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| Under 12 lines...per line..... | 16 |
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| One fourth of a column..... | 3-00 |
| Half a column..... | 5-00 |
| Two fourths of a column..... | 7-00 |
| One column..... | 9-00 |

The Jaffna Catholic Guardian.

கத்தோலிக்கப் பாதுகாவலன்.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

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

VOL. XVIII.

JAFFNA, SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH 1893

NC41

CHURCH NOTICE.

Sunday 29th October 1893.

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| High Mass | 5.15 A. M. |
| " | 6.30 A. M. |
| " | 8.30 A. M. |
| Vespers, Procession and Benediction | 5.00 P. M. |
| At St. James, | |
| High Mass | 5.15 A. M. |
| " | 6.30 A. M. |
| Benediction | 4.30 P. M. |

Wednesday 1st Novr. 1893.

All Saints Day.

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| High Mass | 5.15 A. M. |
| " | 6.00 A. M. |
| Benediction | 5.00 P. M. |
| At St. James, | |
| High Mass | 5.15 A. M. |
| " | 6.30 A. M. |

Thursday 2nd Novr. 1893.

All Souls Day.

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| High Mass | 5.15 A. M. |
| " | 6.30 A. M. |
| Benediction | 6.30 P. M. |
| At St. James, | |
| High Mass | 5.15 A. M. |

Friday 3rd Novr. 1893.

First Friday of the Month.

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Benediction | 6.30 P. M. |
|-------------|------------|

NOTICE.

From Sunday next the Masses at the Cathedral will be at 5-30, 7 and 9 and at St. James' at 5-30 A. M.

APOSTLESHP OF PRAYER.

Intention for November. The Catholic Missions of the Far East.

Telegraphic Summary

The Home Rule Bill.

London, October 19th. Lord Randolph Churchill, in a speech at Belford, said the Nationalists would never consent to the Home Rule Bill being shelved until next year, and that the Unionists would also resent such tactics.

The Late Marshal Macmahon.

Paris, October 19th. At the instance of Russia the obsequies of the late Marshal Macmahon at the Hotel des Invalides will be hastened in order to admit of Admiral Avellan being present. Emperor William has telegraphed his warm condolences to Macmahon's widow.

Paris, October 20th. The obsequies of Marshal Macmahon take place on Sunday at the Hotel des Invalides.

Paris, October 21st. Marshal Macmahon's body has been conveyed to Paris.

Paris, October 22nd. The funeral of the late Marshal Macmahon, which took place to-day, was an imposing military pageant, and was witnessed by respectful crowds of people. Wreaths for the coffin were sent by Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Emperor William, King Humbert, and the Russian Naval Officers. The streets were lined with troops from the Madeleine to the Hotel des Invalides, along which a procession formed of ministers and officials passed. Marshal Canrobert was present, and M. Dupuy delivered an address eulogising the deceased.

France and Russia.

Paris, October 20th. The excitement here over the visit of the Russian officers continues unabated. They were constantly stopped in their drives through the city and hissed by bourgeois and workmen with frantic effusion.

St. Petersburg, October 21st. The *Novosti* says that the visit of the Russian squadron to Toulon guarantees the political balance in Europe and Asia, and enables France and Russia to counterbalance British influence in Afghanistan and Siam. The *Novye Vremya* says the visit is neither courtesy nor menace, but a fresh sanction of the Franco-Russian Union for upholding peace.

The Buffer State.

Paris, October 22nd. A section of the French Press is endeavouring to stir up the public against any cession of territory being made for a buffer state between Siam and Burma. The *Journal des Debats*, however, refuses to join in the campaign, and feels certain that the cession is necessary for the creation of a buffer state.

Paris, October 21st. A Joint Commission is sitting here consisting of two French and two British delegates for the purpose of discussing

the boundaries of a buffer state between Burma and Siam.

Spain Defeats the Moors.

Madrid, October 21st. Latest advices state that the Spaniards have dislodged the Moors around Melilla after inflicting a heavy loss on them.

Obituary.

London, October 23rd. The death is announced of Maharajah Dhuleep Singh in Paris. London, October 23rd. The death is announced of the Most Rev. Robert Knox, D. D., Protestant Archbishop of Armagh, and also of General Sargent, formerly commanding the troops at Hongkong.

Paris, October 23rd. Dhuleep Singh died of apoplexy at an hotel in Paris, and was alone at the time.

Local &c

His Grace Dr. Melizan.—A letter has just been received by the Vicar General informing him that His Grace the Archbishop will leave Marseilles by the M. M. Steamer *Xarra* on the 29th instant. His Grace's landing at Colombo will probably take place on the 16th November. His Lordship Dr. JOURNALIN will come a fortnight later. — *C. C. Messenger*, 20th Oct.

New Priests.—The M. M. Steamer *Oarus* which arrived yesterday from Marseilles, brought the Revd Fathers Edward Hent, J. Reydies and H. Hostene who come out to work in Galle, Matara and Hambantotte. — *Cey. Times*, 20th Oct.

Occasional jottings.—THE WEATHER. I have never known and the oldest inhabitant about the place says he has never experienced such abnormally droughty weather as is now prevailing in Jaffna. October is about to close and those living about the town and gravets have not as yet had anything beyond an occasional, tantalizing drizzle which has done more harm than good. In no previous year did the rains fail during the month of October.

Copious downpours have been reported in almost every division of the peninsula except Jaffna. Just as I write the sky is lowering; and the rain I trust will not be long in coming.

PADDY CULTIVATION cannot, I fear, be a success anywhere in the Jaffna district, owing to the lateness of the rains. The price of paddy and rice in the local markets is steadily rising; and the coming year is likely to be a year of distress and scarcity in the north.

A STRANGE NOTION, or rather a hallucination seems to have taken hold of the mind of the peasantry of the peninsula. If it has not rained as much during the last two years as in previous years, the circumstance, they say, is due to the abolition of the grain tythe. A more foolish way of accounting for the prevailing drought it would be difficult to conceive.

CERTAIN HEADMEN of Jaffna have been charged with mischief and riot. The case is an interesting one and I shall give particulars next week.

MESSRS. VAVASSEUR & Co. It is to this firm that the credit is due of originating and developing the palmyrah fibre industry. They appointed an Agent in Jaffna to whom large advances were made from time to time for the purchase of fibre. Several tons were bought and shipped to Colombo monthly; but there has of late been a great reduction in the quantity purchased, and consequently a decline in the local industry. A fall in the price of the article in the London market is currently reported.

A CORRECTION. The new cable to be laid in the sea between Atrialai and Kalmunai was brought to Mandativu and not to Kangasanturai by the B.I. Steamer *Latipurra*. Cor.

Messrs Simpson and Thwaites of the Telegraph Department are now here in connection with the laying of a new submarine telegraphic cable between Atrialai and Kalmunai. The former gentleman is the guest of the Government Agent Mr. Twynnam. The new cable has already been received at Mandativu and the work is to be commenced forthwith. Cor.

Dr. Grenier.—The Visiting Surgeon of the F.N.S. Hospital who went lately to

Colombo to get married to a lady from Scotland returned to Jaffna on Tuesday last with his bride. He is to resume duties at the F. N. S. Hospital on the 30th inst. During his absence in Colombo Dr. Scott, the medical missionary stationed at Manipay, was acting for him. Cor.

The Navanturai Cemetery.—Your numerous readers are aware that there was a case pending trial in the District Court of Jaffna, brought by certain Hindus against the Roman Catholics belonging to the Church of St. Nicholas at Navanturai. The Hindus claimed the Northern half of the burial ground situated at Navanturai and called Eddukassu piddy as a burial ground for the Catholics, whilst the Defts. contended that the whole burial ground belonged exclusively to them. The case came on for trial on the 28th day of Sept. 1893 and was heard by our District Judge Mr. Connolly. Mr. Advocate Nagalingam instructed by Mr. Proc. Sammander appeared for the Plffs. and Mr. Adv. Allegekoen instructed by Messrs Proctors Stranthenagh and T. M. Tampoo appeared for the Defts. The Court after a very patient inquiry and giving full consideration to the evidence, held that the Plffs. had failed to prove their right as alleged, and that they had acquired a prescriptive right neither to the Northern half share nor any portion of the burial ground in question and dismissed the Plffs. claim with costs. — *Cor.*

Customs. Some fifty garces of paddy and two thousand bushels of rice have been received during the week at the Jaffna Customs; but there is no sign of the price going down. Cor.

MURDER.—A Murder was committed in Punkudativu during the week. Two men had a quarrel and one of them struck the other with a pestle and broke his head. The blow was so hard and heavy that the poor fellow expired in a few hours. The murderer has been arrested and is in custody. Cor.

The Mandativu Light House.—The Government Agent, Mr. Twynnam paid a visit last Tuesday to Mandativu to inspect the light house erected there for which a sum of Rs. 8,400 was allowed in the Supply Bill for this year. Mr. Twynnam was accompanied by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Creasy, the Provincial Engineer was also present. I hear, Cor.

Dr. Scott. The American Mission Doctor stationed at Manipay goes, it is said, with his wife to the Pulney Hills where he will stay for about three months for the benefit of his health. Cor.

Dr. Muttukumaru has assumed duties as Medical Officer of Chavagachcherri and the people are much pleased with the appointment, as there is every guarantee of his affording efficient medical relief. Officers of Dr. Muttukumaru's stamp should be placed in charge of Government dispensaries opened in large centres of population such as Chavagachcherri. We hope to see a gradual improvement in the class of Government Dispensers employed in the peninsula.

Customs Appointments.—The following appointments have been recommended by the Government Agent.

Mr. Somasantharam, Preventive Officer of Mullativu to be Senior Landing Waiter, of the Jaffna Customs vice Mr. Hallock promoted as Sub-Collector of Peralai. Mr. N. Saverimuttu, Shroff of the Kangasanturai Customs to be Preventive Officer of Mullativu. Mr. A. Chellappa, Shroff of the Valvedditurai Customs to be Shroff of the Kangasanturai Customs. Mr. M. P. Francis, Assistant to the Provincial Registrar's Clerk to be Shroff of the Valvedditurai Customs. — *Cor.*

Mr. R. A. Powell. 2nd Class Assistant to the Director of Public Works, says the *Observer*, has been appointed District Engineer, Pallai, in place of Mr. Rangana than who has obtained two months leave on half pay to proceed to Calcutta.

The Ceylon steamship Company.—The first contract of this Company with the Government expired last month. A fresh contract has been entered into for another five years. It may not generally be known that in terms of this Contract the Government is to pay the Company an annual subsidy of Rs. 40,000.

கையொப்பவிதிதம் . ரூ.ச
ஸ்ரம் க-க்கு முற்பணம்.....4-00
சு-மாசத்துக்கு முற்பணம்.....2-00
ஸ்ரம்-ம். க-க்கு பிற்பணம்.....6-00
சு-மாசத்துக்கு பிற்பணம்.....3-00

தபாஸிலவு இலங்கைக்கு...1-00
இந்தியாவுக்கு...1-00

விளம்பர விகிதம்

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| 12 வரிக்குள் வரி-க-க்கு..... | 16 |
| 12-க்கு மேற்படிவ் வரி க-க்கு | 10 |
| கரல் கொலத்துக்கு (28 வரி.) | 30 |
| அரைக்கொலத்துக்கு..... | 5-00 |
| முக்கரல் கொலத்துக்கு..... | 7-00 |
| ஒருகலத்துக்கு..... | 9-00 |

Since the company took up the steam service of the Colony, the removal of cargo and passengers to and from Jaffna has been carried on satisfactorily. The local merchants and traders lately forwarded a letter to the Managing Agents in Colombo, thanking the Company for the regular and satisfactory manner in which the Company had directed the shipping and landing of cargo in the ports of Jaffna where the Company's steamers usually call. In this connection it will be interesting to the public to know that arrangements have already been made by the Company to introduce early next year steam communication between Colombo and Sydney, and the Company also proposes to ply steam boats between Jaffna and Kaysa and between Jaffna and Mannar. This latter proposal will, I think, greatly facilitate communication between Jaffna and Mannar, though local boat owners may regard the arrangements of the Company as unduly interfering with the business they have been carrying on hitherto. Cor.

Dr. A. Rajasinghe M. B. C. M.—This young doctor, the son of Mr. Nicholas, the Inter-Preter Mudalayar of the Point Pedro Courts, and a nephew of Dr. Santiago F. B. C. S. of Navaplapiya was a passenger by the M. M. Steamer *Oarus*. As the inventor of a very useful and delicate surgical instrument which is, we understand, in the hands of Gardiner and Co, royal instrument makers in Aberdeen, the Dr. has acquired wide celebrity and gives promise of a useful and distinguished career in the medical profession. We offer him a hearty welcome to our shores. — *Ceylon Observer*, 21st Oct.

Dr. Rajasinghe was a graduate of St. Patrick's College and he fully sustained throughout his career in Aberdeen the high character he had maintained here as an intelligent, studious and observant youth. We are glad to learn that on the occasion of his landing in Colombo he was accorded a hearty reception by his friends.

MANNAR.

THE WEATHER.—Is this October? What we must have this month is heavy rain, cooling clouds overhead; tanks and reservoirs full of water, a green vegetation around, young men going out for Suipa-shooting, and finally, of course, a good prospect of a rich and plentiful harvest. But lo! the sky is as brass and the earth like a frying pan.

CULTIVATION.—Nearly all the farmers have sown. They look dejected as the flood-gates of heaven are not yet open. Many are the fears and forebodings as to an ensuing famine.

AMBERGRIS.—Some moormen in Mannar have had the good fortune to take some large pieces of ambergris near the Pesalai sea-shore. Some pieces fetched a high price. The appearance of the ambergris gave colour to a false report that a big fish was washed ashore and even your Tamil correspondent from Pesalai made some fuss about it. A clever search by the local "Adappan" resulted in the report being put down as mere bosh.

OUR NEW MEDICAL OFFICER.—Dr. Kyalaspillai, our new medical officer, has arrived and assumed duties. Dr. Muttukumaru will start in a day or two for his new sphere of work at Chavagachcherri.

A DISMISSAL.—I learn that K. Chinpatamby of the Immigration Department, Pesalai, has been dismissed by Government on a charge preferred by Mr. Jackson, our A. G. A., that he had been carrying on trade while continuing as a Govt. servant. Mr. Chinpatamby now thinks of memorializing the Government to prove that he has never been trading.

MANNAR. PONIES.—Europeans also seem to like the Mannar ponies now-a-days. The beautiful little pony selected from a lot of old and young ponies that belonged to the late Seenuampillai Adigar and now owned by Mr. Jackson, is a good animal and trots well. It is of great use to young Jackson. I recommend these ponies to any Europeans coming to Mannar, as those of Arabian and Australian breed cost them too much.

"SHAMROCK" OF THE MESSENGER.—Is not "Shamrock" a very busy, pleasant, able and sensible contributor to the *Messenger*, Mr. Editor? "Shamrock" makes his sharp comments in the *Messenger* of the 13th October on the *unhappy rotten Government administration* in Mannar and pleases his readers well, as he hits upon a subject of much interest to all of us here—the "Family Bandy in Mannar" Cor.

THE Jaffna Catholic Guardian

OCTOBER 28TH

MGR JOULAIN, BISHOP OF JAFFNA.

The following notice appears in the October number of the *Missionary Record* of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The Pontifical Brief, naming Rev. Father Joulain, O.M.I., Bishop of Jaffna, in succession to Mgr. Mélan, is dated July 20, 1893.

Henry Joulain, the youngest of ten children, was born on September 24, 1852, at Saint Romans-les Mello, in the diocese of Poitiers. He was educated in St. Hilary's College, Niort, and in the Lesser Seminary of Montmorillon, and the Greater Seminary of Poitiers. The Holy prelate and author, Mgr. de Sgar, took a particular interest in his ecclesiastical studies, and showed him much regard.

The young Abbé Joulain was ordained priest on May 22, 1875, and afterwards followed for two years the course of studies of the Theological Faculty of Poitiers, founded by the distinguished Bishop of Poitiers, Mgr. Pie, afterwards Cardinal. Having graduated at Poitiers, the young priest was appointed curate in St. Andrew's parish, Niort, where he laboured zealously for three years. Niort, a town of 23,000 inhabitants, is the chief town of the department of Les Deux-Sèvres. Whilst at Niort he met Mgr. Bonjean, Vicar Apostolic of Jaffna, who was the guest in 1880 of his friend of the Vatican council, Mgr. Pie. Abbé Joulain accompanied Mgr. Bonjean to Ceylon, where he made his Oblation on June 11, 1881. That same day he was sent to Kottai, a mission comprising several islets of the north coast of Ceylon. In 1883 he went to Kurunegalla, and afterwards he was put in charge of St. Anne's church, famous as a place of pilgrimage. Towards the close of 1889, on account of his health, he was brought back to Jaffna by Mgr. Mélan, who made him Superior of St. Martin's Seminary, and Director of the European and Native Nuns in Jaffna. In May, 1892, owing to medical advice, he was changed to Vennapurai, where he had the oversight of 10,000 scattered Catholics. In the present year he was elected by the Oblate Fathers of the Jaffna diocese to represent them in the General Chapter, and he accompanied Mgr. Mélan to Europe.

The consecration of Mgr. Joulain took place in the beautiful church of St. Andrew, Niort, on August 24, 1893, being the feast of the Apostle St. Bartholomew. The consecrating prelate was Mgr. Mélan, Archbishop of Colombo, who was assisted by Mgr. Grandin, O.M.I., Bishop of St. Albert, and Mgr. Catteau, Bishop of Lucon. His Lordship of Poitiers, Mgr. Juteau, was also in the sanctuary, on his throne, 130 priests were present, amongst whom were Father Cassien Angier, Assistant General, and other Oblates. Members of the new Bishop's family were there too to receive his first blessing.

At dinner, in the Presbytery, speeches were made by the Parish Priest of St. Andrew's and Mgr. Joulain, who both referred to the intimate relations which exist between the ancient diocese of St. Hilary and the diocese of Jaffna.

In the afternoon a sermon was preached by Mgr. Grandin.

Different friends made presents to Mgr. Joulain of the vestments and other insignia used in episcopal functions. We must make special mention of his fellow-students, who gave a crozier; the relations of the late Mgr. Gay, Auxiliary Bishop to Cardinal Pie, who presented the crozier used on solemn occasions by that saintly prelate; the priests of the deaneries of Niort and Melle; the Carmelite nuns of Poitiers and of Niort, the Holy Family nuns of Bordeaux, the Sisters of Hope of Hyères, the Benedictine nuns of Solesmes; and a well-known lady of Niort, who gave a beautiful pectoral cross.

The day after his consecration, Mgr. Joulain was met at St. Hilary's College, Niort, by all the priests of his own course at the seminary. On a later day the new Bishop accompanied all these old fellow-students on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

NOT QUITE HOPELESS.

Of the various topics dealt with in the Governor's Address, the one to which the people of Jaffna attach the greatest importance, but to which His Excellency has made the briefest reference is the question of railway extension northwards. The view taken of the financial aspect of the question in what purported to be the Third Report of the Jaffna Railway Commission was so unfavourable that some of our Colombo contemporaries had no hesitation in

predicting that the project would be abandoned; and it was generally expected that, in the annual Address, containing a declaration of the Government policy with regard to public works and measures, His Excellency would make some allusion to the Report, even if he were not disposed to give any distinct enunciation of his views. But His Excellency has with the studied caution befitting a sagacious statesman made no reference whatever to the handiwork of Messrs. Williams and Christie, which he has probably taken for what it is worth. He has however made the following brief statement, leaving the public to gather therefrom his views and his policy with regard to the question of railway extension to Jaffna.

"The survey of the line to Jaffna will be completed early next year. When all the facts are placed before you, I am inclined to think you will consider that the extension of the Southern line from Galle to Matara is a work that should, on grounds of public usefulness and probable profit, be taken in hand at an early date."

The first sentence in His Excellency's statement contains a definite announcement and is satisfactory, as far as it goes, showing that the Government has not abandoned the scheme of railway extension to Jaffna, simply because Messrs Williams and Christie are of opinion that "the work would certainly involve a heavy annual charge on the tax-payers of the Colony for many years to come." The second sentence gives, we suppose, an adumbration of Sir Arthur Havelock's railway policy. If we might interpret His Excellency's language in which his thoughts are somewhat concealed, we should say that he thinks and trusts others will also think that the line from Galle to Matara should be taken up before the line from Kurunegalle to Jaffna, as being publicly more useful and probably more profitable. If this is His Excellency's meaning, the probability is that the Jaffna railway will not be commenced during his administration; the great work which, in the long run, will prove to be far more useful to the people and far more profitable to the Government than the short line to Matara, being reserved for his successor. If so, more's pity!

THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

The address begins with a reference to the loss sustained by the Council and the Government by the death of Colonel Clarke, a talented and experienced officer.

His Excellency congratulates the Council on the continued progress and prosperity of the Colony.

There has been no serious epidemic during the year and the public health has been satisfactory.

The efforts made to reduce serious crime are noted. The police has been improved, the administration of justice facilitated and imprisonment rendered more deterrent. The number of convictions before the superior Courts and the total number of persons committed to prison during the year are below the averages for the previous four years.

Improvements and facilities have been introduced into the Postal and Telegraph Departments. Reductions have been made in the inland postal tariff and registration fee; and additional Post Offices have been opened. The inland Telegraph communication has been extended and a further reduction in the inland Telegraph tariff is contemplated. Arrangements have been made for opening daily Postal communication between Colombo and Tuticorin from the 1st May next.

The training of artificers in the artistic and mechanical industries is proposed to be added to the system of public instruction, and the first steps have been taken towards the organisation of a scheme of technical education.

The Volunteer forces have held their exercises for the fourth time and the Ge-

neral Officer Commanding has expressed himself in high terms as to their intelligence and efficiency.

The representation of Ceylon in the International Exhibition at Chicago has been successful beyond expectation. The services of Mr. Grinlinton, the special Commissioner, in this connection are recognised. A Juror's award has been given in respect to the Main Court.

The total revenue of 1892 amounted to Rs. 18,509,186 as against 17,962,710 collected in 1891.

The revenue of 1892 exceeds by over a million of rupees the revenue of 1877 which for a long time held the position of the most prosperous year in the history of Ceylon.

The railway receipts of 1892 reached the sum of 4,698,094 showing an excess of 267,560 over the receipts of 1891. This is mainly due to an increase of the passenger traffic which was 1,200,000 more than in 1889.

The Customs receipts also show an increase of Rs. 458,216 on those of 1891 which amounted to Rs. 4,137,542. Among imports, food articles, grain, Kerosine oil, malt liquors, and wine show the largest increase. Under exports the most remarkable increase was in the products of the cocoanut palm, the total value of which was Rs. 1,524,735 as against Rs. 275,272 in 1891. The increase of tea exported was 4½ millions of lbs and of plumbago over 30,000 cwt. The number of vessels entered and cleared at all the ports of the Island was 7,494 with a tonnage of 5,790,706.

The assets of the Government on the 1st January 1893 exceeded its liabilities by Rs. 2,065,408.

The Railway to Haputale was opened in June last. The section to Bandarawella is expected to be finished by September next. The line to Galle will probably be opened for traffic in May next, and the section to Kurunegalle in February. The survey of the line to Jaffna will be completed early next year.

In the matter of irrigation works, it is proposed in future to act on the principle that those who profit by such works should bear the cost or at any rate a fair share of it. The Central Irrigation Board is determined to make every effort to recover the capital expended or to secure a return equivalent to the interest on that capital and care is also taken that no work is undertaken which is not fairly remunerative. A sum sufficient to complete the Dedruoya scheme is to be provided in the Supply Bill of 1894.

A sum of Rs. 40,000 is proposed to be voted for the partial restoration of the Giant's Tank in the Mannar District for which the total amount required, according to careful estimates is Rs. 440,109. His Excellency visited the District early this year and was impressed with the necessity of undertaking this work. The soil is fertile, and the population industrious, but the rainfall is insufficient, rendering the health and even the life of the people precarious.

A scheme for a complete and comprehensive improvement of the Harbour of Colombo is to be laid before the Council.

The Address concludes with a detailed reference to the legislation proposed to be introduced, which aims at the abatement of existing evils and the amendment of existing enactments for the protection of the health and interests of the public.

Ceylon News.

Certain Samarawera Appahamy has instituted a case against Mr. Charles Perera, Procurator for the recovery of about Rs. 7,000 for gross negligence in the management of a land case entrusted to him.

The printing of a new edition of the Ceylon Ordinances extending to some 2,000 pages has been commenced by the Government Printer.

The Indian marine steamers *Investigator* and *Nancowrie* proceed to Falks Straits in February to thoroughly survey the dividing sea between India and Ceylon, ostensibly with the object of proving the practicability of the canal-and-railway project.

A contemporary states on what is deemed reliable authority that the Ceylon Steam Ship Company contemplate starting a line of steamers between Colombo and Sydney and that it is proposed to make a beginning with two steamers of 3000 tons each.

It is currently reported, says the *Ceylon Observer* that a Syndicate of Planters, aided by a Civil Engineer, are engaged in preparing an Irrigation Scheme of some magnitude under the rules shadowed forth in H.E. the Govern-

ment's Speech to the Legislative Council. The proposal is that the Government should sanction an outlay of Rs. 200,000 and take a first vote of Rs. 40,000 in the Supply Bill for 1894 in order to dam an unfailing stream and cut a channel to serve irrigation for a considerable extent of fertile land in private hands. The proprietors are prepared to cultivate rice, cacao coffee, palms etc and to repay the expenditure by a 35-year sinking fund with interest at 5 per cent.

The three candidates who presented for the Civil Service Examination—Messrs Horsburgh, Beven and Kindersley—have failed to pass, as they did not satisfy the examiner in Sinhalese, Mr. Pagden.

Misses Mary and Margaret Leitch, the two American Ladies connected with the Jaffna American Mission are interesting themselves with a view to raise funds by voluntary contributions for the purpose of establishing a hospital for women in Colombo. Lady Havelock has patronised the scheme. The total cost of the proposed establishment is estimated at Rs. 35,000.

Thirty-seven candidates have been examined for admission into the new Technical School in Colombo under Mr. Hume.

The case brought by His Lordship Dr. Pagnani against Mr. A. L. French of Panselawa and Mr. T. C. Swinburne of Dickoya claiming damages to the value of 800 Rupees, caused to the Church of St. Ann's, Delipitiya by the fall of a mango tree negligently cut down by the Defendants is fixed for hearing on the 10th January 1894 in the District Court of Kandy. The Defendants in their answer admit damages to the value of only Rs. 35.

DIED WHILE IN PRAYER.

"Another man was found in kneeling posture, his face buried in his hands, as if he had died in prayer."

From this pathetic sentence from an account of the St. Etienne coal mine disaster which occurred in France, in December, 1891. The fire had been smouldering for years in a remote part of the mine, but its further advance had been stopped by barriers. Yet they proved insufficient at last, and the terrible fire-damp exploded, scattering death throughout the mine. Such incidents are too well-known in England to need further explanation or comment.

Has it ever struck you that the interior of the human body is like the interior of a coal mine? Well, it is. All its operations go on in solitude and darkness. Gases are engendered in it that are just as dangerous as fire-damp. Generally they—yet hold on, let's have the little story first.

It's about a woman. In fact, it's from her, too, and is sure to interest somebody; may be you. She says that a long run of time, from childhood to years after her marriage, she never knew what illness was; that is, so as to remember it, or to have it make a mark on her, as we may say. But mighty few folks manage to escape the old slave driver altogether. Nor did she. "It was in the summer of 1890," she says, "when I began to feel bad. My appetite was poor, and when I did eat gave me great pain and distress. My food seemed to lie like lead; and after every meal, no matter how simple the food was, I had the most excruciating pain you can imagine. I had a nagging, thudding pain at my chest, and through to my shoulders, that was very hard to bear. So bad was it that I thought something (perhaps a tumour) was growing within me. As soon as ever food entered my stomach I used to say, 'It is beginning,' meaning the gnawing pain."

"I took all kinds of things for relief and applied mustard plasters to the chest, but nothing did me any good. After a time I dared not take a proper meal; I was afraid to eat, and got very thin and weak. It was as much as I could do to go about my house work. In October of this year (1891) Mrs. James Mercer, of 176, High Street, Longton, recommended me to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and I got a bottle and commenced to take it. After a few doses I felt relief. My food agreed with me, and by the time I had taken one large bottle all the pain had left me, and I now feel as well as ever I did."

Yours truly (signed), Mrs. ELIZABETH WRIGHT, 12, King Street, Hailey, Staffordshire, November 19th, 1891.

You ask me what the sad fate of the miners has to do with the case of Mrs. Wright. I'll tell you in half a minute. This lady says she was taken ill in the summer of 1890. Now, do you suppose the illness and the cause of the illness came up at the same time? By no means. Cause first, effect afterwards—that's the order, always. And, see here! A cause may be at work for weeks or years before you notice any results; and until you do notice results, you don't know there's aught gone wrong. Isn't that so? The miners, to be sure, knew there was a fire in the mine. But it was smothered off from them and they thought they were safe. The barriers leaked, and death gripped them in a twinkling of an eye.

The body is like a mine, as I have said. Disease and death are caused by the action of poisonous gases and acids inside of it. They all start from the stomach and then creep into every part; sometimes fast, sometimes slow. In some acute diseases very fast. The doctors often call gout an "explosion" of uric acid. The source of all these deadly things is indigestion and dyspepsia. Slight symptoms first, then the more terrible and alarming. Watch the way it comes on. This was Mrs. Wright's ailment. She suffered fifteen months before she found out what the matter was and what to do. Gracious, mercy! if we only knew the sort of things that go on in our bodies we'd understand that it's about as dangerous to work in a kitchen as in a coal mine.

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