to be a personal allowance. He is also to have a Resident Post Master for the head office on Rs. 2,500.

Mr. P. Arunachalam, the acting Registrar General has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Island as well as an Unofficial Police Magistrate for the thirty-four judicial districts of which it is composed.

The Session of the Legislative Council for 1892 opened on Wednesday the 14th Inst.

The New taxes. The Governor has received a despatch from the Secretary of State in which His Excellency is desired to inform the Planter's Association that while Lord Kuntford regards additional taxation as a safeguard against the deficit which may possibly result from the abolition of the paddy tax. His Lordship fully recognises that if hereafter the revenue more than suffices the demands made upon it, it will be the duty of the Government to consider whether the taxes in question should not be reduced or repeated.

Conversions. The Hon. Stephen Powys, son of Lord Lilford, of Lilford, Northamptonshire has been received into the Catholic Church.

The conversion of the Nestorians is now an accomplished fact. The Patriarch and the 5000 inhabitants who formed the community representing the ancient Nestorian schism, the oldest in Christendom, have been united to the Holy See. Catholic Times.

INDIAN ITEMS.

The Madras Catholic Workman in announcing the lamented death of the Right Rev. Dr. Riccaz, Bishop of Nagpur, gives the following notice of the deceased prelate.—Dr. Alexis Riccaz, is a veteran Missionary, having come out to India 47 years ago to serve in the diocese (then Vicariate Apostolic) of Vizagapatam, in which Mission His Lordship laboured as a simple priest, till Nagpur, a portion of the Old Vicariate Apostolic of Vizagapatam, was erected into a separate Diocese. Dr. Riccaz was appointed the first Bishop of Nagpur and was consecrated on the 20th November 1887, by his suffragan, the Most Revd Dr. Colgan D. D. Archbishop of Madras, assisted by His Grace, Dr. Gandy, Coadjutor Bishop of Pondichery and the Right Revd Dr. Chappott, Bishop of Hyderabad. The deceased prelate led an ascetic life and never spared himself in the arduous work of the Missions. His Lordship was a great student and is the author of a Telugu Grammar, as well as other religious works in Telugu.

Mr. H. Irwan, Consulting Architect to the Madras Government has had a severe attack of Cholera from which he is now recovering.

THE
Jaffna Catholic Guardian
SEPTEMBER 17TH

PROVINCIAL REVENUE.

From the Return, just issued, of the Revenue and Expenditure of the several Provinces for 1891, we see that of the nine Provinces into which the Island is now divided, there is only one, the North Central, that does not pay the cost of its administration. The revenue of this Province is Rs. 86,406 and the expenditure is Rs. 22,142 in excess of this amount. Nearly one-third of the revenue is derived from the Paddy tax; but from next year the revenue, in the absence of this source of income, will fall still far short of the expenditure. It is only with the opening of the railway to Jaffna that this Province will receive the necessary industrial and material developments and become so populous and productive as not only to pay its own way, but leave a large margin of profit to Government.

Classified according to the percentage which the expenditure bears to the revenue, the Western Province comes first with 18.42, the North Western Province second with 20.43, the Central Province third with 24.15, the Southern Province fourth with 37.31 the Province of Sabaragamuwa fifth with 39.52, the Province of Uva sixth with 43.10, the Eastern Province seventh with 48.40, the Northern Province eighth with 57.33, and the North-Central Province last with 125.62. The excess of revenue over expenditure in the eight Provinces is as follows:—

Western Province	Rs. 1,273,332
Central Province	1,879,299
North Western Province	1,711,536
Southern Province	702,637
Northern Province	293,331
Sabaragamuwa	218,012
Eastern Province	206,047
Uva	126,646

The Northern Province, it is worthy of remark, includes three districts—Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavunya—which as a rule do not pay the cost of their administration; and these are the only Provincial districts in the whole Island that are non-paying. Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavunya are certainly a drag on Jaffna, the Premier district of the Northern Province and a first class agency, on a footing of equality with Colombo, and Kandy, in point of salary at any rate. Kurunegalle and Galle are making rapid advances and the Collectors of those towns may fairly claim and be conceded precedence in future on the ground that their Provinces yield far more revenue than the Northern Province. Not to advance is, in these days especially, to recede; and under existing circumstances, Jaffna must needs sink gradually into insignificance as a second, perhaps a third class agency. If the decay and depopulation of the Wannu are to be effectually arrested, if it is to be not the dreary howling wilderness it has been so long, but the smiling abode of industrious and thriving colonies from our over-congested peninsula, and if Jaffna is not to be decreed by the Fates to continue "remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow" for ever, it is very clear that railway communication is absolutely necessary and must be provided with as little delay as possible.

A SKETCH OF ARCHBISHOP
BONJEAN'S LIFE.

(Continued from our issue of the 3rd Inst.)
From 1876 to 1883, the year in which Dr. Bonjean was translated to the see of Colombo, the reinforcements which the Congregation of the Oblates in Jaffna, received were as follows:—

Father Massiet arrived in October 1876. In 1877 Father John Aloysius, a native of Jaffna made his oblation 3 years before he was ordained. In the same year Messrs Charles and Jules Collin joined the Mission. Both made their oblation on the 22nd Sept. 1879; the latter was ordained on the 2nd April 1881 and the former, who was ordained on the 18th December 1880 and transferred to the Colombo Vicariate in 1883, is now the Administrator Apostolic of the Archdiocese. In 1878 came out Father Blachot and in 1879 Father Henry, Brother Iserbyt ordained in 1880 and Brother Smyth who, having been received into the church in 1869 while a member of the Civil Service, had, a few years later, thrown up his appointment and entered the College of the Propaganda in Rome, to prosecute his theological studies. He was ordained priest on the 2nd April 1881 and after a most useful career in Jaffna as the first Principal of St. Patrick's College and then in Colombo as Manager of Schools and Military Chaplain, died at Colombogam in May 1888. In 1880 the arrivals were Fathers Joulain, Jeandel, Lafarge, and Thirion who died in 1881, Brother Cardinal ordained priest in 1883 and Brother St. Geneys who was ordained in 1883, but who was prematurely cut off in the midst of his usefulness at Mannar in 1889. Besides these arrivals, there were three more members added to the Congregation, viz. Brother Michael George Murphy who had arrived in 1870 while still a lad, Brother (now Father) Stouter, a native of Colombo and Father Hypolite, a native of Jaffna, who had been ordained priest in 1878. With Father Larnaude who arrived in 1881 closes the list of the members of the Congregation of the Oblates in Jaffna during Dr. Bonjean's administration. From 1883 to 1892—the period during which Dr. Bonjean administered the affairs of the church in Colombo, there were about sixty priests added to the Congregation.

During the administration of our present Bishop, His Lordship Dr. Melizan, the arrivals were as follows:— In 1884 came Fathers Caumont and Brother J Roux ordained priest in the following year. In 1885 came Brother Dunne ordained later on in the same year and Brother Wheeler ordained in 1887. In 1886 came Father Vorlander and in 1887 Fathers Dabreuil and Gautier and Brother Maingot ordained in 1889. In 1888 came Father Dérat, Brother Poulin ordained in 1891 and Brother Grouseat. The year 1889 witnessed the ordination of five priests—one European, Father Owen and four natives of Ceylon, Fathers Poologasingham, Joseph, Chrysostom and Pabamunai, the last three of whom made their religious profession shortly after their ordination. Besides these ordinations there were in 1889 six arrivals from Europe, viz. Father Adenac, Brother Delpech ordained the same year, Brothers Baron, Rethore, and Sautin ordained in 1890 and Brother Guerin ordained in 1891. The list closes with Fathers Fendenheim and Boury who arrived in 1890.

Thus our readers will see that the total number of the members of the Congregation of the Oblates in Jaffna up to the present is 94—thirty-five joining under Dr. Semeria, the same number under Dr. Bonjean and twenty four under Dr. Melizan. If to these we add some sixty Oblates, living and dead, who have laboured in the Archdiocese of Colombo since it was handed over to Dr. Bonjean, we get a total of about one hundred fifty four members—a wonderful growth indeed for a Congregation which started with two Fathers and one Brother under Dr. Semeria in 1847.

(To be Continued)

Occasional.

The Jaffna Railway. It is very gratifying to be informed that His Excellency the Governor is earnestly bent on making a commencement of this great work before his term of office expires. It is also gratifying to learn that Mr. Waring has been instructed to include in his survey of the Jaffna line a survey of the line from Mannar across Ramisseram and thence across the straits to the mainland, as His Excellency has been

much impressed with the importance and advantages of steam communication with India and with the facility with which Ceylon could be connected with India by rail. Mr. Waring has secured charts of the Paumotu Channel and the views of the Madras Government as to the feasibility of connecting the Ceylon and Madras Railway systems are now being ascertained. The *Times* makes the following remarks on the subject:—Such a line, if cheaply constructed, and if it could afford to charge moderate rates for transport, would draw a good deal of traffic from the Southern part of India for shipments from Colombo, where cheap freight is always obtainable, which is not now the case at Madras—an out-of-the-way port with a dangerous harbour. Such a line would convert Colombo into another Singapore or Hongkong, and the survey ordered is distinctly a step in the direction of a more far-seeing and statesman-like view of local concerns than we have been accustomed to for many years past.

Ceylon tea. Ceylon tea is rapidly growing in favour with Englishmen, as will appear from the following remarks made by the *London Tablet*:—In tea the most important phenomenon is the rapid rise in the exports. As Indian tea displaced the tea from China in the English market, so the Indian tea is being ousted by the teas of Ceylon. This year, for the first time, Ceylon tea has exceeded in quantity the China tea sent to this country. Year by year the China teas came in smaller quantities, and at present there is no sign that the downward movement is at an end. Chinese teas will always find some to prefer them, but the greater strength of the Indian and Ceylon teas have secured them the popular favour.

The Pasteurian method. The anti-rabic method of Louis Pasteur, who is by the bye a Catholic with whom there is no conflict between science and religion, has been successfully applied by Professor Murri, with some modifications, to the treatment of a patient already suffering from unmistakable symptoms of hydrophobia. Hitherto there has been no method of treatment known which has been of any avail in saving the life of the unfortunate patient seized with the alarming symptoms of the dreadful malady. The *British Medical Journal* now regards the Pasteurian method as complete and assured. Its introduction into the Island is therefore most opportune and welcome.

TO COLOMBO AND BACK.

(Continued from our last.)

We got into Colombo harbour, and dropped anchor at daylight, when a number of the oldest-looking canoes, called catamarans, put out from the shore and came round the vessel. They are simply the trunk of a palm-tree hollowed out, and so narrow that there is only just room for a man to squeeze his legs in between the sides of the boat, as he sits on a seat across the top. To keep them steady in the water they have, on one side two pieces of wood like outriggers six or seven feet in length with a heavy beam lashed to the ends, which floats on the water. As long as this floats on the water the catamaran will not overturn, so when the sea is very rough they put a man at the end of the outrigger, or sometimes two men, to make it heavier; and when a Singhalese wishes to tell you how rough the sea is, he describes it as a one-man gale, or a two-men gale, meaning to say they had to put one man or two men out to keep the boat steady. Some have large sails, and some are towed, but they all skim through the water at a great pace, and look the most dangerous and uncanny of boats. Luckily there were plenty of large boats too, for though we felt rather tempted to try, a catamaran ourselves, we could not have got our luggage in. Our first sight of Colombo was refreshing, for it was the first green spot we had seen since leaving Paumotu. Till now we had seen nothing but broad seas; but Colombo with its groves of beautiful green coconut palms growing down to the water's edge, looked like a fairy place floating in the sunshine on the blue sea. I found myself in a motley crowd indeed on landing. The passengers' Jetty was full of people. There were many boatmen; Singhalese men, looking just like women, with their long hair plaited up in a knot at the back of their heads, and fastened with a large tortoise shell comb, and wrapped in a few yards of white or bright-coloured cotton, which they fasten round their waist in some way so that it hangs like a very scanty, tight skirt to a little below the knees. They are too civilised, I suppose, to appear in full native dress, and yet do not like to clothe themselves like Europeans, so they split the difference, and come out in English cut coat, waistcoat and trousers, white shirt-front and collar, and of course something smart in the way of studs; but over their trousers they wrap themselves round with the usual Singhalese cloth. The effect of the whole when finished with a felt hat is droll to a degree.

We had been rolling about so much that it seemed quite strange at first not to feel the ground rising and falling under our feet. But, oh, I am forgetting, that I am keeping you all this time at the Wharf. Well, we

waited there some time and were soon surrounded by about thirty or forty Singhalese and Tamils with their carriages, hackeries and carts, each of whom was determined we should hire his conveyance. The noise they made was deafening, and they pressed round us so closely that we had to use some sticks pretty freely before we could move. I very soon caught some coolies and had my baggage packed into a conveyance and with a Singhalese as guide, went up to the town. I was going to stay with my brothers in a house in Hill Street close to Wolfendall church. I drove down there, while Mr. M. was to follow with a friend in a pony cart. The pony and cart ran away before they had time to get in, and got nearly home before they were caught and taken back to them, but that is only what the ponies and horses in Colombo are always doing. They are so badly broken in that they all have some peculiar and pet wickedness of their own; and when a friend lends you one to ride or drive, instead of asking, "Is he quiet?" you inquire, "What does he do?" and you generally get the answer, "Oh, he only trips uphill"; or, "He does not kick much when he has once started," or something reassuring. Cor.

To be Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE

We do not hold ourselves answerable for correspondents' opinions

THE SECRET MEMORIAL.

14th Sept. 1892.

To The Editor J. C. Guardian

Dear Sir,

Certain people are engaged in getting up a Memorial very privately to the Legislature, praying that "The Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance of 1876" may not be introduced into Jaffna. Instead of adopting the reasonable and rational course of convening a public meeting of the educated and the intelligent and there discussing the matter in all its bearings, the originators of the movement are said to have recourse to the underhand means of getting signatures on blank sheets of paper from every body who is anybody, found in the streets and at Hindoo festivals. Most of the signatories do not know the real object for which their signatures are obtained. One of them caudally acknowledged to the writer that he put his signature to a paper at Candawamy temple at the request of a "limb of the law" and a kinsman of his, in order to please them. On his asking why his signature was required, the reply given was "for something connected with Thasavalamai". This movement is likely to mislead the Legislature and an exposure is therefore necessary. The question of repealing the Thasavalamai was fully considered by a strong committee presided over by no less a Judge than Mr. Conolly and a draft was sent by Mr. Conolly to the Government. There was not much difference between the Committee's draft and the Ordinance No 15 of 1876, except the deletion of the 26th, 27th and 40th Clauses of the Ordinance and some verbal alterations. In other respects the draft is but a transcript of the Ordinance, I do not grudge the people petitioning the Authorities, they are welcome to do so, but what I take exception to is the clandestine manner in which this petition is got up and the signatures are obtained. The reform of the law is the work of the educated and the intelligent and not of the ignorant masses. Why then trouble the latter for their signatures?

Yours truly

PETITIONERS AND ABHORRERS.

MANNAR.

11th, September 1892.

The Weather.—Extremely hot. The South-west monsoon is blowing with all its violence, accompanied with the usual stirring up of the sea-shore dust all along the place. No rain up to date. Rice sells at a high price and water sells at the rate of 25 cents a cask!

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. The pious Catholics at "Sayekkaratero" whose church is dedicated to our Lady of Refuge, displayed their unostentatious piety towards the Holy Mother of God, in a singular manner, on the lonely spot where the church stands. It is a plain building with no pretensions to architecture, without gorgeous decorations, and though there are no pyrotechnic displays a great number of Catholics are attracted there yearly. The truth is that there dwells the most affectionate of Mothers, who is the Refuge of Sioners, ever ready to hear their earnest prayers.

The Novenas preceding the feast were duly conducted by the different sections of the congregation. On the 8th. Inst. the festival day, the Revd. Father Roux, our Parish priest said Mass at which large numbers assisted, many receiving Holy Communion.

BATTICALOA.

The B. I. Steamer *Kajpootana* which anchored off the Bar the other day brought 1600 bags of rice for some Moor traders.

Dr. Sinniah is acting at Kalmunai for Dr. Pararajasinghe who is now on leave.

The Revd. Father Meary has again left town for Kalmunai, in connection with the building of the church there.

The complaint called Mumps prevails to a great extent all over the town and suburbs at present.

The plague of eye flies is worse than ever this year; and in spite of the land wind the Mosquitoes are very bad all over the district.

The building of St. Mary's church in Pullentivu is proceeding apace. The repairs to St. Michael's school have been completed. Cor.

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