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THE
VIVEKANANDA

விவேகநாந்தன்.

PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY ON MONDAYS.

பகுப்பு சுதாக்கார முறை சோமவாரம் களிற் பிரசரிக்கப்படும்.

OL. 2. {
கம். e }

JAFFNA: Monday January 19 1903.

யாழ்ப்பாணம்:—சுபகிருதுஞ் தெமீஸ் கூ. சோமவாரம்.

NO. 2.
சுக்கியை. e.

"எப்பொருள்யார்யார்வாய்க்கேட்பினும்பொருள் மெய்ப்பொருள்காண்பாற்றி."

THE VIVEKANANDA

FFNA: MONDAY JANUARY 19 1903.

THE TAMIL SEAT

The Tamil Seat is to fall vacant in March and the usual round of meetings—real bogus—have come to be held. The quinquennial excitement which is founded on the enjoyment of no elective franchise—no political privilege—but which is the outcome of ill-conceived views and fancied privileges has overtaken many of our frenzied citizens.

Mr. Hon'ble Dr. W. G. Rockwood goes out of office in March next. He was chosen to the Tamil Seat immediately on his retirement from the Civil Medical Department, and narrow official groove in which he had not having afforded him facilities to practice politics, he did not do much in Council during the earlier part of his term. Late, however, he has done some meritorious work for which the people must be thankful. Now he labours under the disadvantage of having been trained to public life in early days. His re-nomination would be of place if more capable persons are found among the Tamils to represent them in Council.

We shall not in this issue suggest the name of any gentleman as a suitable successor to Dr. Rockwood. Of one thing, however, we are at present sure, which is, that Mr. W. N. Aserappa is not a gentleman in any way fitted to represent the Tamils in Council. Though married to a Jaffna lady, he has never lived in Jaffna, nor does he belong to that colony of Colombo Tamils who are descended from settlers from Jaffna. Mr. Aserappa is a member of a class of people known as the Colombo Chetties who are said to have descended from Tamils who settled from India a hundred years ago. The Colombo Chetties differ from the rest of the Tamils of the Island in their habits, customs, institutions in most other respects. They are more or like the Sinhalese whose neighbours they have been for several hundreds of years. The customs of the Kandyans approach those of the Tamils proper much more closely than those of the Colombo Chetties most of whom do not know even to read or write the

Tamil language. Mr. Aserappa is not well acquainted with the wants and requirements of the Northern and Eastern Provinces where the bulk of the Tamil population live. He is not known as a prominent member of the Tamil community in Colombo. In the North which is the head-quarters of the Tamil population in Ceylon, he is not known except among a few who are his connections. The Tamil member must be a man who is well-known throughout the Tamil districts before his appointment as such. Indeed, we do not think there is any chance of his candidature succeeding, and we would not have referred to him at all if not for the reason that the Colombo papers received on Friday contained a telegram from Mr. Simon Ollegasekaram of Jaffna to the effect that Mr. Aserappa is mightily supported in Jaffna by "Catholics, Protestants, and Chetties." Chetties are Indian traders who are mere sojourners and have no permanent stake in Ceylon. Besides, the Chetties as a community are not at all in favour of Mr. Aserappa. Some attribute the so-called Chetty support to the fact of some of Mr. Aserappa's connections being employed in the Jaffna Customs. We do not, however, attribute motives to anybody's action.

Again, what does Mr. Simon Ollegasekaram understand by saying that Catholics and Protestants support Mr. Aserappa largely? Mr. Aserappa is a Church of England Christian. Is that a reason for his co-religionists to support him? The member to be nominated is not a member for Catholics or Protestants but for Tamils. Why is the religious element introduced? In doing so, has not Mr. Ollegasekaram let the cat out of the bag? If religion must decide the question, it is the voice of the Hindus that ought to prevail. Not only they form the bulk of the Tamil population in Ceylon, but also have no representation in Council except by the Tamil member. Christianity is represented by the vast majority of members in Council and the Government itself is Christian. Therefore, those who require representation are not Mr. Ollegasekaram's "Catholics and Protestants," but the Hindus.

Mr. Ollegasekaram is a connection of Mr. Aserappa, and those who agitate for him from Batticaloa and Trincomalee are also his connections, notably Mr. R. W. Allegakone, Police Magistrate.

As against the Hon'ble Dr. Rockwood Mr. Aserappa has no chance of succeeding. Dr. Rockwood, moves in the highest European society in Colombo and is superior to Mr. Aserappa in every way—in general abilities, education, wealth, and public spirit. His reputation as a Surgeon has travelled far and wide. He is a Jaffna Tamil and must sympathise with Jaffna more than Mr. Aserappa. And what business has Mr. Ollegasekaram to telegraph to the Colombo papers that Dr. Rockwood's re-nomination is objected to in Jaffna on the alleged ground of Mr. Aserappa being a better candidate?

MR. A. KANAGASABAI

AND THE

"JAFFNA CATHOLIC GUARDIAN"

In the leading article of the *Guardian* of the 17th Instant, the Editor delivers himself thus:—"We know Mr. Kanagasabai as the leader of the Jaffna Bar, but the Hindus who make much of him in connection with the Tamil representation ought to know that the Christians, by reason of his being the President of the aggressive religious Siva Paripalana Sabha, should oppose his nomination as strenuously as they the Hindus would feel bound to oppose the nomination of a Christian clergyman." The first part of this statement would imply that Mr. Kanagasabai is made much of by Hindus only. But the truth is that a large and representative body of Christians are zealously supporting Mr. Kanagasabai's candidature as the proceedings of last Saturday's meeting would show, and it was his Christian friends who induced him to stand for nomination. As to the second part of the statement that Mr. Kanagasabai is the "President of the aggressive religious Siva Paripalana Sabha", we have to say that the Editor is utterly ignorant of the scope and objects of that body. The *Siva Sabha* has been established to defend the interests of Hinduism and to found Schools and Colleges for the imparting of education on Hindu lines. This body was brought into existence owing to the intolerant policy of some of the Missionaries. However that may be, aggressive religious propagandism is not one of the tenets of Hinduism, and therefore it cannot be one of the objects of the Sabha. The Catholic clergy and the Catholic lawyers in Jaffna know this. For if they have any suspicion in their mind that the Sabha is a religion-propagating body and that Mr. Kanagasabai is a religious propagandist, they would not have retained his services against the Hindus as leading Counsel in the Neerveli

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Church destruction case. For Mr. Crown Counsel Fernando said in his opening speech that the destruction was one of the results of "Hindu propagandism". If Mr. Kanagassabai is a Hindu propagandist how is it that he has not even once in his life preached Hinduism? Mr. Tamboo whose nomination the *Guardian* approves was, we believe, is a laypreacher in the Wesleyan Mission. If the appointment of a preacher of Christianity is unobjectionable, how can the appointment of one who is no preacher at all be consistently opposed? The reason of the *Guardian's* objection to Mr. Kanagassabai is evidently due to the fact of his being a Hindu. It wants to disenfranchise him for his religion. What will Mr. Kanagassabai's "religious propagandism" do? Join Council? All the Officials and the majority of the Unofficials are Christians, and they all can certainly hold their own against Mr. Kanagassabai.

If the President of the Jaffna Catholic Union is the foremost Tamil of the day can his nomination be objected to by intelligent Hindus? It was the other day the Catholic Union was characterized by the Catholics as a body answering to the *Siva Paripalana Sabhai* of the Hindus. If presidents and secretaries of Christian Associations can aspire to be members of Council why can't members of the *Siva Sabhai*. If Mr. Isaac Tambyah is otherwise qualified, will the "Guardian" object to him on the ground of his being the Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. though the Y. M. C. A. is a religious-propagating body which the *Sabhai* is not. In 1879 the vast majority of the educated Hindus supported Mr. Brito as against Mr. Rama Nathan. Can the "Guardian" say that it has ever supported any but a Christian candidate? Again in 1879 the *Lanka Sthanam*, the only Hindu paper then existing, supported Mr. Brito. If the *Guardian* represents the true type of Christianity, we say away with Christianity and sectionalism. We however think Christ taught a different Christianity. Woe betide any man who thinks that Mr. Kanagassabai, the most tolerant Tamilgentleman of the day in Jaffna, is the Hindu counterpart of a Christian clergyman. Surely the *Guardian* cannot distinguish between the Christian priest and the Brahman priest.

LOCAL & GENERAL

HEALTH:—Fever prevails to a great extent as in past years. It seems that young children are the worst sufferers. We are of opinion that the Public Works Department must be held responsible for this state of affairs as stated by us in a previous issue of ours.

THAI PONGAL DAY:—Wednesday last being the Hindu Thai Pongal day, it was observed by the Hindu public with the usual rejoicings and ceremonies.

THE NEW EXTRA OFFICE ASSISTANT:—We offer a hearty welcome to Mr. W. A. Weerakone, the newly appointed extra Office Assistant to the Government Agent, Jaffna. He comes amongst us with an excellent record and he is sure to prove a worthy addition to the Kachcheri staff. We are given to understand that he is uniformly courteous to his subordinate officers as well as to the general public, a trait seldom found in many of the Civil Servants who in the flush of their first senior appointment, are prone to consider their subordinates and the people of the country as so many pariah dogs. —*Noblesse oblige.*

SOVEREIGNS:—A consignment of 2000 sovereigns has been received by the Government Agent, Jaffna, by the last steamer for currency purposes.

THE FORTHCOMING PEARL FISHERY:—Dr. A. B. Santiago now stationed at Colombo has been appointed Chief Medical officer of Pamban during the Pearl Fishery with Dr. S. Sittampalam of Point Pedro as Assistant. Dr. Spittel, Colonial Surgeon, Jaffna, has been selected as Chief Medical Officer of Marichchikkadu, Pearl Fishery station.

CHANGES IN THE LOCAL KACHCHERI:—During the employment of the Head Clerk, Mr. De Neise and the Shroff Mr. Chiunaiya on Pearl Fishery duty, we come to understand that Mr. N. S. Subraman, retired Head Clerk of the Jaffna Kachcheri, will act for Mr. De Neise, and A. Ampalavana Mudliar, retired shroff of the Jaffna Kachcheri for Mr. Chiunaiya.

THE MOON STREET VIDHAN:—This Police Vilhan has been prosecuted in the Police Court, Jaffna, for unlawful possession of more than 20 cwts of Salt and fined Rs. 200 by the Magistrate. A relation of his who is said to have had some interest in this matter has also been fined Rs. 100. The accused have appealed.

THE POLICE VIDHAN OF VAN:—N. E. Police Vilhan Nagamuttu who has been charged before the Jaffna Police Court for having executed a false cattle voucher and enlarged on bail, absconded himself the other day (15th Inst) when the matter was inquired into.

It appears that the times are unfavourable for the local Police Vidhans.

COACH SERVICE:—A third coach service has been started by certain residents of Usan to ply between Kodigamam and Point Pedro early in the morning to suit the convenience of passengers taking the morning train from Jaffna Town. It appears that there is ample work for the three coaches and we hope that the proprietors will amicably carry on their business if only for the convenience of the travelling public.

NOTARIAL EXAMINATION.

The following persons have passed the Final Examination for Notaries, held in October 1903.

S. Sabapathy Pillay, Uduville.
Sinnatamby Kantar Noonavil.
J. B. Canapathy Pillay, Thunnalay.
Kasinathar Valupilly, Puttur.
Vairavenathar Visuvalingam, Vannarpannai.
Samuell Chinnatamby, Valvettiy.

OFFICIAL CHANGES

We are glad to hear that Mr. F. R. Sandrasagara who has been with great acceptance acting for a time as Maniagar and President of Delft reverts back to his substantive appointment in Punakary with an increase of salary. The Maniagar has hitherto been paid Rs. 770 per annum. From 1st January this year he is to get Rs. 990. We have to congratulate the Maniagar on his promotion. We hear further that the Government Agent is taking him to the forthcoming Pearl Fishery as Kotta Clerk on a respectable salary. An officer of Mr. Sandrasagara's energy and activity will be of immense help to government at the Pearl Fishery.

HINDUISM AS A RELIGION.

BY SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

INFINITE INDIVIDUALITY.

Therefore, to gain such infinite universal individuality, this miserable little individuality must go. Then alone can death cease, when I am one with life. Then alone can misery cease when I am one with happiness itself. Then alone can all errors cease when I am one with knowledge itself. And this is a necessary scientific conclusion. Science has proved that physical individuality is a delusion, that really my body is one little continuously changing body in an unbroken ocean of matter, and *advaitism* is thus the necessary conclusion in regard to my other counterpart, mind.

Science is nothing but the finding of unity, and as soon as any science can reach the perfect unity it must stop from further progress, because it will then have reached the goal. Thus, chemistry cannot progress farther when it shall have discovered one element out of which all others can be made. Physics will stop when it becomes able to discover the one energy of which all others are but manifestations. The science of religion becomes perfect when it discovers Him who is the one life in a universe of death, who is the constant basis of an ever-changing world, who is the only soul of which all souls are but manifestations. Thus through multiplicity and duality the ultimate unity is reached, and religion can go no further. And this is the goal of all Science.

MANIFESTATION, NOT CREATION.

And all science is bound to come to this conclusion in the long run. Manifestation and not creation is the word of science to-day, and the Hindu is only glad that what he has cherished in his bosom for ages is going to be taught in more forcible language and with further light by the latest conclusions of science.

Descend we now from the aspirations of philosophy to the religion of the ignorant. At the very outset, I may tell you that there is no Polytheism in India. In every temple if one stands by and listens, one will find the worshippers apply all the attributes of God—including omnipresence—to the images. This is not Polytheism. "The rose called by any other name would smell as sweet." Names are not explanations.

I remember when a boy a Christian man was preaching to a crowd in India. Among other sweet things he was asking the people, if he gave a blow to their idol with his stick, what it could do. One of his hearers sharply answered, "If I abuse your God what can he do?" "Ye will be punished," said the preacher, "when you die," "So my idol will punish you when you die," said the villager.

The tree is known by its fruits, and when I have seen amongst them, that are called idolaters, men the like of whose morality and spirituality and love I have never seen anywhere, I stop and ask myself, "Can sin beget holiness?"

BIGOTRY DENOUNCED.

Superstition is the enemy of man, but bigotry is worse. Why does a Christian go to church? Why is the cross holy? why is the face turned toward the sky in prayer? Why are there so many images in the Catholic church? Why are there so many images in the minds of Protestants when they pray? My brethren, we can no more think about anything without a material image than we can live without breathing. And by the law of association the material image calls the mental idea up and vice versa. Omnipresence, to almost the whole world, means nothing. Has God superficial area? If not, when we repeat the word we think of the extended earth, that is all.

As we find that somehow or other, by the laws of our constitution, we have got to associate our ideas of infinity with the image of the blue sky, or of the sea some connect naturally their idea of holiness with the image of a church or a mosque or a cross. The Hindus have associated the ideas of holiness, purity, truth, omnipresence, and all other such ideas with different images and forms. But with this difference. Some others devote their whole lives to their idol of a church and never rise higher, because with them religion means an intellectual assent to certain doctrines and doing good to their fellows. The whole religion of the Hindu is, however, centred in realization. Man is to become divine by realizing the divine, and, therefore, idol, or temple or church or books, are only the supports, the helps, of his spiritual childhood; but on and on man must progress.

NO STOPPING ANYWHERE.

He must not stop anywhere. "External worship, material worship," says the Veda, "is the lowest stage, struggling to rise high; mental prayer is the next stage, but the highest stage is when the Lord has been realized." Mark the same earnest man who is kneeling before the idol tells you, "Him the sun cannot express, nor the moon nor the stars, the lightning cannot express him, nor the fire; through him they all shine." He does not abuse the image or call it sinful. He recognizes in it a necessary stage of his life. "The child is father of the man." Would it be right for the old man to say that childhood is a sin or youth a sin? Nor is image worship compulsory in Hinduism.

If a man can realize his divine nature most easily with the help of an image, would it be right to call it a sin? Nor, even when he has passed that stage, should he call it an error. To the Hindu, man is not travelling from error to truth, but from truth to truth, from lower to higher truth. To him all the religions, from the lowest fetishism to the highest absolutism, mean so many attempts of the human soul to grasp and realize the Infinite, each determined by the conditions, of its birth and associations and each of these religions, therefore, marks a stage of progress, and every soul is a child-eagle soaring higher and higher, gathering more and more strength till it reaches the Glorious Sun.

(To be Continued)

SEE SUPPLEMENT

By Elyathamby