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St. JOHN'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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No. 2.

JASMINES

Ah, these jasmines, those white jasmines!

*I seem to remember the first day when I filled
my hands with these jasmines, the white jasmines.*

*I have loved the sun-light, the sky and the
green earth.*

*I have heard the liquid murmur of the river
through the darkness of midnight.*

*Autumn sunsets have come to me at the bend
of a road in the lonely waste, like a bride rais-
ing her veil to accept her lover.*

*Yet my memory is still sweet with the first
white jasmines that I held in my hand when I
was a child.*

*Many a glad day has come in my life, and I
have laughed with merry makers on festival nights.*

*On grey mornings of rain I have crooned many
an idle song.*

*I have worn round my neck the evening wreath
of bakulas woven by the hand of love.*

*Yet my heart is sweet with the memory of the
first fresh jasmines that filled my hands when I
was a child.*

Tagore.



EDITORIALY

The presence of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Stanley at our Prize-Giving this year was a source of real inspiration to the school. His Excellency presided and gave away the prizes. In his speech His Excellency emphasised the necessity for the cultivation of a sense of proportion, and the need for guarding against loose thinking and looseness of expression. He exhorted the boys to learn to place the interests of their country and their fellowmen above those of the self. The honour of their old school, he said, lay in the hands of its boys, for by them the school was judged. The future destinies of the country too were in their hands for it was in their power, when they became men, to make their country better than it had been in the past.

* * * *

In the course of his speech the Governor referred to the late Mr. A. Canagaratnam. He said that Mr. Canagaratnam would be remembered by his friends and fellow citizens, and by the people of the south for his public spirited work, his geniality of temper and the high principles which actuated him in all that he did.

* * * *

The news of the death of the Hon. Mr. Canagaratnam came as a surprise to his friends and colleagues. Our College has lost in him a true friend and a distinguished Old Boy, and the country is the poorer for the services of a devoted servant and patriot. In Mr. Canagaratnam's life was exemplified the simplicity and severity of life that characterised our ancestors. As a true patriot who combined in himself simple living with a sturdy independence of mind he reminds us of the old Roman Patricians of the type of Cincinnatus. The circumstances of his death attest to his simple tastes and to the disciplined life he led, to the last syllable of recorded time. He was taken ill while attending to the watering of the plants in his garden, and the illness proved fatal.

He maintained a high standard of courtesy in all his dealings with the people whether rich or poor, and his accessibility enabled every member of his constituency to enjoy that sympathy and attention to which he is entitled from his elected representative in council.

The various tributes paid to the memory of the Hon. Mr. Canagaratnam by his colleagues and admirers state in unflinching terms his devotion to the service of his country, and the valuable talents which he employed in the most useful and unassuming manner possible for the good of his fellowmen. He was not a mere figure-head in Council. Though he spoke little he achieved more than many others entrusted with similar responsibilities. Whatever he said or did was marked with a soundness of judgement and a sense of proportion that was truly commendable.

As a Journalist, as the President of the Urban Council, as the representative of the people in the Legislative Council—he had won the confidence of the people and given back to them the best that he could have given. His life was truly gentle, and his memory worthy to be enshrined in the hearts of a grateful people. In a place where true greatness rears its head, if ever it does, with doubtful certainty it is no doubt a privilege to have had a man like Mr. Canagaratnam in whom were foundⁱⁿ many qualities that mark a truly great man.

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At the King's Birthday Inter-collegiate sports meet our young athletes acquitted themselves creditably. Manipal Hindu deserves our congratulations on their championship, and we take consolation in having obtained the second place. The cricket season has not yet come to a close. Our match against Jaffna college ended in an easy victory to us. As there are some more games to be played the details of the matches will appear in our next issue. The Inter-House cricket match-

es are in progress and the boys are looking forward to the finals.

Volley-ball has been in full swing this term. We congratulate the volley-ball team on the many successes it has already earned.

* * * *

In our last issue we have been omitting to welcome Mr. V. G. Canagaratnam, who returned to us at the beginning of this year after his course at the Government Training College. We hasten to do so now. We had missed the pleasant company and the kindly humour of Mr. Canagaratnam for two long years. We are all the more glad to have him back again with us as the G. T. C. seems to have added some spice to his wit, and, at the same time, instilled a greater love for his Profession.



COLLEGE NOTES

BY THE PRINCIPAL

The outstanding event of this term has been the visit of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Stanley on the occasion of the Prize-Giving. It must be many years since the Governor of Ceylon has been present on this occasion. The function was on all hands acknowledged a great success. It is a great boon to the schools of the Island to have a Governor so genuinely interested in education. Our only regret at the Prize-Giving was the fact that our Senior Cambridge results had fallen so far below our average of recent years. These results have been published since I wrote my last notes. Our disappointment is to some extent balanced by the unusual success of the Juniors, but I think that parents as well as boys and teachers should stop to think of what may

have hindered our success. I am coming strongly to feel that parents do not sufficiently realize the enormous damage done to a boy's work by absence from school. Illness is more or less unavoidable but absence through non-payment of fees or weddings or other social engagements could surely be reduced to practically nil, if parents could all realize the damage done.

We are grateful again to another Old Boy, Mr. E. A. Rajasingham, for the founding of another valuable prize. We feel it a suitable memorial to one of the best students we have had of recent years.

Amongst our other visitors this term we have had His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo and Mr. G. P. Wishard of the Colombo Central Y. M. C. A. We are grateful to both for the real interest shown and the help they have given us in different ways.

We were sorry to learn at the beginning of the term that Mr. D. S. Ratnathicam was to leave us at once, but our good wishes go with him for his Theological studies at Serampore. We are glad to have back two Old Boys on the Staff, Mr. D. C. Arulanandam and Mr. A. W. Rajasegaram, both of London Inter Examination standard.

The King's Birth-Day Sports are recorded elsewhere. The competition was keen though at the end we were beaten by a heavy margin.

An absolutely packed hall witnessed the performance of Julius Caesar on June the 15th. I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that it was the best performance we have had in the College Hall for many years past. It is seldom that actors have been heard so distinctly in every part of the hall. A full account appears elsewhere. The performance has resulted in a very useful addition to the College Extension funds. Our hearty congratulations and thanks to all who in any way contributed to its success!

Since I last wrote we have unexpectedly had taken from us one of our best known and most

highly respected Old Boys, the Hon: Mr. A. Canagaratnam. He was with us as a boy a comparatively short period and later received most of his education in India. He was nevertheless proud of St. John's and seldom missed any of our public functions. Sympathetic and courteous he showed, both in public and private life, a fairness and reasonableness of judgment and of action which commended him to all.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE BROTHERHOOD.

What I believe and trust will prove to have been an event of far-reaching importance this term is the formation of the College Brotherhood. An account of its history hitherto, its formal institution on the 1st July, and its basis, is given later in this number by the Secretary. The idea of the Brotherhood has arisen from the feeling some of us have that our fathers have done their part in the advance of the Kingdom of God but that we are falling short, though perhaps the part we have to play in our day and generation is even more important than was that of our fathers and than what that of our children may be. Ceylon is entering upon a new era of her history, and what Ceylon is in fifty years time will depend tremendously upon what we present-day members of the Christian Church are and stand for today. It is through people that God's Power goes forth. We invite all Old Boys who are able to accept the basis, to join us as we seek to make our contribution as a College to the future life of Ceylon.



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE BROTHERHOOD.

The idea of a Brotherhood was in the minds of a few for some time before its inception last year. In September last we met together and resolved to form a Brotherhood in connection with the

College. Since then we have met as often as we have been able for the purpose of corporate prayer and the study of problems that are of vital importance to us in our spiritual life. A service of inauguration was held in St. John's church by the Venerable the Arch-deacon of Jaffna on the 1st of July when 14 members formally joined the Brotherhood. Monday evening is the time fixed for the meetings and it is our endeavour to meet every week.

In joining the Brotherhood every member resolves:—

"To be constant in the habit of Bible reading, prayer and meditation.

By study and discussion with others, to make myself able to give a reason of the hope that is in me.

To pray and, as I have opportunity, to work for the extension of the Kingdom of God in Jaffna, in Ceylon, and throughout the world.

To strive, in the district in which I live, to follow the example of my Master who went about doing good.

To pray for the other members of the Brotherhood, and for my old College and for all who work therein.

The Brotherhood is intended to include all Old Boys of the College who have the ideals for which the Brotherhood stands at heart. We invite all such to join. Those who wish to do so please write to me for enrolment. A framed copy of the card of membership may be seen in the College library.

It is hoped that this Brotherhood will be a source of great power and inspiration not only to the College but also to the Church in Ceylon.

J. T. ARULANANTHAM,

Hony. Secy.

FRED'S LAST DREAM

If the noonday sun of Jaffna is a little too severe in its splendour her moonlight nights are fascinating beyond description. Jaffna is a bewitching elf-land on a clear moonlight-night. All the earth and sky appear to be wrapt up in celestial light. The white straight level roads stretch before you like silver pavements beneath the rays of the moon. The shadows of straggling trees falling upon them at intervals look like the sails of stately barges gliding along the waters of an enchanted vale. The meadows glisten and are most inviting to the eye.

It was during such moonlight-nights that Fred usually directed his steps towards the Dutch Fort in Jaffna. Fred was a young tender sensitive boy of 17. He had passed his London Matriculation when 16, but his poverty and ill-health had prevented him from continuing his studies any further. He was all alone in this world. He had none to help him but his old uncle and aunt who themselves led a hand-to-mouth existence. His father died when Fred was yet in his cradle, and his fond mother very dear to his heart—had left him ten months since on her heavenly pilgrimage. Fred felt himself very lonely indeed in this world. He often thought of his future and heaved a heavy sigh—for his uncle and aunt were old and would perhaps survive for another couple of years; and then he would be left all alone to fight his way in a land of strangers. He thought of the past and shed tears; for he remembered all that his mother had told him of their past opulence and position in the country. She had told him that her father was once a rich and a powerful man in Jaffna, much respected and honoured by the people; that his fathers, in turn, were once the rulers of the country, that their fathers in turn were the proud members of a race that had for years together—before many nations that had since become great—held sway over countries rich and great. These reflections

and the thought of the loss of his dear mother usually weighed heavily upon his mind during his moon-light tours to the Dutch Fort, that great monument of his forefathers.

Fred had a romantic and imaginative turn of mind. For his age he had read very widely indeed. Novels afforded him little pleasure. His favourite reading was History, Poetry, and Romance. He took delight in reciting aloud selections from Byron, Shelley, Wordsworth and Tennyson, at moments when he was alone, either under his favourite Banyan tree near his house or by the shores of the lagoon. His favourite poet however was Tennyson and he knew the 'In Memoriam' by heart. He often attempted to write verses; these were full of the pathos that characterized his life. He sometimes read his compositions when alone and shed tears.

The grandeur of the moonlight nights captivated his heart; and from these Fred snatched the only consolation and pleasure he cared for in his short sojourn in this world. It was on a clear moonlight night in March in the year 19—that Fred made his last march towards his favourite haunt.

The clock struck eleven in the neighbouring house. Fred gently rose from his bed and stepped out of his room into the enchanting flood of the moon's rays. The waters of the lagoon as they lashed amongst the weedy shores seemed to chant a touchingly sweet hymn. The fresh sea breeze played through his soft light-hair and Fred sauntered along meditatively towards the Fort. In the silence of the night while the whole town was wrapped in slumber this solitary figure moved along the Main street. Now and then beneath the shadow of some old Dutch house, Fred lingered a while. He gazed at the ancient massive buildings and felt his heart thrill at the thought that at least the self same shadow and the same moon above, remained there as true as they had appeared to his forefathers when they occupied it. And then he walked on.

The town clock struck as Fred entered the winding passage that leads to the main gate of the Fort. He emerged on the beautiful bridge that spans the ditch circumscribing the Fort. He looked around him and saw the hoary moss-covered walls that enclose that wonderful monument of human labour, rise before him in solemn grandeur. Right in front of him he could see the spire of that ancient house of worship of his fathers shoot into the sky, while the silent waters of the ditch heaved gently beneath his feet. Fred paused there awhile moved by the glory of the scene. Then he passed along the archway tunnel-like in appearance—unnoticed by the guard posted at the entrance. He glided along by the eastern side of the grand old church, climbed up a few steps and saw himself on the ramparts. He walked round and round the ramparts studying the history that every crevice and every stone of the building seemed to thrust before his eyes. He spent almost an hour thus.

At last weary and sad he sat down on the grass-covered ramparts directing his gaze towards the smoothly sailing moon and its attendant star. He gazed and gazed till his eyes became heavy with sleep. He was in spirit land. Faint shadows appeared to flit and glide before his eyes. They became clearer and clearer and gradually took the form of human beings. They wore strange garments and conversed with one another in a fantastic manner. There were children and parents, youths and maidens, old men and women, soldiers and officers among them, and they all began to group themselves in a strange order.—When lo two delicate hands seemed to clasp Fred in fond embrace. With a ghastly shriek Fred looked up to behold the face of his long-lost mother. "Mother," he cried out in fear, surprise and joy. "Oh mother, what can this be? Where am I?" But the spirit only kissed him three times in reply, and suddenly disappeared amidst the vast concourse of busy shadows.

Fred stood aghast for a while, and then ran in the direction in which the spirit that resembled his mother was seen to move. Ere long he stopped at the sight of a number of elderly-looking spirits sitting on the green turf in a ring, talking to one another with much gravity, apparently busy with something that lay in front of them. On approaching nearer Fred found something in the shape of a chess-board spread in front of them with a very large number of squares on it. There were strange figures on these squares, and they seemed to be charged with life. These figures on the chess-board seemed to look with pity and contempt on poor Fred—some smiled softly on him and others teased him. And at odd intervals the spirits that sat round the board stretched their hands all at the same time and seemed to shift these figures all over the chess-board at a terrific rate. Then they suddenly ceased and resumed their grave discourse. This bewildered Fred not a little. Meanwhile the grave spirits discerned him and with a frown disappeared. Fred moved on amazed, and after advancing a few steps, turned back to find the group there again.

But Fred's heart longed after that strange spirit which bore the likeness of his dead mother. And so he moved on. A still more curious sight puzzled him. He met a group of happy children—pretty girls and pretty boys—a few hundred in number—skipping and dancing round an elderly spirit. This spirit at first sight seemed to smile pleasantly, wave its hands and give directions to the children. The spirit had a golden ball, apparently very light, which he threw into the sky and all the children chased the flight of the ball with much mirth and jollity, and finally recovered it into the hands of this Captain Spirit. At other times the ball was rolled along the ground—and the tiny spirits leaped after it singing and laughing till at last they brought it back and deposited it in the hands of this Captain Spirit. It was indeed a heavenly sight, but Fred remembered the strange spirit and moved on.

Now Fred approached the spot where stood the gallows of olden times. There he found sitting nearly a dozen swarthy spirits with sad weird faces. They were conversing one with another mournfully. Some were even shedding tears. This was horrible to behold and Fred ran with all his might in another direction. Still the thought of that spirit goaded him on. The next thing that came on his way was a magnificent stage, lit with bright lamps and fitted with dazzling scenes. The curtain was lifted and on the stage were seen beautiful youths and maidens in glorious array. They were acting a mysterious play which Fred could not understand. There was a huge organ over which a winged spirit seemed to preside and many other musical instruments besides, handled by beautiful spirits in female attire. The actors spoke and sang and danced. They changed the expressions of their faces almost every second, and the countless thousands that were ranged in front of the stage appeared to enjoy and to understand the significance of the play. They clapped and applauded the actors. But Fred did not stay to see the end of it. He ran once more wildly at the thought of the strange spirit.

At a distance he perceived a shadowy form. It appeared to be the spirit of a woman. Thither he directed his steps. It was not the spirit that he sought for but the spirit of a young mother with a pretty child by her side. As he approached them he heard the child say in a plaintive tone, "Mother, Mother, when will Papa come?" "He'll be here soon" she replied, and both looked over the wall into the sea with great anxiety. A few seconds passed and the missing father arrived. And Fred's heart melted to see the three embracing one another fondly. "We have been waiting here for an hour, dear, and now it is time," said the young mother, and the three moved towards the church. Fred stood there awhile puzzled. Suddenly he heard a rustling sound as that of a mighty wind scattering a cloud of dead leaves about, and looked around to see a vast concourse

of spirits moving towards the church. The doors flew open and the spirits crowded into the building like a swarm of swallows. The organ pealed forth and the faces of the spirits were transformed with ecstasy and delight. Fred rolled his eyes from floor to ceiling to see if he could catch a glimpse of that mysterious spirit which resembled his long lost mother. There at last over the pulpit was seen his mother arm in arm with Fred's father singing with infinite pathos the song of the departed. Another moment, and he met the tender eyes of his mother looking down upon his face with a love that seemed to suck forth his soul. Once more there was darkness in the church, the music was heard no more and the echoes of the organ receded far into the distance to be lost amidst the moaning winds.

The moon glided softly on, and the solitary attendant star kept pace with her. Fred lay there pale under the moonlight sky. His dream was over, and his spirit too had left its clod to join its brother spirits. It was Fred's last dream.

S. J. G.



SOME BEAUTIFUL THINGS

That best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.

Wordsworth.

When I am dead, what I have felt so long
My soul shall know in clearer, purer light:
That where I loathed and hated I was wrong:
That where I loved and pitied I was right.

Arthur Guiterman.

If people do not know much do not laugh at them,
for every one of them knows something that you do not.

A Gipsy Proverb.

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest,
 whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure,
 whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of
 good report,
 if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise,
 think on these things.

Paul.

Though a man without money is poor, a man with
 nothing but money is poorer.

I would not change my invincible love of reading
 for all the treasures of India.

Edward Gibbon.

He who shall hurt the little wren
 Shall never be beloved by men

William Blake.

To live in the presence of great truths and eternal laws
 — that is what keeps a man patient when the world
 ignores him, and calm and unspolled when the world
 praises him.

Balzac.

He approaches nearest to the gods who knows how
 to be silent even when he is right.

Cato.

In the hum of the market there is money, but under
 the cherry tree there is rest.

Japanese Proverb.



THE COLLEGE PRIZE-GIVING

His Excellency the Governor presided at the
 Prize Giving which took place on the 8th of July
 at 6.30 p. m. His Excellency was received at the
 entrance to the College premises by Rev. H. Peto M. A.,
 the Principal. The Scouts, the Cubs and Cadets
 under the command of Lieutenant Ponnudurai formed
 a Guard of Honour. The cubs greeted H. E.
 with a lusty howl. The College hall, and the passage
 that led from the gate to the Hall were tastefully decor-
 ated. His Excellency was accompanied by Lady Stan-
 ley and was attended by Captain Holbech. A boy
 scout garlanded His Excellency, and another pre-
 sented Lady Stanley with a Chendu. Those ac-
 commodated on the platform along with His Ex-

cellency and Lady Stanley were Mrs. J. D. Brown, Mr. J. D. Brown, Rev. H. Peto, the Principal, Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambyah, Mr. H. S. Perera, Rev. J. R. Navaratnam and Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram. The hymn "O God our Help in ages past", was sung, and the College Chaplain offered a prayer. A welcome song to His Excellency and Lady Stanley was rendered in Tamil. Rev. H. Peto then presented his annual report. The following are some of the extracts from the conclusion of the report. "In conclusion may we be permitted to say that to your Excellency the people of Ceylon are today looking to guide them through the intricacies of the proposed constitutional reforms. It is a trite but true saying that all creeds and communities must contribute their quota to the future life of Ceylon. The Christian Church and Christian schools have therefore their definite part to play. In St. John's we feel the urgency of the duty to play this part well, but we realize that we shall only so play it in so far as we are true to the highest ideals for which the College stands. It is our heartfelt wish that those who go forth from this school shall not fail their country. To enable ourselves and Old Boys in some degree to give time to the ideals for which we stand, the St. John's College Brotherhood has been formed during the past few months. We invite Old Boys to join it and by loyalty to Him to whom our school motto refers as "the Light that shineth in darkness" to make their contribution to the life of Ceylon. His Excellency the Governor then distributed the prizes.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Addressing the gathering he said, that he thanked them for their kindness in allowing him to come over there. It was just one and a half years ago that his wife and he visited St. John's College on a rainy morning and saw the great work that was being done. He was glad to come back once again and be with them on one of the great days of the school year when the boys in the presence

of their parents and friends, come up to receive prizes. He wished to congratulate the prize winners and express the hope that their success would spur them on to further and greater efforts, so that when the time came for them to leave school they would distinguish themselves in life as they did at school. Among the names of eminent Old Boys of the College, there was one gentleman very well known to him. He referred to Mr. Canagaratnam. He was present that evening at another school in the foundation of which Mr. Canagaratnam had taken a prominent part. He (the speaker) had unveiled a picture of his there. He was sure Mr. Canagaratnam would be remembered not only by his friends and fellow citizens, but also by the people in the South for his public spirited work, his geniality of temper and the high principles which actuated him in all that he did. Continuing, His Excellency said that he could congratulate the school on the record of achievements read out in the report even though the school year was not pre-eminent in the roll of success in the Senior Cambridge. This was more than made up by the remarkably fine record by the Junior. A school should be judged not by the results of examinations but by the spirit that prevailed in the school. They should be proud of the fine spirit that existed in the school, a striking example of which was seen when he was greeted by the very fine Guard of Honour furnished by the Scouts, Cadets and the jolly little Wolf Cubs, who did howl with a commendable vigour. It was always a particular pleasure to him when he saw the authorities of a school combine interest in cadeting as well as scouting. Some Principals and Head Masters felt that if they started the Cadet movement, it would suffer if they had a scout troop as well. He had always told them that it was a mistake. They at St. John's had found it possible to have an excellent Cadet Corps along with a Scout troop. When he went to Diyatalawa last year he remembered seeing there an excellent detachment of cadets from St.

John's College. Before many weeks have passed he would go to Diyatalawa where he hoped to see a good detachment from St. John's, and it would give him very great pleasure to renew his acquaintance there. He had not come there to make a long speech. He had made so many speeches about education in the North that there was nothing new for him to say. There was one thing he would like to say to school boys there. While they were at school they should always bear in mind the high ideals and high principles which they imbibed there. And when they left school they should remember that the credit of the school lay in their hands. Their old school would be judged according to the manner in which the present and the past boys acquitted themselves. They should not bring any disgrace on themselves. That was a negative sort of quality. One should work for the credit of one's country, town or school. It was nobler to do something for the good of others and not for one's personal interests. One should not always ask oneself "Where do I come in?" What one should ask oneself should be, "What is the right thing to do?" That was the ideal they should always keep before them. It was easy to say but not quite so easy to practise. If they did not fully come up to these ideals they should hitch their chariot to the stars and aim at the highest and the best. Among the qualities which they had to practise was the cultivation of a sense of value, or a sense of proportion; and another was a sense of accuracy. There was a tendency in Ceylon for loose thinking and looseness of expression. Some people never paused to think before they jumped into speech or into print. They should take the trouble to think out clearly and express correctly. It was confused thinking that led to inaccurate statements. They should not be too much in a hurry to jump to conclusions. They should sit down, think and ponder over, before arriving at a conclusion. Should they have overlooked some

factor or some point vital to their conclusion they ought to take that into account before they endeavoured to form their opinion. Once they had satisfied themselves as to the correctness of their conclusion they should not be afraid of criticism. If they had made a mistake they should not hesitate to own it. True courage lay in admitting one's mistakes. It was easy to be the strong silent man and say "I withdraw nothing and say nothing". It was very much more difficult to say, "I am sorry, I made a mistake. I withdraw what I said". That required courage—real courage at the same time. On the playground they acquired physical courage. They should also endeavour to acquire moral courage. He wished to say a few words of advice as one who had seen a great deal of life and was getting on in years. They, the older people, built their hopes on the future generation. The destiny of the Island lay in their (boys') hands. It lay in their power to make Ceylon a better Island, than they found it. They inherited a great tradition and they should endeavour to make it worthy of posterity in all that made for the happiness and the contentment of the people. Whether they were to be leaders or the led they should approach the task in the spirit of true team work, playing for their own side and not playing for one's own hand. In conclusion His Excellency expressed the hope that they, the boys of St. John's, would add greater renown to the splendid traditions of the school in which they were being educated.

VOTE OF THANKS

Rev. Dr. Isaac Thambyah proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency. He said that he had been reading some howlers lately. The question was asked why Boston time was behind Greenwich time. The answer was because America was discovered later. The people of Jaffna were in the same position. The North was a bit further from the South and therefore very much delighted to have His Excellency from the South. A morn-

ing paper had been giving His Excellency a piece of advice as to His Excellency's duties and recreations. He was asked to eschew prize givings. He was glad to see that His Excellency had taken very little notice of it. His Excellency was the Governor of Education. He had by his utterances, would they were more—by his wise words of counsel to young people a claim to that title. It was very difficult to think how the Governor of the Colony working under trying conditions could find leisure to think of Education. He hoped that His Excellency would continue to regard Education as a matter of paramount importance.

Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram B. A. seconded the vote of thanks. He said it was a great privilege to have had His Excellency and Lady Stanley on that day which was perhaps the most important day in the school year. His Excellency had referred to the necessity for the cultivation of a sense of proportion, and pointed out that we should learn to place the interests of the country above the satisfaction of the self. They were the true marks of a gentleman. It was a tribute to the public school of England that British subjects in the out posts of the Empire could bear unqualified testimony to the sense of justice and fair play their old Boys have displayed in their administration and life in the Colonies. Public schools in England have aimed at producing gentlemen. St. John's too had striven for hundred years and more to plant that high English Public School ideal in the breasts of her boys, and it was indeed a real source of inspiration to them to have had in the person of His Excellency a distinguished product of Eton, admittedly, one of the finest Public schools of England.

Lady Stanley had won the sympathy and the affection of the people by the interest she had evinced in the charitable institutions of the Island. She was not only the most distinguished Lady in the country by virtue of her position, but she had established her claim to be ranked among the

foremost Ladies that had graced Queen's House by her amiable qualities.

The function came to a close with the singing of the English National Anthem. Three hearty cheers to His Excellency and Lady Stanley were called for by the Senior Prefect.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, 1929.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY, SIR HERBERT STANLEY,

Knight Commander of the most Distinguished order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon and its Dependencies.

May it please Your Excellency,

It is with very great pleasure that we welcome you and Lady Stanley to St. John's College today. We are deeply conscious of the great honour you have conferred upon us by acceding to our request that you should be present at our Prize-Giving. We still have most grateful recollections of the kindly interest Your Excellency and Lady Stanley evinced in even the details of our College work when you paid us your first visit in December, 1927, an interest still further evidenced a few weeks later when we received Your Excellency's handsome gift for the College Library. Our welcome to you today is the warmer for the thought that you are members of the same Church to which it is our privilege to belong.

As it is the first time that Your Excellency has been present at this our chief College function of the year, it may not be out of place briefly to refer to our past history. St. John's College was founded by the Church Missionary Society in March, 1823, five years after the pioneer missionaries of the Society first came to Ceylon. It

began with seven boys as an English Seminary for higher education in the bungalow of the Rev: Joseph Knight at Nallar. In 1824 the number had increased to 13, and in 1825 there were 40 boys. In 1841 the English Seminary was transferred here to Chundikuli. The first instance on record of the Seminary's success in a public examination is in 1867, when the only two candidates who were successful in the Matriculation examination of the Madras University from Jaffna were both pupils of the Chundikuli Seminary. In 1885, for the first time, the Seminary presented 4 boys for the Cambridge University examinations. All four of them passed. In 1891 the School celebrated the completion of 50 years' work in Chundikuli; when to mark the occasion, it was given its present name, St. John's College. Five years ago, in 1924, we celebrated the completion of our centenary. We are the elder though perhaps less distinguished sister of the only other secondary school for boys founded by the Church Missionary Society in the Island- Trinity College, Kandy-, and we have the distinction of being the oldest college in connection with the Church of England in Ceylon. We are proud of a long succession of old Boys who have faithfully served their day and generation. To go no further back than the last decade, few schools have had sons more distinguished or more highly regarded than the late Mr. C. Suntheram, I. S. O., Chief Appraiser, H. M. Customs, Judge William Wadsworth of Colombo and Jaffna, Dr. Vairakiam, prominent in the Colombo Medical world, Mr. J. A. Muthuvaloe, late Chief Audit Examiner, and the Hon. Mr. A. Canagaratnam.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

To turn to the review of the past year, our only note of regret today is that the Prize-giving which is so notably marked by Your Excellency's visit is not also marked by a correspondingly distinguished record of academical achievement. Ceylon school-masters, like Ceylon tea and rubber merchants, must, it seems, have their lean as well

as their fat years. In the Senior Cambridge School Certificate examination results it has been a lean year, the worst of recent years; there was a rather unaccountable collapse in Mathematics and Chemistry, subjects which for years have been consistently well done. But the Junior Cambridge School Certificate results have, even in the same year, provided the fatness: 72.9 per cent is a higher standard of success than we have reached for many years. Only two schools in the Island had more boys in the Junior Cambridge *Honours* list, and they are both schools with many more boys upon their rolls. We take serious account of our failure, but are full of hope for the future. Two boys have passed in the first division and three in the second division of the E. S. L. C. examination. An old boy who obtained Honours in the Cambridge Junior examination here, has crowned a successful course at the University College by winning the Government Agricultural Scholarship to England.

NUMBER ON THE ROLL.

The number on the roll has remained constant, rather above our maximum of 500. We have therefore been able to adhere strictly to our rule—one of the secrets we believe of good school tone—of taking no new boys over fifteen. Exceptions have been rare, though often asked for. We have added a fifth to our, previously four, boarding houses. About twenty five to thirty boys seems an ideal number for each boarding house master^s to have charge of.

STAFF

There have been as usual a few changes upon the Staff. Mr. S. G. Arulanandam has been appointed to the Headmastership of Baddegama English school. Mr. M. V. Seevaratnam has been appointed an Assistant Inspector of Vernacular Schools. Mr. V. Arumainayagam has retired after some 35 years' teaching service to enjoy a well-

earned rest. Miss R. P. Thevasagayam has been appointed Headmistress of Chundikuli Vernacular School. Miss F. N. Santiago has joined the Staff of our neighbouring Girls' College. We would warmly thank them all for good work done. In their place we have been glad to welcome the Rev. J. R. Navaratnam, Mr. D. S. Ratnathicam and Mr. M. S. Thambithurai, all Old Boys; Mr. V. C. Canagaratnam, who returns to us from the Government Training College; Mr. K. Subramaniam, our new Tamil pundit; and Mr. S. P. Navaratnam, who reinforces the Office Staff. Mr. J. C. Handy, after receiving appointment to a "Special Post" in the College Staff, has been fortunate enough to obtain the Director's study leave to England, and we hope next year to welcome him back with his London degree and a diploma in Education from a London Training College. Dr. Isaac Tambyah has not only most kindly continued to give us much appreciated help in sixth form Scripture teaching but has also again found time to enter into our many-sided College life. It makes all the difference to us to have such happy cooperation between the Parish and College, and we would again express to him our grateful thanks for what he has done. It may be interesting to note that we have now upon the teaching Staff no less than thirteen men of first class teaching qualifications, i. e., graduates or trained teachers, compared with five when I came to Jaffna in 1920. This is probably more or less paralleled in other schools in Jaffna. Should not parents then be *willing* to pay at least double the fees?

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

The Christian Union and Social Service Union have continued to be sources of inward inspiration and outward service. The recent formation of study circles shows that the members mean business.

The Cadets have maintained their reputation for enthusiasm and efficiency, and there is a goodly number of recruits awaiting enrolment. Both mast-

ers-in-charge are to be congratulated upon receiving their commissions as officers of the Ceylon Cadet Battalion. The Scouts and Rovers have done steady work throughout the year, and Your Excellency and Lady Stanley have today witnessed the fact that the Wolf Cubs are no less lusty than of old.

GAMES AND ATHLETIC SPORTS

In Inter-Collegiate football last season we won two out of five matches.

Cricket in Jaffna continues to be at a low ebb, and we have only three other colleges to play. Within the School however there has been a keen spirit and the batting standard of our Eleven last term was quite good on the whole.

In the King's Birthday Inter-Collegiate Sports, in which practically all the colleges do take part, we were placed second this year.

After some 2 years experience of eight Houses instead of four we have decided to go back to the four House system. The object of the eight divisions was that a House Master, with about sixty boys, might give all the members of his House individual attention. We have found, however, that eight divisions with just one or two really athletic senior boys in each House has spoilt the House matches to some extent. It is difficult also for parents and friends to bear in mind the names, captains, etc, of so many Houses. The House spirit has, therefore, to some extent suffered. We have, therefore, reverted to the four original Houses, each of the four taking back those who left it. In order that individual attention may none the less be possible for every boy in the School, the Houses are now divided into Senior and Junior Sections, the divisions being above and below the age of 15. There are to be regular House competitions among the juniors as well as among the seniors of the Houses. The added enthusiasm at our Inter-House Sports last term fully justified, we felt, this change back to the old system.

EQUIPMENT

Last year I reported considerable advance in the installation of a new gas-making machine in the Science Laboratory, and the provision of really satisfactory study hall accommodation and lighting. This year therefore we have had to hold our hand. We have, however, been able to set apart one of the largest and best rooms for the College Library and Reading Room. The number of periodicals has been fully doubled, and since Your Excellency's kind gift to the Library of a year and a half ago no less than 650 books have been added to the College Library. Two-thirds of these have been the gift of Old Boys. Whilst thanking those who have made these gifts, I should like also to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. E. A. Rajasingham for the founding of a valuable prize to benefit the boy who heads the list in the Junior Cambridge examination. The prize is founded in memory of a brother, E. J. Rajeindram, one of the brightest of our students of recent years, who passed almost from our midst only a few months ago.

OLD BOYS.

The following are among the honours and successes recently won:-

S. J. Gunasegaram B. A., London, with Second Class Honours in Philosophy.

A. V. Richards, B. SC., London, and Winner of Government Agricultural Scholarship to England.

J. M. Singanayagam, B. D. Serampore.

Dr. S. N. Chelliah, Medical Officer, Madulsima.

S. G. Arulanandham, Headmaster, Baddegama English School.

A. Rajeindram and *C. R. Anketell*, Inter-Science Examination, London.

S. G. Arulanandham and *E. J. Rajeindram*, Inter-Arts Examination, London

Dr. S. Thampipillai, Judicial Medical Officer, Jaffna.

J. B. Ariyanayagam and E. J. Rajaratnan, Promotion to Class I of the Government Clerical Service.

T. S. Kanagaratnam and R. Emerson, Proctors' Final Examination.

V. Ponnuchamy, Inspector of Cooperative Societies.

C. Mailvaganam, Final Examination of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain.

E. J. R. Perinpanayagam, Inspector of Telegraphs, F. M. S.

E. C. Thambyrajah, Assistant Reforestation Officer, Forestry Department, Ceylon.

J. A. J. Tisseverasinghe, Nominated Member and a Vice President of the Jaffna Urban District Council.

S. Subramaniam, Promotion to Grade I, Government Clerical Service.

S. Segarajasingham, Principal, Anderson College, Colombo.

Dr. A. N. Coomarasamy, Promotion to First Grade in the Medical Department.

A. J. R. Vethavanam, B. A., Lecturer, Government Training College, Government Scholarship to England.

J. W. A. Arulpragasam, B. A., Vice Principal, Jaffna Central College.

JULIUS CAESAR.

Most of our friends present today witnessed the play in this hall three weeks ago. We are grateful to them for their kind appreciation of our effort and are glad to inform them that the proceeds have meant a substantial addition to our Extension Fund. In a few minutes they will find that Julius Caesar is mighty yet, and that the spirit of the play is still walking abroad.

It is always a pleasure to the Principal of a school to take the public opportunity afforded by the annual Prize-Giving of expressing his own thanks and the thanks of the School to the Staff for the work done during the year. Parents are often more critical than appreciative of what we try to do for their boys; and there must inevitably be sometimes a danger of the Principal adopting a similar attitude towards his colleagues on the Staff. The members of St. John's College Staff do not work for praise or thanks, but that does not mean that parents, boys, or myself should not give it when due. I want therefore to take this annual opportunity of expressing the thanks of the School and of myself, and if I may, of the parents, for the ungrudging and devoted work the Teaching and Office Staffs have done throughout the year.

In conclusion may we be permitted to say that to Your Excellency the people of Ceylon are to-day looking to guide them through the intricacies of the proposed constitutional reforms. It is a trite but true saying that all creeds and communities must contribute their quota to the future life of Ceylon. The Christian Church and Christian schools have therefore their definite part to play. In St. John's we feel the urgency of the duty to play this part well, but we realize that we shall only so play it in so far as we are true to the highest ideals for which the College stands. It is our heartfelt wish that those who go forth from this School shall not fail their country. To enable ourselves and our Old Boys in some degree to live true to the ideals for which we stand, the St. John's College Brotherhood has been formed during the past few months. We invite Old Boys to join it and, by loyalty to him to Whom our School motto refers as "the Light that shineth in darkness" to make their contribution to the life of Ceylon.



PRIZE-WINNERS

CLASS.	SUBJECT.	WINNERS
L. I Y. C.	Scripture. Class Prize.	Thambyrajah C. Nagalingam R.
U. I Y. C.	Scripture. Class Prize.	Navaratnam S. E. Nalliah A.
I Y. A.	Scripture. Class Prize.	Lawrence I. C. Veerasingham M.
I Y. B.	Scripture. Class Prize.	Ambalavanar M. Subramaniam R.
2 Y. A.	Scripture. Class Prize.	Thuraisamy S. Ponnudurai S.
2 Y B.	Scripture. Class Prize.	Samuel V. Samuel V.
Form I A.	Scripture. Form Prize.	Ponnampalam R. Vythilingam K.
Form. I B.	Scripture. Form Prize.	Vethanayagam A. V. A. Vethanayagam A. V. A.
Form II A.	Scripture. Form Prize.	Sivalingam S. K. Sivalingam S. K.
Form II B.	Scripture. Form Prize.	Lawrence A. R. Lawrence A. R.
Form II C.	Scripture. Form Prize.	Solomons D. Solomons D.
Form III.	Scripture. Form Prize.	Nathaniel C. Navaratnam A. R.
Remove Form.	Scripture (Tisseveera- singhe Prize) Form Prize.	Rajaratnam F. Manickam S. A.
E. S. L. C.	Scripture. Class Prize.	Manickavasagam P. Kumarasamy P.
Form IV.	Scripture. (Tisseveera- singhe Prize. Form Prize Scripture.	Thuraisingham R. T. Somasundaram P. S.
Prep: Cambridge Senior.	Scripture. Form Prize.	Arunasalam S. A. Sundramoorthy T.

Junior Cambridge Scripture. (C. B. Kuma- rakulasinghe. Prize) English. History. Tamil. Mathematics Chemistry. Physics.	1. Perera J. O. R. 2. Somasundaram P. S. Ratnavalu C. S. Nesadurai T. Kandiah S. Chinnarasa E. <i>dist.</i> Thambapillai B. A. <i>dist.</i> Chinnarasa E. <i>dist.</i> Chinnarasa E. <i>dist.</i>
Senior Cambridge Scripture. C. B. Kuma- rakulasinghe Prize) English. History. Tamil. Mathematics. Chemistry. (Sabapathy Prize)	1. Nesadurai T. 2. Allegacone C. Ariaratnam S. Daniel R. C. Sinnathamby C. Navaratnarajah E. C. Kathirasu S. Paramanathan C. Sinnathamby C.
Tamil.	SPECIAL PRIZES. Forms IV.
Nature Study.	Remove & III. Manicam S. A. Form II & I. Sivalingam S. K. 1st and 2nd Year. Karuppiyah M.
Drawing.	Form II. Sivalingam S. K. Upper School. Balasuriya A. Lower School. Singarajah P.
General Knowledge.	Forms VI & V. Arumynayakam, H. P. Forms IV, Remove & III. Jeyaratnam M. Forms II & I. Vythilingam. K. Lower School. Rajanayagam S.
Arulpragasam Gold Medal Reading.	for Oratory. To be awarded later. Forms IV & III. Gooneratne E. V. M. Forms II & I. Vanden Driesen T.

Recitation.	Forms IV & III.	Nathaniel C.
	Forms II & I.	Vanden Driesen T.
Thompson Prize,	(for 1st boy in Cambridge Senior Examination).	Sinnathamby C.
Rajeindram Prize.	(for 1st boy in Cambridge Junior Examination).	Chinnarasa E.
Cambridge Junior Honours.		Chinnarasa E. Nesathurai T. Ratnavalue C. S. Sabaratnam T. Thambapillai B. A.
Cambridge Senior Honours.		Sinnathamby C.
Handy Gold Medal	for General Excellence Not Awarded.	

CERTIFICATES

Elementary School Leaving Certificates.		Wilson J. D. Nathaniel D. S. Alfred C. M. Coomaraswamy T. Ethirweerasingam V.
Cambridge Junior Honours.	Chinnarasa E.	(with Distn. in Mathematics, Chemistry & Physics)
	Nesathurai T. Ratnavale C. S. Sabaratnam T. Thambapillai B. A.	(with Distn. in Mathematics)

Cambridge	Abdie N. R.
Junior	Sabaratnam I. M.
Passes.	Selladurai E.
	Allegacone S. D. A.
	Candappapillai T.
	Chelvanayagarasa S.
	Eliathamby V.
	Gunaretnam M.
	Kumarakulasinghe R. B.
	Nathaniel D. S.
	Ramasamy S.
	Ratnasingham M.
	Suppiah A.
	Thampoo C.
	Ianda M. M. T.
	Veluppillay S.
	Alfred C. M.
	Arumynayagam P.
	Charles S. A.
	Easperanantham P.
	Gnaniah S. J. S.
	Kandiah N.
	Mootatamby A. N.
	Navaratnam A. T.
	Rasiah S.
	Sandrasegaram R.
	Thambapillai R.
	Thiyagarajah M.
	Velupillai V.
	Wilson J. D.

Cambridge	
Senior	
Honours.	Sinnatamby C.

Cambridge	
Senior	
Passes.	Sivacuranathan S.
	Thambipillai S.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

1928	Football	Knight.
1929	Sports	Pargiter.

PRIZE DONORS, 1929.

Our grateful thanks are due to the following:

Mr.	A. S. Abraham,
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Dr.	I. Tambyah.
"	Thampipillai.
Mr.	J. A. J. Tisseverasinghe.
Miss	Twynam
"	M. M. D. Willis.

Old Boy, in grateful recollection of Rev.
Jacob Thompson's Principalship.
The Principal.

OLD BOYS' COLUMN

GENERAL

Mr. V. Thillanathan B. A. came first in the Advocate's Second Examination and was awarded a scholarship of Rs. 480.

Mr. M. Kanagasabai of the office of the General Manager of Railways has been appointed Probationary Divisional Transportation Superintendent.

Mr. A. P. Selvaratnam who passed out recently from the Bombay Veterinary School has taken up work in the Veterinary Department of the Colombo Municipality.

Mr. V. Sathasivampillai has been appointed Station Master, Jaffna.

Mr. D. R. Gunasegaram has been appointed Head Clerk of the Chilaw District Court.

Mr. D. S. Abraham, Play Ground Instructor Colombo Municipality, has returned from Madras after a course of Physical Training.

Mr. T. P. Bonney has joined the Staff of the Tinnevely Agricultural School Jaffna.

Mr. C. W. Chellappah has been appointed Editor of the Malayan Review, F. M. S.

Mr. A. Sanmugam of the Mannar Kachcheri has been appointed Adigar of the Mannar District.

Mr. William A. Mather late Broker of *Messrs Thompson Tetley & Co.* Colombo, has been appointed Chief Broker of *Messrs Shaw Wallace & Co.* Colombo.

Messrs S. Arunachalam, C. Muttiah A. S. Ramathan and K. M. Thambiah have joined the Staff of Stanley School, Jaffna.

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following on their recent marriages.

Dr. S. Kanagalingam L. B. C. P. & S. with *Srimathi Mahesvary*.

Mr. S. A. Wijeyanayagam, Asst. Shroff Badulla Kachecheri with *Srimathi Swarnawathy Ammal* daughter of *Mr. V. Saravanamuttu*, Interpreter Mudaliyar, District Court, Jaffna.

Mr. M. Sandirasekaram with *Miss Visaladchy Chelappah*, daughter of the Maniagar of Valigamam East.

Mr. B. E. Williams Jehoratnam of Wesley College, Colombo, with *Miss Lily Sinnathamby*.

Mr. R. N. Nesaratnam Niles with *Miss Rose Ellen Amirthammah Walton* of Pt. Pedro.

Mr. A. Sivasambo with *Miss Annaratnam Rajaratnam*.

ENGAGEMENT

Dr. E. Ariam Lawrence, Medical Officer, Delft, with *Miss Jessie T. Mather* third daughter of *Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mather*

STAFF NEWS

We welcome to our Staff *Mr. A. W. Rajasekaram* who returns to us after a two years course at the University College, Colombo.

Our congratulations to *Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Arulanandam* on the birth of a daughter.



IN MEMORIAM

A. CANAGARATNAM M. L. C.

Born. 10th April 1871.

Died. 30th May 1929.



VALETE

Ariaratnam A. S.

Pargiter House.
Joined 1918.
Junior 1925.
Secretary B U. 1827.
Senior Form 1928.

Chinnappah S.

Pargiter House.
Joined 1927.
Senior (Honours) 1928.
College Monitor 1928.
Thompson Prize 1929.

Daniel R. C.

Johnstone House
Joined 1925.
Prefect 1926.
Senior Prefect 1928.
Secretary L. A. 1927-28.
Senior Form 1928.

- Kathiresapillai S.* Johnstone House
Joined 1926.
Senior Form 1928.
- Maurice G. S.* Johnstone House.
Joined 1919.
Junior 1-25.
Senior Patrol Leader, Scouts.
Senior Form 1928.
- Muthiah E.* Thompson House.
Junior 1926.
Senior Form 1928.
- Nadarajah K.* Johnstone House.
Joined 1916.
Junior 1925.
Football Captain 1928.
Athletic Captain 1928.
Football, Cricket, and Athletic
Colours.
House Captain 1928.
Corporal, Cadet Corps.
Senior Form 1928.
- Navaratnara-
jah E. C. A.* Thompson House.
Joined 1921.
Junior 1925.
Eng. Editor "The Eaglet" 1928.
Senior Form 1928.
- Paramanathan K.* Thompson House.
Joined 1921.
Junior 1926.
Senior Form 1928.
- Ramanathan R. K.* Johnstone House.
Joined 1927.
College Monitor 1928.
Senior Form 1928.
- Sivagurunather* Thompson House.
Joined 1917.

Junior 1926.

Senior 1928.

Thambipillai S.

Johnstone House.

Joined 1924.

Junior 1926.

Tamil Editor B. U.

College Monitor 1927.

Senior 1928.



MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Annual Subscription of Rs. 2. for 1929 from the following:—

- Mr. D. T. Coonanayagam
- „ K. Murugesu
- „ M. R. M. Jebaratnam
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 Mr. A. Ramasamy
 „ G. A. Ratnavarather

- Mr. N. Rajaratnam
 „ K. P. Raju
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 „ S. P. Solomons
 „ K. K. Sinniah
 „ J. Sathiyathan
 „ S. M. Thambyrajah
 „ W. A. Vanden Driesen
 „ H. K. Vanden Driesen
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 „ F. A. Jeyarajrsingham
 „ J. N. Samuel

J. T. SOLOMONS
 Asst. Treasurer.



"JULIUS CAESAR"

(BY ONE WHO WAS PRESENT.)

The staging of a Shakespearean play has almost become an Annual event in our College. The 15th of June was looked forward to with great expectation by the masters as well as the boys, not to speak of the public who have had some taste of dramatic performances in the past.

The arrangement of the hall was so very satisfactory that the Government Agent is said to have expressed his appreciation of it in pleasing terms. Almost everyone who came into the hall must have been struck by it too. And on the whole the play was a great success from start to finish.

The play commenced at 8.30 p. m. The chief actors appeared on the stage in the very first scenes.

Caesar was indeed majestic and his gait and general deportment proclaimed to the world that he was "more dangerous than danger itself", and reminded one constantly of his eternal boast that he was "almighty Caesar." This feeling of almightiness and majesty reached its climax in the murder scene where the petitioners were simply spurned off with his foot and overawed by a mere nod of his head. The nemesis soon followed and dramatically enough, but there was a touch of majesty even in his hour of death which was heightened by Antony's funeral orations.

Everyone felt that Brutus had made a pilgrimage to the stage from his favourite shrine, I mean from among his books, (and he has a good collection of them!!) and it is no wonder that this bookish philosopher and theorist fell an easy victim to the machinations of the shrewd and practical Cassius. Nevertheless he was able to impress the audience with the essential nobility of his general character and disposition.

Cassius his friend maintained a grim practicability about his lips, and he was very impressive throughout the play.

Antony, it may be said without much fear of contradiction or exaggeration, moved not only the citizens on the stage but even the calm and cultured audience to mutiny and rage by his natural gift of an eloquent tongue.

Almost all the actors did their parts quite well, and there was a universal chorus of praise for the high level of excellence reached. The Principal went to the extent of saying that it was the best play he had seen after he had come to St. John's College. I must not fail perhaps to observe that it was a huge success, financially.

I hope the reader will tolerate a few general reflections on the show. There is a feeling in some quarters, especially among ignorant persons, including some parents, that staging a play is all a mere waste and a "*tamash*." I wish to point out that it is not so.

On the other hand it is a splendid opportunity to draw forth the "latent dramatic talent" among the boys.

Some boys are slow of understanding, and the staging of a play can bring a vivid realisation and clear understanding to those, who are only able to take in more through the eye than through the ear who cannot understand things unless they are presented physically before their very eyes.

It is also an occasion for braving public opinion, and shaking off some inborn nervousness which some boys possess.

Considering all these advantages, it may be taken as an education in itself to stage a play of this kind, and the time and care devoted to it is not a waste, but a gain from many points of view.

Here is learning indeed of an effective kind without any of the restrictions and limitations of the unfortunate classroom which very often prevents a free flow of talent and which is sometimes death to real education.

P. I. M.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE SENIOR LITERARY ASSOCIATION (SECTION 1.)

That every member of the Association should be given every possible opportunity during the year, if not during the term, of cultivating the art of public speaking has been the constant desire of the President. To facilitate this the Association was split up into two divisions (A and B.) during the second term of last year. As a result of the division all the best speakers went over to the A division, and the B. division suffered for want of sufficient enthusiasm among its members. This term a sub-committee appointed by the general committee has effected a very even distribution of the speakers. Though the S. J. C. L. A. has been split up into two divisions yet it has in no way lost the enthusiasm which prevailed in the past.

This report goes to print when we have yet another month before us for the end of term. We are at present able to record seven meetings, one of which was a lecture on "Agriculture as a Vocation" by Mr. S. C. Gunaratnam, Head-master, Farm School, Tinnevely. We will not miss this opportunity of once more thanking Mr. Gunaratnam for his useful lecture. We blame him for being too short for we wish it had been longer.

Our silent members please remember that silence is golden in *all other places except* the Senior Literary Association. Please exercise your vocal organs and add to the enthusiasm at meetings.

F. E. R. VANNITAMBY.

Asst. Secretary.



S. J. C. L. A. SECTION 1.

DATE	BUSINESS	CHIEF SPEAKERS	OTHER SPEAKERS	RESULT
5th June.	<p><i>Extempore Speeches:—</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The C. M. S. Girls' College, Chundikuli, should be removed to a new site. 2. Drainage and water system should be introduced into Jaffna. 3. Women should be cut out from politics. 4. Cambridge Senior and Junior examinations should be boycotted. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. F. E. R. Vannitamby 2. S. R. Philipppiah 3. T. Rasiah 4. H. W. A. Nathaniel 	<p>A. Rajendram C. A. Allegacone C. M. Alfred T. Gopal Krishna S. J. Asbury</p>	—
12th June.	<p><i>English Debate:—</i></p> <p>The granting of honours does more harm than good.</p>	<p>Prop. M. Ratnasingham T. Thalayasingham E. Sinnarajah</p> <p>Opp. C. S. Ratnavalu S. C. J. Hensman C. A. Allegacone.</p>	—	lost.

S. J. C. L. A. SECTION 1

DATE	BUSINESS	CHIEF SPEAKERS	OTHER SPEAKERS	RESULT
19th June	Tamil Debate: பெருள் தம்புரல் கல்விச் செல்வநிலைத் தமன்னை உயர்த்து	<i>Prop.</i> V. Kumaraswamy K. Chinniah M. K. Wijasundram <i>Opp.</i> K. Saravanamuttu K. V. Mylvaganam A. Casipillai	S. C. J. Hensman V. Markandu V. Chelliah	lost
26th June	Lecture: Agriculture as a Vocation	Mr. S. C. Gunaratnam	T. Rasiah <i>Vote of thanks:</i> Proposed by A. Rajendram Seconded by S. J. Asbury.	

S. J. C. L. A. SECTION 1.

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DATE	BUSINESS	CHIEF SPEAKERS	OTHER SPEAKERS	RESULT
3rd July	<i>English Debate.</i> Erection of public monuments to great men should be encouraged.	<i>Prop.</i> K. T. Sunderamoorthy P. Selvarajah T. E. R. Vannitamby <i>Opp.</i> D. Nasadurai S. G. Jebaratnam A. K. Chelliah.	C. A. Allegaone	won
10th July.	<i>Tamil Debate:</i> தற்கால ஆங்கிலக்கல்விமுறை நம் பேண்ட்மனிதர்களுக்குத் தக்கதல்ல	<i>Prop.</i> A. Ratnasabapathy S. Vellupillai <i>Opp.</i> R. Sadasivam R. Sandrasegaram	V. Chellappah A. Ponnuthurai K. T. Suntharamoorthy	won
17th July.	<i>Extempore speeches:</i> 1. Indian Literature is far superior to English literature. 2. The College furniture should be improved 3. The Governor's power of certification is detrimental to the progress of the country. "life is a tale 4. Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing".	1. E. R. Vannitamby 2. J. R. M. Thambyiah 3. V. R. Nathaniel 4. C. A. Allegaone.	E. R. Vannitamby S. R. Philipiah	—

S. J. C. L. A. SECTION II.

DATE	BUSINESS	CHIEF SPEAKERS	OTHER SPEAKERS	RESULT
12th June	<i>English Debate</i> :— The Granting of honours does more harm than good.	<i>Prop</i> :— 1. P. Daniel 2. N. Sabaratnasingham 3. S. D. Allegakoen <i>Opp</i> :— 1. T. Sangarappillai 2. Jesudason 3. Gopal Krishna	T. Rasiah A. Rajaindram	Lost.
19th June.	<i>Tamil Debate</i> :— பொருள் செல்வம் கல்விச் செல்வத்திலும் மேன்மை உடைத்து.	<i>Prop</i> :— 1. K. Thamboo 2. T. Rasiah 3. A. Rajaindram <i>Opp</i> :— 1. S. Mahalingham 2. M. A. Nalliah 3. E. P. Easwaranandam	V. Kumarasamy S. S. Thuraisingham	Lost.

S. J. C. L. A. SECTION II

DATE	BUSINESS	CHIEF SPEAKERS	OTHER SPEAKERS	RESULT
3rd July.	<i>English Debate:—</i> Scientific Inventions have done more harm than good.	<i>Prop:</i> 1. A. M. D. Richards 2. E. P. Easwaranandham 3. C. B. Vandendriesen <i>Opp:</i> 1. Gopal Krishna 2. R. Thevathasan 3. T. M. Sabaratnam	P. Daniel A. Rajaindram C. M. Alfred	Won
10th July.	<i>English Debate:—</i> Single life is to be preferred to married life.	<i>Prop:</i> 1. J. R. Gnanapragasam 2. H. T. Nathaniel 3. S. D. Allegacone <i>Opp:</i> 1. H. W. A. Nathaniel 2. A. M. D. Richards 3. C. M. Alfred	Mr. S. Thambydurai T. Rasiah T. Gopal Krishna A. Rajaindram	Lost.

S. J. C. L. A. SECTION II

DATE	BUSINESS	CHIEF SPEAKERS	OTHER SPEAKERS	RESULT
17th July.	<i>Extempore Talks :</i> 1. Circus 2. Bernard Shaw 3. Chairs should take the place of benches in School furniture. 4. Corporal punishment in Schools. 5. Music.	1. R. R. Edwards. 2. T. Rasiah 3. D. C. Nathaniel 4. N. R. Abdi 5. E. J. Hensman	J. T. Jesudason GopalKrishna T. Rasiah A. Rajandram.	—

A. RAJANDRAM
Hony. Secy.

S. J. C. CHRISTIAN UNION

At the beginning of the Term we began Study Groups in place of the weekly meetings. The Groups are held every Friday evening, and judging from the large number of boys attending the Groups we are quite confident that it will be a great success.

By the time this report reaches the hands of our readers we shall have returned from our annual camp which is to be held at Mandativu. The general theme of the camp will be, "The Adventure of Christianity". Mr. G. P. Wishard of the Central Y. M. C. A. has very kindly consented to lead the camp, and we are very thankful to him.

The open-air preaching at Paria-Theru is carried on as usual under the leadership of our Chaplain. In this connection we would appeal to all the Christian boys who can sing Tamil lyrics, to join the Evangelistic Band, and help us at the meetings on Sunday evenings.

SAMUEL J. ASBURY,
Hony. Secretary.
S. J. C. C. U.



ROVER SCOUTS

We have at the moment sixteen Rovers, though only a minority of them have been enrolled as full members of the Troop. This is because one of the necessary tests to be passed is that of First Aid, and as this is an important subject we have not hurried over it; we have in fact been at it since almost the beginning of the year but

hope to finish it quite soon. No form of scouting is the real thing without a camp, and we have all felt the need of it badly. But every week end seems to be full with one thing or another: however we live in hopes.

A. J. E.



INTER COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC SPORTS

The Annual Inter Collegiate Athletic Sports were held at the Esplanade on June 3rd in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering.

Though some of our outstanding sportsmen like S. N. Dawson and K. Nadarajah had left school last term, the rest put up a good fight against the other six colleges, and we became an easy second to the Manipal Hindu College who specialise in this branch of College activity.

We did not fare very well at the jumps, but in the races Theagarajah and Kanagasabai very deservedly gained the admiration of the spectators.

The Tug-of-war was again done quite scientifically under the leadership of Gnanapiragasam, and we won both pulls though we were pitched against a very heavy team.

T. M. M.



VOLLEY BALL

On behalf of the Volley-ball team I wish, first of all, to thank our former captain A. V. Velupillai, who was mainly responsible for the coaching of the team.

Volley-ball was at one time regarded as an uninteresting game fit only for those who cannot play cricket or football. But those days have gone. The game has become interesting at St. John's, and we are glad to mention that some of the members of the College Volley-ball Team are also members of the College Cricket and Foot-ball Teams.

Although we have had volley-ball in the College for several years now, it was only this year that we had Inter-House matches in the same. Congratulations to Johnstone House on winning the House Championship last term.

- The following matches were played this year
1. Northern Province Govt. Service Sports Club—
Away—won (by 3 games to nil.)
 2. Chavakachcheri Volley-ball Club—Home—Draw
(2 all.)
 3. Hartley College— Away—Lost (0-3)
 4. Jaffna Central College—Home—Won (3-0)
 5. Manipay Hindu College—Home—won (3-0)

The last three were in connection with the Northern-Province Inter-Collegiate matches. There are three more matches of the series to be played before the end of this term.

N. KANDIAH,
(Captain).



“OUR DIARY”

- May 23rd. Trinity term commences.
 „ 24th. Camb. classes re-formed.
 June 1st. Heats; King's birthday sports.
 „ 3rd. Finals. Sports 2nd place. Tug-of-war
 champions.
 „ 15th. Masters and boys stage “Julius Caesar”
 „ 25th. Mr. S. C. Gunaretnam, Headmaster
 Farm School, Tinnevely, addresses the

Senior Literary Association on "Agriculture as a vocation".

Handy vs. Thompson (cricket)

Thompson wins.

„ 28th. Kumarakulasingham Scripture test.

July 1st. Mr. J. T. Arulanantham of the College Staff blessed with a daughter.

Rev. F. L. Beven, Archdeacon of Jaffna, addresses us at morning prayers.

„ 3rd. General Knowledge Test.

Johnstone vs. Pargiter (cricket).

Pargiter wins.

„ 5th. Hartley vs. St. John's Volley Ball match. Hartley wins.

„ 8th. Mr. D. C. Arulantham, rejoins the Staff. Prize Giving. Prizes distributed by the Governor, Sir Herbert Stanley.

„ 11th. The Lord Bishop of Colombo with his chaplain, Rev. C. S. Green, visits the College. Holiday given in honour of his visit.

Mr. A. W. Rajasegaram, Old Boy, joins the Staff.

„ 12th. Central vs. St. John's Volley Ball match. St. John's wins.

„ 13th. Jaffna College vs. St. John's Cricket match. St. John's wins by 9 wickets and 2 runs.

„ 14th. The Bishop Preaches at Evening Service.

„ 15th. Mr. G. P. Wishard, General Secy. Y. M. C. A. Colombo, lectures on "America" illustrated by lantern slides.

„ 16th. Holiday in Honour of His Excellency's visit.

„ 17th. Volley Ball Match vs. Manipay Hindu College. St. John's wins.

„ 18th. Semi Finals of the Oratorical contest,

- „ 20th—22nd. Christian Union camp at Mandatuvue. Leader Mr. G. P. Wishard.
 „ 22nd. Mid term holiday.
 „ 24th. Finals of the Oratorical contest. (1) C. A. Allegacone, (2) A. T. Navaratnam.

C. A. A.

VI. A.

1929.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge with thanks the following magazines and periodicals received during the term.

The Jaffna College Miscellany.
The Courier, Hindu College,
Tharmarajah College, Telescope.
Ceylon Young Men.
The Aloysian.
The Eynworth League.
The Malayan Review.
Uva-Collegiate Magazine.
St. Benedict's College Annual.
The Green and White.
The Chundicully Girls' College Magazine
The Government Training College Magazine.
The Uduvil Girls' College Magazine.



SCHOOL OFFICERS SECOND TERM, 1929.

SENIOR PREFECT.

S. J. Asbury: President, Prefects' Guild; Secretary S. J. C. L. A. Secretary, S. J. C. C. U.

PREFECTS.

- J. R. Gnanapragasam*: Captain, Pargiter House; Captain 1st XI Cricket; Secretary, S. J. C. Prefects' Guild; Additional Segt. Cadet Corps.
- W. T. Gunaratnam*: Secretary, S. J. C. S. S. U.
- M. Ethirnayagam*: Captain, Johnstone House, Secretary, S. J. C. B. U.

MONITORS.

- H. O. Werkmeister*: ———
- F. E. R. Vannithamby*: Asst. Secretary, S. J. C. L. A., Editor, the "Eaglet;" Corporal, Cadet Corps.
- A. Rajaindram*: Secretary, S. J. C. L. A., Section II, Editor, the "Eaglet;" Sub-Editor, College Magazine.
- R. Sadasivam*: ———
- T. E. Abraham*: Captain, Thompson House.
- M. Ratnasingam*: Asst. Secretary, S. J. C. B. U.

OTHER OFFICERS.

- G. Kirthesingam*: Captain, Handy House.
- J. O. R. Perera*: Vice-Captain, Handy House, Corporal, Cadet Corps.
- H. T. Nathaniel*: Sgt Cadet Corps; Captain, Athletic Sports; Vice-Captain, Pargiter House.
- N. Sabaratnasingam*: Vice-Captain, Thompson House.
- N. Kandiah*: Captain Volley-ball.
- President*: S. J. C. L. A.
The Principal.
- Vice-Presidents*: The Vice-Principal.
Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram.
„ V. C. Canagaratnam.
„ K. Subramaniam.
- Secretary*: S. J. Asbury (Section I)
A. Rajaindram „ (II)

<i>Asst. Secretary:</i>	F. E. R. Vannithamby	(I)
<i>Eng. Editor:</i>	C. A. Allagacone.	
<i>Co-Editor:</i>	A. Rajaindrum.	
<i>Tamil Editor:</i>	M. Mahalingam.	
<i>Co-Editor:</i>	K. T. Sundaramoorthy.	

PREFECTS GUILD

<i>President:</i>	The Senior Prefect
<i>Secretary:</i>	J. R. Gnanapragasam.

CHRISTIAN UNION

<i>President:</i>	The Principal.
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	The Chaplain Mr. A. J. Evans.
<i>Secretary:</i>	S. J. Asbury.
<i>Student Committee:</i>	S. J. Asbury (Chairman.) F. E. R. Vannithamby. J. R. Gnanapragasam. W. T. Gunaratnam. M. Ethirayagam H. O. Werkmeister.

SCRIPTURE UNION

<i>President:</i>	Mr. A. J. Evans.
<i>Secretary:</i>	M. A. Nalliah.

SOCIAL SERVICE UNION

<i>President:</i>	The Chaplain.
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Mr. P. I Mathai.
<i>Secretary:</i>	W. T. Gunaratnam.
<i>Asst. Secretary:</i>	J. R. Gnanapragasam.

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<i>President:</i>	Rev. J. R. Navaratnam.
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<i>Treasurer:</i>	„ D. H. Chinniah.

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<i>President:</i>	Rev H. Peto
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SCOUT TROOP

<i>Scout Master:</i>	Mr. T. M. Mathai.
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WOLF CUB PACK

<i>Cub Master:</i>	Mr. G. S. Chelliah
<i>Cub Mistress:</i>	Mrs. P. Werkmeister

ROVER TROOP

<i>Leader:</i>	Mr. A. J. Evans.
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CADET CORPS

<i>Senior Cadets:</i>	Lieut. E. M. Ponnudurai.
<i>Junior Cadets:</i>	Lieut V. C. CanagaRatnam.

COLLEGE LIBRARY

<i>Librarian:</i>	Mr. P. I. Mathai.
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COLLEGE MAGAZINE

<i>Editor:</i>	Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram.
<i>Sub.-Editors</i>	C. A. Allegacone A. Rajaindram
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mr. C. Newton.
<i>Asst. Treasurer:</i>	Mr. J. T. Solomons.