

Rev. J. Christie

THE

Jaffna College

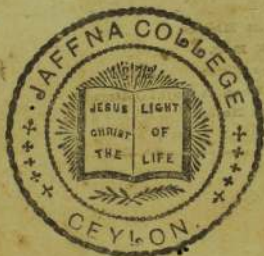
MISCELLANY.

New Series.

Vol. 12.

August 1901.

No. 1.



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JAFFNA COLLEGE MISCELLANY.

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CONTENTS.

Editorial	1
The Deputation from America	3
The Board of Directors	6
The Local Endowment	8
The History of Tamil Literature III	9
Field Day	15
Student Mission	17
The Y. M. C. A.	18
College Notes	20
The Bishop & Royal College	22
Alumni Notes	25

THE
JAFFNA COLLEGE
MISCELLANY

NEW SERIES.

VOL. XII.

AUGUST 1901.

No. 1.

The New Series of the *Miscellany* enters with this number upon its 12th year. Two years ago there was so little interest taken in this periodical that we thought seriously of discontinuing it, but of late interest has revived and we trust the *Miscellany* has still many years before it. It is proposed to increase the number of pages while keeping the price the same. This can be done only by a very large increase in the number of subscribers. This number will be sent to many who have hitherto not subscribed, and it is hoped that some will be willing to send in their names and the amount of subscription. Stamps will be received in payment, so that no one need find difficulty in settling promptly. For the present stamps will be accepted from the Straits Settlements as well. Please address all communications to the Principal, Jaffna College.

There has been some improvement made in the appearance of this periodical, which we hope will be appreciated. The better cover makes it look more attractive. Other improvements will be made from time to time. The contents will be found to be of interest and it is hoped that they will be carefully read. It must not be forgotten that the *Miscellany* does not profess to

be an Educational Magazine, but a College periodical. A faithful record will be given of the principal events connected with the life of the undergraduates; and so far as possible news of those who have left will find a place. Communications from the alumni will be gladly received and especially welcome will be suitable articles, not too long, on subjects of interest to the readers. In this number, Mr. Allen Abraham after a long silence, resumes his articles on the "History of Tamil Literature." We hope there are others who are only waiting for the opportunity now offered, of contributing to its pages. Let each one do his part, and success is assured.

: The Deputation from America.

The American mission has been visited by a Deputation composed of Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D., Secretary of the A. B. C. F. M., Rev. J. F. Loba, D. D., pastor of a large and flourishing church in one of the suburbs of Chicago, and Wm. Whittemore, Esq., a business man of Boston.

The object of this Deputation was to see the work of the mission, to confer with the missionaries and native ministers on the problems connected with mission work, and also to look into the workings of Jaffna College. And because this last mentioned was one of the objects we believe a report of their visit to the College will be of interest to all the "old boys," and needs no apology for its length.

On Wednesday morning the 19th June, the three gentlemen accompanied by Dr. Scott, the Secretary of the Board of Directors, and the Principal, visited the Colleges in the town. First of all came Hindu College where in the absence of the Principal, the vice-Principal; Mr. Iyerswamy, B. A., showed the party round the buildings. Only a few minutes were spent here and then Central College was visited. Here Dr. Barton addressed the students briefly expressing the pleasure the Deputation felt in meeting students and instructors of other institutions. A little later the Chetty Street branch of Central College was visited and then the party moved on to St. John's, Chundicully, where they visited the different classes at work and inspected the buildings. In the evening they arrived at Batticotta and early the next morning

accompanied by the Principal they walked round the premises. The Native Evangelical Society was holding its annual meeting at Batticotta that day and so nothing more could be accomplished than this hasty survey. The next morning they visited the houses of the native professors near by and at 9 o'clock were welcomed by the professors and students in the Gymnasium. Mr. Hensman read the address of welcome which was as follows:—

Dear Sirs,

We, the Faculty and students of Jaffna College feel it a great privilege to welcome the Deputation from the American Board of Foreign Missions, and we trust in God that your visit will result in material benefit to the cause of higher Christian education and mission work in general in Jaffna.

There is no doubt that we who are engaged in the work cannot possibly see the bearings of things so clearly as you who come from a distance with unprejudiced minds. We are therefore thankful to God that this Deputation has come to us, and still more for the well-known Christian earnestness and Christian statesmanship of its members.

Jaffna College, as you are aware, was founded in 1872, as the result of a large and representative meeting held in Batticotta by the graduates of the late Batticotta Seminary to concert measures for starting an Institution in the place of the Batticotta Seminary which had been abolished in 1856. It was known that an increasing number of Christian young men were going to India for receiving that higher education which was denied them in their own country, and that many of them, placed as they were entirely amidst heathen surroundings, had suffered ship-wreck in their faith. It was felt too that a large number of promising young men, who might do credit to themselves and good to their country, had for lack of means to go without any education worth the name. The time therefore was ripe for the opening of an Institution for higher Christian Education in Jaffna.

The College opened on the 3rd of July 1872 under the presidency of Rev. E. P. Hastings, D. D., and under the control of a Board of Directors chosen from the three missions in Jaffna. Dr. Hastings presided over the College with great ability and success for seventeen years, and it was well that in the Providence of God he was the first President. His Missionary zeal, his connection for some years with the Seminary and above all the personal magnetism of his character gave him a unique influence in the community. He was a fine English scholar and a born ruler of men and boys in the sphere of work that fell to him. In power of organization and at the same time in attention to the minutest details he had few equals. Work to him was a pleasure. Above all, the leading of young men to Christ was the one object he kept steadily in view. No wonder that under him the foundations of the College were so well and truly laid that if his successors did no more than follow in the lines marked out by him, the work was bound to advance.

The Rev. S. W. Howland, D.D., succeeded him in 1889. He was a man of saintly character, a profound scholar of such rare abilities that one wondered that he should have been content to remain in such a limited field of work as Jaffna. The affectionate regard in which he was held, will best appear from the familiar name by which he is known among the churches here. Every one calls him here "Samuel Ayyar." Well he found that there was a general desire for University degrees and distinctions among the young men of Jaffna, and that this desire was drawing many young men abroad and exposing them to perils, to save them from which was the object of the founders of the College. Under his advice therefore, the College which had so far granted its own Diplomas to its Alumni, was affiliated to the Calcutta University. From this time may be said to have commenced the second period of the history of the College. Dr. Howland had judged rightly, for students flocked in and came in increasing numbers; under his influence the reputation of the College grew beyond expectation. This growing prosperity of the College however received a check when Dr. Howland went on furlough to America owing to ill-health and a severe blow when he went home for good in consequence of the illness of Mrs. Howland. But Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, M. A., Vice Principal, by his ability and devotion, filled up the vacancy very ably till the appointment of the Rev. R. C. Hastings, M. A., to the Presidency of the College in 1899. It is hardly fitting that we should say anything here of Mr. Hastings. It is sufficient to say that the mantle of his predecessors has fallen on no unworthy shoulders and that there is no doubt whatever that under his leading the College will regain lost ground.

The Christian character of the College has been always steadily maintained. Though conversions are not numerous, hardly any young man leaves the precincts of the College without a conviction of the truth as it is in Jesus. Regular instruction is given in the Bible and every means is availed of for bringing home to the hearts and minds of the students the truths of Christianity. The Y.M.C.A. is doing good work in the Sunday schools and the morning watch is a pleasure to several.

The College holds a unique place in Ceylon in several respects. It is the only Institution in all Ceylon and perhaps in all India in which all the students are boarders and remain on the premises day and night. The hours of study and recitation as well as recreation and exercise are systematically arranged and work, play and rest are carefully laid out for the whole day. The instructors therefore are fully occupied the whole day, Saturdays and Sundays not excepted. Physical culture is another feature of the college. Gymnastic exercise in the mornings for half an hour, and both games and gymnastics in the afternoons are a regular feature of the college.

We feel thankful to Dr. Barton for the warm interest he has taken in the college as one of the Trustees of the Funds in America and for the selection of able men from time to time to fill up vacancies in the teaching staff of the college. Jaffna College is the only first grade college in Jaffna and practically in all Ceylon.

The graduates and undergraduates of the College are usefully employed in several parts of Jaffna, Ceylon, India, Burmah and the Straits, in the different missions and Government as Pastors, Preach-

ers, Catechists, Teachers, Clerks, Lawyers, Doctors, Surveyors, Notaries, Brokers, &c., and the influence of several is decidedly in favour of Christianity.

In conclusion, we thank Mrs. Barton for her condescension to accompany the Deputation. It is no easy task for a lady to venture on such an arduous journey. Her company will not only minister to their comforts but will also enliven them and quicken them to more pacific measures in their deliberations over questions of vital importance in the mission. Once more we welcome your presence here for such counsel and guidance as you may be pleased to give us. Long may your visit be remembered with gratitude by the people of Jaffna.

Wishing you and Mrs. Barton a pleasant sojourn here and a safe voyage home.

In behalf of the Faculty and students.

S. Hensman.

After the reading of the address the gentlemen responded and the hour was all too short for their interesting and timely remarks. They spoke of the good words they had heard of the College in Colombo and Kandy; and of the future that lay before it. They urged that the boys be loyal to their own institution and as they left prove their loyalty by working for their Alma Mater. Three cheers were given for the Deputation who responded by giving three cheers for the College, and the exercises came to an end. At 1 o'clock the members of the Faculty met them at the home of the Principal and spent a very pleasant hour in conversing upon the needs of the College. It was very evident even at this early day that the members of the Deputation were not strongly in favor of a Union College; and not at all favorable to a change of site should union fail of being brought to pass.

A week later, on the 29th June, the Deputation met the members of the mission in conference on higher education. Later on in the day came the annual meeting of the Directors, a report of which is given elsewhere. The gentlemen of the Deputation received a cordial invitation to be present during the meeting, and their opinions were asked on the important topics brought up for discussion.

The next day, Sunday, Dr. Barton preached an earnest sermon at the English service held in the evening which was greatly appreciated by all. Monday morning they drove to Victoria College and looked over the building that is being erected there for its use. On the 9th of July they were present at the sports of Field Day, and the following day at the meeting of the "old boys"

gathered together in the Gymnasium. About 20 of the graduates of the old Batticotta Seminary were present and 70 or 80 of the "old boys" of Jaffna College. Judge T. W. Tampoe was voted to the chair and after a brief prayer by Rev. Geo. Champion, a graduate of the old Batticotta Seminary, the chairman called on Messrs. T. P. Hunt, T. C. Changarapillai and S. Merwin to speak for the old Seminary; and on Messrs. Proctor Lawton and J. K. Chanmugam, B.A., to speak for Jaffna College. The chairman followed with an earnest and impressive speech, and then called on Mr. Whittemore, who responded very happily and pertinently. He was followed by Drs. Barton and Loba and the exercises were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

The next day they left for India, but on leaving gave a written document to be sent to the Board of Directors, expressing their gratification at what they had seen, and wishing the College great prosperity in the future.

The Board of Directors.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors was held at Batticotta on the afternoon of June 29th. The President Sir Wm. Twynam, K. C. M. G., took the chair and after prayer it was voted that the members of the Deputation be asked to be present at the session. The first item of business was the Principal's report. It briefly reviewed the events of the year. During the year one member of the Faculty had resigned, i.e. Mr. J. K. Sinnatamby, B. A. After 6 years of faithful service he left to engage in missionary work under the Student Foreign Missionary Society. One of the students, a Christian lad from the Preparatory class, was called up "higher" to finish his studies under the Great Master. The success in the University examinations was better than for some years previous. A review of the ten years of affiliation showed that the College had passed 156 in the Entrance examinations or just over 50 per cent of those sent in. Twenty of these passed in the first Class. Of the 103 candidates sent in for F. A. in the 9 years 67 passed, or 65 per cent. In the 6 years of affiliation up to B. A. 17 students and 7 teachers had been sent in, 5 of the former and 4 of the latter passing, or 9 out of 24 which would be over 37 per cent. These percent-

ages are higher than those for the whole University. Reference was made to the religious condition of the College, the work of the Y. M. C. A. being specially mentioned.

The Treasurer reported that the expenditures for the year closing with April 1901 had exceeded the receipts by over two hundred rupees, the total debt of the College being Rs. 1414-00. This means retrenchment until the Local Endowment can be brought up to at least Rs. 25,000. We hope the "old boys" will realize how crippled the College is for lack of a proper Local Endowment Fund.

The question of union was then brought up and fully discussed, resulting in the passing of the following resolution:—"Resolved that while we consider a Union Protestant College in Jaffna exceedingly desirable, the practical difficulties at present appear to us to be insurmountable, and we as the Board of Directors of Jaffna College are not prepared to take steps looking towards that end." The question of moving the College to a more central location was then taken up, and warmly debated. Several were strongly in favor of moving, but the majority voted to remain at Batticotta. The financial question was of course a very serious one. New buildings on a new site meant not less than Rs. 150,000, and double that amount could easily be spent. This would be only for the bare buildings and land. Another large sum would be needed for furniture and equipment. A conservative estimate for suitable buildings in a central location, well equipped with furniture, instruments and library, would set the figure at Rs. 250,000. It would be quite impossible to raise this large sum locally, or even a quarter of it, and the Deputation did not favor applying to America for the whole sum or even for any large part of it. The reasons for changing from Batticotta to some place near Inuvil would not commend themselves to the general public in America. After the Directors had voted to remain at Batticotta, Dr Barton offered to make himself responsible to collect Rs. 5000 in America for every Rs. 1000 raised locally; the former sum to be used in repairing existing buildings, or in erecting new ones and in purchasing new philosophical and chemical apparatus and new books for the Library, while all that was collected locally was to be added to the Local Endowment Fund. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Directors, and it was voted to make an effort to raise at least Rs. 10,000 to be added to the Local Endowment.

The next question discussed was the affiliation of the English schools under the American mission. It was left for the Standing Committee to arrange details and to report at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Albert K. Modr. Cartiss was elected a Director in place of Proctor Carpenter, and the Directors of Class A. were re-elected. The meeting closed at a late hour.

The Local Endowment.

We wish to call the attention of the "old boys" once more to our great need, i. e. a larger Local Endowment Fund. Instead of between eight and nine thousand rupees we ought to have twenty five thousand at the least. Some of our Directors have come forward and subscribed sums from Rs. 30 to Rs. 200 and others will undoubtedly follow with their subscriptions soon. Two or three of our "old boys" outside of Jaffna have collected subscriptions amounting to from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. And now comes one of our recent students with a subscription list of nearly Rs. 500. Well done! Who will beat this? Not many of our "old boys" have had the privilege of giving to their Alma Mater, and now is their chance. A better opportunity may never occur, for, every one thousand rupees raised here means Rs 5000 from America. Moreover the money collected locally is to be added to the Local Endowment Fund which is a permanent fund and not to be diverted to buildings or apparatus. Wherever the College remains, a local endowment fund is wanted. Whether you think the College ought to remain at Batticotta or be moved to Inuvil makes no difference as far as the Local Endowment is concerned. This is something absolutely essential to the proper running of the College and every one who gives even though it be at some sacrifice, may comfort himself with the thought that his Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 will bring five times the amount from America. Let us not be slow in responding to this appeal. The Principal wants to hear from every "old boy" before the year closes with a generous gift for his Alma Mater. If you cannot pay your whole subscription in one year divide it up into two or three parts and pay up in full before the close of 1903. Let us hear from you all.

The History of Tamil Literature III.

II The Sangam Period.

Tamil authors and commentators of later times assert that there existed in the Tamil country, three Sangams or Colleges of Poets at three different periods, that the First (முதல்) Sangam was established at the Madura which was destroyed and absorbed by the sea, that 549 poets including Agasthiar, Siva and Muruga, sat as members of the board, that during this period 4,449 poets composed poems such as *Ettunaiyoz Paripadal* (எத்தணையோர்பரிபாடல்), *Mutunaraï* (முதுநாரை), *Mutukuruku* (முதுகுருகு), *Kalariaviraï* (களரியாவிரை) &c. and that the session lasted for 4440 years; that the Middle (இடை) Sangam held its sessions at Kapadapuram, that the number of poets in the board was 59 including Agasthiar and Tolkappiar, that during this period 3700 poets wrote poems such as *Kali* (கலி), *Kuruku* (குருகு), *Vendali* (வெண்டாளி), *Vialamalai* (வியாமலை) &c. and that it lasted for 3700 years; that the seat of the Last (கடை) Sangam was the present Madura, that the number of the syndics was 49, that 449 poets wrote poems such as *Perisai* (பெரிசை), *Sittisai* (சிற்றிசை), *Kuttu* (கூத்து), *Vari* (வரி), *Ettutokai* (எட்டுத்தொகை), &c. and that it lasted for 1850 years. The first account of these Sangams is given by Nilakandan in the commentary on *Irayanar's Akapporul*; Nachelnarkkiniar repeats it in his commentary on *Tolkappiam* and Adiarckunallar does the same in his commentary on *Silappathikaram*. The Venpa,

ஏழேழொடைஞ்ஞாறுமேழேழொடுபட்டும்
 ஏழேழமுஞ்சங்கயீஇரூர்—ஏழேழ்சேர்
 காற்பதினாறுமுப்பானேழ்நாறுநாறுந்து
 காற்பதினாறுபாண்கவிஞ்சூர்நாடு.

which is said to have been composed during the Last Sangam period gives the number of the poets and the number of the syndics of each Sangam.

The literary productions of the first two Sangams are said to have been lost and consequently we are in the dark as to their history. Indeed there are scholars both native and European, who doubt the very existence of such organized Colleges or Academies. But we

may be sure of this much at least, that the Pandyan rulers of ancient days encouraged Tamil literature by keeping the best poets of the time in their courts and patronizing them by munificent presents and these poets had more or less command and influence over the literature of their times. The appearance of such an extensive and excellent Tamil grammar as *Tolkappian* in the first or the second century before the Christian era, conclusively proves the previous existence of a good amount of Tamil literature. We shall prove for certainty that about the commencement of the Christian era, this assembly of court poets developed into a Royal Society of literary men holding their sessions at regular times. It may be that writers of later times who undertook to write a history of Tamil literature from the beginning, called this the Third Sangam, having styled the poets of Agasthiar's time the First Sangam, and those of the time of Tolkappiar the Second Sangam. But by the Sangam period we mean the period of the so-called Third Sangam having included the other two under the Pre-Sangam period.

Though the history of the Madura Sangam is as obscure as that of the Pandyan kings, yet we learn a great deal about it from extant Tamil literature. This literary College appears to have been established about the commencement of the Christian era, and to have flourished till the beginning of the second century. It seems that the last sessions of the Sangam were held in the court of Ukkira Peruvalethy (Pandyan, the Terrible), about 100 A. D., when Thiruvalluvar, a native of Mailapur near Madras, presented his *Kural* for the approval of the Sangam. The tradition as found in later writings says that the poets of the board did not allow Thiruvalluvar to take his seat with them on the College bench but allowed his book to be placed on it, when the bench all of a sudden contracted and kept the book alone, throwing all the learned professors afloat in the Lotus tank. "The truth seems to be" says Dr. Pope, "that the Madura School of Tamil literature, now too full of Sanskrit influences was supreme until the advent of the St. Thome poet, whose fame at once eclipsed that of the Southern sages". From *Silappathikaram*, "The Epic of the Anklet", which we shall prove to have been

written in the first half of the second century, we learn that the Pandyan king Nedunchelian, who seems to be the same as Ukkira Pernvaluthy, caused the death of a certain innocent trader named Kovalan and that afterwards finding that he had perpetrated an act of injustice and cruelty and being unable to bear the reproach, the king died suddenly of grief and that by the wrath of Kannagi, the beloved wife of Kovalan, the city of Madura was in flames. We also read that the next king Vettivetchelian (otherwise called Ilanchelian) having quitted Madura, selected Korkai for his capital. Thus the calamity that fell over the city of Madura, together with the appearance of such poets as Thiruvalluvar, must have caused the dissolution of the famous Sangam. The Madura Sangam was something like the Royal Societies of the present day and the chief work of the members seems to have been to criticize the literary productions brought before them and to give their *imprimatur* to the deserving ones and to reject the others. For the purpose of preserving the purity of the language, a rule was made that no literary work should be circulated in the country, unless it had been submitted to this Royal Association of poets and approved by them. This period was the Augustan age of Tamil literature and almost all the extant Tamil literary works characterized by originality, purity of diction and independence of Sanskrit, were produced in this period.

The number of syndics of this Royal board of poets was 49, and the names of those that formed the board when Thiruvalluvar presented his *Kural* for getting their approval, are preserved in the Garland of Thiruvalluvar, (திருவள்ளுவர் குவரமாலை) which is a collection of eulogies on *Kural* containing an improvisation from each of the 49 syndics and this Garland has, from time immemorial, been tacked on to all editions of *Kural* and commented upon.

It is said that 449 poets composed poems during this Sangam period, but including those who have composed single eulogies, the names of more than 500 poets are found in the collections of poems belonging to this period.

The literary works that obtained the approval of the Sangam are classified under three heads, viz. The Eight

Collections (எட்டுத்தொகை), The Ten Idyls (பத்துப்பாட்டு) and The Eighteen Didactics (பதினெண் கீழ்க்கணக்கு). There are also some works which were either not taken to the Sangam for its approval or were produced after the Sangam began to decline and dissolve but must be assigned to the same period.

1. The Eight Collections are:—

“நந்தினைநல்லகுறுந்தொகையைக்குறுநூ
 ளொத்தபதிற்றுப்பத்தொங்குபரிபாடல்
 கற்றநிந்தார்பேசுவ்கலியோடகழ்புறமென்
 றித்திறத்தவெட்டுத்தொகை.”

(1) *Nattinai* (நந்தினை). This contains 400 pieces mostly eulogies composed by not less than 200 different poets and was compiled by பன்னாடுதந்த பாண்டியன் மாறன்வழுதி.

(2) *Kurunthokai* (குறுந்தொகை). This is a similar collection containing 400 verses composed by 205 poets and was compiled by பூரிக்கோ. The 26th and the 58th *Agavals* are composed by Vellivediar who is one of the syndics of the College Bench.

(3) *Aynlurunuru* (ஐங்குறுநூறு). This is a collection of five pieces, each piece containing 100 stanzas composed by different authors. The five pieces appear to be on the five species of land, viz. *Palai* (பாலை) Arid tracts, *Kurinchi* (குறிஞ்சி) Hilly tracts, *Marutham* (மருதம்) Agricultural tracts, *Mullai* (முல்லை) Sylvan tracts, *Neithal* (நெய்தல்) Maritime tracts. These are quoted in the commentary of Tolkappiam Porulathikaram.

(4) *Pathittuppattu* (பதிற்றுப்பத்து). This work commemorating the Chera kings, consists of ten pieces by ten different authors, each piece containing ten stanzas. The third piece was composed by Kodamanar, one of the College pundits. The fifth piece was composed by Paranar, who is also one of the syndics of the Sangam, in praise of the Chera king, Chenkuttuva who is spoken of in Silappathikaram. Paranar seems to be the most elderly member of the board as he has addressed even Ilanchedehenny, the father of Karical.

(5) *Paripadal* (ஐம்பதுபரிபாடல்). This is another collection of verses by different poets, containing seventy pieces.

(6) *Kalittokai* (கலித்தொகை). This was written or compiled by Nallanthuvanar, who is one of the syndics

of the Madura College. It describes the five phases of conjugal love as enjoyed in the five species of land namely, பாலை, குறிஞ்சி, மருதம், முல்லை, நெய்தல். It is a rare and excellent specimen of Tamil literature written in Kalippa metre.

(7) *Aham* (அகநானூறு) This contains 100 verses composed as eulogies on various occasions by more than 200 poets and was compiled by Uruttirasaumamar in the reign of Ukkirapperavaluthy. Many of these verses refer to Karikal Chola and the Chera kings Athan and Chenkuttunan spoken of in Selappathikaram. Several of the stanzas are composed by Mamulanar, one of the members of the College Bench.

(8) *Puram* (புறநானூறு). This is similar to Aham and contains 400 verses composed by different poets, some like Kovurkkilar, Todittalai Viluttandinar, Naivaruvtaliar, Alangudivanganar and Sirukaruntumbiar are among those that formed the Madura Bench. In these poems not only the Tamil kings, Chera, Chola and Pandya, but also other patrons of poets and men of great prowess noted for their gifts, such as Athaman, Kari, Pekan, Pari and Ori, are eulogized. King Kochchenganan, often referred to by Sambander in his Devaram, is one of those who are eulogized.

As the ancient Tamil kings and the chieftains encouraged literary men by presents, poets from all parts of the country flocked in numbers to these men with songs eulogizing them every way, sometimes celebrating their victories, and sometimes praising their gifts, fame and good qualities. The Eight collections are mostly collections of these eulogies. For instance, the 65th and 66th *agavals* of *Puram* celebrate the victory of the Chola king Karikal who defeated the combined armies of the Pandya and the Chera. The former was composed by the bard Karunkulal Attanar and the latter by Veniul Kuyathiar. The 58th stanza was addressed by the poet Karikkannanar to the Chola and Pandyan kings when the latter paid a visit to the former and the poet desires a lifelong friendship between them. In the 226th stanza, the poetess Auvaiyar addresses the three kings Chera, Chola and Pandya when the Chera and Pandya kings attended the Rajasuyam (Sacrificial Feast) of the Chola king. In the 91st

stanza she praises Athiaman for giving her a Nelly fruit which was very rare and was considered to have the power to prolong life. These collections are invaluable as they give us an insight into the political and social history of the Tamils about the commencement of the Christian era and also supply materials for building up a history of Tamil literature.

2. The Ten Idyls are :—

“முருகுபொருநராறு பாணிரண்டுமூல்கை
பெருகுவிடமதரைக் காஞ்சி—மருவினிய
கோலநெடுநல்வாடை கூர்நுநிஞ்சுபட்டினப்
பாலைபடுகடாம்பத்து.”

(1) *Tirumurugattuppadaï* (திருமுருகாற்றுப்படை) or the Guide to Muruga. This was written by Nakkirar who is the most distinguished member and in all probability the president of the board of Pundits and it is dedicated to Muruga, the War God.

(2) *Porumarattuppadaï* (பொருநராற்றுப்படை). This was composed by Mudattama kanniar and praises, and is dedicated to, the Chola king Karikal.

(3) *Sirupanattuppadaï* (சிறுபாணாற்றுப்படை). This was composed by Nattattanar, of Nallur, one of the syndics of the board, and is dedicated to and describes, the munificence of the chief, Nalliakkodan.

(4) *Perumpanattuppadaï* (பெரும்பாணாற்றுப்படை). This was written by Uruttirankannanar of Kadialur, one of the members of the College Bench and is dedicated to Ilanthirayan.

(5) *Mullaiipattu* (மூல்கைப்பாட்டு). This was written by Nappathanar, a gold merchant of Kavirippumpattanam.

(6) *Muthuravikkanchi* (மதுரைக்காஞ்சி) or The Gentle Hint. This was written by Mankudi Maruthanar, one of the syndics of the board, and was dedicated to Nedunchelian, the Pandyan king.

(7) *Nedunavadaï* (நெடுநல்வாடை) or The Dreary Winter. This was composed by Nakkirar and dedicated to the same Pandyan king Nedunchelian. It describes the military prowess of that king, especially the glorious victory he won at Talayalankanam, while his consort was pining in the palace at the separation of her husband in a dreary winter.

(8) *Kurunchippattu* (குறிஞ்சிப்பாட்டு). This was

composed by Kapilar one of the pundits of the Bench, and dedicated to Pirakattan, an Aryan king.

(9) *Paldinappalai* (பட்டினப்பாலை). This was composed by Urattirankannanar of Kadialur and dedicated to Karikal the Chola king.

(10) *Maliipudukalam* (மலைபடுகடாம்). This was composed by Perumkansikamar of Perumkuzhur and dedicated to Nannar.

Five of the above mentioned Idyls are written in that form of poetic composition called *Attuppudai* அட்புடையுரை (Guiding), which under the pretext of guiding a needy traveller to a bountiful prince, describes the position and prowess of the prince and the beauties and riches of his country in flattering terms. Generally a minstrel or a poet returning from a prince loaded with presents, is represented as advising or directing another minstrel or poet to go to the same prince. The first Idyl, though not eulogizing any prince, adopts this form and chants the praise of the War God, Muruga and directs the pious minded to his worship. It forms a part of the Eleventh Collection of the *Devarams*, the sacred hymns of the Saivas. All the Ten Idyls are as a rule extremely simple artistic poems presenting true and accurate portraits of nature in a pure, simple and pleasing style. "For soberness of thought and accuracy of representation they will bear comparison with anything in the whole realm of literature. In them critics will seek in vain for that idle accumulation of hyperbolical conceits which characterise the Tamil poems of more modern times."

Field Day.

[Contributed to "The Student"]

It was held on the 9th inst. The boys had their usual duties to attend to until mid-day; after that they had a half holiday. Invitations were sent to some outside friends; and many, including the invited and the uninvited were present to grace the occasion and to see the sports which commenced at 3 P. M. Of the sports of the Senior Set the broad jump was the first for which many boys from the different classes competed; but

the best of them all came from the Preparatory class, jumping 17 ft 6 in; the Senior class claimed the second man, while the Entrance was satisfied with the third place. After that came the interesting high jump for which also several competed, and in which one of the Junior F. A. men came an easy first clearing 5 ft 4. The second and third who belonged to the Preparatory Class were not far behind him. Then came the hundred yards dash in which a Junior F. A. man although he had a bad start got ahead of the others and came first to the winning post in 12 seconds. A member of the Preparatory class came second with some difficulty, while the Seniors were satisfied with being the third.

In the Hurdle race which was the next event, a member of the Junior F. A. class outstripped all others and an elder brother of his came out second while another member of the Junior F. A. class came up an easy third. And last tho not least came the 300 yards dash in which one of the Juniors came out first, and allowed the second and third places to be contested by members of the Senior F. A. and Preparatory classes.

In the Junior set, the heroes of the 100 yds and lime and bucket race were from the Entrance class. In the egg and spoon race those who wanted to be fast runners broke their eggs and thus lost the game, while the two who came slowly won it, thus showing that "slow but steady wins the race". In the three-legged race a pair amalgamated from the Preparatory and Entrance classes, came out successful. In the Obstacle race which was very amusing to the spectators and at the same time tedious to the competitors, the Entrance class was proud enough to have the first man while the second one belonged to the Preparatory class.

In the open events, putting the shot came first in which a member of the Senior class stood head and shoulders above the rest of the competitors. Then came the sack race in which also a member of the Junior F. A. class was fortunate enough to be the first. Besides these sports two events, viz. the Relay race and the Tug of War were contested by the different classes. In the former the Junior F. A. class which was as usual very conspicuous all through the afternoon, made itself still more conspicuous by sending three of its many runners to win it. Then came the Tug of War which was the last but the most interesting of all the events of that day. First the Entrance and Preparatory classes were

allowed to find out which of them was stronger, the Preparatory class coming off the victor. Then the Sr. and Jr. F. A. classes contested, and the Juniors simply walked away with the Seniors with the greatest ease. In the final struggle, the Preparatory class came out successful.

Out of the 50 points given, the Sr. F. A. class obtained 10; the Junior F. A. got 22; the Entrance but 2; and the Preparatory 16. The prizes were announced by the Vice Principal and the sports brought to a close.

E. D. H.

The Y. M. C. A.

During this term the usual work of the Association has been carried on regularly. The work of the Sunday Schools occupies the attention of a larger number of the members than any other. In some of the schools it is discouraging to find that nearly all the children will be absent whenever there is a festival anywhere near. Also in some schools the day school teachers do not themselves come regularly but leave all the work to the teachers whom we send. In most of the schools less than half the enrolled number of pupils attend the Sunday Schools. If the day school teachers who know the children would come and use all their influence to have their pupils attend, our teachers would be encouraged and would be very willing to help. We have begun to send to the new English school in Araly, making seven schools to which our members go on Sunday afternoons. On the last Sunday of June all were asked to come together in the church, as it was the week for the quarterly review and the Deputation from America was here. Some repeated the subjects and golden texts of the six months; there were some other recitations and then Dr. Loba addressed the children.

The prayer meetings have not been so well attended as they should have been, the Chairman reporting that he has to go around every time to invite the members. The Active members ought to take more interest in sustaining the meetings. Perhaps they would do better if they had a pledge, as in the Societies of Christian Endeavour, binding them to attend and take some part

in every meeting. This is a vital part of our Christian life, and meetings have been held regularly, but the interest does not extend to all.

The Bible classes have fared still worse. There are three classes but the average attendance in all combined has not been much over twelve—not half the enrolled number. The teachers are regular but do not seem to have enthusiasm enough to keep up a lively interest in the members.

The garden work has been carried on with considerable vigor, though it is discouraging to have the fences scaled by thieves or broken through by cattle and sheep. We are hoping for better prosperity in the coming term.

The catechist reports some encouraging features of his work, though there is a good deal of opposition.

The committee on Athletics collected a sum of money for prizes on field day, an account of which is given elsewhere,

Three lectures have been given before our members, and they were listened to with much interest. One was by Dr. J. F. Loba on "American Life and Progress," another by L. C. Williams, Esq., B. A. on "Hindu and Christian Ideals of Life compared and contrasted," and the third by N. Chelvadurai, Esq., B. A., on "The Application of Natural Law to Religion." The enjoyment and benefit to be derived from hearing such lectures from men outside the usual circle is no small part of the gain which is brought to the College by our Association.

Delegates from this Association attended the semi-annual meeting of the General Committee of the North Ceylon Union held in Jaffna town on July 27th. The subjects brought up for discussion were Intervisitation, Financial support, and Personal Work. As one of the results of the meeting we have had the pleasure of a visit by a delegation of six members of the Central College Association. We also sent a delegation of eight members to the Young People's Convention held at Uduvil on Aug. 20th, when the Rev. F. S. Hatch, Secretary of the Society of Christian Endeavor, gave a very helpful address.

Our membership is now over eighty, thirty of whom are Active members. May the Lord bless all our efforts to advance His kingdom among men.

College Notes.

Otley Hall. The Hall was unroofed during the holidays of April and May, and it was hoped that the new roof would be quite finished by the middle of the first term. But there was great delay in getting timbers, and even after the necessary timbers were secured, workmen were not easy to find, so the building is far from finished as we go to press. The upper roof is about finished the masons being busy in putting on the tiles. We are using Calicut tiles as they make a lighter and drier roof. The verandahs and side rooms we hope will be finished before the rains set in. Accustomed as we are to the slow moving East, we have been greatly tried by the delay experienced, much of which was unnecessary. In the mean time the Gymnasium was fitted up as a school room and has served its purpose fairly well.

University Results. The results this year have not been bad. Of the 19 boys sent in to the Entrance 12 passed, 6 in the II and 6 in the III class. Of the 8 boys who took the F. A. examination 7 passed, one in the II class and 6 in the III. Of the 3 who appeared for B. A. one passed. Their names are as follows:—

ENTRANCE.

II, CLASS.	1. Edwin Hensman.
	2. J. K. Kanapathipillai,
	3. S. Kanapathipillai.
	4. I. Modr. Nagalingam.
	5. Thomas K. Appucudde.
	6. P. Vytilingam.
III. CLASS.	1. N. Selvadurai.
	2. S. K. Chinniah.
	3. K. Ethernayagam.
	4. N. S. Samuel.
	5. A. Saravanamuttu.
	6. R. Tambirajah.

F. A.

II. CLASS*	1. I. S. John.
III. CLASS.	1. E. Buell.
	2. K. Rajah.
	3. T. Rajaratnam.
	4. V. Ramasamy.

5. W. R. Sanders.

6. J. T. Storer.

B. A.

Louis S. Ponniah,—*A course.*

We hope another time some of our students in the Entrance will be found in the 1 class.

Our Girls Annex at Uduvil sent in 4 to the Entrance all of whom passed, one in the First and three in the Second class. The Girls have set the Boys a good example. We shall see how much the latter have profitted by it at the next examination in March 1902.

Of the other Colleges in the peninsula Victoria secured the best results, and Pt. Pedro was not far behind, but Central, St. John's and Hindu Colleges were not so fortunate.

Our B. A. has secured a position as teacher in the Wesleyan school at Trincomalie.

Admission Examination. The admission examination was held on the 24th and 25th of May. Of the 49 candidates 28 were chosen. Several were put down from the last year's Pre-entrance class, and two or three new boys came after the term commenced. Two or three have joined the Entrance Class and two in the Junior B. A. and one in the Junior F. A. The numbers enrolled this term are as follows:—

Pre-Entrance	-	-	-	40
Entrance	-	-	-	30
Junior F. A.	-	-	-	14
Senior F. A.	-	-	-	14
Junior B. A.	-	-	-	3
Senior B. A.	-	-	-	4

— 105

Two left before the term was over, one to return to Victoria College, and the other to engage in teaching. Two others have been home sick for some weeks, but hope to return next term. This is a slight increase over the numbers at this time last year.

Boarding. There has been considerable complaint about the boarding department. Food stuffs have gone up in price, and labor is much dearer, so that the price charged for board does not meet the expense. Last year the expenses exceeded the income by several

hundred rupees, so that we are obliged to be more careful this year, and consequently the board is not so good. There is some thought of supplying a higher priced board for those willing to pay, commencing next term.

Lectures. We have had the pleasure of listening to three lectures this term, one on July 31d by Rev. J. F. Loba, D. D., on "Life and Progress in America" which was very interesting and listened to very attentively. The second was by Louis Williams Esq. B. A., Inspector of Schools in the Madras Presidency on "Christian and Hindu ideals of Life, compared and contrasted,"—a scholarly address which was well appreciated. The third was on the 24th August by N. Selvadurai Esq., Principal of Hindu College. He took for his subject Prof. Drummond's book on the "Natural Law in the Spiritual world" and gave us a careful *resume* of that book. These lectures were given under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A.

Prize Giving. The annual prize giving has been postponed until next term on account of the repairs going on in Otley Hall. We hope to have it early in the term.

Prize Winners:—

The list of those winning the events of Field Day are as follows :—

SENIORS.

High Jump.—N. Chelvadurai and K. Thuryappah.

Broad Jump.—K. Thuryappah and N. W. Sanders.

Three hundred yard Dash.—J. K. Kanapathipillai and S. Ponnampalam.

Hurdles.—N. Chelvadurai and N. W. Sanders.

Putting the Shot.—T. Sinnatamby and K. Thuryappah.

Sack Race.—N. Chelvadurai and N. Kandasamy.

JUNIORS

One hundred yard Dash.—J. V. Arulampalam and R. A. Fitch.

Lime and Bucket.—J. V. Arulampalam and A. Muttukumarasamy.

Egg and spoon.—T. Paramanather and S. Chinnathurai.

Three-Legged Race—P. Supramaniam and Nallatambiy Buel.

Obstacle Race.—J. P. Supramaniam and K. Visuvalingam.

Student Mission.

The second annual meeting of the Students Foreign Missionary Society took place at Batticotta on Wednesday the 10th July. There was a good audience present and the exercises passed off very pleasantly. The Corresponding Secretary read an interesting report of the work of the past year at Tondi, Mr. Sinnatamby's report failing to reach us in time owing to his not having been informed early enough.

The members of the Deputation were present and Dr. Barton was called upon as the first speaker. He brought greetings from the Society in America to this latest foreign missionary society. Rev. Edwin Fitch was the second speaker. He spoke on the subject "Our duty and privilege in doing mission work," and showed that it should be a delight for us to be co-workers with God.

Dr. Loba also spoke very briefly and then the society resolved itself into a business session. It was voted that officers should not serve more than two years at a time, but that they might be re-elected after the interval of a year. Rev. G. G. Brown, Mr. J. Appachippillai and Rev. C. M. Sanders were appointed a Nominating Committee to present names for officers, at the next annual meeting. It was urged also that efforts be made to increase the membership and to get them to pay their fees regularly.

The following officers were elected for the year 1901-02.

President—Rev. R. C. Hastings.

Vice-President—T. C. Changarapillai, Esq. J. P.

Cor. Secretary—Mr. A. K. Modr. Curtiss.

Rec. Secretary—Rev. Wm. Joseph.

Treasurer.—C. H. Cooke Esq.

Executive Committee.—The officers with Messrs W. E. Hitchcock, S. Veerakutty, Proctor S. P. Lawton and K. Kadirgamer.

Bishop Coplestone and Royal College.

At the annual Prize-giving at Royal College, Colombo, on the 8th inst. the Bishop of Colombo made an excellent speech, an extract from which we give our readers.

The Bishop is quoted as saying:—"Education is not for this life only but for that which is beyond, and of which this life is not al-

together separate but of which it is only the beginning. The second consideration is that education, rightly given and rightly received, was not for the individual only, or even primarily for the recipient but for the benefit of others; that he who is rightly educated, educates not only himself but those whom he shall serve. The motto of him who is truly educating himself is: "I am learning to serve"—that noble motto of our Prince of Wales, "I serve," to look forward and prepare himself for that life of usefulness, kindness and service to others. That is why we should be anxious to strengthen in our youth every power that we have, not that we may make money by it and that we may distinguish ourselves, but that we may be useful to our fellow men It makes it one of the most urgent of a young man's duties to look upon himself as an instrument which it is his duty to bring up to the highest perfection in order that he may perform the higher duty of serving in every way those amongst whom he has to live. Your capacities are the tools with which you have to work; and you are bound to bring these tools and instruments to perfection, and learn to use them rightly."

Alumni Notes.

[**Note.** All who have been connected with the College for at least one year are recognized as its Alumni.]

Mr. J. R. Duraisingham who proceeded to England as Gilchrist Scholar has won the only gold medal awarded for the past year by King's College, London. He has further added to his laurels by being elected an Associate of the same College.

Mr. H. H. Hoisington. has been awarded the Gilchrist scholarship, this year, in succession to Mr. J. R. Duraisingham.

Mr. C. H. Catheravelupillai has been promoted from Head Asst. Collector's Office, Pollachi, Coimbatore to act as Sub-Magistrate in the same district.

Mr. Thaliasingham Armstrong took the oaths of allegiance and office as an Advocate of the Island of Ceylon on the 30th May 1901 and is now practising in Colombo.

Mr. S. Saravanamuttu has passed the final L. M. S. and **Messrs. Daniel John and S. R. Williams** the Preliminary Scientific M. B. examinations of the Calcutta University.

Mr. Kanagasuntharam has given up Medicine and has taken to teaching. He is at present employed at Mallagam.

Mr. C. S. Ratnam has gone to Edinburgh to obtain British qualification.

Messrs. W. Sanders and K. Rajah have joined the Medical Colleges in Madras and **Mr. I. John**, Calcutta.

Messrs. S. Kulanthaivelu and V. Visuvalingam have passed examinations of the Secondary class in the Medical College Colombo. Mr. Visuvalingam is appointed Medical Asst. at Point Pedro.

Dr. Victor V. Ratnam has been transferred from the Kandy Hospital to the Convict Hospital in Colombo.

Mr. S. Sittampalam who is now practising as a Proctor in the District Court of Jaffna passed the Notary examination held in January last.

Mr G. A. Richards has been transferred from the Post Office at Anuradhapura to Newra Eliya.

Mr. S. Canagasabai has passed the Advocate's Intermediate examination very creditably and obtained a scholarship.

Mr. Wm John of the Canadian Mission College, Indore, came out successful in the last B. A. Examination of the Calcutta University.

Mr. J. S. Ampalam, Tamil Interpreter, Courts, Tanjong Malim, has been transferred to the Land office Taiping, Perak.

Mr. Louis Ponniah who passed the last B. A. examination from our College has been appointed teacher in the Eng. school at Trincomalee, under the Wesleyan Mission.

Messrs. E. C. Thuraiiah and K. Murugesu have passed the Surveyor's final examination of the Ceylon Technical College

Messrs. S. Arulampalam and K. Sabapathy have joined the newly started "Christian school" at Araly, as teachers.

Mr. V. Warren is reading for B. A. in St. John's College, Jaffna. He is teaching one or two classes as well.

Mr. D. C. McLelland has been transferred from Muthali-cuddah, Batticaloa to Puttoor.

Mr. V. M. John has been appointed Catechist at Yondi, under "The Jaffna Women's Foreign Mission Society."

Mr. Ephraim Joseph having given up his connection with the High school at Rangoon has proceeded to Kurnegalla, where he is engaged in private teaching.

Mr. James B. John B.A. severed his connection with the Canadian Mission, Indore and accepted an appointment in the Comptroller's office, Nagpure, Central India.

Mr. Chellaturai Solomon has joined the Wesleyan Mission Jaffna, as Musical Instructor and school visitor.

Mr. C. P. Guanamuttu came out successful in the last Telegraphic examination. He has been transferred to the Jaffna P.O.

Mr. Samuel Joseph has been promoted a third grade surveyor.

Mr. Joseph John has joined the Richmond College, Galle as one of its instructors.

Mr. Edwin Joseph has been transferred from the Trinity College, Kandy to the Girls' Eng. High School at Chundicully.

Messrs. P. Chinnatamby and Joseph A. Chinniah after a long absence in the Straits Settlements have come home, each on six months leave.

Messrs. V. Thuraiappah and C. A. Elampuranam died recently. Mr. Thuraiappah was connected with the Land Registrar's office, Jaffna.