







The Morning Star

Friday, March 15, 1940.

DR. E. STANLEY JONES.

Next week Jaffna will have once again the privilege of having for a few days Dr. Stanley Jones in her midst. Dr. Jones is too well known throughout the world for us to introduce him to our readers. His dynamic personality; his powerful eloquence, his wide scholarship, and his unquenchable passion to preach the Gospel have always captivated the mammoth audiences which gathered to listen to him influenced the lives of many and gripped the hearts of all who came in contact with him. His service all these many years in the most trying climate of India has been incalculable. His understanding of the Indian life and thought has made him immensely popular and very useful in that country. To Ceylon and Jaffna he is no stranger. He has been here more than once, and every time he came here countless thousands of people, Christians and non-Christians thronged to hear him. We have no doubt that the same warmth of reception and enthusiasm will be evinced by our people this time as in the past. On this occasion he comes to us under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Associations in Jaffna. Jaffna is very fortunate in having this distinguished preacher and author to visit us during the most important week of the Christian year namely, the Holy Week. We wish to associate ourselves heartily with our Y. M. C. A.'s in offering Dr. Jones a warm welcome to our midst and a happy stay with us.

RIGHT USE OF MONEY.

We are pleased to find that the Ceylon Christian Council which met last week in Colombo for its Annual Conference, presided over by the Bishop of Colombo, resolved to request all preachers and teachers as proposed by the Rev. James Mather, to educate the public on the right use of money. Money is for use, not for abuse. Great harm is done to the whole country through the evil custom of extravagance on the occasion of weddings, funerals and other social functions. Numerous homes are ruined by living beyond their means. Large sums of money are wasted on costly sarees, and on other expensive ways of living. On the other hand, people gave too little for deserving causes which often are found to suffer for lack of adequate support. They had no money left over to help those in need, because all the money they had were spent on themselves, on satisfying their own vanity, and on extravagant living. As the proposer said at the Christian Council Conference, this was one of the greatest problems of Ceylon at the present time but it was the least thought of. There were several conferences and committees held to consider other problems e.g., Education or political reforms, but no thought seemed to be given to this important problem of extravagance which is responsible for the economic ruin of many. There is a great deal of indebtedness all over Ceylon, and besides, the Ceylon Church was too dependent upon financial assistance from Western countries, and these unhappy features were due to the fact that people spent more than what they had, and wanted to imitate their neighbour who in his turn imitated somebody else, and thus the vicious circle continued without an end. Bishop Azariah in his recent book on Christian giving has

a chapter entitled "Our Lord's Teaching about Money." He says, there are few subjects on which our Lord has given clearer and fuller teaching than the subject of money." Then he examines several important passages one by one and shows His principles and teachings. This book is available at the C. L. S. Madras at 50 cents a copy, and we commend it to all our readers.

We are of the conviction that it is high time our people banded themselves together and banded extravagant living. There is great need for the people to go back to simple life, simple dress, simple food etc. Our teachers and preachers can do much in this matter, and we believe they will do it and bring about a speedy reformation. Let everybody without waiting for the other person begin at once, and the work will soon be done.

In many centres the work of the Church of Christ is seriously handicapped for lack of funds. Church authorities are faced with problems of closing work down and reducing workers. But this is so, not because there is no money in Ceylon, but chiefly because in many cases Christian people will rather reserve their money for demonstrations of their status when weddings or funerals came, and on the other hand they will allow in the meantime the Church and the Kingdom of God to suffer. Won't our people for the love of Christ give up their costly dress, go in for simple life and help wholeheartedly the work of their Lord who gave his life for them?

God or Gold? Which do you serve? God or Gold? Which has possession of you?

JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL.

The last Administration Report of the Jaffna U. D. C. gives the revenue for 1939 as Rs 327,000 compared with Rs. 306,000 in 1939. As before the Electricity scheme yielded the biggest slice of income, Rs. 142,000. The Property Rate of 12 1/2 per cent brought in Rs. 72,000, Markets Rs. 32,000 and Licenses Rs. 29,000. The Debt outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 500,000 and the accumulated surplus Rs. 66,000.

The Report claims that the state of public health in the Council's administrative area can be regarded as satisfactory, but the figures given do not seem to justify such optimism. With an infant mortality rate of 219 and considerable numbers of deaths from various communicable diseases, Jaffna indeed compares unfavourably with other towns in Ceylon. The Report states that special attention was paid to Child Welfare and Maternity work, Latrine construction and Health Education.

The Karayur Housing Scheme received a grant of Rs. 2,000 from Government. A sum of Rs. 19,000 was spent during the year in erecting tenements.

CEYLON HINDUS IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Ever since the Widows and Orphans' Pension came into operation in the Straits Settlements, Ceylon Hindus in the employ of the Straits Government were not eligible to contribute towards the Scheme as the Law Officers of that Government held that Ceylon Hindus were not debarred from contracting polygamous marriages in that Colony. Strangely enough Ceylon Hindus in the employ of the neighbouring Federated Malay States Government were eligible to contribute to the scheme as in Ceylon and such of those not on the pensionable establishment who were transferred from the Federated Malay States to the Straits Settlements Government, consequent on the Decentralisation policy, stood to lose the privileges which would have ordinarily accrued to them if they continued to serve under the F. M. S. Government.

These grievances were pressed on the Straits Government over and over for a number of years

by the Ceylon Tamils' Association in Singapore and others, without success. When Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan, M. S. C., visited Malaya in 1937 representations were made to him regarding the grievances, and he on his return to the Island, drew the attention of the Hon. The Chief Secretary of Ceylon to those grievances by means of a number of questions in the State Council. He pointed out that the marriages of Ceylon Hindus, unlike those of Indian Hindus, were legally registered and were governed by laws in Ceylon which made it a penal offence for any Ceylon Hindu to have more than one wife at a time; and that Ceylon Hindus in the Straits Settlements should not be penalised for no fault of theirs. He also urged the Chief Secretary to take steps, through the Secretary of State, to remove the disabilities complained of.

Mr. T. M. Pillai, President of the Ceylon Tamils' Association in Singapore has now written to Mr. Sri Pathmanathan that their battle had at last been won and that he had been notified by the Colonial Secretary, Singapore, Straits Settlements, that Ceylon Hindus in the Colony were eligible to contribute to the Straits Settlements Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Mr. Pillai also thanks Mr. Sri Pathmanathan for the interest and trouble he took over the matter which greatly contributed to the success of the Association's efforts.

Dear Friends,

Those of you who received our last Circular letter after the 1st Feb. would have known that almost all our programme for Feb. had to be abandoned because of illness on the family. I was the culprit and was laid up with mumps. I should have run away from the place immediately, but I foolishly stayed on hoping that I was well segregated. But before I was quite free two others were down. It has been very unfortunate, but the regrets were far too late. A good friend of the Ashram wrote and said that they expected the Ashram to be a place not of infection but purification. Purification it has been! How I cannot say, but we hope to put them all into action.

The biggest regret about the mumps invasion was our inability to have the Bishop of Colombo to open the Cottage which is the gift of the members of the Church of Ceylon. But we are told that he would do it when he comes on his next visit to Jaffna in July. We shall perhaps be forced to use the building earlier and await the formal opening in July. When we found that mumps was probably going to continue, we sent some of the members home and during some time, our numbers went down to three and four. But somehow work in the garden has gone on and we were able to sell some fruits from the tomato garden. We have kept other plants coming up steadily and perhaps we will have some vegetable or other from the garden for our daily meal. That is something about which we feel happy. During the month we have lost a good friend who has been called into rest, Mr. R. P. Aseervatham not merely contributed towards the putting up of SHANTI in memory of his wife, but was a regular visitor with plenty of advice and help to get us going. We will miss him. Our Library is making steady progress—thanks also to Mrs. Brown who keeps on sending books regularly to the Ashram Library. I have chosen her name for special mention because of the keen interest she takes in our work in declining years and poor state of health. We purchased the seven volumes of the Tambaram Report. We have been to place the order for the Weaving Machine after all and we shall start work on it before the end of March and call some of you to come and see it work when we shall start a school. Christie has finally got his Weaving Certificate also.

I am going to make use of the precious period to go to

the friends of the Ashram—7th, to the 10th of March.

Our leading article of last week was from a book of our friend Niles. Today a very useful daily reading Bible study and 200 copies only were duplicated from Geneva and we were fortunate in getting a copy for the Ashram. Niles is doing lot of propaganda for us I hear! Since my last letter we have had a few requests for prayers and we wish to assure them that we are remembering them in our prayer. We feel certain that this link of prayer will be a great blessing. Some of you have been kind enough to remember us by sending us gifts and by writing to us. We wish to thank you for it. It is an assurance of interest in the work and confirmation of the fact that the Ashram is timely in the work of the Kingdom in this country. If so, why not some more young men for this work please, and why not some more dedication and preparation of children by parents.

"The drum beats of His army, And the heart beats of our Love."

Yours cordially, S. Selvaratnam Sevak.

"Simon Peter"

This ideal Passion-tide play by Miss Irene Caudwell, will be presented by Christ Church, Jaffna in St. John's College Hall on Saturday the 16th instant at 6.30 p. m.

It is full of power, beauty, pathos, and spirituality. It opens with a prologue, showing the healing of Peter's wife's mother, Miriam, at Capernaum, during the early part of our Lord's ministry and introduces Peter the impulsive, affectionate disciple who needs the refining fire to bring him to the perfection of Peter the Saint and Apostle.

Then follow six scenes depicting episodes at Jerusalem the first dealing with the denial by Peter, the despair of Judas Iscariot, and the tenderness of Mary Magdalene—once the idol of men's hearts, their plaything and their queen—now saved and wholly devoted to the Master. The second scene shows Pontius Pilate distracted and undecided, taking counsel with Claudia Procula, his wife, whilst the crowd are attempting to storm the Praetorium demanding the Nazarene's life. The next scene, with its dramatic interlude picturing the remorse of Judas, shows Peter with Andrew his brother, Mary Salome, and Joseph of Arimathea watching the Crucifixion from the latter's house, a scene of poignant yet powerful beauty. The fourth scene shows the Lord's Mother, with the holy women before the Cross, cast on the waters of deep sorrow and suffering for the Son Who meant everything to her, yet bent to His Divine will in unquestioning submission, breathing those words

again, "Be it done to me according to thy word," while the Body of the Lord is being prepared for its entombment, and is one that should bring comfort and inspiration to all in similar sorrow. The sight of Peter, creeping alone to that empty Cross in an abandonment of penitence is a very effective feature in this scene. The return from Calvary to the house of John is enacted in scene five, which includes a beautiful vision of the spirit of Elijah who announces to Peter and the others present the fulfillment of all prophecy in the uplifted figure on the Cross. The last scene—the Dawn of Easter—deals with the finding by Peter and John of the empty tomb, (see exact model of which will be seen on the stage) their realisation of the Resurrection, and Peter's complete penitence, as with a voice of ecstasy he cries aloud, "Rabboni, Master"

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- 1. The inability to read small type at a distance of 14-15 ft. with out having to stretch out the paper.
2. The inability to clearly make out objects at a distance without straining the eyes.
3. The blurring of your sight by twilight.
4. Constant headaches which do not yield to drugs and medicines.

IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE ABOVE DIFFICULTIES IT MEANS FAULTY EYE-SIGHT. YOU NEED GLASSES AFTER A CAREFUL EIGHT-TEST COME TO US.

MR. S. CHAS PATHIRANA DENTIST AND OPTICIAN 'Dental Surgery' Near Customs Office. 3rd Cross Street, Jaffna.

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