

MORNING STAR.

Jaffna, January 27th, 1848.

THE NEW ORDINANCE RESPECTING ROADS, &c.

There is probably no part of the island where the advantages of this Ordinance will be more fully realised than in Jaffna. With a large population within a comparatively small area; with an unbroken level surface for the roads to traverse, and abundance of good material on every hand; with an Agent of indefatigable industry—wide experience—minute acquaintance with details, and a wise yet devoted professional zeal, enjoying to a remarkable extent the confidence of the native community,—we may reasonably anticipate, under the operation of this Ordinance, to see, in the course of a few years, good roads intersecting all the numerous villages of the more thickly settled parts, and gradually extending to those more distant and more sparsely settled. We rejoice that an Ordinance has been conceived that brings these important objects so nearly within our possession, and we have no doubt that an ample return will in due time be secured through the increasing wealth and prosperity of the people.

But we are, if possible, more deeply interested in the conditions, than in the ostensible objects, of the Ordinance. We augur the happiest results from throwing these objects directly upon the efforts of the people; from making a common assessment of labour for an important object of common utility. The relations of cause and effect will thereby stand more clearly in the minds of individuals, and they will see what they never would see, without some such necessity being laid upon them, that by having their individual efforts united and wisely directed, they may easily secure to themselves the advantages of almost every important public object. The sentiment, so foreign to the selfishness of heathenism, that whatever is for the good of the public is equally for the good of individuals, will be fairly exemplified before the people, and will become, we should hope, not only a comprehensible idea, but a practical one.

The external circumstances of the people here are generally so free and happy, that there is scarcely any attainable measure of human comfort they might not realize, if they would throw off their heathenism and yield themselves to the influences of Christianity. We do not mean by this, so much, conversion to the faith of the Gospel, (though we believe this is indispensable to a man's highest happiness here, and to his salvation hereafter)—as, those general influences of Christianity, so happily portrayed in a paragraph in the following column, which are ever flowing out to bless mankind through Christian education, civilization and laws, to all of which pure heathenism is decidedly inimical. We rejoice that our Executives are inclined to apply the general law of *Progress* to their administration of affairs, and hope this experiment may be attended with results that will encourage them to go forward.

On the details of the Ordinance, we would venture a few suggestions. In view of the varying rates of labour in different parts of the island, it seems hardly equitable to apply only one rate of money commutation. A large proportion of the people liable to assessment, will doubtless prefer to pay their commutation money, and those in this province may with reason complain that they should be required to pay a commutation of *three shillings* for labour that, when hired, will cost but *one shilling and six pence*. It would appear more equitable to fix the rate of commutation at the market price of labor and to allow any one who wished, to work by his proxy.

With regard to the election of the Parish Officer, we think the objects of the Ordinance would be facilitated by restricting the rights of suffrage to Householders. This appears to us necessary, at the beginning, in order to give proper dignity to the proceeding, as well as from the impractical character of a qualification of mere age. We doubt if there is one man in twenty, who can tell precisely what his age is. It will be an important object to interest the substantial people of the villages in the matter—the Parish Officer will need their assistance in making out his Lists, and it may be questionable whether the householder should not be made responsible that

every inmate of his house did either pay or work. The privilege of voting, being restricted to householders, would confer on them a certain dignity that would be likely to conciliate their favour and secure their assistance. Under this restriction the danger deprecated in the communication of *Aliquis* on the next page, would be obviated, and with the supervisory powers given to the Provincial Committee over the Parish Officer, he will have no great chance of remaining in office if his duties are neglected.

PARTING ADDRESS TO THE REV. D. POOR.

We have received, with a request that it may be published, a copy of an Address delivered to Mr. Poor in behalf of his late Pupils and the native Church in connection with the American Mission, together with a Tamil song of praise addressed to him. The Address was formally delivered and the song sung at the meeting of the Native Evangelical Society at Tillipally on the 13th inst. We decline acceding to the request for publication because we do not approve of the principle on which such addresses are usually drawn up—and because we think the *best feelings* of a *good man*, would be best consulted, as we know Mr. Poor's will be in this instance, by suppressing from the public such an expression of the estimate placed upon his character and labors. The most valuable testimony a man can receive of his fidelity in labor is that of the inward *witness* of his own conscience and of God, and the good effect of this is in a measure neutralized, by raising in his behalf the voice of public commendation. True Christian humility, as we think, will shrink from such public expressions of praise, however gratifying they may be to the selfish and ambitious. We admit the propriety of such testimonials when employed in behalf of extraordinary scientific skill and talent, or of any *great effort* of genius or even of mere humanity, which it is desirable to mark with a degree of public applause. But such addresses, like the honorary doctorates of literature and Divinity, in the United States, have in these days become too common to be valuable. A Doctorate there is often only another name for a very common man. And here, almost every ordinary master of a vessel and every public servant of ordinary abilities, with only common fidelity to the duties of his station, is expected to have his exit and transit marked with formal public addresses, praising him for what he is, and often times for what he himself knows he is not. We hope this custom will not obtain amongst missionaries. Certainly we shall not encourage it.

INFLUENCE OF THE BIBLE ON THE INTELLECT.

The study of the Bible, even when supposed without influence on the soul, is calculated, far more than any other study, to enlarge the mind, and strengthen the intellect. There is nothing so likely to elevate, and endow with new vigour, our faculties, as the bringing them into contact with stupendous truths, and the setting them to grasp and measure those truths. If the human mind grows dwarfish and enfeebled, it is, ordinarily, because left to deal with common-place facts and never summoned to the effort of taking the span and altitude of broad and lofty disclosures. The understanding will gradually bring itself down to the dimensions of the matters with which alone it is familiarized; till, having been habituated to contracting its powers, it shall lose well-nigh, the ability of expanding them.

But if it be for the enlargement of the mind, and the strengthening of its faculties, that acquaintance should be made with ponderous and far-spreading truths, it must be clear that the knowledge of the Bible outdoes all other knowledge in bringing round such results. We deny not that great effects may be wrought on the peasantry of a land by that wondrous diffusion of general information which is now going forward through the instrumentality of the press. It is not possible that our Penny magazines should be carrying to the workshop of the artizan, and the cottage of the labourer, an actual library of varied intelligence, without producing a universal outstretch of mind, whether for good or for evil. But if a population, could be made a Bible-reading population, we argue that it would be a far more thinking, and a far more intelligent population, than it will ever become through the turning its attention on simplified sciences, and abbreviated histories. If I desire to enlarge a man's mind, I should like to fasten it on the truth that God never had beginning, and never shall have end. I would set it to the receiving this truth, and to the grappling with it; I know that, in endeavouring to comprehend this truth, the mind will be quickly mastered, and that, in attempting to push on to its outer lines, it will fall down, wearied with travel, and see infinity still stretching beyond it. But the ef-

fort will have been a grand mental discipline. And he who has looked at the discovery of God, as made to us by the word of inspiration, is likely to have come away from the contemplation with his faculties elevated, and, at the same time, humbled; so that a vigour, allied in no degree with arrogance, will have been generated by the study of a Bible truth; and the man, whilst strengthening his mind by a mighty exercise, will have learned the hardest, and the most useful of all lessons, that intellect is not omnipotent, but that the greatest wisdom may be, oftentimes, the knowing ourselves ignorant.—*Rev. H. Melvill.*

DIFFUSIVE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY.

A BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT.—The late eminent Judge, Sir Allen Park, once said at a public meeting in London:

"We live in the midst of blessings till we are utterly insensible of their greatness, and of the sources from whence they flow. We speak of our civilization, our arts, our freedom, our laws, and forget entirely how large a share is due to Christianity. Blot Christianity out of the pages of man's history, and what would his laws have been—what his civilization? Christianity is mixed up with our very being and our daily life; there is not a familiar object around us which does not wear a different aspect, because the light of Christian love is on it—not a law which does not owe its truth and gentleness to Christianity—not a custom which cannot be traced, in all its holy, healthful parts, to the gospel.

GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION.—It appears to us that up to this point the natives alone have benefitted by the British occupation of this island. They have found a previously unknown market for their produce; they have acquired what to them is immense wealth, they possess equal laws; an impartial administration of justice; and they ought and must be made to give an equivalent for these advantages. It is to their interest that they should do so; the pressure of taxation by driving them to labour would as we have said before be a blessing to themselves as well as benefit to the country. With an estimated population of a million and a half, a tax of 5s. per head per annum would pay the expenses of Government, and if that be too much to expect, a poll tax might be established sufficient in amount to keep the roads in repair and allow rice to be admitted free.—*Examiner.*

ORDER OF THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

We are very liable to forget the names and order of the books in the Bible. The following stanzas from an American periodical are happily adapted to enable one easily to keep in memory the order of the books of the New Testament.

Matthew, Mark, and John wrote the life of their Lord,
The Acts, what apostles accomplished record;
Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus hear,
What Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians revere;
Timothy, Titus, Philemon, precede
The Epistle which Hebrews most gratefully read;
James, Peter, and John, with the short letter Jude
The rounds of Divine Revelation conclude.

THE PASHA OF EGYPT.—*Alexandria* Oct. 22, 1847, Mehemet Ali, in his old age is becoming quite sociable and civilized. His Highness seems to relish the society of Europeans, and to feel that their conversation is more entertaining than that of his courtiers and the bigoted Turks about him. On the 12th ult. he gave a grand dinner to the European consuls in Alexandria, to meet the Russian consul who has only recently come to Egypt. The gentlemen were not invited alone, but those having families were asked to bring their wives and daughters with them. A most sumptuous repast of thirty covers was spread out in European elegant fashion in the palace at Ras-el-teen, and the table presented a very animated appearance, having the Viceroy at the head, seated between two European ladies, to whom he shewed the greatest attention. There was a sprinkling of gray-bearded Turks among the Pasha's guests, and whole feast went off with the greatest satisfaction to all parties. After dinner pipes were handed round to all the guests, without omitting the ladies, to whom those most richly mounted were offered. Some of the ladies only pretended to smoke—to refuse the pipe would have been an unpardonable offence, but other ladies seemed to enjoy inhaling the fumes of the Viceroy's excellent tobacco.—*Patriot.*

RUSTIC POLITENESS.—The father of the present Lord Abingdon, who was remarkable for his stateliness of manner, one day riding through a village in the vicinity of Oxford, met a lad dragging a calf along the road, who, when his Lordship came up, made a stop and stared him full in the face. His Lordship asked the boy if he knew him. He replied, "Ees." "What is my name?" said his Lordship. "Why, Lord Abingdon," replied the lad. "Then why don't you take off your hat?" "So I will, zur," said the boy, "if ye'll hold the calf."

SUPREME COURT.—The sessions of the Supreme Court were opened at Jaffna on the 25th inst. Chief Justice Stark presiding.

MURDER OF SIX ENGLISHMEN BY THE CHINESE.—On the afternoon of *Sunday*, the 5th Dec. six young gentlemen of Canton, after attending church, hired a boat and went on a pleasure excursion up the river, intending to return to dinner. As they did not appear that night much anxiety was felt regarding them. One of the Boatmen returned on Monday morning and stated that the party had landed at a village a short distance up the river, that soon after a gong was heard, and some Chinese came to the river in pursuit of them, (the boatmen) threatening to kill them. They pulled up the river, and then laid by, waiting for the appearance of the gentlemen. On Monday morning none of them having appeared, this boatman came down to Canton in a Barber's boat and reported the circumstances to the British Counsel. A great excitement was at once produced both among the Chinese and in the British community. The Consul took the matter up, and the Chinese Magistrates were obliged to bestir themselves to investigate the affair. Vessels of war sailed up to Canton from Hongkong—and a guard was formed of volunteer troops to prevent any attack of the Chinese mob. It soon became probable from the evidence elicited from various quarters that the unhappy young gentlemen had been murdered. A reward having been offered for the discovery of their bodies, on Tuesday morning one was brought in; in the course of the forenoon, another, and soon after two more; and the following Friday the other two. The bodies were covered with wounds and bruises, shewing that they had been tied and had probably suffered a cruel and lingering death.—Four criminals said to have been implicated in the murder have been executed, and eleven more are in confinement awaiting the decision of the Military Board. Mean time the matter has been referred to the Home Government and it is probable that ulterior measures will be taken to awe the Chinese into a more perfect submission to the conditions of the late treaty.

CAPE TOWN.—Five British Officers cut off.—Five officers attached to the army engaged in the war with the Kafirs, were cut off by the enemy while on a visit of curiosity to a conspicuous mountain rock in their vicinity.—Their friends becoming alarmed at their not returning went out the next day in pursuit of them, and found their bodies in a valley near the rock horribly cut and mutilated.

CHOLERA.—Disinfecting Agent.—Mr. Herapath, the well known chemist of Bristol, has addressed a letter to the *Times* stating certain facts which he ascertained by personal experiment during the visitation of the cholera in 1832. Mr. Herapath says:—

"For some time I attended almost daily at the cholera hospitals, and experimented, in every way I could think of, upon the dead and living subjects, their contents and *ejecta*, the atmosphere surrounding them, and their articles of clothing. The conclusions I arrived at I forward for the information of those who have not had the same opportunities. 1. That the cause of cholera is a putrid animal poison, capable of being recognized by the smell by some, emanating from and surrounding the dead or living cholera subject or articles of clothing. 2. That it is not sulphuretted hydrogen or hydrosulphuret of ammonia, as it does not decompose salts of lead or zinc, and when passed through nitrate of silver it only forms a red solution when exposed to light. 3. That it is only received into the living body through the lungs, and cannot be propagated by inoculation. 4. That infection can be conveyed by articles of clothing, bedding, &c., and that washerwomen are more subject to infection than ordinary persons from that cause. 5. That all persons are not equally liable to infection from equal exposure, and even the same individual becomes more sensitive under certain circumstances. 6. That the poison is destroyed by chlorine gas and a heat of 300° Fahrenheit.

The only chemical preventive depended upon in my numerous exposures to the virus was chlorine gas, and this I believe to be a perfect one, if the fumigation is complete. I invariably passed through an atmosphere of it on my return home, and kept it escaping in my residence during the continuance of the disease in the city. I also placed large quantities of the substance necessary for the evolution of this gas in the hands of a Bristol druggist, who was kind enough to distribute 1200 quantities of it gratuitously to applicants during three days, with instructions for the use, and am happy to say that during that time the deaths fell from 10 to one per day, and I have but little doubt that if every ship arriving in England from an infected place, should be exposed to a perfect fumigation with chlorine, we shall be preserved from the infection. If the disease should pass this cordon by any accident, then every house in the infected district should be simultaneously fumigated with it—say three times a day; unless done in all houses at the same time, it would be useless, or nearly so; and to do it effectually, a mixture of three parts of common salt and one of black oxide of manganese, should be placed just inside the outer or street door of the dwelling house, and a little common vitriol poured upon it. The inward current of air will convey the chlorine gas to every part of the interior, and wherever it can be smelt the effect is produced—the miasm is destroyed. If articles of clothing are infected, and the colours likely to be injured by the gas, they may be heated in an oven or on a kiln, to 250 or 300 degrees (about the heat of baking bread,) when they might be handled or used with perfect impunity.—I am, Sir, &c., WILLIAM HERAPATH."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A "Student," if he understands the English language, will find the Terms of our offer respecting the Lectures on Sivaism sufficiently explicit.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

As our Returns of Subscribers for 1848, are yet quite incomplete, we think best to defer the Publication of the List till our next number.

SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATION—No. 3.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days." Ecclesiastes xi. 1.

In the year 1820, about four years after the commencement of the Mission at this Station, and after much effort had been made for the purpose, we succeeded in establishing a school in an adjoining Village, exclusively for the instruction of females. The teacher, a man of some influence in the village, wisely commenced by teaching one of his own daughters in his own house. By this means he soon succeeded in obtaining twelve or fifteen pupils, and thus commenced the business of female instruction in the villages. A grand-daughter of this first female school teacher, after learning for a time in the village school, was admitted a member of the Female Seminary at Oodooville, where she continued her studies till the time of her marriage to a Christian Catechist. Subsequently to her marriage, when the object of raising funds for the erection of village Churches was presented, she made a donation of one larcham of land, a part of her dowry property, valued at £3. 15, as an eligible site for a small village Church. The connexion between the outlay made for commencing and sustaining this first village School, and the donation made "after many days," for an eligible building spot for the first Christian Church to be built by Native converts from heathenism in connexion with the Mission, is so direct as to afford an encouraging illustration and proof of the promise contained in the passage above quoted.

This donation of land, which forms a part of the requisite sum furnished by other individuals in the same village, to secure the erection of a Christian Church, (the corner stone of which is to be laid on the 13th instant) may be regarded as the first of a new series of efforts on the part of Native Christians, for the advancement of Christian education and of the spiritual worship of the one true God in this Province. It also suggests an eligible method by which females may most appropriately aid the important object of erecting village Churches throughout the land. Females, by means of their marriage dowries, are to a great extent the land holders of the Province. What then can be more appropriate, especially on the part of those female, who, by a gratuitous education have been brought into the light and liberty of the Gospel of Christ, than for them gratuitously to present, as a thank offering, the fairest portion of their dowry property for the erection of a suitable building to be consecrated to the worship and glory of the God of their mercies? By so doing they may imitate the noble example of King David, as given at length in the 132d Psalm, who "swore unto the Lord and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob." "Surely I will not give sleep to my eyes nor slumber to my eyelids until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob." See also 2d Samuel 24: 18—24. But some females receive jewels in dowry instead of land. For such I have two suggestions (1) When the Israelites in the wilderness said unto Aaron, "Make us gods which shall go before us. Aaron said unto them, break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives and of your sons and of your daughters and bring them unto me. And he received them at their hand, and made it a golden calf. And they said, these be thy gods O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." And the Lord said unto Moses, let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them and that I may consume them." "And there fell of the people in that day about three thousand men!" This was indeed a noble act of generosity on the part of females in readily offering their jewels, but it was in a wrong cause—it was for the promotion of idol worship, which can never fail sooner, or later, to bring down the wrath of God upon all who continue to practice it. (2) After the destruction of the idolaters as above mentioned, Moses, by divine appointment, called for the voluntary offerings of the people for the erection of a tabernacle in the wilderness for the worship of the true God, and in which God might manifest himself to the people. "And they came both men and women, as many as were willing-hearted, and brought bracelets and earrings, and rings and tablets and jewels of gold."—"And all the women that were wise hearted, did spin with their hands and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple and of scarlet, and of fine linen." Such was the generosity both of men and women on this occasion, that they brought much more than was needed. "And Moses gave commandment and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying let neither man or woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing." To understand what numerous blessings the children of Israel obtained through the medium of the Tabernacle thus formed by the voluntary offering both of men and women, it is necessary to read the sacred history from the 35th Chapter of Exodus to the close of the 2d book of Samuel, embracing a period of nearly five hundred years. If the two examples here given, in which the offering of jewelry by females forms a conspicuous part, be duly considered—the one class of offerings being in support of idol worship, and the other in support of the worship of the true God, will not every wise hearted and pious female be stirred up to make an offering unto the Lord, in aid of the the object now presented, for erecting small but neat and substantial Village Church-

es throughout the land,—consecrated to the worship and service of Him who is the Author of all our mercies? "For blessed is that people whose God is the Lord." And can the inhabitants of the Province generally, make a more appropriate response to the invitations and offers made to them, in the name of the Lord, by the accredited messengers of the Churches both in England and America for more than thirty years past, than by the speedy adoption of measures which shall secure the accomplishment of so desirable an object?

Tillipally,
January, 10, 1848. }

D. POOR.

A NATIVE'S VIEWS OF THE ELECTIVE PRIVILEGES CONTEMPLATED IN THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The late Governor's minute of 26th May, 1841, informs the School Commission that "it is their duty, by every means in their power to promote the education in the English language, of their fellow subjects of all religious opinions in the Colony." There cannot be a more effectual means for the advancement of the noble object of the minute than opening by the Legislature the door of preferment for Government services to such as are morally and intellectually fitted by a course of English education. The few employments of trust and responsibility which have been conferred on natives in the Judicial Department have stimulated thousands to make strenuous efforts in the field of English education, and the native community are so persuaded of this fact that unless they indoctrinate their children in the political lore of the English, they hope not to gain the laurel of distinction. Expectations have long been entertained that the uneducated native Headmen shall be supplanted as soon as practicable by those that are educated, and their realization would undoubtedly infuse new zeal and ardor into Tabrobrantes' minds.

But if the "Parish officer," obligingly noticed by you in your last No. under the "Draft Ordinance" as a new creation of Legislative wisdom, be elected "by the votes of the males of each parish" we fear the wholesome circulation of educational desire would be materially counteracted. For in general the theistic leaders, Temple-leaders and ring-leaders, who wield a great influence on the commonality would be selected in exclusion to those educated and trustworthy few whose merits are not yet duly appreciated by them. Hence we question the propriety of the democratic principles inculcated in the Ordinance. The Northern Province, which has so long enjoyed the wise and impartial superintendence of Mr. Dyke, the Government Agent, would, we apprehend, greatly suffer under the disadvantages of such an elective system.

We would therefore suggest that the power of nominating the Parish officer be invested in the hands of Mr. Dyke, as in the case of Maniagars, Odiayars, &c. and the officer will have less temptation to be unfaithful in the discharge of his duty.

Batticotta,
20th Jan. 1848. }

Yours truly,

ALIQUIS.

Tempus est Breve.

Death of Mrs. Agnetta Maria Bartholomeusz.

The family of Mr. Burton G. Bartholomeusz, Clerk of the Jaffna Cutchery, has by the dispensation of Providence been called to mourn over the unexpected removal of one of its most important and amiable members. She breathed her last on Friday the 21st inst. at 4 o'clock P. M. aged 33 years 4 months, and 9 days, after an illness of 17 days, which commenced three days after the birth of her third child. She will long be held sacred in the memory of the large circle of relatives and friends she has left behind, as a charitable Christian, faithful wife, a tender mother, a prudent mistress, a steady friend, and under very naturally agitating circumstances, a patient sufferer, without any thing approaching to a murmur from first to last.—(She lived for the space of 15 years in the married state.)

Her funeral was attended by a respectable company of European and native friends, while the sad services were performed by the Rev. A. C. Arndt, and her mortal remains were committed to the ground on Saturday evening, at the Jaffna Petah Burial ground, in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection.—Communicated.

NOTICE.

The Revd. D. Poor, of the American Mission, who is now on the eve of his departure for his native land, will deliver a valedictory discourse in the Wesleyan Chapel, Jaffna, on Sabbath evening next, the 30th inst.

Those of the Tamil community of Jaffna and Warrapone who are indebted to this faithful servant of the Church for their education and many of the benefits it has conferred, will thus have an opportunity of hearing the last testimony of their benefactor.

A SECOND EDITION OF THE INDIA

TEMPERANCE ALMANAC, For 1848,

Will be ready early next month. A renewed effort on the part of its friends to distribute another thousand of this little "compendium of useful and varied information," is respectfully and earnestly requested.

TESTIMONIALS.

It is well got up and full of useful information.—*Athenaeum*. We have very great pleasure in saying that considering its size, it is without exception the most complete and perfect compendium of useful and varied information we ever knew, as the production of an Indian Press.—*Crescent*.

It is very neatly printed, and contains not only the usual astronomical calculations and some valuable tables of weights and measures, pay, postage, and expense of different drinking rates; but thirty pages of interesting tales and extracts, which would not long since have been thought cheap at the four annas charged for the whole pamphlet.—*Madras Chr. Ins.*

N. B. A supply of the above Almanac is expected soon at the Maneply Depository, where orders for it will be received.