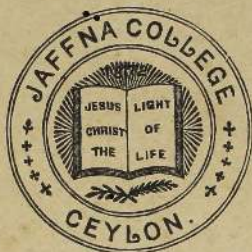


Jaffna College

MISCELLANY



Vol. XIX
No. 4

October, 1909

Price 50 Cts.
per annum

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Jaffna College

MISCELLANY

Published by
the Faculty and Students of Jaffna College,
Vadakkoddai, Ceylon.

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The Annual Prize-Giving

The annual prize-giving of the College came off on Friday evening, the 1st of October. Before the exercises began, the visitors had the pleasure of witnessing in the College Gymnasium a number of difficult gymnastic performances on parallel bars, horizontal bars, rings, trapeze and ladder. After this the public was entertained by an interesting and picturesque military drill in which a number of boys bearing flags of different nationalities under a commander and section officers marched down to the campus singing a spirited marching song. They went through various manoeuvres very gracefully. The spectators appreciated this novel show very much and were of opinion that nothing was lacking to make it a real military drill except arms and uniforms. These students were trained by sergeant MacInnes, who had hoped to be present at the time of this exhibition, but was unable to do so as he had to return to India earlier.

The prize-giving exercises began at 6.30 p. m. The hall was closely packed with ladies and gentlemen from various parts of Jaffna, and a number of people had to stand in the adjoining rooms. The devotional exercises were led by Rev. J. Thom-

son and Mr. Crossette of the St. John's College. Owing to the unavoidable absence of our veteran president, Sir William Twynam K. C. M. G., Professor Henry C. York, M. A. PH. D., took the chair and called upon the Principal to read his report, the full text of which we publish in this number. Mrs. York ably presided at the organ and after a song was sung by the College Glee-club, Mr. Alalasu-dram, a Senior B. A. student, delivered an interesting and practical oration on the subject "Education and Social Regeneration". Then a well-rendered recitation by S. W. Charles was followed by a Tamil Lyric by A. S. Mather, the prize winner at a singing contest. After a declamation by D. J. Hensman and a song by the Glee-club, a number of boys of the Senior Local class rendered the trial scene from the Pickwick papers. The Ceylon Patriot comments editorially on the performances of the students thus:—

"Songs, English and Tamil, Prize Oration, Recitation and Declamation, together with a Sham Court Performance, were next given by the students, which were all keenly appreciated. The Prize Oration delivered by Mr. Alalasu-dram was distinguished not only for the manner of its delivery but for its matter, which, while commending in the highest terms all the benefits which have accrued to the Tamils by their contact with Western civilization, condemned in the strongest terms their tendency to imitate unsuitable and harmful customs, manners and habits of life. Mr. Rajaratnam, who acted as defence Counsel in the Sham Court performance, did his part so well indeed that nothing better could be expected even of an experienced professional lawyer. We are glad to express the hope that he will distinguish himself in any forum if he should take up the Law."

The prizes were then distributed by Mrs. Hitchcock and after the singing of the College song, the chairman called upon Mr. Nevins Chelvadurai B. A., the Principal of the Hindu College, to address the meeting.

Mr. Chelvadurai expressed great pleasure in being given an opportunity to speak at an education-

al function before he left the peninsula. He was not altogether a stranger there as his late father had been educated in that very place and the name of Nevins must have been sounded frequently in that very hall; moreover the College premises had been among the most familiar scenes of his boyhood. He spoke in very high terms of the education given at the Batticotta Seminary, and thought that some of its graduates were among the most educated men he had ever met. This was due to a great extent to their being thoroughly grounded in the vernacular. He complained of the sad neglect of the vernacular on the part of the present day graduates, and asserted that no man could be regarded as having received a complete education, who had no acquaintance with the the literature of his mother tongue. He referred with admiration to Dr. Hoisington, the well known principal of the Seminary who had such a deep knowledge of the Tamil tongue, that he was able to translate treatises on Hindu Psychology and Logic into English. It was the duty of an educated man to make himself useful to the masses, and in order to do it he ought to be able to translate useful works in English into the vernacular. In the opinion of the speaker, the Jaffna College made a mistake in patronising the London examinations which were entirely unsuited to Ceylon boys, especially as there was no place for the vernacular in them. He would advise the continuance of the Madras examinations, although he deplored even there, according to new regulations, Tamil was not made compulsory and could be taken only with another language. Any way, he advised the authorities of the College to set an example to others in devoting at least one hour daily to the teaching of the vernacular, even if it was not a subject for examination. One of the pressing educational needs of the time was the lack of trained teachers. The time had been when students had been blamed for being stupid, but now teachers were taken to task for not knowing how to teach. He wished to see modern methods like the kindergarten, introduced into primary schools in order to train the faculty of observation among children. He expressed the hope that in the proposed Union College there would be a de-

partment for training teachers. As to the Union College, he felt that it was a 'consummation to be devoutly wished'. He gave this advice to the students, that they should cultivate intellectual honesty; that they should be true to their convictions and not be afraid to carry them out in their lives. He concluded by congratulating the College on the successful function of that day.

Dr. T. B. Scott M. D. was the next speaker. He began by observing humourously that his attention was so riveted on a succession of very interesting events from half past 4 till then, that he feared that he could not go to sleep that night. He complimented the prize orator on the sentiments expressed in his speech and hoped that he would put them into practice in his life. He felt sure that Jaffna College was fulfilling its high aims, if that was the way the students were taught to feel and think. However the essential thing, after all, was that the students should carry out into practice the ideals of which they were convinced while at College. He was afraid that there was more of talking and less of doing in this country. He then impressively urged upon the audience the necessity of the Jaffna people helping themselves in the matter of higher education and held up Mr. Supramaniam as an example of generosity and public spirit. The chief hindrance to the realisation of a Union College was the lack of funds. He then exhorted the boys to be grateful to their Alma Mater and not behave like a certain old boy who refused to pay back the money lent him by the College for his education, on the ground that his promissory note had been prescribed in law. The want of accommodation that evening was a sure proof that the College was so increasing in numbers that the hall had to be enlarged. He concluded by congratulating all concerned on the unprecedented number on the rolls of the College and the great progress the institution had made during the year.

Mr. T. H. Crossette M. A. was then called upon to represent the Alumni of the College. He congratulated the College on the remarkable progress made since the last prize-giving and on the successful function of that evening. One very noticeable

advance made since his student days in the College was that greater attention was paid to physical training. He was glad that parents too realised the importance of physical culture. He indicated his love for the College by saying that in matches between Jaffna College and St. John's, he was in a difficult position, as he wished Jaffna College to win, but could not see St. John's beaten. It was similar to deciding between one's mother and wife. He then spoke of the religious education imparted in the College, which had always been one of its unique features.

The principal thanked every one that had helped to make the function a successful one and voiced the sentiment of the gathering in expressing regret that Mr. N. Chelvadurai, who was for a long time associated prominently with the educational life of the peninsula, was about to leave it. The meeting was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

The prize winners are as follows:—

Class	Subject	Winners
B. A.	Oration	1. <i>Alalusundra m S.</i> 2. <i>Sabaratanam W. S.</i>
L. Intermediate and S. Local	Bible	1. <i>Chellappah, A. S.</i> 2. <i>Kanagaratnam, K.</i> 3. <i>Arumainayagam, T.</i>
Do.	Current events	1. <i>Rajanayagam, K.</i> <i>A. M. Thevathasan, }</i> <i>S. H. D. Selvamaniyam }</i> <i>Muttucumaru, S. }</i>
Do.	French	1. <i>Kanagaratnam, K.</i> 2. <i>Arumainayagam, T.</i> 3. <i>Nelson, S. N. }</i> <i>Rasanayagam, S. S. }</i>
L. I.	Mathematics	1. <i>Kanagaratnam, K.</i> 2. <i>Muttucumaru, S.</i>
S. L.	English	1. <i>Chellappah, A. S.</i> 2. <i>Thambynayagam, S. }</i> <i>Clarence, J. }</i>

J. Local	Latin	1. Kanagaratnam, S. 2. Duraisamy, C. 3. Charles, S. W.
Do.	English	1. George, S. I. 2. Vyttilinkam, K. 3. Veeravagu, K.) Nathanael, R. }
Do.	Declamation	1. Hensman, J. T. 2. Charles, S. W. 3. Kanagasundram, J.
Do.	Eng. reproduction	Arianayagam, S. R.
J. Local B.	Arithmetic	1. Vatharaniam, S. 2. Supramaniam, K. 3. Theagarajah, N.) Thamotheram, R. }
Do.	History & Geography	1. Vatharaniam, S. 2. Theagarajah, N. 3. Arumugam, S.
Preparatory	Scripture	1. Changarapillai, M. 2. Paul, C. 3. Nagaratnam, P. T.
	Character	Nelson, S. N.
	General Excellence	L.L. Kanagaratnam, K. S.L. Arianayagam, T. J.L. Charles, S. W.
	Tamil Singing	Mather, A. S.



The Principal's Report

October 1st, '09.

In looking over the record of the past year, it is difficult to say what has been the outstanding feature of the year's work. Owing to the recent action of the University of Madras, the College is passing

through a serious crisis, and it is still an open question as to how it will come out, whether with an impaired reputation or with added glory and prestige. On the whole, the indications throughout the year and especially at the present moment, are that Jaffna College is preparing to take a larger place in the intellectual life of Ceylon and to be more influential in the future than she has ever been in the past. In spite of difficulties, discouragements and failures, the year has been one of progress, though we face the future with many perplexing problems still unsolved.

• **I. The Staff.** In the staff we note a number of changes. A year ago Mr. J. V. Chelliah was absent at Calcutta on three month's leave preparing for his Master's Degree, and it is a pleasure to record his success as a matter for congratulation to the College as well as to Mr. Chelliah. In December, 1908, we suffered a severe loss by the withdrawal from our staff of a very valuable and efficient worker. Mr. J. K. Sinnatamby, B. A., resigned his post to take up the work of the pastorate at Pandeterripu. He has been connected with the College as teacher since 1895 except during a brief period of service in Tondi and in Madura. His service for the College was marked by a wholesome, manly, spiritual and moral tone, and he had a personal influence over the students which was quite unique. His leaving has been a distinct loss to the College, but we clearly recognize that he has gone to a larger field of service and we wish him success in his new work. He renews his direct connection with the College by being recently elected to the Directorate. In January Mr. L. S. Ponniah B. A., Head Master of Achevaley English School joined our staff. He is a graduate of the College and returns to give efficient service to his Alma Mater.

In February Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Fritts left for America after a very helpful service of three years. Their health compelled them to sever what was for them and for the College a very pleasant relationship. Recent letters from America bring the news that Mr. Fritts is now the Principal of a large school in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with eighteen assistant teach-

ers. I am sure that you all sincerely and gratefully appreciate his services for Jaffna and join with me in wishing him success in his new work.

Two other teachers have recently been added to our staff. Mr. S. R. Rajaratnam, B. A., who was Head Master in Vaddukkoddai High School came in May, and Mr. G. D. Thomas, who was teaching in Chetty Street High School, came in June. Both of these have added to the strength and efficiency of the staff.

During the year both Mrs. York and Mrs. Brown have rendered valuable assistance in teaching, and Mrs. Brown has had full charge of the Boarding department.

I cannot speak too strongly of my appreciation of the loyalty and faithfulness of the present corps of teachers. The success of any school depends not upon the character of its managers, nor of its equipment, nor its building, though all of these are important elements. But a school's main strength lies in its teaching staff, and in this respect Jaffna College is second to none.

II. Students. In comparing the register today with that of one year ago, I find that the enrolment at the time of our last Prize-giving was 104. Since that time 114 new students have been admitted, making 218 pupils who have been with us at least a part of the year. The highest enrolment at any one time was 181. These boys come from 44 villages, and from 20 different English Schools, including almost every school and College in the Jaffna Peninsula, Trinity College Kandy, and Wesley College, Colombo. This will give some indication of the breadth of our constituency. Of the whole number, 94 are Christians.

In this connection it is my sad duty to record the death of two of our students. Chellaturai Venasitamby, son of Mr. Edward Venasitamby, the Bible Society Colporteur at Manepay, in March went to Colombo to take the Postal and Telegraph Examination, and there contracted enteric fever. Returning home he died in the Hospital after a short illness. This was a very severe blow to his parents

whose hopes were centered in him. The other student was Daniel Periatamby, the son of Mr. Ezekiel Periatamby, Catechist at Elavalai. He had been in the College only a few weeks when he was taken ill with pneumonia and died at his home in Manepay. We extend to the parents of these boys our heartfelt sympathy.

Three others of our older boys have been restored to health after long and serious illness in the hospital. It is with deep thankfulness that we record their recovery.

Apart from these more serious cases, the health of the boys has been good, and the minor sicknesses have been no more than one would expect in so large a number.

III. Course of Study. Our course of study is one of the most serious problems in the present situation; and if I am not mistaken, it is a problem which confronts every ambitious school in Jaffna. The most popular courses are undoubtedly the Cambridge Locals in which we have large Senior and Junior classes. That the Cambridge Local course is adequate to meet the needs of Ceylon, I think, few efficient educators would venture to assert. But the undue value placed upon these examinations by the Governments of Ceylon and of the Straits have made them sought after by an increasing number of boys, and until these Governments change their attitude, we must make up our mind to meet the popular demand or fall behind in the race. But some ambitious boys are not content to stop with a Senior Local pass even with honors, and we are trying to meet the needs of these boys. We have maintained our B. A. class through the year, and will send five boys to Madras next month for their final examination. We have also been training a number of ambitious lads in the London Intermediate course. This we do because we feel that somehow Jaffna students should have an opportunity here at home to satisfy their laudable ambitions in seeking something better than secondary education. But here two serious questions meet us. First, which course, the London or the Madras, is most suited to Jaffna? Second, are we prepared to make the expen-

diture that will be needed to adequately meet the requirements of either? There is no doubt that in either case a large additional expenditure will be needed.

In our lower classes we have been contented with the course, of the code of the D. P. I. From Standard VI to the B. A. class we are bound by Government regulations and the resulting popular demand. In this slavery to codes and examinations it is pleasant to feel that in one course of study at least we are absolutely free. In our Theological course we are unfettered either by Government codes or, what would be still worse, by ecclesiastical domination.

IV. Examination Results. In December 1908, we presented 43 candidates for various public examinations. Briefly stated the results are as follows:—

Madras F. A.	presented	4.	Passed,	2.	50%.
Madras Matriculation,	"	4.	"	2.	50%.
Senior Local,	"	20.	"	10.	50%.
Junior Local,	"	15.	"	11.	73%.

At the coming examination we are prepared to present 31 for the Senior Local Examination and 26 for the Junior Local if they keep up their good record next term.

V. Gifts. It is a very great pleasure to report a substantial addition to the permanent funds of the College. M. Supramaniam Esq., of Vaddukodai, retired District Engineer, has made a generous gift of Rs. 1,000 for a Scholarship, to be known as the Supramaniam Valiammai Scholarship, designed to help needy boys in obtaining an education. Mr. Supramaniam has discovered a secret which, we cannot help wishing, were more generally known. That secret is just this: You can find no better investment for your money than in the training of some worthy boy who will become a strong leader in uplifting the country. And I think that this is a time for sincere congratulations; first for the College boys on having such a generous friend; and second, for Mr. Supramaniam on having discovered and acted upon such a valuable secret.

There is another gift which deserves notice, i. e., the new and handsome time-piece which adorns the north wall of the school-room. This is the gift of

S. Machado, Esq., the popular merchant of Jaffna. In the name of the College I cordially thank him.

VI. Athletics. The past year has seen great activity in the department of athletics. The Price cup competition in football and the Lawyers' Shield in cricket, have inspired the boys with great enthusiasm in their sports. We cannot boast of any great achievements, having won no special honors, except that of not having lost a single game of football in the last contest. Our goal line was not crossed once. Within our own borders we have been endeavouring to improve. The athletic field has been considerably enlarged by the removal of a number of trees. This has called forth protests on the part of some but the feeling that boys are of more value than trees has prevailed. The institution of military drill as a part of the regular gymnastic program has been a great help to the boys in teaching them order, precision and obedience. For this we have to thank Sergeant William McLane who spent some four months with us. During this time he also accomplished a great deal in superintending repairs and in putting much of our property into good shape.

VII. Religious Life. In reviewing the religious life of the school and comparing it with that of former years it will be noted that the gradual decrease in the numbers in the higher classes and the large influx of smaller boys into the lower classes, together make the problem of adequate religious instruction and Christian leadership somewhat different from what it was formerly. Although each class has its definite period of religious instruction, and the Y. M. C. A. is kept up with its usual services and various forms of activity, yet we feel that much more ought to be done and we hope to find the right way to do it. There is an earnest spirit of truth-seeking among the boys and there is much evidence of a normal, healthy growth in the life of the spirit. The moral tone of a school is always a difficult thing to estimate, but we have a large number of thoroughly good boys who exercise a strong wholesome influence. We have been very much blessed by special visits from Mr. Harte, Mr. Eddy and Mr. Larsen during the year. These men have won the confidence

of the students and have been very helpful to them. Eight boys have joined the church and others will join very soon.

One of the most important features of the year has been the opening of a theological class. In this class we attempt to make the work of the College minister directly to the needs of the church by supplying leaders. There are four students in this class and we are sure that we are giving them some teaching which will make them more efficient for having come to us.

VIII. Union College. I am sure you are expecting me to say something on the important subject of Union College. At our last Prize-giving, I expressed the ardent hope that within a year substantial progress would be made toward this end. In spite of much that is discouraging, I am convinced that substantial progress has been made. One very notable achievement at least has been accomplished. It is now agreed on all sides that if Jaffna College is to be a factor in the solution of the problem, Jaffna College itself must be the Union College. It was this fact that prompted me to speak as I did at the opening of this report in such hopeful terms of the future of the College. And now I will briefly record some important facts of the history of the past year and you may judge for yourselves whether or not the future for this movement is bright.

1. It has become increasingly clear that the American Board of Trustees for Jaffna College cordially and enthusiastically endorse the movement. Our Secretary has recently written that he hopes that no effort will be spared to unite the Christians of Jaffna in this undertaking.

2. The Wesleyan Mission has passed a most cordial resolution approving the general principle and have indicated their willingness to invest liberally in the movement.

3. The Church Mission have expressed themselves as sincerely in sympathy with the scheme and they have made it plain that they are willing to cordially cooperate, as far as lies in their power, in

solving the problem of higher education in Jaffna.

4. The American Mission have passed a very cordial resolution endorsing Union, and have definitely promised to cooperate with the other missions in any plan which will call out the support of all.

5. The Board of Directors have repeatedly endorsed the movement and are now actively engaged in trying to solve the problem.

6. An influential committee of 21 persons, representing all parties concerned, has been appointed to consider the whole problem. Much preliminary work has been done which cannot be recorded here. The field within which we may look for our solution has been considerably narrowed. Indeed we may say with very little reservation, that the whole problem has now resolved itself into one of finance. I am confident that in time this part of the problem will be solved, and that this Joint Committee will be able during the next few months to reach some substantial agreement which will satisfy all concerned.

Personally I am still very strongly of the opinion that for Jaffna there are only two courses open. The first is to be content with secondary schools. If this will not meet the needs of the people, and if they insist on having an institution for higher education, a union effort on the part of all seems to me to offer the only solution. And I believe that the eyes of the whole community are turned toward us today, looking to us for such action as will give to Jaffna the very best education that can be had.

IX. Our Needs. Our needs for the future development depend so largely upon the particular line which we follow that it is difficult to state them specifically. But one thing is certain. If higher education is to be placed on a firm footing it must appeal more and more to the patriotic pocket books of Jaffna, and there are two ways in which these patriotic treasuries must be tapped. First they must be turned more liberally into the tuition ac-

count. There is no doubt that the tuition fees charged by the English schools in Jaffna are ridiculously small, and parents of boys who are seeking the best possible education must be prepared to pay more liberally in the future than in the past. You cannot expect good milk if you starve your cow. Yet Jaffna has been expecting just that. Good education will more and more demand liberal support. And I may say at this point, that I intend to propose to the Directors a plan for gradually and automatically increasing fees for the next few years until they are more nearly adequate to the growing needs of the times.

Then, too, the owners of the patriotic purses must expect to be appealed to in another way. No school for higher education should be asked to depend on tuition fees and Government grants, and the time is fast coming when Jaffna cannot successfully appeal to England and America to supply her needs; and so of necessity, the burden of supplying adequate endowments must fall upon the people themselves. If we could somehow discover to about 100 men the secret which Mr. Supramaniam has learned, and if those 100 men would invest as liberally as he has done in the endowment of higher education, there would be little doubt about the future of education in Jaffna. And of course it need not be said that it will cost less to endow one good College than three competing schools.

X. Conclusion. In conclusion let me thank you all for having come here this evening to encourage us in our work. It would be impossible for us to continue long in any work without the support of friends who believe both in us and in our work. We believe that Jaffna College is possessed of large powers for the regeneration of this country. We believe that God has large plans for us. We believe that the Master is calling us into larger fellowship and service. But we can fulfill our destiny only through the cooperation of you who believe in us and love us and who love our common Lord.



The Annual Alumni Meeting

As usual, the annual meeting of the Alumni Association was held on the Prize-giving day, the 1st of October. The meeting began at 2.45 p. m., the Principal being in the chair. There were about 30 Alumni present besides visitors and College students. After a prayer by the chairman, the business part of the programme was gone through. Then a very interesting competition in Tamil singing among College students took place, the Alumni present acting as judges. Six competed and the prize was awarded to A. S. Mather. The prize this year was given by S. Tampapillay, Esq. B. A., Advocate, an alumnus of the College. Then S. G. Lee Esq., M. A., gave an address on 'Educational Reform.' The lecturer began by complaining of the awkward time of the meeting, of the hurry with which it was held, and the absence of a definite programme circulated among the members. He suggested that measures should be taken to get the alumni interested in the important questions of the day. After a reference to the establishment of the Batticotta Seminary and the Jaffna College as marking epochs in the history of education in the peninsula, he dwelt at length on what he thought the most urgent educational reform in Jaffna, viz., better salaries for teachers. He contrasted the lot of the Jaffna teacher with that of his brethren in South Ceylon and India, and said, that taking the circumstances into account, the latter were paid twice and thrice the amount paid to the former. The lecturer pointed out that it was a suicidal policy on the part of managers to pay inadequate salaries to teachers, as it would result in failing to attract the right kind of men into the teaching profession. Even capable men would be rendered inefficient if their salaries were too low to enable them to live comfortably, free from cares, and to allow them the time and convenience to keep up with the times by purchasing new books, magazines, etc. The salaries of teachers in Jaffna could be easily raised by raising the tuition fees in all schools. In the opinion of the lecturer this was not at all a

hardship to a large majority of students in Jaffna as the country was rapidly growing in prosperity. He spoke from his personal experience as manager and teacher in Colombo that he had known a number of Jaffna boys who had been paying from 20 to 40 Rs. per month for private tuition in addition to school-fees ranging from 10 to 15 Rs. Instead of laying the blame at the door of parents Mr. Lee thought the managers were responsible for the miserable salaries paid to teachers. He blamed especially the missionary managers who tried to keep down the salaries of competent educational men on a level with those paid to pastors and Mission Agents. This would only result in sacrificing the best interests of education by lowering its standard and filling the schools with men who took to teaching as a last resort. In order, then, to avoid other interests interfering with educational progress in Jaffna, the lecturer suggested that a United Protestant Educational body ought to be established.

Mr. Lee had to stop here for want of time hoping to continue his lecture on the subject at a special meeting which may be called in the near future.

In the election of officers which followed all the officers of the last year were re-elected for another year. Pastor William Joseph brought the meeting to a close with prayer.

After the meeting the members walked over to the Principal's house where Mr. and Mrs. Brown entertained them with cake and tea. At the conclusion of this reception, Dr. S. Gnanamuttu and S. Vytialingam, Esq. B. A., thanked the hosts, and Mr. Brown in responding said that he would like to see the name Alumni extended to every one that has gone through this institution, instead of limiting it to only a section as now. With a few humorous and helpful remarks by Dr. Scott the reception came to a close. Then the B. A. graduates of the college were photographed for the purpose of illustration, we understand, in the American Mission report.

Mr. M. Supramaniam

By S. Rajaratnam, B.A.

"The most instructive portion of history" observes Thomas Carlyle "is the biography of good men." If piety, charitable disposition, generous munificence towards public institutions, and purity of domestic, social and official life constitute goodness, then undoubtedly Mr. Muttucumaru Supramaniam, who forms the subject of this brief sketch, is a good man. He was born in 1843 at Vaddukkoddai. He belongs to a respectable and highly connected family whose ancestors held positions of trust and responsibility under the Dutch Government.

At eight he was sent to the vernacular school where he remained seven years. In those days the Department of Public Instruction was not brought into existence and the hidebound rules and regulations of the educational department did not circumscribe the scope of vernacular education. The teaching of classical and moral works in Tamil Literature constituted its main feature. Mr. Supramaniam in the most plastic period of his life had his mind so thoroughly saturated with the lofty and pure moral principles embodied in the works of Avai and Tiruvalluvar that they have helped him in no small measure to maintain a clean record in his long tenure of official responsibility.

In 1858 he joined the Vaddukkoddai English High school started in 1854 to compensate the loss which the public at large had sustained by the unfortunate and ill-advised abolition of the Batticotta Seminary. The people in those days, as many do now, set a commercial value upon education. It never occurred to them that the English language was a key to unlock the vast treasure house of up-to-date information on every field of human thought and activity. A knowledge of English was considered only a passport to Government service which was the goal of ambition of the lads then as it is now with many. Mr. Supramaniam was no exception to this

rule. He remained in the High school as long as it was necessary to acquire proficiency in the English language which would fit him for Government service.

At the instance of his brother, Mr. Atkinson Arunasalam he left school in 1862 with a view to prosecute his studies in one of the Colleges in Colombo. But owing to some untoward circumstances at home he had to abandon further studies and get into Government employment.

In 1863 he received his first appointment as second clerk in the Public Works Department with a monthly salary of twenty rupees. "Diligence in employment of less consequences is the most successful introduction to greater enterprises" has been his motto all along his life. The thoroughness and assiduity with which he discharged the humbler duties in his official career established his claims to higher appointments. Eminent and distinguished public servants such as MacBride, Ormsby and others have from time to time placed on record the splendid and invaluable services which Mr. Supramaniam rendered to the Government. Promotion came in due course. In 1871 he was appointed the Head Clerk of the Irrigation Department. Henceforth his career was one of unmingled sunshine and prosperity. In 1876 he was appointed Head Overseer. The indomitable perseverance, the unflinching devotion to duty and the thorough integrity which he displayed in the humbler walks of official life have again stood him in good stead and secured for him the confidence and esteem of the official superiors in his department. He was twice recommended to the post of Inspector of Works but without success. But Mr. Supramaniam was not a man to be discouraged. He waited for an occasion when he could with advantage point out his merits to the Government. The occasion did come. In 1884 the Rotawewa tank in the Eastern Province was under restoration. A highly qualified official was required to superintend the works, and when Mr. Smith, Provincial Engineer, Eastern Province, was called upon to recommend somebody, he reported to the Government that as the post was a

responsible one, the services of a highly qualified European should be secured and if such a man was not available he could not think of a better person than Mr. Supramaniam. At once Mr. Supramaniam was transferred to Batticaloa whence he memorialised His Excellency the Governor Sir Arthur Gordon (now Lord Stanmore) basing his claims on the text of Mr. Smith's report. His Excellency, with that sense of justice and fairness which are the characteristics of the English people, recognised the justice of his memorial and appointed him Inspector of Works in 1885. Three years later, he was raised to the rank of a District Engineer which is the goal of many an aspiring Ceylonese, who even after years of study and training in British universities and factories, find it hard to attain it. In 1893 he was promoted to a grade carrying Rs. 3000 and Rs. 1000 as allowance. A few months after this promotion, there was a serious breakdown of Mr. Supramaniam's health which necessitated his retirement on pension.

Mr. Supramaniam has been the architect of his own fortune. It will be highly instructive to all who expect one day or other to get into official harness, to know what is the secret of his success in life. He had not the training of a College nor the hall mark of a University. He had none of the high-sounding academic credentials which young men of the present day can boast of. Though extremely deferential to his superiors, he had none of the favour-winning arts of inferior men. But he was a man of prodigious industry and upright character and it is no wonder that such a man has well succeeded in life. By sheer force of merit and by hard and most unremitting toil he climbed the official ladder, rung by rung, until he reached the highest that was open to a Ceylonese in the Public Works Department. He is a living illustration of what industry and integrity can achieve in life.

This brief sketch of Mr. Supramaniam's life will not be complete without a word of our appreciation of Mrs. Supramaniam whose name partly adorns the scholarship founded by her husband. She has

been to him a veritable blessing during the 39 years of his wedded life. In prosperous Tamil families fortune is generally credited to the lady of the household. One can easily understand the force of the belief when one remembers that it is the unwearied toil and patience of the mistress of the household, her constancy under all trials, and her cheering smiles, that contribute more than wealth can do, to the happiness of the family. Mr. Supramaniam's domestic life has been one of exceptional felicity and it is solely due to his wife who has been to him Sri herself.

Mr. Supramaniam, though in the evening of his life, is yet in sound health and vigour enjoying his well-merited pension. He is an orthodox Hindu. In the charities and hospitalities enjoined on a Hindu he has never been wanting. His gifts on ceremonial and religious occasions, though very liberal, are not marked with indiscreet and indiscriminate waste of money. Above all he has crowned his charitable efforts by founding a scholarship known as "Supramaniam Valliammai Scholarship" in Jaffna College. It will be an invaluable help to the needy, intelligent students who seek higher English education. He has thus earned the undying gratitude of all who will be benefited by his scholarship. Posterity will cherish his name with grateful recollection as one who had done what he owes to it. Mr. Supramaniam's example is well worthy of imitation and emulation by the wealthy and well-to-do of the country.

May I not improve the occasion by making a direct appeal to the wealthy landlords, magnates and business men of our country to liberally open their purses and finance our Colleges whose sphere of usefulness is now circumscribed by lack of funds. Jaffna College, which has been the cradle of some of the most educated men in Jaffna, is handicapped from taking a yet more forward move in the educational activities of the country because she lacks funds. Would that our wealthy men realised the true educational situation of the country. The possession of money is a stewardship entailing solemn and

serious duties and responsibilities. It is a powerful instrument which the Divine Providence has placed in their hands to be used not for their own selfish and vain-glorious purposes but for the service of their fellow men. Where can they find a better investment of their money than in the education of the sons and daughters of the country who constitute its chief asset? I appeal to all wealthy people to generously endow our Colleges which are the moulding factories of the character and calibre of the young men who, a few years hence, will be the leaders of society. I trust I have not appealed in vain.



College Notes

—The past term has been one of steady work with little of note out of the regular routine.

—The annual inspection of the College by the Inspector of Schools, A. VanCuylenburg, Esq., was held August 17th, 18th and 19th. On the 18th, the Director of Public Instruction, J. Harward, Esq., favored us with a visit.

—Sept. 6th Sergeant McInnes left us, being summoned home to India by the severe illness of his wife. Notwithstanding his absence, his boys worked up the flag drill with great perseverance and gave a fine exhibition on Prize-Giving day with some sixty flags of all nations.

—The Junior Declamation Contest on Sept. 22, was of unusual interest, seven boys competing for the prizes. They all did well and reflected great credit on their teacher, Mrs. Brown. The College Faculty sat as judges and rendered decision as follows:—1st prize, D. J. Hensman; 2nd prize, S. W. Charles; 3rd prize, J. A. Kanasundram.

—As the year 1909 is the centenary of the birth

of many famous men, some of these, such as Gladstone, Lord Tenayson, Abraham Lincoln and others have been especially studied in the Rhetorical classes.

—Foot ball practice is in progress every morning and evening, and the team is gradually getting into form for the inter-collegiate contests.

—The Principal has been carefully revising the rules governing the students in the College with a view to having them re-printed.

—The faculty have been giving careful attention to the curriculum for 1910, and are preparing to make considerable change from the present course, which it is believed will strengthen the course and will make for broader education. A definite announcement will be made later.

—A. A. Ward, Esq. B. A., recently favored the College students with a lecture on Aviation. He spoke in a very clear and interesting manner upon this subject which is now-a-days so much "in the air."

Field Day

One of the chief events of the term was Field Day on the 27th August, under the auspices of the Athletic committee of the Y. M. C. A.

The afternoon was given up to various sports and athletic contests, and the evening to a social entertainment in Otley Hall.

The events of the afternoon's program included contests in running, broad jump, high jump, hurdle race, wheel-barrow race, sack races and tug of war.

The Senior Local class won the relay race and carried off the banner.

The evening program was enlivened by a number of musical selections and humorous speeches, and a committee of the boys served refreshments to

the entire assembly. Among the guests were the boys of the cricket team of St. John's College, and much regret was felt that the teams of St. Patrick and Central College were unable to be present.



Alumni Notes

• **Mr. K. Ariyanayagam**, Draughtsman, Straits Settlements, was married to Miss Thankammah Elyatamby, the 4th daughter of Pastor Elyatamby, in August.

Mr. Tambirajah Hudson has been appointed a teacher in the Vaddukoddai English High School.

• **Mr. J. Kanaganayagam**, who was a Clerk in the Police Department in Kandy is transferred to Nowaraliya Kacheri.

Mr. J. K. Chinnatamby B. A. was ordained at the Pandarippu Church on Tuesday the 4th of October.

Mr. S. M. Kandiah, teacher, Tellippalai Training Institution has passed the Notarial Preliminary Examination.

Mr. T. M. Devadason, Post Master, Siputek, Perak has come out successful in the "Senior Certificate Examination" of the F. M. S. Government.

Dr. K. Rajah, of the General Hospital Colombo has been transferred as House Surgeon, General Hospital, Kandy.

The Marriage of **Mr. T. M. Nathaneal** B. A., of St. Thomas College, with **Miss R. M. Alexander** took place on the 25th August at Christ Church, Jaffna.

Dr. S. Manickkam was married to Miss Achimuttoo Aki-lasa Odlar on the 26th August.

The marriage of **Mr. J. R. Mann** of the Government Store, Colombo with **Miss L. R. Aiyadurai** took place at Sangauai Church on the 18th August.

Mr. George Mather was married to **Miss A. R. Dana** at the Naval Church on the 18th inst.

Mr. N. Yesuthason B. A. was married to **Miss Alice Anke-tell** on the 29th July at Batticaloa.

• **Mr. A. Beadle**, Post master Pallai, has been transferred to Horonea.

Mr. C. P. Gnanamuttoo, Post master, Negombo, has been transferred to Kurnegalle.

Dr. E. V. Ratnam, F. R. C. S., has been elected a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Mr. K. Balasingam of the Metropolitan Bar was appointed to act as District Judge for a few days.

Mr. C. Culandaivale, Advocate, acted as Police Magistrate of Point Pedro for a few days in September.

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. K. Sivasampu of Mallagam, at his residence on the 23rd inst.

Mr. K. Kanapathipillai, of the Vaddukoddai English High-school and Mr. S. Arumugam of Vaddukoddai East English school have passed the Teacher's Certificate Examination.



Miscellany Receipts

James T. Tambiah Esq.	-	3.00
A. S. Coit Esq.	-	2.00
T. Rajakary Esq.	-	2.00
J. T. Paramanather Esq.	-	1.00
J. K. Chanmugam Esq. B.A.	-	1.00
J. S. Ampalam		.50

