

THE FIRST CEYLONESE

A.C.A. IN THE

CRUCIBLE.



A. P. THAMBYAH.

"Breathes there the man with
soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own my native land."

"தான் பிறந்து வளர்ந்த தேசத்தை
தன்னுடைய சுயதேசமென்று
சொல்லாதவன் உயிரற்ற ஆத்மா
வைக்கொண்ட மனிதனாயிவ்வ
கில் ஜீவித்துவருகிறான்."

Remarks of Appreciation by Eminent Councillors..

The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. COREA:—"I have read the 'leaflet' through carefully and agree with much of what is said in the several letters. I understand the matter of the A. G. A. of Mannar has been satisfactorily arranged and that he is to remain in authority, despite his colour. I am quite in agreement with the statement that the practice of getting pleaders to act on the Bench in the Courts where they practice 'is vicious in principle.' For one thing it places the Judge under obligation to the member of the Bar who accomodates him. This results in very undesirable conditions. In regard to the case of the Kalutara Mudaliyar; this is an instance proving that 'prime favourites of the Heads' are not to be preferred to men of standing and merited regard in Society. With the latter 'noblesse oblige.'

I shall await a 'convenient season' to write on the subject re the factor which in ancient Eastern Society obliged 'Pre-eminence' to observe righteousness and prevented tyrannical 'Family-Bandyism' "

The Hon'ble Mr. EDWARD. W. PERERA:—"Mr. A. P. Thambyah has published a pamphlet of refreshing candour dealing with local grievances which deserve the careful attention of the Government and of the public. The question of substituting a European Assistant Government Agent at Mannar during the Pearl Fishery raises an important question of principle and I hope that Government will not be so indiscreet as to persist in it, as the racial discrimination by the Government in the matter of the Passages, has had a demoralising effect on the Ceylonese members of the Civil Service. Mr. Thambyah's little book is written in vigorous

English, the points are clearly placed and I heartily recommend it."

The Hon'ble Mr JAMES PEIRIS:—"I have read the contributions to the press on the proposed appointment of a special officer of the rank of A. G. A. to supervise the Pearl Fishery and on the subject of 'Family Bandyism' in Mannar. I agree that if the practice of appointing the A. G. A. to supervise the camp is departed from, an impression will be created in the mind of the public that the present A. G. A. is passed over on the ground of nationality. The Government, no doubt, has other valid reasons for the proposed arrangement, but it would be prudent to avoid such an impression by entrusting the work to the A. G. A. according to precedent, giving him temporary assistance for the performance of his usual duties. If there is 'Family Bandyism' in Mannar as suggested, it seems to me that the present A. G. A. with his knowledge of the country and the people is the best person to deal with the matter."

The Hon'ble Mr C. W. W. KANNANGARA:—"I find that the present A. G. A. Mannar is also in charge of the Fishery although another person has been appointed as supervisor. If necessary Mr. E. W. Perera will attend to the matter. I shall discuss with him. Your object is a very laudable one and may you succeed in it!"

A. Canagaratnam Esqr, Editor "Ceylon Patriot" and the first Chairman of the Jaffna Urban District Council:—"I have come to know a great deal of how things go in Mannar since the Election Campaign started. It is all very interesting. I think there is a great deal more of political education of the masses that is required. I am glad that you have devoted yourself, so very much, for the promotion of the welfare of that District. I am sure in the course of a few more years with your own work and others' work the peasants there, will be placed in a position of independence as peasants elsewhere."

A. Maha Deva Esqr. M. A. Barr-at-Law:—

"I have just finished reading through the printed matter you enclosed. The pamphlet is mainly concerned with an exposure of the malpractices, admitted or alleged, of certain officials and also warns the Government of abuses prejudicial to good Government which are inevitable if 'Family Bundyism' is permitted, or, if the present policy of utilising Crown Proctors to act on the Bench is continued.

Your name is quite familiar to me and I have heard some friends of mine speak flatteringly of you."

R. SRI PATHMANATHAN Esqr. M.A. Barr-at-Law:— I read with interest the papers submitted to me and I think you deserve great credit in having exposed the "dung" scandal in Mannar. There is no crime more atrocious than filching the pockets of the poor by persons in temporary authority. The Governor's dictum should be the only basis on which Justice should be administered in this country.

What is this special quality which distinguishes British Justice? Its even-mindedness, its impartiality, and its fearlessness in championing the cause of the weak against the rich and the powerful. So long as these characteristics are observed, the name of Britain, would be revered by the people of Mannar.

I hope you will continue to do your good work to bring the grievances of the poor to the notice of a larger public.



PREFACE.

In the name of God, my King and Country, I apply myself, to this task and humbly appeal to His Excellency the President and the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council to peruse with patience, the pages of this unpretentious booklet and to determine whether the 26,000 people of the Mannar District, committed by the Divine and Almighty Power to their charge and care, are in a position to say, "We are British citizens and enjoy the full rights of British Citizenship."

Before proceeding further, I think, I owe the public and the Government a word of explanation, why of all others, I should be taking the keenest and the most abiding interest in this question.

My grand parents who were Jaffnese, went to Mannar about 75 years ago, bought lands and settled down there, in business. They made Mannar the land of their adoption. My father the late Mr. Arulapper Thambyah, a celebrated Native Medical Practitioner of his day died a premature death. I was at that time only 4 years old, and my mother, one of the handsomest loveliest, and most religiously bent ladies, in the District was only 21 years. My father who was, rather extravagant in his living, did not leave much behind for our maintenance. Several of my closest relatives volunteered to undertake my education. My mother who is a person of superabundant sensitiveness declined with thanks all the kind offers and undertook herself to educate me. I began my alphabets at St. Xavier's School, then called Good Shepherd's English School Mannar. When I was studying in the 2nd standard, my elderly relatives and friends in the neighbourhood organised a Literary Improvement Society. My enthusiasm for undertakings

of that nature, even in my childhood, was so great that, I offered and my services were accepted for six cents a week to sweep the society's hall, arrange the chairs and light the lamp. I was also encouraged to declaim recitations just before the commencement of the meetings of the Society. The members discussed at their meetings about that great Irish Patriot and Emancipator, Daniel O'Connell. I set this great Heroe as my Idol. Whenever I heard of the cries and bewailings of my afflicted countrymen I longed for the day when I would be able, myself to work by constitutional means, for the emancipation of my country from the thralldom of "family-bandyism". This burning desire was increasing in me as I grew older and as there was brought before me, day after day, evidence of the acute sufferings of my countrymen owing to the Central Government having vested in the members of a single family vast official powers. Having finished my education in the Mannar School, I was sent to St. Patrick's College Jaffna, as a boarder. My mother had now to toil hard and at the sweat of her brow she remitted to me by the first of every month my College and boarding fees with a regularity, precision and promptitude of which I was justly proud and which caused my fellow-boarders to make me, in respect of this, a target of their envy.

In the affairs of the College Literary Association, I evinced not a little interest. Finding the encouragements and opportunities in the College for literary improvement and the cultivation of the art of public-speaking inadequate, I resuscitated a defunct Literary Association in the Town of which Mr. Bernard the celebrated Latin Scholar was President and Mr. M. A. Arul Anandan B. A. Advocate, Secretary. I was elected unanimously as the Secretary of this Association, while Mr. C. G. Hannibalsz B. A. Advocate of the Batticaloa Bar, then a law-student was my assistant secretary.

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Although I was engaged in these pursuits and was a student, I had not forgotten my dearest Mannar. The spirit of my independence, public-spirit and love of adventure were such that I had no taste for Government service.

After leaving school, I came here and started life on the staff of the Ceylon "Morning Leader" as proof reader on a salary Rs. 20/00 per month. Three months later, I was taken as reporter, on to the staff of the "Ceylonese" now known "Daily News." It was in the columns of this paper that I made my maiden attempt to picture to the Government and the public the woes and throes of my country.

The late Mr. Arman De Souza than whom there was no more fearless and earnest champion of oppressed humanity, supported me in his paper on many an occasion. The "Times of Ceylon" the "Hindu Organ" and the "Morning Star" also gave me their editorial support. But the friends of the members of the Mannar "Family Bandy" who were in power at the Secretariat did not hearken to the voice of Reason of Justice and of Righteousness and summarily dismissed the appeal made by the united Press of Ceylon for re-adjustment.

I was not disheartened by failure. I kept up my agitation trusting in the final triumph of British Justice and Statesmanship. On one occasion I was asked to make definite and specific charges against the members of the "Family Bandy." Although this was to me a Herculean task, undergoing terrible privations..... running grave risks and at huge sacrifices, I caused charges of corruption and bribery to be made against one Mr..... who was adigar, Mannar Island, some years ago and who is a cousin of the present adigar, Mudaliyar Muthutam by, Mr. S. Anantham

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additional P.M. Crown Proctor and Notary Public, and of the other two adigars and of the Courts' officers. This Gentleman was asked to resign his office. In place of this adigar who had resigned was appointed another member of the "Bandy" who was K.M. and who was drawing a higher pay than an adigar was entitled to, then. Some time ago, representations were made to the A.G.A. Mannar that large sums of money were being swindled from ignorant Islanders of Mandaitheevu. It appears these Islanders were in the practice of collecting cattle dung without any official interference, on crown lands in the Mantai Division, in the years past. About three years ago, the Mantai adigar is alleged to have insisted on the Islanders to get permits from him before collecting and removing cattle dung. When these men went up to him, the adigar wanted them to approach him through one Vallipuram. This man made the Island folks understand that he had purchased the dung on an annual rent from the adigar and got from them Rs. 40/00 for every boat-load of dung before getting for them the permits from the adigar.

At this time the subcollector in whom was vested the power to issue permits and who is a very keen and conscientious officer and who sympathised with the Islanders wanted the adigar to let him know why and on what authority he ordered the Islanders to possess his permits to collect cattle dung. The adigar replied that he was authorised to do this by a certain V.C. Rule. A day or two after this, the subcollector wrote to the adigar to let him have a reply in writing. Consequently the adigar made inquiries from the A.G.A. and communicated to the subcollector the facts that he was not able to get at the V.C. rule but that the A.G.A. had informed him that it was not an offence to collect cattle dung on the crown lands in the Mantai division.

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Even after the Asst. Govt. Agent's authoritative pronouncement and ruling the adigar kept on issuing permits.

At the inquiry held at Vellankulam, the adigar appears to have said that he did not ask the Islanders to get permits from him.

Could His Excellency the President, the Hon'ble Members of the Council and the brainy section of the public believe this? The remarkable judgment delivered by Mr. S. D. Dhondy P.M. Avisawella, in a case in which a headman was charged and which is published in the 18th and 19th pages of this booklet, should be carefully read.

If the adigar did not compel the Islanders to get permits from him, why did he at all, tell the subcollector that he was empowered by a V.C. rule to do this? Will His Excellency inquire why did the poor potter Arumugam of Vellankulam execute the cattle vouchers of the milch cows intended as gifts to the adigar, in the name of Vallipuram, the cheat and swindler, and why was it mentioned in the vouchers that the place where the cows were to be taken was Navakulam where, the adigar lives. If the adigar was not a party to this transaction and if he was innocent, why did he not bring this matter of the illegal gift to the notice of the A.G.A. immediately after he was informed by the P.V. of Illupaikadavai, in whose custody the cows remained, on their way to the adigar's place, for two weeks.

It was clearly proved that for three years, consecutively, these open and audacious depredations went on! Does a Chief Headman who permitted, though unconsciously, this public swindling to go on in his division, unchecked deserve to be retained in office? Was not this adigar seriously censured by a previous

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A G A. for the grave offence of having destroyed a tank bund, for personal reasons and without lawful excuse or authority? When this adigar was Irrigation officer, what serious complaints were made by the farmers of Poorarasankulam and other adjoining villages? My last letter to the Asst. Govt. Agent Mannar, and his replies thereto published in the pages of this booklet will enable His Excellency the President and the Hon'ble Members of the Council to draw their conclusions as regards the manner in which this unhappy District was being administered! and how this identical adigar has been discharging his duties. Will His Excellency call for the papers connected with the inquiries held on the representations, regarding this adigar, made by Rev. Father Deslandes, O.M.I. on behalf of the poor Parayers of Iranaithoevu? It may be that the Paraya people who are illiterate, were unable to substantiate their allegations, but what animus the Parayers who are the humblest of the members of society and who form a wandering clan should bear, towards an adigar who, they know is all powerful in the place. These are matters for the closest scrutiny of His Excellency the President and the Hon'ble Members of the Council.

The post of the adigar of Mannar Island Division may well be abolished, as it is proposed to be done, in the Jaffna District with regard to the post of the Jaffna Town Division Maniyagar. The Kachchery Mudaliyar can perform, with the help of the town udayar, the dual duties of interpreter and adigar. This division is confined to a small area and is easily accessible from one end to the other. Talaimannar, Pesalai Karusal, Erukalam-pitty, Tharacundu and Mannar Town which compose this division and are connected by railway, being in very close proximity to each other, can be looked after easily by a Kachchery Mudaliyar without prejudicing the interests of his legitimate

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functions. There is no necessity for the Government to pay motor car allowance to the Mannar Town Adigar as he could not make use of this means of conveyance between Talaimannar and Pesalai. The tract between these two places is one full of sand and unsuited for motor traffic. The distance between Pesalai and Mannar Town is only 10 miles and the Adigar can use the train both morning and evening. If the Adigar is asked to let the Government know the number of the gallons of petrol consumed monthly, it would be ascertained whether the motor car allowance is justified?

If the Government considers the that retention of a distinct and separate officer is indispensable, it is highly necessary that a member from the Moorish or the Cannadian community whose members preponderate in numbers, in the Island Division and among whom, there are suitable candidates should be selected. The young and inexperienced aspirant, to this post, of the Telegraph Department who has already begun to make a proud and loud boast that, it is a settled fact that he is to succeed the present adigar should be reminded of the Governor's ruling that no Postal and Telegraph Officer specially trained at the expenses of the Government could leave his department, to serve in any other sphere, however congenial, it might be.

The Tharakundu administration case referred to, in my letter to the A.G.A. is one which, I hope will engage the serious attention of His Lordship the Chief Justice. Let the Government beware of the violent preaching of the extreme doctrine of non-cooperation by its pampered favourites, because the latter could not gratify their personal desires and ambitions. When a handful of men are so intoxicated with power, as to forget their own benefactors and to presume that they have the strength

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and the might to launch a campaign to defy the Government established by law and to bring it into contempt and impotency, what would they not do to adopt a reign of terror over the humbler and weaker subjects of His Majesty the King? It is imperative that the A.G.A. Mannar should be given an office assistant who could, also, act as P.M. This would enable the A.G.A. to administer the District with greater care and vigilance and to devote his personal attention to all the wants of the District. As things are, the A.G.A. is greatly embarrassed. In winding up the second reading of the Village Communities Ordinance, His Excellency the President said as follows:—

“It must be and should be the object of Government to make justice above suspicion so that the villager may have confidence in Village Tribunals. Without that confidence all that Government did in other directions was lost! Justice was the first thing; Justice to the poorest and the most inarticulate of the people” I am sincerely of opinion that His Excellency will not allow any financial consideration to sway in his mind, but that he will translate his words into deeds by appointing an Office Assistant to the A.G.A. Mannar and by transferring the Courts' Secretary who is the first cousin of the adigars, to some other station and by sending another in his place.

As far as my personal relations are concerned, with the gentlemen against whom I carry on this campaign I make bold to say that I am, one of their friends. They attended my ante-nuptial “At Home” and elected me as the Secretary of the public meeting held sometime ago to memorialise the Government regarding the early construction of the Mannar bridge. On receipt of the invitation card from Mudliyar S. Anantham to attend the wedding of his eldest daughter I proceeded

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to his house and engaged him in a pleasant talk. I told him that if he was a leading man in the District, it was his paramount duty to counsel, and checkmate the excesses and wrong-doings of his relatives in office, and, if this was done that, I would have no cause for complaint, and would readily drop my agitation from the very happy and auspicious occasion of his daughter's wedding. As I did not get a ready and enthusiastic response to my terms of peace, in the interests of my country which, I consider dearer and nearer to my heart than, my mother, my wife, my only child and every other worldly treasure, I ended my truce and started operations which, I hope with Divine Assistance I shall continue till the end of my life. As long as I am actuated by no base or sordid motive, as I bear no grudge towards any body and as my only desire is to see that equal opportunities are placed at the disposal of one and all, for progress and advancement, I am certain of final triumph. As regards the libellous statement made in certain quarters that outside the "Family Bandy" there are no others competent to hold public offices, I may be permitted to cite the case of Mudaliyar S. M. P. Vandercone, retired civil servant. This eminent and illustrious son of Mannar, who belongs to one of the highest, the most leading and influential Tamil families in the North, served in his birth place, in a minor office. Finding that he would not be permitted to rise up higher; although Nature had bestowed on him remarkable powers of intellect, in addition to his sterling moral character, he got a transfer, to the Puttalam Kachchery where, in the absence of "Family Bandy" impediment he rose to the highest position and honour the Government could confer on a worthy Ceylonese of his position.

I could cite innumerable and various instances and explode this mis-statement. Mudaliyar Vendercone who was the

last of the President-Moopus of St. Sebastian's Church was accorded a farewell, by the more prominent members of the Church and his friends on the eve of his transfer. On the day of his departure from the land of his birth to a strange and unknown place, much against his heart's desire, but only pressed by sheer necessity and want, he went from house to house, among friends and relatives and bade goodbye, while tears were rolling down his cheeks. Will the Mudaliyar's son-in-law Mr. Felix S. Paul and Mr. Francoispillai Ponraja both of the Mannar Bar, and from whom the country expects much, kindly take note of this and discharge their duties and responsibilities to their country in a manner worthy of their departed and glorious ancestors! I do not want that they should make themselves enemies of any person or persons, but let them by their conduct show that they could not be made tools of, by those who want the Lion's share in every-thing, while they want others to be satisfied with the crumbs that fall from their tables. Let these gentlemen look at the number of the administration cases that come up before the Mannar Courts and see what their shares are. Let every one fight for equal rights and fair treatment! This ought to be the highest ideal of a great and good man. The tale of Mr. Alexander Figurado who was Secretary and Inspector, Mannar Sanitary Board for about 18 years, cannot be told without one's heart being moved. This gentleman who belongs to a decent family and who possesses all the required qualifications, was highly recommended for the adigarship of Musali. The competition was between him and one Mr. Arulappa a member of the "Bandy." Though better qualified than Mr. Arulappa, Mr. Figurado's claims were ignored. Subsequently Mr. Figurado's salary was also reduced from Rs. 80 to Rs. 60 per month. Messrs. Felix Paul and Kachchu Mohamadu, the new members of the Board, I trust, will see

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their way to do Justice to a deserving and loyal officer. I should ask my Jaffna friends resident in Mannar to show their spirit of independence, fearlessness and manly character in defending the rights of the weak.

One Sangary Kathiravelu of Tharaculam Jaffna sent a Habeas Corpus petition No. 20 to the Supreme Court praying that his brother's son in the custody of one Mr. Chelliah may be ordered to be delivered to him. This was sent for inquiry to the P.M. Jaffna. Cathiravelu appeared before the P.M. who, informed him that the matter would be referred to the P.M. Mannar. Cathiravelu through his Proctor objected to the transfer as he could not contest in an outside Court against Mr. Chelliah who belonged to a family which wielded terrorising influence in Mannar. The objection having been over-ruled, Cathiravelu appeared in the Mannar Police Court where an inquiry was held. I put myself in correspondence with a lawyer-friend of mine at Hultsdorf and got a copy of the Mannar Police Court inquiry proceedings. Mr. Chelliah stated at the inquiry that the boy was attending the R' C' School and that he got Drs Shockman and Rajaratnam to attend on the boy when he was sick and that the mother of the boy wanted him to take charge of the boy etc, etc. To verify the truth of these sworn statements, I wrote to the Hon'ble the P.C.M.O. who sent me the following reply:—

"The medical officer then in charge of the Mannar Hospital informs me that he is not aware of any child in charge of Mr. Chelliah." I also inquired from the principal of the R.C. School Mannar and he informed that he did not believe that a boy answering to my descriptions ever attended his school. Having proceeded so far, I appealed to H. J. C. Pereira Esqr. the greatest champion, today, in Ceylon, of human liberty to appear free for

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this poor man and he readily complied with my request. But the Supreme Court did not order a fresh inquiry in Colombo. There is yet room and time for His Lordship the Chief Justice to re-open this matter.

Do not the public know, who the members of the new and powerful syndicate that monopolise the rents and contracts are? Is it fair for a few powerful persons to form an alliance, to defeat the efforts of individual members of the public? Some persons startle me by stating that as the members of the "Family Bandy" belong to an ancient and leading family, they are entitled to Government patronage. May I know from these persons when this family began to lead whether they are aware of the date and incidents connected with the advent in Mannar, of Ponnappathai and Prasoodum Perumal from South India, what their occupation was and who the surviving members of that stock are? May I also know what were the worth and position of the late Mudaliyar Seemampillai and Mr. Vraspillai before they were appointed adigars? These are matters which I am compelled to write much against my wish and simply to expose the arrant nonsense of interested persons and to clear any misconception in the minds of responsible officials. In this democratic age, I would be the last person not to recognise talent and real worth. I do not consider it, at all an act of shame, for a person whatever may be his birth, to rise from the lowest to the highest rung of the ladder of fortune. But I demand that the right to progress and advance be not reserved to any single family but that it may be extended to one and all.

To clear all misunderstandings I should say that I have no idea whatever of seeking Government employment. As soon as I was released from incarceration during the period, the colony was placed under martial law in 1915, a very high official through Sir. A'

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Kanagasabai persuaded me to accept a post under Government which I declined with thanks. In the Jaffna library, Sir. Ambalavanar, on one occasion referred to this incident and gently rebuked me, for having missed what was, in his opinion, a golden opportunity.

The acts of bribery and corruption in the public services reported in the press since the conviction in the Supreme Court of Wijesinghe ex-Chief Clerk of the Forest Department down to the conviction, in the same tribunal, of Mudaliyar De Mel should shock the public conscience and open its eyes to the gravity of the situation! My letter to the A.G.A. Mannar, regarding certain alleged scandals and his reply thereto should convince Mr. James Peiris the leader of the peoples' representatives and his colleagues that it is imperative in the interest of good Government that the legislature should be called upon to appoint a commission to inquire into the causes of corruption and bribery in the public services and to recommend remedial measures. I ask the Hon'ble Mr. W. F. Duraisamy whose manifest duty is to safeguard the interest of the Northern Province to interpellate the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary with a view to prevent repetitions of public scandals and to minimise petty tyranny, as to what disciplinary action has been taken by the A.G.A. Mannar.

The question of appointing a European Civil Servant as A. G. A. Pearl Fishery Camp, thanks to the political wisdom of His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, has been satisfactorily settled. I should, in this connection express my sincere thanks to the Editors of the "Times of Ceylon," of the "Observer," of the "Independent," of the "Morning Leader," and of the "Ceylon Daily News" for having extended to me the courtesy of the columns of their respective journals.

Mysteries unravelled.

The following is a summary of a letter to the A.G.A. Mannar dated 11th April 1924:—

Sir,

With reference to your reply to the people of Mandaitheevu, may I know, if the statements are true that the Mantai Adigar did not ask the Islanders to get permits from him and that he did not authorise Vallipuram to levy any charge, why did the Adigar want the islanders to approach him through Vallipuram, why did the potter Arumugam of Vellankulam get the cattle vouchers of the cows intended as gifts to the Adigar, executed in the name of Vallipuram, why did not the Adigar bring the matter of the illegal gift to the A.G.A.'s notice, as he claims to be innocent why did the Adigar tell the subcollector that he was authorised by a V.C. rule to issue permits and why did he not cease issuing permits after the ruling on the subject by the A.G.A. If it is true that two men without permission, conducted with the connivance of two minor headmen, in a place, situated by the side of a public thoroughfare, only 4 miles from the Adigar's house, a raffle involving about Rs. 1000 and if it is true that a large number of the public who attended the raffle complained of having been cheated, why did not the Adigar take immediate action in the matter?

Is it true that the Chief Headman of the Island Division did not bring the matter of the concealment, by one Uthuman-kandu, of an administration case involving several thousands of rupees, to the notice of the authorities? Is it also true that Mr. Anantham, additional P. M. Crown Proctor and Notary public, brother of the Adigar who executed the deed made an effort to settle the case out of court?

Is it true that, if the settlement had been effected, the matter would not have seen the light of day and would have resulted in the loss of public revenue. Is it also true that, the use of "drift nets" which is prohibited by law, in the interest of His Majesty's Pearl Banks, was allowed to go on unchecked, by the Adigar, Mannar Island Division, for several years past etc. etc. If the above are true what punishment has been meted out to the delinquents.

Sigd. A P. Thambyah.

Evasive Reply from the A.G.A. Mannar.

Sir,

Re Para 2 of your letter, I have to state that an inquiry was held on representations made in your letter of 19th October 1923 and one G. Andris Appu of Uttaiyayanikulam was prosecuted and punished for selling tickets for a lottery in contravention of section 4 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1844.

As regards para 3 One Uduma Neina was subsequently prosecuted for offences punishable under Sections 517 and 547 of the Civil procedure Code and he was, after trial, acquitted.

5. Many of your queries refer to matters which do not concern me and I am not prepared to give any further information on the subject referred to, nor do I consider you are entitled to be informed, whether or not, any disciplinary action was taken against public officers working under me.

I am, etc.

Sigd. C. L. WICKREMESINGHE. A.G.A.

(I invite the attention to this of Mr. F. J. Smith whose appointment as G.A.N.P. I hail with delight. On receipt of the A.G.A.'s reply I sent a memorial, submitting fresh particulars to His Excellency, the Governor, and now, I am asked to interview the A.G.A. Mannar. A P. T.)

The following letters were published in the Ceylon
"Daily News" and the Ceylon "Daily Mail"

THE MANNAR ASST. GOVERNMENT AGENCY,

SIR,— There is a rumour that the Central Government is considering the idea of sending to Mannar a British Civil Servant in view of the 1925 pearl fishery as there would be present a large number of Europeans (Official and Unofficial.)

The present A. G. A. who is a Ceylonese and who has accomplished what many of his celebrated predecessors were not able to do owing to their not having been familiar with the conditions of the people, has benefitted both the people and the Government in many respects.

The question of the use of drift nets, the collection of cattle dung, the Tharakundu administration case and other matters which no one of his predecessors was able to tackle were settled by the present A. G. A. The thousands, nay tens of thousands of the pilgrims who visited the Holy Shrine of our Lady of Rosary at Madu will testify to the powers of organisation, supervision, and administrative ability with which he conducted the annual camp, without giving the least room for complaint to the pilgrims. The number of the pilgrims, last year, was the largest, ever mustered at Madu. With regard to the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims and to the sanitary arrangements, in all their minutest details, the A. G. A. gave his best attention. I do not think that half the number of the pilgrims at Madu will be at Marichchukaddy.

Or even if more than that number goes to the pearl fishery what is the necessity for sending another Civil Servant to Mannar when the present incumbent has been tested and not found wanting?

Yours etc,

2-2-24.

SENTINEL.

P. S.— I do not give much credit to this rumour as the policy of the present Government is to discourage race antagonism and as it emanates from those few persons in Mannar whose selfish ambitions are being clipped by the present A. G. A.

Yours etc. S.

(No. 2.)

SIR,—In a recent issue of your esteemed paper a correspondent on the above subject under the nom-de-plume "Sentinel" referred to a rumour current in the Mannar district regarding the present A. G. A.'s transfer owing to the forthcoming pearl fishery. I join "Sentinel" in the protest against the transfer of the A. G. A. on the ground that he is a Ceylonese. As for the other observations made by "Sentinel" I certainly say that the present A. G. A. has done what many of the previous Assistant Government Agents have failed to do. But to say in the same breath that he has accomplished for Mannar everything particularly in respect to the evils of "Family Bandyism," is a matter with which I cannot honestly concur for the following among other reasons. The people of the Mannar, District, appealed to successive Governors to break the "Family Bandy" as such strong indissoluble combination in the public services in a backward and illiterate place like Mannar were injurious to the proper administration of justice.

The petitions were referred to successive Assistant Government Agents. These officials against whose *bona fides*, I cannot make any impeachment were not conversant with the conditions which then obtained in Mannar. Consequently, they supported their subordinate officers who were also their chief advisors.

The present A. G. A. is in a more fortunate position. He is a Ceylonese. He has held high Judicial functions and has apprenticed himself under that great and distinguished administrator Sir, then Mr. John G. Fraser, who was for many years the Govt. Agent of the premier province of the island. His (the present)

A. G. A's) inquiries on the subjects of the use of drift nets and the collection of cattle dung referred to by "Sentinel" should have convinced him of the perils to which the administration of justice is exposed and of the urgency for the overhauling of the whole machinery of the Government in the Mannar District.

Yours etc.

Feb, 12-1923,

Scrutineer.

(No. 3.)

SIR,

Your correspondent "Scrutineer" in today's issue, on the above subject states that all the Assistant Govt. Agents before the present A. G. A. supported their subordinate officers who were also their chief advisers. This is a piece of injustice to Mr. Harrison Jones C. C. S. who was Assistant Govt. Agent Mannar about 15 years ago. This eminent Civil Servant administered the District without fear or favour and without courting popularity of any party or clique. He did not care in the clear and stern discharge of his duties whether he caused displeasure even to the mightiest man in the District. He was influenced by no one. He listened only to the inner voice of his conscience in the settlement of administrative affairs. A certain petition or newspaper reference was sent by the Government to Mr. Harrison Jones for his report. He had to encounter many difficulties. He was new to the place, raw and inexperienced. His Kachcheri Mudaliyar was a member of the "Family Bandy." Anyhow he made an honest attempt to do his duty. I certainly say that his report was not made in the manner in which his predecessors or successors made.

I read in a recent issue of your paper that this eminent and conscientious Civil Servant who was no popularity hunter, and who discouraged in his early career every kind of public demonstration is to be honoured by the people of Matale where he last served as A. G. A. A clock tower is to be erected to the memory of Mr. Harrison Jones.

Yours etc,

Antiquarian.

(No. 4.)

SIR,—There has not been the slightest rumour in this part of the district with regard to the transfer of the present A. G. A., nor is there the slightest likelihood of such an event occurring in the near future. All is pure imagination. I would have passed "Scrutineer's" letter with the same contempt "Sentinel's" letter deserved but for the fact that the man in the street may be led to believe that the allegations were true or the imaginary things complained of were really in existence.

Mannar could well get on without the interference of scribes of this kind who write of imaginary grievancees when none exist and try to bring the administration and the people to ridicule with a view to gain their own end. I would strongly advise both "Sentinel" and "Scrutineer" to mind their own business instead of writing about matters of which they know no more than the man in the moon.

Yours etc.

Mannar, Feby. 18.

Not of the Bandy.

(No. 5.)

THE EDITOR "DAILY MAIL"

SIR,—A letter appeared in your columns some time ago signed by "Sentinal" touching on matters of Importance connected with the administration of Mannar District, the identical letter appeared in the Ceylon "Daily News" and was followed by others including one written over the nom-de-plume "Not of the Bandy." Before the correspondence on the subject was declared closed I think I was entitled to a right of reply; but on sending the accompanying letter I was informed that the correspondence was closed. I therefore beg that you will give publication to this letter.

(LETTER REFERRED TO)

SIR,—Your correspondent “Not of the Bandy” in his contempt for “Sentinel” and in his anxiety to defend the “Bandy” has brought his own power of reasoning and judgment into contempt. *In this part of the district*, your correspondent says there is not the slightest rumour regarding the A. G. A’s transfer. *Italics are mine.* When he says in this part of the district, by what process of reasoning could he have rushed to the unfounded conclusion that the rumour did not exist in the other parts of the district? Moreover, did he consult the 26,000 people of the Mannar district before he took up cudgels on behalf of his friends of the “Bandy?” This I say is a physical impossibility even for a syndicate. May I know what part of the District your correspondent represents and from what part he hails? If he is not of the “Bandy” if he is not one who is in their trust and confidence and co-operates with them; and if he is a straight forward, honest, and independent exponent of public opinion in the Mannar District will he take away the womanly cloak of anonymity and appear as I do in this instance under his own name? Will your correspondent have the hardihood to say that no inquiries were held into the questions of the collection of cattle dung and the use of drift nets and that grievances were not redressed? Will your correspondent explain why Muthiah Chetty left his family and children and lived in his last days at Kanganithivu? Why had he to go to the hospital and why only after his death his body was removed by his relatives to be cremated? A reply to these will convince your readers who should be compared with the “man in the moon”

Whatever “not of the bandy” or I may write the A. G. A. will know the truth, and nothing but the truth. As regards your correspondent’s statement that I am trying to serve my own ends, will he state more clearly whether I ever tried or try to get a job in the Mannar Kachcheri? As regards his command that I should mind my own business and not trouble myself about the affairs in the Mannar District I

may say that I am far from being a "renegade." As a man born and bred in Mannar, it is my bounden duty to offer my services to my stricken motherland.

Yours etc.,

J. C. RAJARATNAM.

Will Mr. Duraisamy Do His Duty?

A correspondent not unknown to newspaper readers, favours us with a fairly lengthy communication on a matter which seems to have interested him not a little. From the mass of correspondence, official and otherwise, placed before us we believe the writer has made out a good case on behalf of the poor islanders of Mandaitheevu. The subject under discussion appears to be a case of an alleged extortion. The representation made by the villagers to the Hon. Mr. Duraisamy and also to the authorities seem to us as having had no effect in setting the machinery of the law in motion. Writing as we do with material embodied in petitions and other correspondence we must admit that the impression a perusal of which leaves on our mind is that the authorities appear to be disinclined to move in the matter. This is certainly unfortunate. If the authorities are not over-anxious of getting at the bottom of this unfortunate affair it is the obvious duty of the Hon. Mr. Duraisamy, for whom we have got the highest respect, to move in the matter at once in the Legislative Council. The complaint made by the Islanders so far as we can see is that somebody is said to have falsely represented that he had purchased the exclusive right to collect cattle manure from Crown Lands and in turn it is alleged that he levied an illegal fee by issuing permits to the villagers. If the charge is true and the correspondence before us do not misrepresent facts it is up to the Government to lay this alleged extortioner by the heels and make an example of him. We cannot help remarking that there

is something very strange in the whole business, and under the circumstances nothing would be more advisable than bringing the matter up in open Council. Then at least the real facts ought to be elicited. Will Mr Duraisamy, whose concern in the well-being of of the Northern-Province is so great do his duty? He should not let this occasion pass without taking some action. That much his constituents and the public have right to expect.

November, 24. 1923

"Search Light."

A COMPLAINT FROM MANNAR.

It has been the settled practice among Police Officers when they decide that complaints referred to them are not based on sufficiently strong foundation to inform the complainants that they are at liberty to initiate proceedings in a court of law on their own responsibility. The police cannot be expected to institute proceedings when they are convinced of the falsity of the charge. At the same time they should not take upon themselves the responsibility of pronouncing a definite opinion regarding the falsity or truth of any particular complaint. This duty properly belongs to a judicial tribunal and it is not at all proper that the police opinion should in any way influence the mind of a magistrate and prejudice the interests of complainants who inspite of their failure to secure the support of the police insist on seeking the process of courts. However we think that there are cases in which the police should both in the interests of the complainants as well as of accused persons submit to the decision of judicial tribunal complaints involving serious charges. The case we report today from Manthai is one which in our opinion should be disposed of by a court of Law. Fifty three persons have made a serious charge against a person of levying an illegal tax. The A. G. A. in a very sympathetic reply informed the petitioners that if so advised it was open to them to take proceedings in a Court of Law. Unfortunately

the petitioners are illiterate, unsophisticated, and extremely indigent persons who cannot afford the expenses of litigation and not at all likely to initiate proceedings. On the other hand an opportunity we think should be given to the person against whom the allegations are made to vindicate himself. The charges made may be false. In that case the complainants should be severely dealt with for giving false information to Public Officers. On the other hand the charge may be true in which case no stone should be left unturned to bring the offender to book. Inaction on the part of the authorities when there is so much feeling among a large section of the inhabitants is about the worst policy to adopt. Very many crimes are committed when finding that no redress is vouchsafed after representations are made constitutionally to the proper authorities. Aggrieved parties become desperate and take the law into their own hands.

There is a police force stationed in Mannar. We see no reason why an Inspector cannot hold a thorough investigation and get at the bottom of the complaint which has so far been shelved. The matter must be threshed out in a Court of Law. There is one of two alternatives before the police authorities at Mannar. Either the persons concerned should be prosecuted for cheating or his accusers for making a false complaint. The charge is by no means trifling and there can be no excuse for an attitude of inactivity.

"DAILY MAIL,"

23rd November 1923.

Assistant Agency Mannar.—In a letter received the other day from one who takes a deep interest in the district of Mannar, he writes: "There is a rumour current in the place that the present A. G. A. will be transferred; if that rumour should prove to be true, it would be a great misfortune for Mannar District." A fortnight ago, a correspondent wrote to the same effect to one of the local papers. We wish to believe, however, that the rumour has no foundation, and it is

a mere surmise of those who fear such a contingency and who cannot bring themselves to trust Government to do the right thing. Transfers and changes of Government officials are not made aimlessly or out of caprice; the end proposed is the well-being of the people by securing to them good, efficient administration. Mr. Wickremasinghe, the A. G. A. of Mannar has within a short time proved himself a really capable administrator and more than that, he is eager for progress. The very man wanted for a very backward District, which has been in that condition probably since the British occupation. Its misfortune was inefficient administration. Speaking generally, we do not attach any great blame to the predecessors of the present A. G. A. They were young British Civilians who knew little of the conditions of the district, less of its needs, had not a working knowledge of the language of the country, could not go among, and speak, except through an interpreter to the people who are iron-bound by an age long conservatism. These young officials wisely took care not to mar their chance by blundering at the outset of their career, and contented themselves as a rule, with getting through the routine and, for the rest, they put themselves under the tutorship of the headmen. By the time they came to understand things for themselves, their transfer was thought imperative, as the District is considered malarial and unhealthy. One A. G. A. succeeded another in this wise and that is the sum of the administrative history. Indifferent administration certainly is at the root of the backwardness of a District which in olden times, had the reputation of being the Great Garden of the North. With the present A. G. A. whose resourcefulness was once more evidenced by the recent Cattle Market he held at Murungan, matters will rapidly improve provided he is encouraged by the Central Government, which must be urged to devote more of its attention to such Districts by their representatives in the Legislative Council. Now is the time, when there is such a rush for votes, for the inhabitants or these parts to insist on pledges from their would be representatives

CATHOLIC GUARDIAN.

This letter was published in the "SEARCH LIGHT"

JUSTICE AS ADMINISTERED IN MANNAR

His Excellency the Governor in winding up the debate on the second reading of the Village Communities Ordinance spoke as follows:—

It must be and should be the object of Government to make justice above suspicion, so that the villager may have confidence in Village Tribunals. Without that confidence all that Government did in other directions was lost. Justice was the first thing. Justice to the poorest and the most inarticulate of the people."

"I am sure His Excellency was serious and sincere in enunciating this principle, and that he will not fail to call for all the papers connected with the Mannar-Mandaithoevu cattle dung scandal a brief history of which I give below, and see whether justice is open to the poorest and the most inarticulate of the people and whether it is above suspicion.

Immediately after the Hon. Mr. W. Duraisamy was elected a member of the Legislative Council i.e. some two year's ago, he paid an official visit to Mandaithoevu, an island 3 miles from the Jaffna Town. The people of this little island welcomed their representative in a fitting manner and presented him with an address, in which some of their pressing grievances were mentioned. The most important grievance was relating to the collection of cattle dung. It was submitted that from time immemorial, they were in the practice of collecting cattle dung on crown lands free from official interference. But, of late, it was alleged they were required to possess permits from a headman of the division to transport cattle dung to their island. Consequently, the islanders went to a certain officer for the permits. The officer without granting the permits direct wanted them to approach him through another who, on the other hand made the island folks understand that the officer had sold the cattle dung to him on an annual rent, and got from them Rs. 40, for every

boat load. Having said so much the credulous islanders desired their representative to intercede on their behalf and to get the Government to make an arrangement so as to enable them to pay the money and get the permits direct from the Kachcheri or Customs. This, they said, would rid them of the trouble, delay and worry in finding out the officer or his agent. After having spent an enjoyable time Mr. Duraisamy left the shores of Mandaitheevu, and the island folks as usual left the matter where it was.

In the month of March of this year I went to the village of Illupaikadavai. There I heard that the farmers of Vellankulam, about 30 miles from the Mannar town, desired to meet me and get my help and advice on some matter. The route to this place is surrounded by thick jungles and is infested with wild animals. However, I went to Vellankulam and the villagers told me that a certain person, on the plea that he had bought it on rent, was levying from the people of mandaitheevu Rs. 40. for every boat load of manure gathered from Crown lands. They added further that their representations to the Government Agent, to the effect that the people of Mandaitheevu should not be stopped from removing the cattle dung on Crown lands in the vicinity of their village on the ground that it tended to discourage local agricultural pursuits, were not favourably entertained.

An old woman called Seethavan and one Arumugam, who are potters by profession, also made certain allegations of very grave character against a headman. I got the parties to submit everything to me in writing. As I was actuated by no base or sordid motive, as I bore no ill-will towards anybody, and as I honestly thought and think that the cry for Swaraj and responsible Government, and the occasional or even frequent re-iterations of the blessings such a system of Rule would confer on the people, would not bring conviction to the masses unless the educated and

public-spirited men, personally attended to their wants and helped them in keeping the sources to the fountain of justice free from corruption and pollution. I proposed to make a comprehensive inquiry with an open mind before representing matters to the Government. With this object in view I proceeded to Jaffna and crossed over the Pannai ferry on a rickety old-fashioned canoe and reached Mandaitheevu. There the Officiating Brahman Hindu priest of the Pillayar Temple related to me the story of the visit to that place of Mr. Duraisamy and the grievances regarding cattle dung submitted to him by the islanders who are extremely poor and illiterate. I told the islanders that the levy made by the man was and is not authorised either by law or by the Government. Where upon the islanders approached their representative once again. He communicated the matter for investigation to the A. G. A. Mannar. Simultaneously, I submitted to the A. G. A. the grievances of the people of Vellankulam. The A. G. A. sent a letter to Mr. Duraisamy requesting him to send the Mandaitheevu people to Vellankulam. This was done and an inquiry was held by the A. G. A. On the 27th June the man hid himself. The A. G. A. ordered the minor headmen to make a diligent search for the man and the latter produced him. At the dead of night when everybody had retired to bed, it was rumoured that the man was in concealment somewhere. The headmen proceeded thither and caught the man and produced him before the A. G. A. The A. G. A. examined him and said that he would be prosecuted. The inquiry at Vellankulam over, the A. G. A. sent the papers under confidential cover to the A.S.P., Jaffna, for further inquiries at Mandaitheevu. The Assistant Superintendent of Police summoned to the Police Station those of the signatories of the petition who could not have been present at the Vellankulam inquiry, recorded their statements and sent his report to the A.G.A. Mannar. The A. G. A. submitted his final report to the then G.A., N.P., Mr. B. J. Constantine.

The Government Agent visited Mannar about the latter part of July and on the 8th of August the A. G. A., Mannar, sent the following letter to the first signatory of the petition forwarded by the people of Mandaitheevu:—

With reference to your petition dated 23rd April, 1923, signed by you and 53 others and forwarded to me by the Hon. Mr. Duraisamy, you are informed that no special restrictions exist in respect of the collection and removal of cattle dung from Crown Lands within Mantai division. The D. A. Mantai has reported that he did not issue a proclamation of the kind referred to in your petition or authorise anybody to levy any charge for obtaining any kind of permit from him.

If the said——has at any time made any unauthorised recoveries as stated by some of the petitioners at my inquiry at Vellankulam on the 27th June last, it is open to them, if so advised, to proceed against him in a court of law.

The Sub-Collector Mannar, has been informed that he is at liberty to issue coastwise permits for the transport of cattle dung by sea without any certificate being produced from the D. A. Mantai

(Signed.) C. L. WICKREMESINGHE.
A. G. A. Mannar.

On receipt of the A. G. A's letter, the people of Mandaitheevu sent a petition dated 17th August 1923, to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police (G.I.D.) stating that it was the explicit duty of the police to move in the matter, as in many other minor and unimportant cases the police officers have thrust themselves forward, with a vengeance to prosecute; that it was unjust to expect them in addition to the large sums of money already alleged to have been swindled to spend further sums, on lawyers to conduct the prosecution of their case: that the reply sent to their petition was

tantamount to an indirect suggestion to drop matters etc., etc. This petition which was sent to the C.I.D. did not elicit any reply till now. About the middle of last month, I wrote to the D. I. G. P. (C.I.D.) inviting his attention to the petition sent by the Mandaitheevu people. At the C.I.D. office I learnt that my letter was referred to the A. G. A. Mannar, for his attention. Then I wrote to the A. G. A. Mannar, who replied by memo No. 2,900 dated 12th October, 1923 that my letter was returned to the Deputy I. G. P. on the 15th inst., and that I should ask him for a reply. On the 25th October last the Deputy I. G. P. (C.I.D.) informed me by letter No 6,753 that my letter was forwarded to the Assistant Superintendent of Police, N P., for his attention. The A. S. P. N. P. by memo No. C. 2495 of 29th October informed me that the matter was under correspondence with the Deputy Inspector-General Police (C I D) and that I would be informed of what it is proposed to be done on receipt of a reply from that officer. On the 2nd instant I received another memo No C. 2558 from the A.S.P., N P., that he was instructed by the Deputy Inspector-General to refer the parties to Court for legal remedy. Is this then not an open and direct challenge to His Excellency's dictum quoted above? The man who victimised the poorest and inarticulate islanders should be prosecuted by the police, or else, the officer referred to, should be called upon to clear himself of the imputations made against him by the man to the effect that he sold to him the cattle dung on an annual rent.

Yours etc,

Colombo, 8-11-23:

A. P. TAMBYAH.

The Following Letters were Published in The "Daily News."

ACTING APPOINTMENTS ON THE BENCH.

(By our legal correspondent.)

No. 1

One cannot imagine anything more vicious in principle and practice than a pleader acting once every month for a week as a Magistrate or Judge in any Court and practising in the same Court for the rest of the month. The personal question has nothing to do with the matter. No man whatever his character or reputation should be placed in such a position. The "exigencies of the service" plays fantastic tricks with the administration of Justice, but there is nothing so fantastic as this jack in the box exhibition in a Court of law. Occasion may arise such as the sudden illness of the Magistrate when a pleader may be put on to act for a day or two but make him divide his time regularly between the Bench and the Bar is simply preposterous. Such a practice would be objectionable in the metropolis where there is sufficient publicity and a powerful public opinion but in a remote out-station Court which has not even advanced to the stage of that useful individual the Courts reporter, it is doubly objectionable.

The particular gentleman again may be one of those who at the request of a large number of influential residents has consented" to have his name put forward *et cetera*. He may be the most desirable man, but he must do some canvassing. He may do so three weeks in the month when off the Bench, but he may not do so on the other week. What is he to do if his most ardent and powerful supporters are up before him for being let us say drunk and disorderly? Is he to fine or jail them and lose their support and vote and his seat or is he to acquit them and bid them depart without a stain on their character? Is he to kiss all the babies held up to him on his way home after his judicial labours? Is he to shake hands with all the horny handed sons of toil? It is a pity people place themselves in such unfortunate positions.

SIR.—The remarks of your legal correspondent anent acting appointments on the Bench, in your issue of the 5th March, will be heartily endorsed by the legal profession and the “brainy” section of the general public. The policy of appointing a practising Member of the Bar to act on the Bench even temporarily works incalculable harm in the long run. To begin with it is unfair to the other Members of the Bar. As the majority of suitors at many outstations are ignorant villagers they will naturally retain the “Nadukara Perakadoru Hamuduruwo” in preference to other Lawyers.

The policy is reprehensible for other reasons. I can give an instance of a lawyer who executed a deed deciding as Judge, the validity of that deed which was impugned as a forgery by the other side and many instances in which criminal plaints were entertained by an “Acting Magistrate” one day, and the very same Acting Magistrate appearing for the complainant the next day. The functions of a lawyer and a Judge are poles apart and can never be amalgamated and it is a wonder that the powers that be have not yet opened their eyes as to the grave consequences of such appointments and the scandals that are likely to arise from this procedure. In many towns there is really no necessity for such appointments—every Kacheheri has a Government Agent with two or three Assistants who are *ex officio* District Judges Commissioners and Police Magistrates who strange to say display a remarkable aversion to doing judicial duties. They find that sitting in the Kacheheri and signing papers, and going on long circuits, more congenial. It would be well to remind young Civil Servants that they are paid from the General Revenue to do certain duties and not to pick and choose the kind of work they like to do.

Yours etc,

Ambalangoda, March 6,

VERITAS.

No. 3.

SIR—The letter which appeared recently in The Ceylon "Daily News" signed "Fair Play" opens up many important questions which it will behove the powers which be, to give careful consideration to. Time was when only men of wide experience and well up in age, of studied habits and grave deportment, who had won their way to the top of their profession by industry as well as by merit and gained the regard and respect of all communities by probity of conduct and conscientious discharge of duties were thought fit to aspire to the post of Crown Proctor. Such appointments seem now to depend on the recommendation of one or two high officials. These latter are well meaning gentlemen but are often misled. This being so, it is a grave danger to foist these youthful Crown Proctors too often and for too long a period on the Bench. If this procedure is persisted in—it will lead to various abuses and miscarriages of Justice. The unavoidable absence of the presiding Judge owing to illness or on account of private business for a few days in a year—should be the only reasons for the Crown Proctor assuming the authority and the responsibility attended on the office of a Judge, and this authority should only be exercised in matters of peculiar urgency. But the anomalous position of Judge for one third of a month and practitioner for the remaining number of days should not be tolerated specially in an outstation Court. "Fair Play" has done a very meritorious act. To seek to expose an injustice perpetrated intentionally or unintentionally is to act in a righteous cause. The argument that the procedure complained of is common, needs of course no scrutiny or comment.—Yours etc,

WATCHMAN.

No. 4

SIR—In commenting on the letter of your legal correspondent on the vicious practice of permitting practicing lawyers to act as Police Magistrates and Commissioners of Requests, your correspondents, "Veritas." and "Watchman" in today's issue have done a great service

to the whole country in offering their own views and in condemning this practice.

Unfortunately, your correspondents seem to attack this practice mainly in view of the forthcoming elections and as it might affect the practice of the other members of the profession.

I for one, do not object to this practice on those grounds. I object to it on the ground that practicing lawyer who sits on the Bench in the absence of the permanent Judge may have to dispense justice to his own clients to whom he is deeply indebted for various reasons. The Acting Magistrate (practicing lawyer) may be a paragon of virtue. He may be a man of sterling character. Still he is a human being and subject to the same laws of nature as all mortals are. That being so, why should the Government which professes to be anxious to keep the fountain of Justice free from corruption and contamination permit practicing members of the Bar to act on the Bench. This is rendered doubly objectionable when the Acting Judge (practicing lawyer) is a close relative of the Officers of the Court and the head men. I trust that one of the first matters to engage the attention of the new Council will be this among others.—Your etc.

A. P. THAMBYAIL.

Colombo. March 11. 1924

Mr. S.D. Dhondy P. M. Avisawella delivered the following Judgment in the case in which a headman was charged with offering a bribe to Mr. B. L. Driberg acting Police Magistrate who is a practicing lawyer:—

“It is argued that the accused who is a Headman of 28 year's experience would not have the hardihood to offer a bribe of Rs. 10. But here the standard village life has to be considered. It is a fact admitted by all who do not close their eyes that there is a lot of corruption

rampant amongst the minor administrative officials. A report is very often not given without 50 cents being taken, and so on with endless jobs in which the assistance of the village Headman and the minor officials is sought. The accused has been bred in that atmosphere for 28 years. Such a long tenure of office may have led him to believe even that offering and taking of bribes is not a venial offence at all. He well may have argued if the bribe is not taken it would be refused. That's all. Who would take the trouble of getting me prosecuted? and there is one thing to be noted about all cases. A good many of them would never be detected unless the offender did something foolish.

The greatest criminal in history have been trapped as a result of some slight omission inspite of all their diabolical cunning. I well remember the quotation "those whom the gods want to ruin they first of all drive mad" A short of temporary madness and long indulgence in the matter of giving and taking bribes, which I must say is looked upon by too many people as not a venial offence at all may have led to this hardihood on the Headman's side. There is no doubt that the bribe was offered. It is a legal principle that a chain of circumstances, however improbable, may be rendered probable by the disinterested evidence of respectable witnesses.....

As I have no doubts on facts I find the accused guilty. I must pass a heavy sentence on the accused as these attempts to foul the very fountains of Justice should be scotched with a severe hand. I sentence the accused to 3 months' simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs 100, in default three weeks simple imprisonment more. The only consideration I can show in view of accused's long service and his age is to sentence him to simple imprisonment. It is the fact that a man of his position is sentenced to imprisonment which will act as a deterrent to a man in like position as himself as it will be considered a disgrace by them, not the fact of the punishment being simple or rigorous, and I think that the accused in view of his long service deserves to be treated leniently in that respect, so long as it can be done, meeting the ends of justice at the same time."

RUBBER TAX SCANDAL.

If the spectacle of a Mudaliyar being tried by the Supreme Court and sent to gaol is something unusual, the disclosures made in the trial of Mudaliyar DE MEL are no less sensational. Though it is true that in this case at least, the vague charges of extortion and corruption made against the Headman class were proved up to the hilt, the real interest of the prosecution centres round the character and the antecedents of the man.....

While this miserable victim of his own cupidity has gone to pay the penalty of his crime, the Government which has in the most obvious manner failed to make choice of fit persons for its responsible offices must not be suffered to escape the blame it has incurred.

.....
We have not a word to say in defence of a man who abused his office in order to extort money from the poor and the voiceless. But should not the Government which placed within his reach the opportunity to commit the offence be held to be participators in the guilt? This view gains confirmation when we consider the lax supervision exercised by the Government over Him.....
Is it surprising then that he availed himself of the chances presented to him by an obliging Government to prosecute his illegal operations? The methods he adopted to extort his levies in this instance suggest long familiarity. On the other hand how little his superior officers are able to exercise intelligent supervision over a man who has apparently carried on his practice of unlawful gain under their very eyes, may be seen from the flattering testimonials given by them to the accused. This they had to do to cover their own fault but it is positive evidence of the gross laxity of supervision prevailing in this quarter.....

"The Ceylon Daily News" 17-4-24.

HEADMEN AND CORRUPTION.

(FROM A LEGAL CORRESPONDENT.)

In practically all the cases in which Mudaliyars and such like have been convicted of corrupt practices, the accused persons were the prime favourites of the heads and in many cases every endeavour was made by the head to protect them. Loyalty, to subordinates is a good quality, but it may be pushed too far. The case from Kalutara is a typical one. The Mudaliyar started with a small salary. He was not worth a penny when appointed. Within a short time he amassed a fortune—because he said he did not smoke or drink! He continued his career and was finally found guilty of the most audacious and impudent acts of extortion which even a Mudaliyar could be guilty of. And up to the last moment two A.G.A's and two European planters gave him the highest character and presumably believed him innocent. The two amiable planters might be left alone but what of the two A.G.A's. They had practically daily official communications with him. His acts come under their scrutiny. How came it that under their very nose he was able to continue his unholy act of plunder? The only answer could be lack of adequate and proper supervision either owing to good nature or indolence or blind faith in the subordinate. There are many other similar cases and every body knows what the superior officials do not presumably know. When Mr. Ellis was told that a certain officer of his was a habitual bribe taker his cynical reply was: "He does his work very well and he is an intelligent officer. Leave him alone. We might get an incompetent man who would of course be a bribe taker as well" There are of course honest men among this class of officials, but there are dishonest men too who bask in the smiles of their good natured or indolent superiors who do not wish to be bothered or who think that bribe-taking is a tradition handed down from generation to generation and might be left to cure

itself. The luckless victim who petitions against such an official incurs grave risks. All the forces of officialdom are ranged against him and when he is charged with defamation he has little hope of escaping if the bribe takers' superiors give him the character which was given to the latest extortioner convicted. It was only the other day a Government Agent was allowed by a Magistrate to say that he inquired into the complaint against his Mudaliyar and found it to be false. It would also be well if all these high officials follow the example of the Government Agent of the Southern Province and refuse a demonstration by Mudaliyars and Kacheheri Officials on their departure on leave or to another station. The group photograph and other tomfooleries may well be reserved for his final departure from the island. The demonstration may mean joy or grief at his departure and the dear old ladies at home may point with pride at the picture of the sendoff to the proconsul of their family.

"The Ceylon Daily News" 16-4-24

THE BEST OF THE BUNCH.

Our Hultsdorf Correspondent makes a pertinent point in his reference to the recent case in which a Mudaliyar was convicted of extortion and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. As we had occasion to point out in our own comments on this remarkable case not the least of the sensational features of the proceedings was the evidence given by two Civil Servants under whom the convicted Mudaliyar had served. In view of the proud boast of the efficiency and the administrative ability which are supposed to characterise the work of these super men of the Government Service, there was every reason to believe that those officials would have been able to give a fair report of the character of the accused Mudaliyar. But what do we find? One of them described the accused as the best of a good lot as he took care to emphasize a bad-bunch. The other gave evidence to similar effect. We freely admit that there is something very touching in the devotion of the superior

to his subordinate especially when the latter is in difficulty. It is certainly a praiseworthy trait that even when the accused was under a cloud of suspicion the officers who had previously entertained a high notion of his character still stood by him and frankly gave testimony to their conception of the man. But when all is said and done, there is another and a far more important side to the matter and it is to this our correspondent from Hultsdorf rightly draws attention.

It was not many years ago that the Governor of this Colony made the statement in a State paper backed as it was by the weight of his great position that the truest representatives of the masses of this country were not their more educated brethren but the various Government Agents. These, said Sir HENRY MCCALLUM really understood the people, their wants and their difficulties. He was sure they understood them infinitely better than any educated Ceylonese possibly could. How does the evidence of the two representatives of this order appear in the light of this proud claim? In this case it was a section of the masses who complained against the Headman. The Government officials threw the weight of their influence on the side of the Headman and against the oppressed masses. It may be argued that we are singling out one solitary incident for the purpose of impeaching the entire order of superior Government officials. But as our Correspondent points out, although the incident of the superior official of the Government entering the witness-box in defence of an accused Headman may be rare, there are other incidents from which we are justified in drawing conclusions. It is a well known fact that scores of petitions are sent in to Government Agents against Mudaliyars. Yet some of the men who are known to the public to be corrupt to the backbone are suffered to remain and grow fat at the expense of the people. How does this happen? It is only possible in the way it became possible for the two officials to get into the witness

box and on their oath to swear that a Headman who has since been convicted of extortion was the best of a good bunch. It is now easy to understand how it is that the charges made against Headmen recoil on the heads of those who made them while the accused Headmen continue in greater favour with the Government. With Government Agents and other officials of that class considering it a matter of honour to back their accused subordinates, no wonder that very few petitions have the desired effect of obtaining an impartial investigation into the conduct of Headmen.

In reply to all this we shall very likely be asked why if there is a case, recourse is not had to the Courts. Our Correspondent once more supplies the answer. If it is at all possible to get an impartial investigation, there are public spirited persons who will even run the risk of being charged for defamation in order to expose public scandals, But when a member of the public, especially if he is a man of humble status is the accuser and the accused is a Headman, the former has little chance as the result of numerous investigations into petitions at the Kacheheri show. But once let the Government Agent descending from Olympus testify to the unimpeachable character of his Headmen, then the latter will be able to defy with perfect safety the agitation of the oppressed poor. This is what happens and this can only be remedied if Government Agents and other supermen abandon the glorious isolation in which they dwell and move among the people. But except in the case of a few, this is to ask for the impossible.

The Ceylon "Daily News" 26-4-24.



Colombo Mannariyans' Association.

(INAUGURAL MEETING.)

The inaugural meeting of the Colombo Mannariyans' Association was held on Saturday, the 10th instant, at 6.30, p.m. in the Lorenz College hall kindly lent for the occasion by the principal.

Pursuant to a notice issued by the organisers an enthusiastic gathering was present.

Mr. L. Andrew, Store keeper Messrs Walker Sons & Co., in a short speech proposed Mr. V. Thiedeman of Messrs Plate Ltd. to be elected President of the Association as he was in the opinion of the mover the safest man to guide their deliberations.

Mr. J. C. Rajaratnam Broker, seconded the motion

The gathering having signified their assent by receiving the motion with applause, Mr. Thiedeman took the chair and thanked his countrymen for the honour done in electing him as their first President. A more important task he said was yet to be performed and that was the election of a Secretary. No Association could do useful work without an energetic and capable Secretary. He said, he had great pleasure in proposing the name of Mr. A. P. Thambyah than whom there was no more earnest champion of the cause of Mannar, who in the teeth of organised and influential opposition worked by constitutional means to get a Commission consisting of Dr. Joseph Pearson, Hayward Messrs. Kelway Bamber, and K. Balasingham, to visit Mannar to inquire into the grievances of the fishermen who formed the bulk of the population in Mannar Island and to recommend the abolition

of a certain Saintry Board rule which imposed great hardships on the poor fishermen, who helped our Mohamedan countrymen during the ravages of the 1919 Smallpox epidemic and who was elected unanimously as Secretary of the historic meeting held in Mannar two or three years ago to consider the early construction of the Mannar-Mainland bridge. He therefore proposed the name of Mr. A. P. Thambyah (Applause).

Mr. S. Rasanayagam seconded the motion which was unanimously carried. This over, the president called upon Mr. Thambyah to explain the objects of the meeting and to move the resolution relating to the formation of the Association.

Mr. Thambyah's Address

Rising amidst applause Mr. Thambyah said:—"Mr. President and gentlemen, I am highly flattered by the eloquent references made to me by your president which I do not deserve at all. Without wasting much of your time I may say that the objects of this Association are to bring together for mutual help and co-operation the Mannaryians living in Colombo and also to devise means to advice on right lines our illiterate countrymen living in the Mannar District on current political questions. By our education and disinterested service we are thoroughly qualified for the task. I have never hesitated to offer my candid and wholesome criticisms on measures which are detrimental to the interests of the permanent population. But as regards the decision of His Excellency the Governor not to consider the application for a separate seat for Mannar I say that His Excellency has acted with the greatest political wisdom and far-sightendness. After thorough and full inquiry with a view to prevent a few powerful and influential

persons banding themselves to defeat the very objects of the order in council, His Excellency decided to include Mannar in the Southern division of the Northern Province. The whole district bowed before the decision. Not a word of protest was raised till this very late hour when everything has been finally decided and settled. Having allowed matters to drift and take their own course, now, the handful of the educated men in Mannar who owe their influence, position and power to the benign Government are misleading their illiterate countrymen to non-co-operate. I say that this act on the part of those who are sowing the seeds of discontent and disaffection is one to be severely condemned as disloyal. Let the Government take note of the harm and peril to which it exposes its own and the interests of the public by blindly arming a few persons with vast powers. I will be the first person to agitate for a separate seat for Mannar if these friends of mine in Mannar can prove to me within the next five years that there is the tolerant spirit of "Live and let live" that there is no corruption and bribery in the villages, that every man however humble he may be, if his intelligence, education and character fit him, may rise up to the position he is entitled to; that there is no "family-bandyism" in Mannar, that there are a sufficient number of suitable men who have the character, the capacity, and resources to compete against each other for Legislative honours. In conclusion, I may state that the threat of non-co-operation is a bluff. His Excellency may rest assured of the whole-hearted and loyal co-operation of the Mannaryians in Colombo to frustrate the disloyal attempt in Mannar to non-co-operate, (applause). As regards the rumoured candidature of Mr. H. A. P. Sandarasagara for the Southern division of the N. P. I may say that we shall be only very happy to support him if he will satisfy us that he will work for the greatest good of the greatest number. I move that an Association of the Mannaryians be formed and that steps be

taken to advise our ignorant countrymen in the Mannar district on right lines. Mr. Allanson Thiedeman seconded and it was unanimously carried.

A Committee consisting of Messrs. M. Rajendram of Messrs. Aitkenspence & Co., S. Nicholas Storekeeper Messrs. Hunter & Co., S. D. Stanlysesz of Good Year Rubber Co., J. C. Rajaratnam, Broker, A. Vanderkoon, Allanson Thiedeman, including the President and Secretary, with power to add to their number, was appointed to draw up the rules. The meeting terminated at a late hour with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

No. _____
P. 914.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 23rd May, 1924.

Sir,

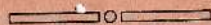
I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your letter dated the 5th May, 1924, forwarding certain resolutions passed at a meeting of the people of Mannar resident in Colombo held on the 30th April, 1924.

2. I am to state that there is no intention whatever of making any alteration in the distribution of seats in the Northern Province before the General Election.

3. With regard to the request that an office Assistant be appointed to the Assistant Government Agent, Mannar, I am to state that the matter has been under consideration for sometime past, and that it is hoped to be able to make some suitable arrangement in this connection.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
L. A Northcroft.
for Colonial Secretary.

முகவுரை .



என்தேவனினதும், தேசத்தினதும், அரசனினதும் நாமத் தினாலே சட்டநிருபண சபையின் மாட்சிமைதம்பிய பிரதிநிதியை யும், கனந்தங்கிய அச்சங்க அங்கத்தினரையும் இப்புஸ்தகத்தை வாசித்து அதன்பின்னால் உவர்களுடைய அடைக்கலத்திற் சர்வ லோகங்கட்கெல்லாம் அதிபதியானவரால் வைக்கப்பட்ட மன்னரி லுள்ள 26,000 ஜனங்கள் நெறிநீதியுடன் ஆழப்பட்டு வருந்நூர் களோ அல்லவோ வென்று தீர்மானிக்கும்படி தயவாய் தாழ்மை யாய் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றேன்.

என்னஞ் யத்துக்காய் மன்னரில் எத்தனைபேர்கள் பிறந் திருக்க நான்மாத்திரம் ஏழைஜனங்கட்காய் என் ஜீவியகாலத்தை முற்றாய்ச் செலவளிக்கிறேன் என்பதைப்பற்றி முன் முகனையில் எழுதுவது முக்கிய அவசியம்

என்னுடைய பேரன் நல்லையர் என்பவர் யாழ்ப்பாணம் வண் ணார்பண்ணையில் உயர்ந்தகுல கோகதிரத்தில், பரம்பரையாய் வைத் திய சாஸ்திரத்தில் பண்டிதரென்னும் பட்டம் கீர்த்தியுடன் பெற்றுச்சகலாலுந் தோற்றிப் பேற்றி, புகழுடன் வாழ்ந்திருந்த ஓர் சிறந்த வேழாளமச்சத்திற் பிறந்தவர். அவர் மன்னருக்குப் போய் காணி, பூம் வாங்கிச் செல்வாக்குடன் சகலாலும் மதிக்கப் பெற்றிருந்தார். எந்ததாம் பிராயத்தில் இவருக்கு ஓர் விஷக்காய்ச் சல் பிடித்து அவ்வருத்தத்தில் தான் தப்பமாட்டேனென்பதை அறிந்து தன் மைத்துனன் இப் பா கொஞ்சநாளேக்குமுன் காலஞ் சென்ற நீ. நீ அ சுவரிமுத்துபிள்ளை என்பவரை அழைத்து அவ ரிடம் தன் பெண்சாகியையும், என் தகப்பனார் அருளப்பர் தம்பை யாவையும் அவரின் சகோதரி ரேகுத்துரையாயிருந்து இப்போ இளைப்பாறி இருக்கும் த. ஞானம் என்பவரின் மனைவி ஞானமுத்

தென்பவையும், தன்னுடைய சகல சம்பத்துக்களையும் ஒப்படைத்
து விட்டு மாணித்தார்.

என்னுடைய தகப்பனாரும் புகழ்பெற்ற வைத்தியனாகவே
துலங்கினார் ஆனால் இளம்வயதாகிய 32-ம் பிராயத்தில் இவரும்
மரித்ததினால் எனக்கும், எந்தாயாருக்கும் இவரின் சம்பாத்தியம்
அதிகம் மிஞ்சவில்லை. என்னுடைய தகப்பனார் மாணித்தபொழுது
எனக்கு வயது நானு மன்றாற் பிரிநிலே அழகிலும், சவுந்தரியத்தி
லும், நடைமீலும், கடவுள் வணக்கத்திலும், கற்பிலும் ஜீவகாரு
ண்ணியத்திலும், ஒருவருக்கும் இணையற்ற எந்தாயாருக்கு அப்
போ வயது 21. என்னுடைய உருத்தாளரில் எத்தனைபோ பேர்
எண்ணப்படிபிடுக்க முன்னார்கள். உணர்ச்சி, ரோஷம் நிறைந்த
எந்தாயர் தன் சகோதரங்களிடந்தன்னும் உதவிபெற விருப்பம்
ற்றிருந்ததல் தன்பிரயாசத்தினாலேயே உச்சியிலிருந்து உள்ளங்
கால்வரையும் வேர்வைசுந்தி தன்பொறுப்பிலேயே என்னை படிப்பி
த்தா பிறுன்கேசத்தை ஆண்டு சகல ஐரோப்பிய அரசரையும் ஆட
க்கிவைத்த நெப்போலியன் என்பவர் தன் தாயே தன்னை மனிதனா
க்கிவைத்தவனென்று சொன்ன பிரகாரம் எந்தாயே என்னையும்
என் தேசத்தக்கய் என்டேனையை நாட்டும் வல்லமையத் தந்த
வனென்று நானுங் கூறுகின்றேன்

பள்ளிக்கூடத்திலே நான் 2-ம் வகுப்பில் படிக்கிற பொழுது
பெரியகடையிலிருந்தவென் உருத்தாளர் தங்களுடைய திருத்தக்
துக்காய் ஒரு சங்கத்தை உண்டாக்கினார்களே இளம்பிராயத்திலே
இப்படியான முயற்சிகட்கு எனக்கு வேகு உற்சாகம் இருந்தமை
யால் கீழமைக்கு 6 சதஞ் சம்பளமாய்க் கூட்டம் நடக்கும் அறை
யைக்கூட்டவும், தீபம்வைக்கவும் உடன்பட்டேன். அத்துடன்
கூட்டம் ஆரம்பமாக முன்னர் வாய்ப்பாடமாய் சிலவார்த்தைகளை
யும் உரைத்து வந்தேன்.

கூட்டங்களில் அயர்லாந்து தேசத்தில் தன் ஜாதியாருக்காய்த் தன் பணத்தையும், காணிபூமி, சகல செல்வங்களையும் தன் ஜீவிய காலத்தை முற்றும் சிலவளிந்த டேனியல் ஓக்கனல் என்பவரை இட்டுப்பேசப்படுவது வழக்கம். இப்பெரிய புண்ணிய சீலனை என் முன்மாதிரிக்காய் என் மனதில் பதித்துவைத்தேன். வழர, வழர, என்னுடைய அன்பான சகோதரர் முறையிட, முறையிட நானும் எப்போ என் தேசத்தை மன்னிலுள்ள ஒரு குடும்பத்தின் சிறையிலிருந்து மீட்கக்கூலம் வரும், வருமென்று இச்சித்தேன். என்னுடைய சிறிய பிராயம் துவங்கி இதுவரையும் என் சகோதரருக்காய்ச்செய்தகாரியங்கள் சகலதும் எல்லோருக்குத் தெரிந்த காரியங்கள் தான்.

மன்னிலே 1909-ஆண்டு நடந்த வைகுரி விபாதியினால் எத்தனையோ என் ஏழைச்சகோதரர் வெகு நிற்பாக்கியப்பட்டார்கள் இஸ்வரியவர்கள் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுள் தனவான்கள், எவ்விதம் பார்வையிடப்பட்டார்களென்றும், பள்ளிமுனை, சோனகதெரு, உப்புக்குளம், பனங்கட்டிக்கொட்டு, எருக்கலம்பிட்டி, தாறுக்குண்டு, கோணார்பண்ணை இன்னும் மற்றுமிடங்களிலுள்ள என் சகோதரர் என்னவிதமாய்ப்பார்வை இடப்பட்டார்கள் என்பதையும், இப்போமாக்கிரந்தான் மன்னரின் நன்மையை விரும்பி மன்னுருக்குப் பிறம்பான இடம் சட்டசபையில தாவேனுமென்று வரதுசெய்கிற பிரபுக்கள் அப்போ என்னசெய்தவர்கள் என்பதையும், தி. தி. பி. செ. உ. கி. கா. கி. மு. செ. இன்னும் மற்றும் இஸ்லாமானவர்கள் சமூகத்தில் தி. தி. கிளர்வவில் துரையிடம் பேசுகிறோமென்று முதல்வாக்குப்பண்ணி திரும்பி அளித்தவர்களையும், மன்னிலுள்ளவர்களில் ஏழையாகிய நான் ஒருவன்மாதிரிமே அஞ்சாநெஞ்சுடன் ஆசுப்பத்திரியில் இருந்தோரைத் தரிசித்தும், கொழும்பு மற்று மிடங்களுக்குட்போய் இஸ்லாம் மதத்திற்கும் அதைக்கைக்கொள்வோருக்கும், மகிமையை வரும்படி செய்த

தையும், சற்றே உற்று உணர்ந்து ஆராய்வு செய்யும்படி மன்றாடிக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

இடைஞ்சல் இக் கட்டுகளுள்ள காலங்களில் எங்களைக்கைவிட்டவர்களை நம்புவது மோசமே மோசம். இப்போ அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய காரியங்களைப்பெறுவதற்காய்ச் சிரிப்பதையும், தாழ்மையாய்க் கதைப்பதையும், வாக்குகள் செய்வதையும் நம்ப வேண்டாம்.

தங்கள் பின்னைகுட்டி சந்தானங்கள் அடிமைத்தனத்திலிருந்து நீட்கப்ப டுச் சுயாதீனத்தில் பிறந்து வளர்ந்து, சீராய் சிறப்பாய் வாழ்ந்து சகலரையும்போல் நடக்கவேண்டுமென்ற அபிப்பிராயமுள்ளோர், ரோஷம், உணர்ச்சியுள்ளோர் தங்கள் எண்ணத்தின்படியொளிய வேறொருவரின் பிரியத்துக்கும், எண்ணத்துக்கும் நடக்கமாட்டார்கள். அப்படி நடப்பவர்கள் தங்கள் குலத்துக்கும், ஜாதிக் கும், பிதாக்கள் மாதகக்களுடைய எலும்புக்கும் எனத்தை வருவிப்பார்கள். சுயாதீனமுள்ள பிரித்தானியா கொடியின் கீள் வாழும், நாங்கள் எங்களைப்போன்ற வேறு ஒரு பிரசைக்குப் பயப்படுவானேன்? பெய், களவு, அடாத்தான செய்கைகளின் றிச் சீனித்தால் எங்களை அசைக்க எவரால் முடியும்? அத்துடன் தேசாதிபதி அவர்கள் எழுதியிருக்கிறார் இனிமேல் மன்னர் ஏஜண்டாருக்கு இரண்டாவதாய் ஒருவரை அனுப்புநீற்காகவும், அவரையே போலீஸ் நீதிபதிவேலை பார்க்கும்படி செய்ய ஒழுங்குகள் செய்யப்படுகின்றதென்றும். ஆனபடியால் இவ்வளவு காலமும் பயந்து கெடிக்கலங்கி இருந்த எனது சகோதரரே இனிமேல் உங்கள் பயங்களை இழந்து மற்றும் ஊர்களிலுல்ல ஜனங்கள் சுயாதீனத்தையும், தன்னிஸ்டத்தையும், மனத்தையித்தையும் அதுபவித்து கடவுளுக்கும் அரசனுக்கு மாழிய, வேறு ஒரு பிரசைக்கு, பயப்படாது நடக்கிறார்களோ அவ்வமை மே நீங்களும் நடக்கவேண்டும்.

கைக்கவி, கைலஞ்சம் ஒருவருக்கும் கொடுக்கவேண்டாம். கோற
ணமேந்து உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள். அரசாங்கத்தாரால் திறுப்தியான
சம்பளங்கள் கொடுப்பதென்று வருகிறார்கள். ஆனபடியால் நீங்
கள் அவர்களுக்கு ஒருசல்லியேனுங் கொடுப்பது பெருந்தரோகம்.
அது கட்டளைச்சட்டத்துக்கும் மாறானசெய்கை. ஆராகிலும் உங்
களை நெருக்கினால், அனியாயமாய் நடத்தினால் உடனே எனக்கு
ஆறிய்யுங்கள். வதைக்கப்படும் என் ஏழைச்சகோதரரே என். அண்
டை வாநங்கள், உங்கள் துயரங்களைச் சொல்லுங்கள். உடனே,
அவைகளுக்கான வளிவகைகளை யானதேடி உங்கள் துன்பங்களைத்
தீர்க்க முயற்சிசெய்வேன்.

நீங்கள் அனுபவிக்குந் துன்பங்களையாது மூன்று அதிகாரிக
ளும் கோட்டிலுள்ள சகல உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களும் கச்சேரியிலுள்ள
சிலரும் ஒரு குடும்பத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாயிருப்பதால் ஏழைகளா
கிய மற்றவர்களுக்கு இவர்களின் குடும்ப ஒற்றுமை எவ்வளவு
கெடுதியைச் செய்கின்றது

இப்படி இருப்பதுடன் சட்டசபையில் புறம்பான ஒரு அங்
கத்தவரையுங் கேட்கிறார்கள். அப்படியும் நேரிட்டால் எண்ணைச்
சட்டியில் வெந்து தடிக்கும் நாங்கள் ஆழிய நெருப்பில் விழுந்து
வேகுமாப்போலிருக்கும். இவர்களுடைய சேர்ந்த சிலர் பசப்பான
கதைகளைக் கதைத்து உங்களைத் தவறாய் நடத்தப்பார்ப்பார்கள்.
ஒருபே. தும் எடுட்டுவேண்டாம். சொல்லப்பட்ட குடும்பத்தவர்
கள் சட்டசபைக்குப் போகமாட்டார்கள். வேறு ஆட்களைத்தான்
போக ஏலி, உதவிபுரிந்து விடுவார்கள் என்ற உறுதிப்படுத்தப்படா
கதைக்குஞ் செவிகொடுக்கவேண்டாம். ஆகுமட்டும் அரசர், அண்
ணர் ஆகினவுடன் நீர் யார், நான் யார், என்பது உலகவழக்கமல்
லவா? செல்லப்பட்ட குடும்பத்தார் நாங்கள் ஒருவரும் சட்டசபைக்

குப் போகமாட்டோம் என்று எழுத்தில் தத்தம்பண்ணித் தந்த போதிலும் நானொருபோதும் நம்பேன் அப்படி நம்புபவர்கள் மிலேச்சரும், பித்தலாட்டக்காரரும், ஒளிய, அழிய கருத்துடையோரல்ல. முசலியிலுள்ள. என்னுடைய அருமையான சகோதரர்களே நீங்கள் அகத்தி முறிப்புத்தேக்கத்தைக் கட்டித்தரும்படி சட்டசபையில் பேசவேண்டுமென்று ஒன்றிங் துரைசாமியைக் கேட்க மன்றார்வாடி, ஸீட்டுக்கு வந்தபொழுது நடந்த சம்பவத்தை ஒருபோதும் மறக்கவேண்டாம் அகத்தி முறிப்புத்தேக்கத்தைக் கட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்படாது என்று ஒருவர்வெகு கெற்சிதமாய் வாதாடினதையும், மறந்துபோக வேண்டாம். இஸ்லாமானவென் சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் ஒற்றுமையாய் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் உதவியாய் இருங்கள். இப்பேர மன்னரில் கரணியேகை பார்க்கும் மென், கச்சுமுகம்மது என்பவரே! நீர் உம்முடைய ஜனங்களுக்கு தளகர்த்தனாய். வனிகாட்டியாய் வந்து அவர்களுக்குப் பெலத்தையும் தைரியத்தையும் கொடுக்கத் தெண்டிக்கவேண்டும். மற்றும்படி உமது சிறுபிள்ளைப் புத்தியினாலும், தப்பிதமானவர்கள் செய்யும் போதனையினாலும் அழிதப்பி நடந்து உமது ஜனங்களுடைய உதவியை இழந்துவிட வேண்டாம். நான் பெரியவன், நீ சிறியவன் என்று வைராக்கிபஞ் சாதித்தால் ஒருபோதும் மன்றார் மகமதியருடைய தளக்கர்த்தனாய் வரமுடியாது. வளைந்தவில்லொளிய வளையாதவில்லு ஒருபோதும் தைக்கமாட்டா தென்பதை மறந்து விடவேண்டாம்.

வயதிலும், செல்வாக்கிலும், படிப்பிலும் மற்றும் காரியபாகங்களிலும், கூடிய என் மகமதிய நண்பரே நீங்களும், சிறுவர் செய்யுந்தவறுகளை மறந்து அவர்களை மேலான நிலைபரத்துக்குக் கொண்டுவர வழி தேடுங்கள். அப்படிச்செய்வது உங்கள் பாரிய கடமை. துருக்கியகேசம் முக்தியிருந்த நிலையையும், கிருப்பி துரு

துருக்கியருடைய ஒற்றுமையினத்தினால் அது பாழடைந்து இப் போ மஸ்பற்றா கமல்பாச்சா மற்றும் துருக்கிய தேச அபிமானி களுடைய ஒற்றுமையினாலும், விடாமுயற்சியினாலும், திரும்பவும் முன்னி ருந்ததைவிடப் பரின்மடங்கு பிரபல்லியமாய் விட்டன

ஆகையால் மன்னூரில் வசிக்கும் என் ஆரிய பெரியவர்களே! என் அன்பான சகோதரரே! நீங்கள் எனது திராவிட வம்சத்தா ராகினும் அல்லது மகமதியராகினும் உங்களுக்கு எப்பொழுதும் உதவக்கூடியவர்கள், உங்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யக்கூடியவர்கள், விடாப்பிடியாய் வாதாடக்கூடியவர்கள் ஆரென்று கண்டுபிடியுங் கள். மற்றவர்கள் தங்கள், தங்கள் வசதிக்கும், நன்மைக்காய்ச் சொ ல்லுபவைகளைக் கேட்கவேண்டாம். மன்னூர் சின்னக்கடையிலு ன்ள ஒருவர், பலர் சமூகத்தில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் சொன்னாராம் தங்களுடைய உத்தராவின்றி வேறொருவரும் மன்னாருக்குப் போக ப்படாதென்றும், தங்களுடைய தகப்பனாருடைய உத்தரவுடன் மற்றவர்கள் அங்கேபோயிருக்கிறார்கள் என்றும். இப்படி இவர் எத் தனையோபேர் முகதாவில் சொன்னவர் என்று எனக்கு ஒரு போதி ய படித்தவர் சொன்னார்.

இதை மெசர்ஸ்போலும், பொன்னாசாவும், கச்சமுகமதுவும், கெயிலும், செல்வனுபகமும் ஆறியவேண்டியது. பொன்னப்பாத் தை, பிறகுமும் பெருமாள் இன்னும் இவர்களுடைய ஒரு சகோத ரன் கென் இந்தியாவில் மன்னாருக்கு வந்தந்தப்போ வென்றும் அவர்களிலிருந்து உற்பத்தியானவர்கள் யார் என்பதையும், இவரு டைய போனும், பெண்சாதிபின் போனும், என்ன பணியிடை செய்தவர்கள் என்பதையும் விசாரணை செய்தபின் ஒளிய, அதற்கு முன் இப்படியான கதைகள் செல்வது புக்கியல்ல. கண்ணாடி வீட்டில் வசிப்பவர்கள் கல்லெறிவது மதியினம்!

குறிக்கப்பட்டவர் மற்றவர்களைப்பாற்கிலும் நல்லாய்ப்படித்த விசாலமான இருகயமும், மணமும் உடைய ஒருவர். அப்படிப்

பட்டவர் இவ்விதமான எண்ணத்தையுள்ளவரானால் இவருடைய மற்றக்குடும்பத்தோர் இதைப்பாற்றிலும் எவ்வளவு கொடுமையான, பாதுகாமான எண்ணங்களை உள்ளோராய் இருப்பார்கள்? ஒரு குடும்பத்தோரை 26,000 ஜனங்களுக்கு மேல் அதிகாரிளாக ஆக்கினால் என்னவென்ன விதமான எண்ணங்கள் இவர்களுக்கு உற்பத்தியாகாது? மன்னா சின்னக் கடையிலுள்ள என் ஆரிய சகோதரே, சகோதரிகளே! உங்களுக்கும் எனக்கும் யாதேனும் பகைவயிராக்கியம் இல்லை. உங்களுக்கே வழவாயத் தெரியும் மன்னாரில் நடக்குங் காரியங்கள்! நான் பெரியகடை நீங்கள் சின்னக் கடை, அல்லது நான் ஒருஜாதி நீங்கள் வேறொரு ஜாதி என்பதற்காப் இவைகளை எழுதுகிறேன் என்று எண்ணவேண்டாம். உங்களுக்குள்ளே தானும் எவ்வளவோ பிரிவினைகள் அடாத்துகள் நடக்கிறதை நான் அறியேனோ? சனிரிழுத்துப்பிள்ளையும் சகோதர சகோதரிகள் என்ன ஞாயத்துக்காய்க் கொழுமபிவிருந்து வெகு பணச்செலவிட்டு ஒரு தாணியைக் கொண்டுவந்து காலஞ்சென்ற ஸ்ரீமான் ஆந்தோனிப்பிள்ளையுடைய மரணசாதன வளக்கை நடக்கிறார்கள்?

பால்கட்டியார் பொன்னையா வீட்டில் காதுகளோடு ஒருகிழவி பெலத்துக் கதைத்தமையாற் கோபமுற்ற ஒருவர் கூரைக்கு நெருப்பிட வெளிக்கிட்ட, துணிகாத்தையும் துணிகாக்கின் காரணத்தையும் அறியாதவர்கள் மன்னாரில் இருக்கிறார்களோ? சிறி போர்செய்யும் தவறுகள் வெளியில் வருவதும் கனவன்கள் செய்யும் அடாத்துகள் மறைக்கப்படுவதும் மன்னா லொளிய வேறெங்குமில்லை. இப்போ மன்னாரில் நெஜிஸ்ரார் மேலைபார்க்கும் தீ-தீ. விருகப்பிள்ளை என்பவரில் எத்தனைபேர் பொறுண்மைப்படுகிறார்கள்? ஆனால் நானேனென்றால் மன்னாரில் பிறந்து வழங்காத என் சகோதரர் உயருவதில், ஆனந்த சந்தோஷமொளிய எரிச்சல்படுவது என்னளவேனும இல்லை. ஆனால் நான் சொல்வது உன்

னைப்போல், உன் அபலானையும் நேசி, அவனையும் உயர்த்தி, நீயும் உனது புத்திரர். புத்திரிகள் மாத்திரம் வாழவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புவது உன் குலத்துக்கு நாகம்.

டக்டர் கவிரியப்பிள்ளை. செல்லப்பா அவர்கள் கொழும்பில் புகழுடன் இருப்பது பெருமை. முதன்முதலாக டக்டர் கவிரியப்பிள்ளையுடைய சிறப்பையுஞ் சீரையும் பற்றி புதினங்களில் பிரசுரஞ்செய்தது நான் என்பது அவரின் மைத்துனர் மெஸ் ஆனந்தத்துக்குத் தெரிந்த விஷயம்.

எருக்கலம்பிட்டிக்குப் பாலங்கட்டித்தருவதாய்க் கவர்ண்மெண்டார் வாக்களித்தது எவ்வளவு காலம்? இன்னுங் கட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்படாததற்குக் காரணமென்ன? பேசாலைக்கும் நடுக்குடாவுக்கும் அவசியம் றோட்டுப் போடப்படவேண்டும், திருக்கேதீச்சரம், மணத்துளம், மாலிவாடி இம் மூன்றிடங்களுக்கும் பிரயாணிகள் மழை வெய்யினினால் உபத்திரவப்படுவது தங்கி இருக்கத்தக்க இடங்கள் கட்டப்பட வேண்டும். முக்கிய அவசியம் மன்னார் பாலமும் மடுறோட்டு ரோடையும். பேசாலை, தலைமன்னார் மாதோட்டம் இவ்விடங்களில் பிறப்புக் குறைவு இறப்பு அசுகமென்றறிவது கிலேசமான காரியம். மன்னார் பெரியகடை நடுக்குறுச்சியிற் பெண்பிள்ளைகள் மரியாதையாய்ப் போக்குவரவுசெய்து தண்ணீர் கொள்வதற்காய் 2 பயிப்புகள் நிற்பாட்டப்படவும் வேண்டும்.

இவ்விஷயங்களை இட்டுக் கொழும்பிலே கூடப்பட்டிருக்கும் சங்கத்தில் பேசப்படும். மன்னார் மகாசனசபையும் ஆலோசனை செய்வது தகுதியாகும். “ஆர்குத்தினலும் அரிசியே தேழ்வை” எரிச்சல் பொறுண்மை பகை வைராக்கியம் இன்றி நந்கருத்துடன் பொதுஜன நன்மைக்காய் ஒற்றுணைப்பதே பெரியோற்சபுகு

யாழ்ப்பாண நகரில் வசிக்கும் என் சகோதரர், சகோசரி சகணை கோயிலுக்குப் போய்க் கும்பிடுவதும், அரோகரா வென்று

ஒலமிடுவதும், உத்தமனஸ்தாப மந்திரமோதிப் பிழைதட்டுவதும் விளவேலினல், ஏனெனில் யாழ்ப்பாண நகரில் பிறர்நேசம், தருமசிந்தை, அன்னங்கொடை, பிழைபொறுக்கும் பெருந்தன்மை, சுத்த இருதயம், மேலான குணகுணங்கள் இவைகளைக் காணுவது அரிதாயிருக்கிறது.

கோயிலுக்குப் போவது மேற்பூச்செனவும், பிறர் மெச்சச் செய்யுஞ் செய்கையெனவும் எண்ண இடமா யிருக்கின்றது. கோயிலால் வீடுவந்துசேர்ந்தவுடன் “அவன் அப்படி” “இவன் இப்படி” “நான் அப்படி” “நீ இப்படி” என்ற ஆவலாதிகள், அவதூறுகள் நிர்தாட்சணிகள் டேசுவதேன்? பிறத்தியார் இல்லாத நேரத்திலும் இடத்திலும், அவர்களைப்பற்றி இகழ்ந்து பேசுவதுபோல் எளியசெய்கை வேறில்லை. பிறர் வாழ்வில் பொருண்மை அவர்கள் தாழ்வில் ஆனந்த சந்தோஷமடைவதேன்? குத்துக்கதை, குடாசகர, குள்ளத்தனம், வம்பு, நகைப்புக் களைப்பேன்? மேலான சொல்லும், நேரான நடையும்ல்லோ தருமநீதி அவைகள் அல்லோ ஒருவன் ஒருவன் உயர்குலம், மேலானகுலம் என்பதைக் காட்டுபவை மற்றும்படி மினுக்கும் அவர்கள் பிலுக்கும் வெறும் வீண். ஒருவன் கைரியமாய், ராணுவமாய், கெதுவமாய்ச்சீவித்தால் அவனுடைய உள்ளன்பையும் அவனின் மேலான எண்ணங்களையும் அறியாமல் அவனைப் பொல்லாய்க் கதைப்பார்கள். வேறொருவன் நகிந்து, வளைந்து, மெல்லினமாய்க் கதைப்பானேயாகில் எவ்வளவு குள்ளன் ஆனாலும், அவனைப் போற்றுவார்கள். ஆனதினற்றான் சற்குணங் குறைந்து தற்குணங்கள் பெருக்கின்றன. கோயிலுக்குப் போவதும், சும்பிடுவதும், தேவநாமத்தை அழைப்பதும் வெகு உவப்பானவை. ஆனால் நல்ல மனகடன் பாசாங்குகள் பண்ணாமற் செய்யவேண்டும். தருமமே ஜெயம். தருமஞ்செய்கிற குடுபட்டங்கள் எத்தனை? வீம்புக்கும், வீணாட்டத்துக்கும்மாய் கோயிற் திருவிளாக்களுக்கும்

நோவினைகளுக்கும் வெடிகள் தீர்ந்து, பளிர், பளிர் என்ற பந்தலிட்டு, வகைவகையான வாணவிளையாட்டுகள் செய்தோ ரெங்கே? பணமெங்கே? இப்போ அவர்களின் பிள்ளைகுட்டிகள் தலைபாமென்ன? இவைகளை உற்றுமேல்கிக்கும் என் சகோதரரே! வேட்கைகளையும், வெளி ஆடம்பரங்களையும் விட்டு, உங்களுக்கு மித நிஞ்சிய செல்வத்தைத் தருமத்திற் செலவிடுங்கள். அறுதலி, கைமலம்பன், உதவிபற்ற குமர், அன்னமற்றவர், உடையற்றவர். இல்லிடமற்றவர், கல்விசற்கப் பணமற்றிருக்கும் அனாதப்பிள்ளைகள், இவர்களைக் கரைசேர்க்க உதவியெய்யுங்கள்

தாய், தந்தையர் சில பிள்ளைகளை ஒருமாதிரியும், மற்றப் பிள்ளைகளை வேறுமாதிரியும் பாவிப்பதும், சகோதரர் சகோதரி களுக்குள் ஒற்றுமையில்லாமல் ஒருவருடன் ஒருவர் வன்மம் பகைசாதித்து முரண்டுகள் செய்வதுமுண்டு. ஆகையால், என் அன்பானவர்களே! எங்கள் நாடு செனித்து ஒங்கிச் சந்தானங்கள் தளைத்துப் பெருக விரும்பினால், பாலோகத்திற் சர்வேகரனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரமும் பூலோகத்தில் நற்கருத்துடையவர்களுக்குச் சமாதானமுமென்ற தேவஸ்துத்தியத்தை நிதமும் மனதில் பதியப் பண்ணவேண்டும். இப்போ புதிய சட்டசபையில் இடந்தேடித் தனித்துக் கிரியும் என் சகோதரரே! நீங்கள் பலவாறு பசப்பிக்கதைக்கவேண்டாம். செய்ய இயலாத காரியங்களைச் செய்துமுடிப்போமென்று சொல்லவும் வேண்டாம். ஊரை ஏமாத்த இனிமேல் முடியாது! ஒன்றின் மெஸ் துரைச்சாமி எவ்வளவோ செய்வேனென்று சொன்னார். அவர் இப்போ என்ன செய்து விட்டார் ஒன்றின் சேர் பிரமணதன் செய்தவற்றில் ஆயிரத்தில் ஒருபங்கு செய்காரா? அல்லது பெய்வதற்கான ஆசையைப், பிடிவாதத்தையும் காட்டினாரா? மண்டைதீவுக்குப் போனபொழுது அவர்கள் படும்பாடுகளை பத்திரத்தில் எழுதிவாசித்தார்கள். அவர்களுடைய பிரதிநிதியான இவர் செய்ய

வேண்டியதென்ன? சட்டசபையில் இதை இட்டுப்பேசாததற்கு இவர் ஞாயங் காட்டவேண்டியது அவசியம். ஏறக்குறைய 3,000 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் எழியவர்களிடம் பறிக்கப்பட்டன. பறித்தவர்களுக்கு ஆக்கினை இட்டு இவர்களைப்போன்ற மற்றுந் துஷ்டரை அடக்காவிடசற்குக் காரணமென்ன? அப்படிச் செய்தால் அல்லோ எங்கள் நாட்டில் தலைமைக்காரர் ஏழைச் சனங்களைக் கொள்ளையடித்துப் பறிப்பது நீங்கும்.

மெஸ் துரைச்சாமிக்கு எனக்கும் யாதேனும் பசை இல்லை. அவர் எனக்கு ஒரு குற்றமுஞ் செய்யவில்லை ஆனால் அவர் என் தேசத்தின் நன்மைபைக் கவனிபாமலும், தன் கடமையைச் செய்பாமலும் விட்டுவிட்டார் என்று விளங்கியமையால் அவரில் பாரிய குற்றஞ் சாட்டுகின்றேன். அவர் குறைவினைக்கப் படாது அற்புதமும், ஆருக்குத் தவறான சொல்லை அவதானமற்றவிதமாய்ப் பானிக்கிருந்தால் மன்னிக்கும்படி தயவாய் வேண்டுகின்றேன்.

தனதேசத்துக்காய்க் தன் கடமையைச் செய்ய ஒருவருக்கும் பயப்படவேண்டாம் எவ்வளவு வறியவர்களாயினும் பெரியவர்களாயினும் உங்கள் அந்தஸ்துக்குத் தக்க ஆசாரத்துடனும் போக்கிபத்துடனும் நடவுங்கள். உங்கள் மாதாவகிய யாழ்ப்பாணைருக்குச் சிறப்பையும், செல்வத்தையும் வருவிப்பதற்கான வழிவகைகளைத் தேடுங்கள். மெஸ் அப்புக்காத்து இளைபதமரி அவர்கள் இந் துசாதனப் பத்திராதிபாய் சிபாமனம் பண்ணப் பட்டிருக்கிறாரென்பது எங்கள் எல்லோருக்குஞ் சுநீதாவதனை வருவிக்கவேண்டியது.

இவர் செய்யப்போகிற பெரியகாரியங்களை ஊக்கத்துடன் காத்திருப்போமாக. அவருக்கு என்வந்தனம் உரைக்கின்றேன்.

மெஸ் ஈ. பி. மாசில்லாமணிப்பிள்ளை திரும்பவும் “தேசாபிமானியைப்” பிரசுரஞ்செய்யத் தொடங்கியது பெருங்காரியம் இவரும் எங்கள் நாட்டின் கைத்கொழில், கமத்கொழில்களை விர்ததியாக குஞ்சிந்தையுடையவர் இவருக்கும் வந்தனம்.

யாழ்ப்பாணக் கரையூர் இப்போதற்குத் தலைபரம் வெகு துக்கத்துக் கிடமாயிருக்கிறது. தமிழரின் தலைப்பட்டணமாகிய யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் நடுப்பாகமாயுள்ள கரையூரின் கேவலநிலையைக் கண்ட பிறவூரார் எங்களை எவ்வளவாய் நகைத்துச் சிரிப்பார்கள். ஆகையால் கரையூரைத் திருத்ததுவது எங்கள் சகலரின் பாரிய கடமை.

சொற்பிழைகள், இலக்கணப்பிழைகளுண்டானாற் றப வுசெப்து மன்னிக்கவும், தற்கால நடைபடிக்கையொளிய என்னுடைய கல்விச்சிறப்பைக் காண்பிக்க வெளிக்கிடவில்லை.

ஆ. பி. தம்பையா.





