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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

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SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

A Service of Thanksgiving in memory of Mr. Samuel Christmas Gunaratnam was held on Monday, the 24th inst., at Christ Church, Jaffna. The Rev. J. A. R. Niles, the Archdeacon of Jaffna, led the service. Rev. J. T. N. Baddy read the Lessons and the Rev. L. B. Arulpragasam sang a Solo. ... The Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles delivered the sermon taking as the text Rev. 7: 1-5. He said there was a human experience which shows the difference between the Christian faith and other faiths more than the text itself. ... In the life beyond, worship is the primary activity, whereas in this life it is the secondary activity. ... The service ended with benediction by the Archdeacon.

OUR GOVERNMENT AGENT LEAVES

Mr. Vernon Abeyeyekere, the Government Agent of Jaffna, leaves by the 21st of this month to take up duties as Post Master General. The news of his departure has been received with regret by all sections of the people. ... Mr. Vernon Abeyeyekere, the Government Agent of Jaffna, leaves by the 21st of this month to take up duties as Post Master General. ... The news of his departure has been received with regret by all sections of the people. ... Mr. Vernon Abeyeyekere, the Government Agent of Jaffna, leaves by the 21st of this month to take up duties as Post Master General. ... The news of his departure has been received with regret by all sections of the people.

LARGEST SINGLE U. S. CEYLON AID AGREEMENT SIGNED

A Food for Peace Agreement, the largest single economic cooperation agreement ever signed between Ceylon and the United States, was signed in Colombo on the 21st inst. Under the agreement the U. S. will send Ceylon \$15 million (\$9,335,000) in wheat flour, approximately 150,000 metric tons. This is the second major agreement of this kind between the Food for Peace programme between the United States and Ceylon. The first agreement, signed in October 1967, under that agreement about 15,000 metric tons of flour have been received in Ceylon, and another 12,000 metric tons are expected to arrive from the United States. Under the new Food for Peace agreement the wheat flour will be purchased by Ceylon, the purchase to be covered by a long-term, low-interest dollar loan from the United States. The loan provides for a two-year grace period, payments over a 20-year period and an interest rate of two and one half per cent. Proceeds may begin immediately. Local currency proceeds from the loan for the flour are to be used by Ceylon for development projects, primarily in support of the 1967

More Food campaign, under the terms of the new agreement.

In a statement at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Curry stressed that the Food for Peace programme has two main points of emphasis. One is that, in the face of growing world-wide population and food shortages, the United States is attempting to gear its production programmes to the needs of developing countries as well as to U. S. requirements for its own use and for commercial exports. The other is that, while providing interim food assistance, maximum encouragement is given to the improvement of food production in food deficit areas in order to avoid world-wide shortages. 'Ceylon's own Grow More Food Campaign,' Ambassador Curry said, 'is a most encouraging programme directed to this second objective, thus putting Ceylon high on the list of countries whose own self-help activities make the logical partners in the War on Hunger. 'We look forward with confidence to the increasing success of Ceylon's programme and meanwhile are pleased to be able to help meet the food needs of the population.'

EXAMINATION SUCCESS

Mr. R. K. Arzuff, son of the late Rev. J. V. J. Arnold and Mrs. Samanthamma Arzuff of Manthorp, has been successful in the Final M. B. B. S. Examination held by the Madras University in May this year. Dr. Arnold followed his Medical Course at the Christian Medical College, Vellore. He is an Old Boy of Jaffna College, Vaddukodai, and the American College, Madurai.

PERSONAL

The Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles, who is to deliver the opening sermon at the 4th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Uppsala, Sweden, leaves for Sweden on the 4th of July. The Rev. Alan Gibbins, who is scheduled to arrive in October of this year at Vaddukodai as the Chaplain of the Undergraduate Department of Jaffna College, and Mrs. Gibbins have started a ten-week, twelve-credit course in Tamil at the Michigan State University, U. S. A. Miss Olivia Ranjithammal Navaratnam, daughter of Mr. M. V. Navaratnam, J. P., A. M. N., retired Auditor, Federation of Malaya, who returned recently to Kuala Lumpur from a second study tour in England with further qualifications in several branches of Nursing, is now attached to the Teaching Hospital of the University of Malaya.

OBITUARY

Mr. S. V. Balasingham The death occurred, as reported in our last issue, at the Co-operative Hospital, Moolai, at 7 a. m. on Friday, the 21st inst., of Mr. S. V. Balasingham, Principal of Jaffna College, Vaddukodai. Death was caused suddenly by coronary thrombosis.

Mr. Balasingham was 50 years of age at the time of his death. The eldest son of Mr. C. S. Sabaratham, retired Post Master, Malaya, and the late Mrs. Gunaratnam Sabaratham, of Udulivi, he had his education at the Victoria Institute, Kuala Lumpur. Then he came to Ceylon and joined the University College, from where he secured the B. A. Honours degree in History of the London University in 1940. From 1941 for nearly three years he was on the staff of Jaffna Hindu College. From 1944 for 24 years he was on the staff of Jaffna College. In April 1967 he became Vice-Principal and in October 1967 he was appointed by the Board of Directors of the College as Co-Principal, along with Mr. K. A. Sellian. When Mr. Sellian retired at the end of 1967, Mr. Balasingham became Principal and functioned in that capacity for a year and a half. In 1968, while on post-graduate study in London, he secured the M. A. degree in History of the London University. For this degree he submitted a research paper on the period of Governor Ward in Ceylon history, which was undertaken and now being printed. He was not merely a first rate teacher of History, specially in the upper classes, who was able to provoke the interest of his students in that subject, but also identified himself enthusiastically with all the activities of the College. For several periods he was Manager and then Editor of the Jaffna College Miscellany. His interests were not confined to the College. He took an active part in the Teachers' Association, the West Jaffna, the Northern Province Teachers' Association, the All-Ceylon Union of Teachers and the National Union of Teachers. He represented the A. C. U. T. on a Teachers' Conference in Amsterdam, a Faculty Conference in London and the President of the Jaffna Hockey Association. In addition he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna Diocesan Council of the Church of South India for several years and for a short period the Assistant Editor of the 'Morning Star'. The funeral took place on the following day, Saturday, the 22nd inst., at 10 a. m. It was a short service at the Principal's house, led by the Rev. K. J. Millie, assisted by the Revs. G. M. Kanakaratnam, N. W. G. Sumanadasa and Rev. S. Jayasingham. At the end of this service the coffin was borne by various representative groups of the College community to the College, where it was to lie in state for two hours. During this time several organisations with which Mr. Balasingham had been connected placed wreaths. The students and members of the public filed past the body paying their last respects, while the Tamil and English Choirs of the College were singing special songs. Some passages from the Bible were read by Mr. W. N. Thavakudavil of the staff. At 4 a service was held, led by the Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, the Rev. Rev. Dr. S. Kundinadasa and Rev. S. Jayasingham. Mass, Ranjit Thambirajah and Mr. L. J. D. Mahipala. Prayer was offered by the College Chaplain, Mr. C. B. Bayvel. The Bishop presided at the solemnising of 2 Corinthians 4:17 and 18: 'For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.' Prayers were said by Mrs. M. Sugumar representing the student community, and by Dr. W. L. Jayasingham, President of the College. Dr. Jayasingham, in the course of his tribute, detailed the career of Mr. Balasingham and the various activities in which he was engaged during his service of 47 years at the College. In addition to his teaching, he was involved in many extracurricular activities. He was a great sportsman and a member of the Literary Association, the Sports Club, the Chess Club, the Jaffna Literary Association, the Jaffna Club, C. A., the Miscellany etc. Dr. Jayasingham also referred to the great interest shown by Mr. Balasingham in the affairs of teachers. He described him as a person of a very friendly nature, accessible to people of all creeds and sorts, and sympathetic to all, especially to the unfortunate. In expressing the sympathy of all to Mrs. Balasingham and other members of the deceased's family, Dr. Jayasingham committed them to the care of the Lord, from whom alone real help can come. The coffin was then carried to the cemetery of the Cathedral Church, Vaddukodai, by various groups, the members of the Board of Directors of the College acting as the pall-bearers. The committal rites were performed by the Bishop, assisted by the Rev. K. J. Millie and the Rev. Sevak I. K. Venugopalan sang a Thevaram. Mr. Balasingham leaves behind his wife Selvammal (nee Somasunder) his aged father Mr. Oliver Taurasingham, Barrister, Colombo, and Mrs. Thurasalingham (brother and sister-in-law); Mr. S. O. A. Somasunder, Irrigation Engineer, and Mrs. Somasunder, air-conditioning engineer, Siam; Mr. S. G. Jayaratnam, Inspector, Way and Works, C. I. D., and Mrs. Jayaratnam (brother-in-law and sister); and a host of students, friends and relatives to mourn his all too sudden death.

Letters to the Editor

DISTRICT COUNCILS

Dear Sir, In connection with the above subject, your editorial, letters from many correspondents to the Press including weighty personalities like the Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles and speeches of our eminent leaders both in and out of Parliament had my respectful attention. Apart from the merits or demerits of the proposal, on which I do not propose to write in the present communication, I humbly feel that this is not an opportune time to raise a controversy and worsen the relationship between the Tamils on the one hand and the Sinhalese and Muslims on the other, at least the majority of them, for several years, I have been pleading in vain that, if the Tamil people have any political proposal of major importance, it is necessary, in the first instance, to conduct propaganda among the Sinhalese and Muslim and other communities and be not content with talks with Parliamentarians alone, though they constitute a very important factor in our body politic as in every country. The position now relating to the D. C. controversy is that: (1) the Ceylon Tamils are strongly divided among themselves, (2) the so-called Indian Tamils are silent and have not given support to the request for District Councils, (3) the majority of Muslims seem strongly opposed, (4) the majority of Sinhalese also seem thoroughly opposed, (5) the Barchers have not given support. In these and other connected circumstances, it is not surprising that most leaders like the Rev. Dr. Mather and the Rev. Dr. Niles have tried to do their bounden duty by advising caution and pause, and otherwise pointing out salient features in the proposals and the consequent situation. The concluding portion of one of the very recent editorials of the 'Morning Star' on the subject also indicated that the respected and old journal of the Tamils is also naturally aware of the position. The editorial in the last issue of the 'Hindu Organ' further expresses its dissatisfaction with the campaign of pressing, at this juncture and under prevailing conditions, the request for District Councils. The majority of the

But what have we now? A series of puppet peripheral administrative bodies well under the autonomous heel of a Central Government.

It is obvious to any thoughtful person that this subject has grown like a cow's tail. The F. P., it is said, is now reduced to a position of even accepting an 'empty bottle' or, to put it in Mahatma Gandhi's expression, 'a post-dated cheque' with hardly any promise of funds. That this type of peripheral administration has within it fissiparous tendencies with germs of dissension is evident from the slanging matches performed on the floor of the House. The F. P. and the T. C. have engaged in step, brotherly recrimination and vituperation. The Muslims have criticized the Tamils (F. P.), with whom they have lived in amity for centuries, both vitriolic and uncharitably. The seeds of inter-communal tension and inter-party rivalry were very evident, despite the absence of the coalition. If this is so whilst merely discussing this so-called advanced measure, I dread to think what will happen in the process of implementing this piece of legislation. Would there not be permanent friction fomented in this country in every nook and corner and inter-caste warfare between erstwhile comrades? Unhealthy rivalry would become rampant. Would the Central Government then be strong enough to subjugate erring peripheral bodies which show bickering among its constituents? Such a Central Government may even turn out to be a petticoat Government extending motherly and step-motherly supervision over puppets of somebody else's making, in various corners of the island. Every responsible citizen has a right to criticize. Amongst the critics of this Bill and White Paper is a well-respected person namely Rev. (Dr.) James Mather, who has advised against this project. He, a pacifist in his inimitable manner, has shown how unhealthy the climate is and how inopportune the time.

IS THE D. C. BILL A COMMUNAL POWDER-KEG?

Writing on the subject of District Councils in the 'Daily Mirror' of the 4th March, 1968, I expressed the view that generally speaking autonomous regional administration was an expression of democracy, indicating that the more autonomous it is the more democratic it could be. I, however, kept an open mind on the subject of District Councils mooted for free Sri Lanka, as we knew very little then of what we were in for. This new development is now more or less an open book in the form of a White Paper and a Bill appended thereto. The fact that this question of regional administration in Ceylon has been hanging fire for nearly 40 years shows the tardy manner in which our politicians act in Ceylon and what a pickle they can make of an important national matter by irresponsible talk and unhealthy rivalry. Even the Donoughmore Commission, the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact, the Choksy Commission etc. have recommended several proposals that were honourable and self-respecting in the sphere of regional administration. Major subjects such as finance, land allocation, health, education, etc. were to be handed over and handled by responsible peripheral bodies with limited central control.

The Rev. J. V. Ayadurai.

A eulogy was received by Dr. A. Arulampalam, of Balakrishna, Colombo, on the 26th inst., intimating the death that occurred in Singapore on the 25th inst. of the Rev. J. V. Ayadurai, Pastor of the Methodist Church, Singapore. He leaves behind his wife Mollie, a son at 15, Labroy Road, Ipoh, Malaya, his school boys at Rajahmundry in his early education at St. John's College, Jaffna, after which he set for Malaya about forty years ago. He started as an Assistant Interpreter in the Courts, Johore Bahru. He served as an Interpreter in various parts of Malaya and also in the rank of Registrar of the Supreme Court in Ipoh. He was popular and gifted with a wide knowledge of various subjects in Malaya. He was a great sportsman and a member of the JAFFNA COLLEGE, thanks all friends, alumni and parents who attended the funeral of the Principal, Mr. S. V. Balasingham, sent floral tributes and expressions of sympathy.

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. G. N. R. NATHANAIL, Trincomalee.

WEDDING

Rajendra Arinthalingham and Arulnarain Alagaratnam announce their marriage on Thursday, the 27th inst., at the Wesley Methodist Church, Klang, at 5 p. m.

10 - A, Warren Road, Klang, Malaya.



EDUCATION FOR THE NEW SOCIETY

By S. Rajanayagam, Esq. (Retired Chief Telecommunication Engineer)

This was the subject of a recent radio seminar. On listening to it, one cannot say that the seminar covered the subject. But it did achieve the purpose modestly summed up by the Chairman, Professor G. P. Malalasekera, that is, to stimulate thinking on this subject.

North Ceylon has always been very interested in education. But it is very doubtful whether the seminar discussion was widely listened to in the far North where reception conditions are poor. These few thoughts are intended to awaken the thinking on this subject by the public of Jaffna who have been interested in education for a very long time.

The nature of society is constantly changing. Consequently, so must education, if it is to remain alive to the needs of society. This makes it necessary for periodic revision of the content of education and for the review of the policy and structure of educational establishments. This idea is not readily accepted, particularly by the ancient seats of learning who for one thing will fear that change may upset an established stability. Further, those who have been through the educational establishment are so attached to it and the good it has done to them, that they feel it should be good enough for the next generation. In point of fact the next generation has also altered its values with the changes in social structure and they deserve something better than the old fare that was served to their parents.

Which is right? To change or not to change? The correct thing is to do both, although it sounds contradictory. There is a part of education that has an eternal unchanging content, like the search for truth and building up character. There is also the necessity to inject into the students new knowledge that is always coming to light. There is also the changing emphasis on the different branches of knowledge, as the economic and social picture alters.

In dealing with the subject of Education for the New Society, one has to place greater emphasis on the changeable content. But before doing so one has to frame an opinion of the nature of the new society, in so far as it concerns education. People refer to modern times as the 'space age' and expect that phrase to convey all the characteristics of our times. This can be misleading. For one thing, although man is traversing into space, we in Ceylon are not doing it yet. But that does not mean we are uninfluenced by these happenings. We are and to an increasing extent.

But for purposes of considering the education and training of the young, it is enough if we take note of those characteristics that have already crept into our society or are doing so or will do so within the next few decades. After the few decades, for the generation of students to come thereafter, it will be

mic way; (c) Church Union discussions have multiplied, rapidly, so that today some fifty separate negotiations are in progress involving various members of the Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox families; (d) New currents in theological discussion, ethical debate and biblical scholarship are receiving serious consideration by thoughtful Christians; (e) The Second Vatican Council broadened the scope of ecumenical conversations beyond anything that could have been foreseen in 1901; and (f) The widening gap between the rich and the poor nations has been brought home to the churches in fresh ways, and is radically testing their capacity to interpret the meaning of ecumenical solidarity in practical terms.

We hope that the 4th Assembly will meet all the challenges of the present hour meaningfully and make a real contribution to the churches in various lands and all the nations of the world. It can meet them boldly because it is strengthened by the knowledge that the idea of ecumenical co-operation is an accepted fact today and the structures for common witness are available.

the task of the coming generations to work out a fresh content of education.

What are the recent changes that have come about? One is universal franchise. This means that to every adult individual we have to give a minimum measure of recognition and opportunity. Our thinking must accept this, if we are to have harmony in our society. Another change is independence. There is no enforcement of authority from outside our country. So we have to reconcile ourselves to the authority forged out of the social conscience of the sum total of the elements that constitute the population of Sri Lanka.

The concomitant effect of the above two is the profession by the ruling political parties, of adherence to democratic socialism. Irrespective of who wins, they profess this. So we can assume that this is what the country as a whole desires. So long as this trend lasts we had better accustom ourselves to the idea of ownership of means of production becoming increasingly communal, and not fight too much for what we think we have earned. Then there has been the awarding of votes for those between 18 and 21 years. This means that we should extend our recognition and opportunity down to a lower age group than we have been used to.

The above deductions seem simple enough. But they do not seem to get into our normal thinking so readily. Things would be made smoother if the implications of these political changes are inculcated into the minds of the young at the stage of their education.

More recently there have been certain other changes. Emphasis on industrialisation and increased agricultural production are two such features. These imply a greater science and technology. Together with the political changes that emphasise equality, this also means the white collar man, the craftsman, labourer, and the estate man who does specific jobs, whether they be manual or otherwise, are all to be given equal rewards for their efforts. The measure we agree and give that measure of reward the better for our progress.

What about the changes that we recognise coming in the horizon? Two such can be mentioned. One is greater use of the machine and ultimately automation. This will give us more leisure and we must learn to make use of it. Space flights and satellites used in communication are going to change some of our fundamental ideas, such as are embodied in some of our beliefs associated with religion. The religious bodies will have to realise and embody these changes first before they can be introduced formally into the educational curriculum.

The above are some of the changes that affect us in Ceylon and have to be reflected in our teaching of the young. They may not affect the central core of the educational effort. But at least they affect the bulk of that effort. What has been stated is in reference to the whole of Ceylon. How far North Ceylon is specifically affected is a slightly different matter, although many of these nationally common factors appear to have been overlooked by the educational effort in the North, as it has been in the South. But the need for such attention is perhaps greater in the North, at least for the reason that education has played a greater part in the lives of the people there and any omission in the content of education is bound to affect in greater measure that society which is more educationally based.

I have not dealt with two other important changes, namely the medium of instruction and free education. Then there is the take-over of schools by the state. To educationalists they are of more immediate concern, and loom large as problems. They are, and as such cannot be contained in an article of this size.

In some respects the factors dealt with here are more fundamental, and closer to the unchanging core of education. They are also factors that will take a longer time to get into the stream of ideas being fed into the young minds. They have to find a place in the books and in the minds of teachers.

What has been dealt with is applicable, as mentioned earlier, to the whole of Ceylon. The specific problems of the North Ceylon are mentioned here to be studied independently.

Review

THE GLORY THAT WAS VANNI

"Thaniyatha Thaham" Unquenched Thirst - A Historical Play by "Karavai Kilan"

When the Portuguese landed in Ceylon the territory of the Vanni stretched from Trincomalee in the East to Mannar in the West. Panamkamam was once the celebrated headquarters of the Vanniya chieftains, Kilakumoolai. South even today boasts of inscriptions in caves which prove beyond doubt that Panamkamam Pattu was one of the earliest settlements of the Vanniya. According to M. D. Rajanayagam, the historian, the Vanniya descended from Aquitulas, one of the great Clans that inhabited South India from time immemorial. Historians in general acknowledge them as the Rajputs of South India. They were a Dravidian Warrior-clan with the Bow (Sital in Tamil) as their ensign.

Some names of famous Vanniya Chieftains are remembered by posterity - Nallamapana Vanniyan, Kathira Kumarasariya Vanniyan, Periyama Vanniyan, Pandara Vanniyan, Kayla Vanniyan etc. Of these Kayla Vanniyan who ruled over Panamkamam was the most famous.

Thomas Van Rhee, the Dutch Governor, wrote, "The Vanni rulers were standing with one foot on the Company's land and the other on the King's territory". C. S. Navaratnam in his 'Vanni and Vanniya's adds: "They were a constant source of irritation to the Dutch as they had been to the Portuguese. The chiefs would not often pay their annual tribute of elephants and their land rents, and some even would not appear at the annual darbar when they were summoned by governors. This was especially the case with Kayla Vanniyan of Panamkamam who failed to appear before the Dutch Governor for twelve consecutive years". He goes further to say: "When this fearless wealthy chief died in 1678, the Vanniya appointed a successor without reference to the Dutch authorities."

If it is the task of the historian to sift the kernel of fact from the husk of fiction, it is the business of the playwright basing his theme on recorded history to bring to light those facets that in his opinion would appeal to the audience. While South Indian Tamils still cherish the heroism displayed by Kattappomman and Vallabharai pitted against the might of British imperialism on the march, Ceylon Tamils find their heroes in Santulan and Pandara Vanniyan, and the Sinhalese in Sardioli and Keppitipola. To these "Karavai Kilan" has added yet another, Kayla Vanniyan of Panamkamam. Whereas the others were all captured, humiliated and put to death, the Dutch could not capture Kayla Vanniyan or his kingdom during his life-time. It was during the reign of Kayla Vanniyan's grand nephew that Panamkamam eventually went under Dutch rule.

"Thaniyatha Thaham", perhaps an exaggerated title to emphasise the freedom-thirst of the Vanni Chief, serves to bring home some of the easily forgotten facts of Ceylon history. That the Dry Zone was once the granary of Ceylon is an accepted fact with Giant's Tank, Vavuniykkulam, Pandarakulam etc. crowding the area. What "Karavai Kilan" achieves is to brilliantly weave into the theme the natural beauty and beauty of the Vanni District, its culture and civilisation, the fame of its ancient sea-port, Mantote, through which, according to the Mahavamsa, Vijaya and his 500 followers got their wives from India "followed by craftsmen and a thousand families of eighteen guilds".

There is no doubt that Mantote was one of the ancient international sea-ports famous for sea-borne commerce between the East and the West. Some of the articles of trade even adorned the court of King Solomon and were known by their Tamil names like 'Tohai' and 'Akhui'. All the sea-faring nations of the then known world seem to have used Mantote as the emporium for the bartering of various kinds of merchandise like spices, rice, ginger, ivory, muslin, gems, peacock, pearls, etc. (Note Zanzibar and Orizza in Ptolemy's Map, derived from Inchever (ginger) in Tamil). That the Dutch found the rice grain

Youth Column

My dear Youngsters,
When Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, I meant to write on that subject to you but the news of shock and grief was too much. I took time to condense all my feelings about it into a letter for you and I discussed it with older, intellectual and more mature Christians so that from their experience of life I drew strength and from the scriptures I learned a few things. The assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy within a few weeks in the same country left me completely stunned. For in a land that stands officially for freedom, it appears that two fine men of high principles - men who had the moral courage to stand and fight for those principles - were eliminated so easily. I believe that the freedom of that country was responsible for men of the calibre of Dr. King to whom the greatest tribute paid was said in one sentence - "He was more than an American - he was a Christian," and the two assassinated Kennedy brothers - John and Robert, both though highly backed by wealth and power - had become not only politicians but also idealists.

People like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King are acclaimed over the world as men of ideals with dreams of accomplishing with non-violence what violence has failed to achieve over the centuries. These two, even Mahatma Gandhi who never professed to be a Christian, have always used the New Testament as their own personal guide for their daily meditation. Jesus himself was sent to His death on the cross because a few men saw in His teachings and claims a threat to their own religion.

We as human beings liv-

(arist) was adopted into the Greek language and through the Latin (Oriza) has passed into modern European language (e.g. French 'riz' and English 'rice') is ample testimony to the fame of Mantote as an international port.

The Western boundary of the Vanni was once a hive of activity. Many abandoned tanks and neglected channels bear testimony to it. Of the many dams in ruins Kriehickulam, Tekam on the Kal Aru and another on the Per Aru are outstanding. Some stone pillars mark what was once probably a shrine at Komputukki between Vidalliva and Iluppakkadavai. There are traces of ancient roads running from Mantote to Acuradhapura and Jaffna through Kilakumoolai South. The remains of an ancient bridge are found at Onakkulam. The temple at Kallar 7 1/2 miles from Marichchikkadavai was seen in a tottering state by J. Hafner, a Dutchman who travelled through Vanni on foot. There was a great demand for pearls of Chilappathurai, known by a special name 'Tamaravaraika'.

It is these - our ancient heritage and valour, our culture and our civilisation - that "Karavai Kilan" brings into focus. All Ceylonese have reason to be thankful to the author for his outstanding piece of drama based on historical facts.

The play is on the whole stage-worthy. The author has made it so with his rich experience in stage-craft. The prose is simple, pure and rich. There is original poetry too which compares favourably with contemporary pieces in Ceylon and India. There is also intrigue, as is to be expected in the lives of heroes that leaves tragedy and tears in its wake. The story revolves round Kayla Vanniyan, his daughter Komalavali and citizen-patriot Velombi. If there is any shortcoming in the play, it is the lack of humour.

"Karavai Kilan" has added yet another feather to his cap. It is hoped that the young author who gave Tamil audiences Sthantha Siva (Broken Sculpture) and Athavan Manippai (Oh Sun Forgive!) earlier will still go forward, without resting on his laurels, to quench the yet unquenched thirst of Tamil drama audiences in Ceylon.

K. PARAMOTHAYAN

ing in this world must necessarily be part of it, and therefore, study the forces behind events in history and politics. It appears, people are loved or hated with passion because of what they stand for. The Hindu who shot Mahatma Gandhi, the British who shot Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the assassin of Dr. King and the two Kennedys, all have one thing in common. They were all carried away with an illogical passion and either on their own or as tools in the hands of the brains behind the assassinations they had become destructive. On the other hand, if we take time to study the biographies of these statesmen we will find that they had a clear logical reason for the stand they took - to make out justice as they saw fit from their own privileged position. Their courage to deal out justice and uphold ideals caused them their lives. Do such events then frighten us so that to save ourselves we begin to compromise? I believe that in the words of Jesus "He who loses his life for my sake shall save it and he who saves his life shall lose it."

You may ask where is the victory for these men who lost their lives in the fight for their principles. "Oh! death, where is thy sting; Oh! grave, where thy victory?" In the next few years the American Negroes would have their civil rights and the American economy would direct its aid to its own poor people - because new leaders would take up the challenge and the bitter battle between the forces of evil and good will continue. Ideals can never be destroyed even with guns.

Think on these and write your letters to me as I am sure you will have so many questions by now. You might even be frightened to be a true Christian. Don't lose heart - it can be a thrilling adventure to take the Christian faith really seriously.

Yours sincerely,
PETER RABBIT

C/o The Editor, "The Morning Star", Vaddukodai.

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IN MEMORIAM



IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY of DANIEL KATHIRAVELU PERINPANAYAGAM

Died: 25th June, 1966.

"Loving and kind in all his ways Upright and just to the end of his days, Sincere and true in heart and mind What a beautiful memory he left behind!"

Remembered by his loved ones. Atchchery, 28.6.1966.

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY of RAJAKULATHILAKAN MATHIAPARANAM

Called to rest on: 28-6-1966

The zest and depth of life. High ideals and attainments. In their hour, were all his. Lapsed from earth's transients Away up ton has flown. Can we not get a still All the mystery unquench'd. Nay! God will lift the veil.

Fondly remembered by his parents, brothers and sisters.

"The Fair Havens", Raddolai, Manipay.