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The Jaffna Catholic Guardian.

கத்தோலிக்கப் பாதுகாவலன்.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

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

VOL. XVII.

JAFFNA, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH. 1893

NO. 38

NOTICE.

MEDICAL BOOKS FOR SALE.

Homœopathic and Electro-Homœopathic guides in Tamil, translated from the writings of Rev. Ang. 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 a special festival celebrated in their name, are requested kindly to communicate directly with the undersigned.

C. MASSIET O.M.I.

Administrator of Madhu
Vavuniya

Telegraphic Summary

The Statist on the Silver Questions.

London, September 17th.—The Statist, in an article on the silver question, deprecates England joining the Monetary Conference, since it is impossible that Eng and can tamper with her monetary system, and, moreover, adds that the American delegates do not really represent the opinion of their own country on the silver question. The Statist further disputes the allegation that the fall in silver has seriously injured the prosperity of India, and quotes railway and trade statistics in disproof thereof.

Russia in Asia.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 17th.—The Novoe Vremya expects that a friendly settlement of the Pamir question will be arrived at, and expresses a hope that England and Russia will seize the occasion to generally settle the Anglo-Russian relations in Central Asia to their mutual advantage, and live on neighbourly terms.

Cholera News.

London, Sept. 19th.—Cholera has appeared notably at Cracow. The epidemic continues to decrease in Russia, and is slightly improving at Hamburg.

The Parnellites and the Dynamiters.

At a meeting of the Parnellites held at Lime-riek yesterday a resolution was passed that the Home Rule Bill should not be accepted unless an amnesty for dynamiters be included.

Emin Pasha wants relief again.

It is reported that Emin Pasha is in a destitute condition, dependent on Arabs south of Albert Edward Nyanza, and unable to move until aid reaches him.

A Franco-Russian Alliance.

London, Sept. 16th.—An offensive and defensive alliance between France and Russia was signed during the recent visit of President Carnot to Aix les Bains.

London, Sept. 17th.—The statement made that an offensive and defensive alliance between France and Russia has been signed is positively denied at St. Petersburg.

The Pamirs Question.

London, Sept. 15th.—In a letter from Lord Rosebery's Secretary, replying to one from Mr. Bowles, he states that the Pamirs question is receiving the earnest attention of Government but that it is undesirable to publish anything in the matter at present.

It is stated at St. Petersburg, that Colonel Yanoff has been ordered to withdraw to Fergana immediately.

The International Silver Conference.

It is expected that the international Silver Conference will open at Brussels in October.

The Nile and the Egyptian Harvest.

Cairo, Sept. 15th.—The height of the Nile at Wadyhalfa for the last five days is equal to the flood of 1887, and threatens to cause considerable damage in upper Egypt.

Death of Cardinal Howard.

The death of Cardinal Howard is announced.

CHURCH NOTICE.

HOURS OF DIVINE SERVICE.

TO-MORROW

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

Mass	5. 15. A. M.
"	6 30 A. M.
"	8 30 A. M.
Procession and Benediction	5 00 P. M.

AT ST. JAMES

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

N. B.—As the feast of the Holy Rrsary falls on the first Sunday in October, the feast of St. Michael will be celebrated to-morrow, when a High Mass will be sung in the morning and the Statue of St. Michael will be carried in procession round the Cathedral grounds in the evening.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER. Intention for October.—Spread of the custom of making Retreats.

Local &c.

Our Bishop. His Lordship Dr. Melizan, we are glad to say, is so far improved in health as to be able to leave Pusselawa on the 25th. Inst. His Lordship will pay a visit to Mgr. Zaleski at Kandy and return to Jaffna via Pattalam.

The Very Revd Fr. Collin who has been staying at Pusselawa for the benefit of his health is also in a fair way of recovery and returns to Colombo in a few days.

The Right Revd. Dr. Ferreira, the Bishop of Cochín, says a Colombo contemporary, accompanied by his Private Secretary, Father Vadaira arrived in Colombo on the 16th Inst. by the "Chindwara." His Lordship was met on board by Father Coquil and Mr. Roche Victoria, who brought the new arrivals ashore and drove them into the Pettah Mission House. Bishop Ferreira will stay in Ceylon a week or two and goes to Kandy on a visit to Monsignor Zaleski.

The Pardon of the Rosary.—As the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is at hand, we wish to remind our Catholic readers of the precious Plenary Indulgence, known as the Pardon of the Rosary, that can be gained by all the faithful on the occasion. Like the Indulgence of the Portiuncula, it can be gained as many times during the day as the Christian may choose to visit a church in which the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary has been canonically established and pray before the statue of Our Lady of the Rosary. The visits may be made at ever so short intervals of time; the only provision being that they should be really distinct visits. To go out of the Church even for an instant will do. The visits are fixed for the day of the Feast; but they may begin to be made on the afternoon of Saturday, the eve of the Feast, starting from the First Vespers—(2 P. M.) At every visit some prayer must be recited for the intentions of the Holy Father. The kind and length of the prayer have not been determined by the Church, but 5 Our Father and 5 Hail Marys are generally considered equivalent to what is commanded. Confession and communion are indispensable, but they may be made in any church at all and (by a special concession obtained for the faithful of this Diocese at any time within the fifteen days preceding the Feast or within the octave, Confession must precede Communion.

The Indulgence is applicable to the souls in Purgatory. It may not be amiss to note here a rule applying to all indulgences, viz. that the Christian must be in the state of grace when fulfilling the last condition.

The Revd. Father Pahamunay O. M. I. Missionary Apostolic, Chitlaw, Ceylon is a convert from Buddhism. In the September number of the Missionary Re-

cord of the Oblates there appears a very interesting article from him on "Life in a Buddhist monastery.—Cath. Times.

Mr. Twynnam's movements.—A Man-
nar Correspondent furnishes us with the following interesting particulars:—

Mr. Twynnam arrived at Pesalai from Colombo last week, bringing with him the new lamp for the Kangasantalur Light House and a large variety of young plants. From Pesalai he proceeded to Chettycoolam, and selected three sites along the Telegraph line, at Murungan, Parayan Alankoolam and Chettycoolam for three Rest Houses, to be built at once, at a cost of Rs. 1,200. From Chettycoolam he went to Vavuniya, taking with him the young plants he had brought from Colombo for the experimental Garden at Vavuniya. From Vavuniya he proceeded to Maddu and thence to Mantai where he attended to a petition of the inhabitants praying that the bands of their tanks may be repaired.

The Government Agent leaves Pesalai for Jaffna where he expects to be on the 24th Inst., touching at Delft on his way.

Administration Reports. We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Report on Forest Conservancy for 1891 by Mr. A. M. Walker, Acting Conservator of Forests.

We have also to acknowledge Mr. Cull's Report on Public Instruction, Mr. Skinner's on Post and Telegraphs and Major Knolly's on Police.

Medical. Our Manepay contemporary repeats the announcement that Mr. Thomas Beckett Scott M. D. and Miss Mary Macallum M. D. who are to be shortly married, are coming to Jaffna to continue the medical work started by the late Dr. Green. Possibly the friends and supporters of Mr. Scott, in the event of his coming, will use all their influence to get him appointed as Medical Superintendent of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society's Hospital.—Com.

A Juvenile Offender. A boy having with the aid of a stolen key got into the Office and store of Mr. Lawton, the local Agent of the Ceylon Steam Ship Company, on Sunday last, was arrested by the Police and sentenced by the Police Magistrate to undergo 2 weeks imprisonment.—Cor.

Mr. C. V. Bellamy, the District Engineer returned to Jaffna on Monday last after taking part in the Volunteer exercises in the South.

The Mathagal case. The accused in this case whom Mr. Lee sentenced to 2 months imprisonment and whom he would not allow to take the chances of an appeal, telegraphed to the Governor on the subject, specially retaining the Hon. Mr. Rama Nathan to plead their cause. The Governor having conceded to them the right of appeal, they asked the District Judge to allow them to stand out on bail till the result of their appeal is known. Mr. Lee having refused, they have again telegraphed to the Governor.—Cor.

The late Dr. Chapman: A correspondent writes from Manepay:—The death of Dr. Chapman which took place at Uduville from heart disease on the 18th. Inst. has caused general regret. He was a favourite student of Dr. Green and a very successful Medical Practitioner. He was associated with Dr. Green in the translation of English Medical Books into Tamil and among the works which he translated are the treatises on Anatomy, Physiology and Indian Pharmacopoeia and Chemistry. When Dr. Green left Jaffna for good, Dr. Chapman was appointed his successor at the Manepay Dispensary and Medical class—an appointment which he held till his death.

An approaching vacancy: A correspondent writes:—A rumour to the effect that Mr. Crown Counsel Nell is shortly to retire, gives me occasion to write a few words calling the attention of Government to a strange anomaly connected with the constitution of the Attorney General's department. Notwithstanding that the Tamils form such an important factor in the population of the Island, and contribute so largely to the work of the Attorney General's Dept; there is no one in this part of the Public Service who can be expected to properly understand the difficulties of the Tamils. Can there be a doubt that a Tamil would know the

ways and customs of his countrymen better than an officer belonging to any other

race, and in testing evidence have facilities for getting at the truth quite peculiar to himself. The rumour regarding Mr. Nell's retirement, prompts me to suggest that in the interest of a very large section of the inhabitants of the Island, a Tamil might be selected to fill the vacancy. The first name that presents itself to my mind is that of Mr. Casie Chetty, the Police Magistrate of Chavagacherry and Pt. Pedro, an officer whom I am sure, every one will admit, to be in every way competent for the post. A gentleman of undisputed scholarly attainments, of high British qualifications, and claiming a father who was once the foremost figure in Kandy society and a father-in-law who was the acknowledged leader of the Tamils in Colombo, Mr. Casie Chetty has during his long and faithful service to Govt. distinguished himself by his strict honesty and impartiality in the administration of Justice and his unblemished character as a private man.

Season Reports for August. From the reports we quote what has reference to the Jaffna district:—"Paddy—Sowing has begun in Vaikamam East, Vadama-
chady West, Thenmarachy and Punsakari divisions, Dry Grain.—Reaping of Pannichami, Thenachchami and Kurakkan completed, crops reported fair. In some divisions Kurakkan is being sown and in others payaru and Kurakkan are in plants. Tobacco. In Vaikamam West tobacco in fields being cut and cured and in others sale going on; price average. Palmfrsh. Crop good; above last year.

Salt. The total quantity of salt consumed in the Island in July last was 37,637 cwts. There were no exports during the month.

An examination for officers of the Public Works Department to qualify for promotion to the higher grades of Inspector or Third Grade District Engineer, will be held on Monday 16th. January 1893 and following days in the Council Chamber, Colombo.

Additional Registrars. The Government Gazette of the 16th. Inst. contains the draft of a proposed Ordinance to authorise the Governor to appoint additional Provincial and District Registrars. Any additional Provincial Registrar so appointed shall exercise and perform the duties and functions vested in the Government Agent as Provincial Registrar of Marriages, Births and Deaths and any additional District Registrar so appointed shall perform the duties vested in and made exercisable by the Assistant Government Agent as Registrar of such district.

Personal items.—The Hon. Mr. Sinevratne, the Sinhalese member of the Legislative Council has returned to the Island. —Mr. Bell the Archaeological Commissioner who is convalescing will not return to his duties at Anuradhapura for some weeks yet.

BATTICALOA.

The new Market buildings are making steady progress, two being completed and the central one rapidly proceeding apace.

A new jetty on a new plan with Mr. Murray's cement Pipes is being put into position.

A new departure in the social rules of the Tamils took place the other day when, on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. Peristambay's daughter, some Moors were invited in consequence of which there was a great disturbance.

The Forester, Mr. Armitage has disposed of about 1,600 Rupees worth of the old timber lying on the Esplanade.

One of the Elephants belonging to the Forest Department died a few days ago. The action of the Government in the matter of the Uplands property seems to all people undignified and to the Catholics as a body unjust. Whatever necessity there was for the acquisition of the property for Crown purposes—should have been manifested by the officers of the Crown long ago, when it was known to be in the market and before the Archbishop purchased it for a noble purpose and for the benefit of such a vast body as the Roman Catholics of Ceylon who contributed largely towards its purchase and whose property it now undeniably is.

கையொப்பவிகிதம் ரூ.ச

இலம் க-க்கு முற்பணம்...4-00

சு-மாசத்துக்கு முற்பணம்...2-00

இலம்- க-க்கு பிற்பணம்...6-00

சு-மாசத்துக்குப் பிற்பணம்...3-00

தபால்திலவு { இலங்கைக்கு...1-00

{ இந்தியாவுக்கு...1-00

விளம்பர விகிதம்

12 வரிக்குள் வரி-க-க்கு..... 16

12-க்குமேற்படியல் வரி க-க்கு 10

கரல் கொலத்துக்கு (28 வரி.) 300

அரைக்கொலத்துக்கு..... 5-00

முக்காற் கொலத்துக்கு..... 7-00

ஒருகலத்துக்கு..... 9-00

பரிபூரணபவன் திருச்சங்கத்தாராகிய கருதினன்மாள்களால் அங்கேசரிக்கப்பட்டான் என இடம்பற்றி கண்டிருக்கிறதாவது:—
செபமாஸைத் திருநாளாகிய ஜப்பதி மீது தது முதலாம் ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமையில் செபமாஸைச்சபைக்குச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாகிய எவ்வாருக்கும் ஒரு பரிபூரணபவனாண்டு. பரிசுத்த தேவமாதாவன் மன்றாட்டத்தின்

தந்தழிலிச்சிழம்

THE Jaffna Catholic Guardian SEPTEMBER 24TH

THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock summoned his Legislative advisers for the third time, during his rule, on the 14th. inst. and congratulated them on the plenty, progress and prosperity of the year that had passed since the opening of the second Session.

The past year, in spite of its general unhealthiness consequent on the prevalence of epidemic diseases, has been a year of comparative prosperity. The food supply was so abundant that even in those parts where dearth is generally felt, no appeals were made to Government for help of any kind.

The revenue of 1891 amounted to Rs. 17,692,710, exceeding that of 1890 by Rs. 1,733,941. Of this increase, over a million has come from sources, such as Railways and Customs, indicating a steady expansion of industry and trade and a fairly prosperous condition of the country and of its inhabitants. The assets of the colony at the beginning of the current year exceeded its liabilities by Rs. 2,741,086.

Highly satisfactory as is the financial and commercial position of the colony as shown by the returns of Revenue and Trade, there is one circumstance, arising from the depreciation of the Rupee which renders those returns misleading and which is described as follows:—

The Government has to meet in gold or its equivalent large and increasing liabilities. The cost incurred during 1891 in purchasing gold or its equivalents to meet the charges of the year was Rs. 4,888,617. The estimated outlay during 1893 for the same purpose, assuming that the changes to be deferred remain stationary will, taking the rupee at 1s-2½ (a little below its present value) amount to Rs. 5,735,653, an increased expenditure of Rs. 847,036. But as the charges to be deferred will have increased in amount, the actual additional expenditure will exceed that sum. It is manifest therefore that the increase of the number of Rupees estimated to be received in the Treasury must not be taken as a correct measure of the additional means available for spending purposes.

The Governor refers with evident satisfaction to the improvements effected during the year. In the Prison Department the discipline and diet enforced by Mr. Ellis have had the deterrent effect desired, as shown by a marked reduction in the population of our jails. The lowering of the postage and telegraph rates has resulted in such an expansion of business that while the revenue has suffered no loss, the public has been benefited. The strength of the Volunteer Forces has during the last three years risen from 821 to 1,169—an increase mainly due to the encouragement afforded by the Governor.

The Bills which will be considered during the session that has opened are 1. A bill for rendering less formal and technical the trial of a certain class of cases in which no appeal can be taken save upon a matter of law or with the leave of the Court. 2. A Bill to amend the Law relating to the granting of exclusive Privileges to Inventors. 3. A Bill to amend the Law relating to Postal and Telegraphic communications and the rates of Postage and Telegrams. 4. A Bill for the conservancy and sanitation of small towns and villages. 5. A Bill for removing doubts as to the validity of the registration of marriages, births and deaths and declaring all entries in the Books of the Registration Department legal and valid. 6. A Bill for imposing stamp duties on tavern licenses within Municipalities. 7. A Bill as

simulating the law relating to the Merchandise Marks in Ceylon to that in India. 8. A Bill amending Ordinance No 12 of 1859 and making the Government directly responsible for the control and management of the Ceylon Savings Bank.

On the subject of Railway extension His Excellency makes some encouraging announcements. The Haputale section of the Main Line of Railway will be opened for Traffic not later than April of next year and Galle will be in railway communication with Colombo by the close of 1893. Of future extensions in view, the following paragraph contains a definite, though brief statement.

"Arrangements for constructing the branch line of railway from Polgahawela to Kurunegalla have been made and it is expected that this addition to the railway system of the Island may be finished by the end of next year. The preliminary steps for the survey of a Railway line from Kurunegalla to Jaffna have been taken."

The Railway to Jaffna is a great work—the greatest perhaps with which the name of Sir Arthur Havelock will be associated. But His Excellency has another work of large magnitude in view—the construction of a North-Western Breakwater for Colombo Harbour and of a Graving Dock at Mutwal—as to which the Secretary of State has expressed himself favourably; and the Governor hopes to make a definite communication on the subject as soon as a decision is arrived at as regards matters still under consideration. The question arises as to whether the resources of the colony are sufficiently elastic to enable the Government to undertake *pari passu* the extension of the Railway to the North and the construction of an additional Breakwater and of a graving Dock for Colombo. Opinion is divided as to the absolute necessity or importance of additional Breakwater protection for the metropolitan harbour. As to the Jaffna railway, all are agreed in maintaining that it is a most necessary and beneficent work with which the development, progress and prosperity of the Northern half of Ceylon are bound up. The Jaffna Committee and in fact the whole population of the North should therefore do their very best to see that the work of railway extension northwards does not suffer and is not retarded by the improvements contemplated in connection with the Colombo Harbour.

THE JAFFNA RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

We are glad to see that the Jaffna Railway Committee are up and doing again. At a largely attended meeting held in the Office of the New O. B. C. Jaffna, the following resolutions were adopted, the movers and seconders making lively, appropriate and enthusiastic speeches. Availing of Mr. Ch. Morrison's presence in Jaffna, the Committee have very properly re-elected him as their Chairman. Messrs Canagasabai and Santiagupillai spoke in terms of high commendation of Mr. Morrison's services to the Jaffna public. Mr. Morrison, on assuming duties as chairman, regretted that his stay in Jaffna would in all probability be short, but assured the Committee that he would do his very best during such stay. He had known the people of Jaffna for over 28 years and he had always interested himself in public matters affecting their welfare. In years gone by he had taken the initiative, with their co-operation, for securing steam communication by sea and the extension of the Telegraph to Jaffna. Steam communication by land was what they now wanted. They had been asking for it, for about seven years. Some three years ago, just before he left them, their project was denounced as a distant vision. During his absence the Committee with Father Lytton at their head had worked and fought very well indeed and now that he was once more among them he was

happy to find that the distant vision had become a present vision. Their motto henceforth should be "Onward" and they should set to work with redoubled energy. The main object of the meeting was to take steps to convey to his Excellency the Governor the thanks of the people of the North for the statesman-like view he has taken of the proposed Jaffna Railway and for the preliminary measures he has so promptly adopted for the early commencement of that great work. It is fitting that the proposed Memorial should be presented to His Excellency by Fr. Lytton, who, as observed by Mr. Tampoo, the Secretary and the Chairman, has, from first to last, done more than any other to make the Jaffna Railway agitation the unexpected success it undoubtedly is.

1ST. RESOLUTION.

Moved by Mr. A. Canagasabai
Seconded by Mr. B. Santiagupillai.
That Mr. C. Morrison be re-elected Chairman of the Jaffna Railway Committee.

2ND. RESOLUTION.

Moved by Mr. S. Nagalingam
Seconded by Mr. S. Manuelpillai.
That it is desirable that a Memorial be addressed to His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock by the Jaffna Railway Committee expressing their deep sense of gratitude for the special interest he has taken in the cause of railway extension to the North and for obtaining from the Secretary of State the sanction for a survey.

3RD. RESOLUTION.

Moved by Mr. T. Changarapillai
Seconded by Mr. V. Casipillai.
That Messrs Canagasabai, Santiagupillai, Tampoo and Casipillai and the Secretary be appointed a Sub-Committee to draft the memorial.

4TH. RESOLUTION.

Moved by Mr. T. M. Tampoo
Seconded by Mr. C. Strantenberg.
That the Revd. Father Lytton, the late Chairman of this Committee, who is now in Colombo, be requested to present the Memorial to H. E. the Governor.

5TH. RESOLUTION.

Moved by Mr. S. Nagalingam
Seconded by Mr. V. Casipillai.
That a Vote of thanks be given to Mr. Morrison for his able conduct in the chair.

A SKETCH OF ARCHBISHOP BONJEAN'S LIFE.

(Continued from our last.)

The celebration of the Jubilee of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was followed by the Jubilee Mission. This Mission, perhaps the longest ever held in Jaffna, commenced on the 20th February and closed on the 20th March 1876. It was preached by His Lordship Dr. Bonjean assisted by Fathers Marroit, Pulicani, St. Geneys, Pelissier, O'Flanagan, and Jourdheuil and the Revd Brother Sandrasegara, shortly afterwards ordained as the first native Oblate priest of Ceylon. There were services and devotions in the Cathedral every morning and evening; and in all about seventy sermons were preached; seven of which were of the nature of catechetical and controversial discourses in which two Fathers were engaged and which attracted large audiences including non-Catholics. The sermons had a most telling and consoling effect. Hundreds who had neglected their religious duties for years humbled themselves at the confessional and sought forgiveness. At the close of the Mission, the Bishop officiated amidst the blaze of lights and the strains of music, joyous and solemn. The Church on that occasion was full to overflowing with devout worshippers. Two thousand Communions and two hundred and sixty-four Confirmations were administered. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed throughout the day for the adoration of the Faithful. In the evening there was an immense concourse of Catholics assembled in front of the Cathedral and the Jubilee Mission closed with the planting of the Mission cross which stands at the distance of some 20 yards from the facade of the Cathedral. At the close of the ceremony the Revd. Father Pelissier, standing on an elevated platform, preached a sermon remembered to this day by all who heard it, for its singular eloquence and impressiveness which moved all hearts.

Of the effect of the Mission on the Catholic community of Jaffna, we allow a local Protestant Journalist to speak:—"It is gratifying to find that the labours of the R. C. priests are beginning to bear fruit. The instructive and impressive sermons which are preached both day and night for the last thirty days or so,

have wrought a perceptible change in the moral nature and habits of a large number of their laymen; for we are credibly informed that the sale of arrack amongst Catholics in and about our town has now considerably fallen and that toddy which was much used by the poorer classes is in no better condition. We hear now of few quarrels amongst a certain portion of Catholics who were once notorious for their pugilistic propensities, and peace and piety seem to reign where we expected them least. There is no doubt that the priests are indefatigable in their efforts to impart a high moral tone to the ignorant members of their Church and they persist in them so perseveringly, under circumstances very unfavourable that we wonder why the other Missionaries who work at Jaffna do not follow them in this respect. Having been present at their Church on more than one occasion, we are glad to be able to say that the sermons, though not so learned and erudite as Protestants might wish, are so simple, plain, instructive and practical that they are "just the sort of thing" now necessary for their members. Any man looking at the large number that gathers in the Church and the force and earnestness with which the sermons are delivered, cannot but feel that a larger part of the attendance would return home with better views and with a resolution to improve their conduct."

CORRESPONDENCE

We do not hold ourselves answerable for correspondents' opinions

'CHRISTIANS IN CEYLON.'

To the Editor J. C. GUARDIAN.

Sir,—In your issue of the third Inst. there appeared an extract from the *Times of Ceylon* giving the statistics of the Christian population of Ceylon, as ascertained by the last census. Christians—302,127. Catholics—245,214. Protestants 55,913, of whom Europeans and European descendants amount to 16,789, leaving 39,124 as the total number of native Protestants.

These figures are quoted by the Tamil Editor of the *Morning Star* in a paragraph headed as above, in his issue of the 15th Inst. With reference to what the *Times* regards as the ridiculously low number of 39,124, the *Star* observes, with brazen-faced impudence, that although the figure appears to be low at first sight, yet it is not really so, in view of the character and strength of his religion and that there is as much difference between the boring of a well in solid rock and the sinking of it in loose sand as there is between converting intelligent fellow-citizens and reclaiming ignorant islanders, by whom he means, I suppose, the people of Delit, Analaiva, Pungudutivu, etc.

So, the 39,124 native Protestants are as many wells sunk in the solid rock of Negation, Infancy, and representing the grand total of the herculean labours of boring, drilling and blasting carried on by some two hundred emissaries of the Churches of England, Scotland and Holland and the Wesleyan, Baptist and American Missions, at an enormous cost supplied by foreign benefactors who are generally tarred with very flattering and misleading accounts of how their money is spent.

One of the most remarkable of these wells, as the Tamil Editor of the *Star* knows full well, is his own noble self. But this famous well, be it known, was scandalously polluted a few years ago when an alliance was formed with a member of the photographer's family and celebrated in pure Hindu fashion. Other wells cannot certainly be better than the one from which the readers of the *Star* derive their fortuitously supply as from a genuine unfilled source.

Will the Tamil Editor of the *Star* be so good as to tell me the total number of members belonging to the American Church and the number of Schoolmasters catechists, and other Mission employees including their wives and children. The number of really independent American Protestants will then be found to be ridiculously low indeed. But the *Star* will not be slow to remind me that the lower the number is, the more striking, perhaps appalling, will be the proof thereby afforded of the strength of his form of Protestant negation!

Presumably the *Star* believes in his heart of hearts that the most solid, impregnable and worthy Christians in Ceylon are the American Protestants confined to the Jaffna peninsula. But the scandalous freaks and foibles of the most noted of these Christians, are so well known that one is simply astounded at the unblushing temerity with which the *Star* blows his own trumpet in self-laudation and bounces forth the pretensions of a Mission which, after spending profusely for education in the thirties and forties and finding that its most prized and distinguished converts relapsed into heathenism or returned to the Catholic fold, had to eat humble pie and close the Seminary which it had set up as the great engine of proselytism and which, in its palmy days, was styled the Athens of Jaffna.

If the *Morning Star* wants to know the real nature of the soil selected by his American teachers and employers for sinking wells and the manner in which they have been bored or dug or sunk, I would refer him to a lively pamphlet, entitled the "State of Religion in Jaffna" written by the late Aramoga Navalar.

Thus *Morning Star* speaks very disparagingly of the people of the Isles hemming in the Jaffna lagoon. Has he really forgotten that the work of his Native Evangelical Society is confined to those Isles?

Yours truly, A. R. Manepay 21st, Sept. 1892.

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