

The Hindu Organ

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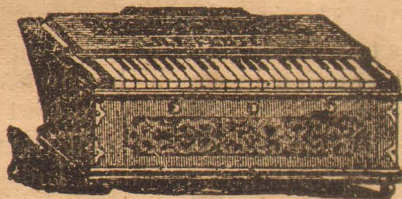
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Colombo, 20th February 1900.

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A. KANAGASABAI
(Vice President S. P. S.)

V. CASIPPILLAI
(Secy. S. P. S.)

P. CARTHIGASAPILLAI
(Manager, Hindu Organ)

Jaffna, 14th March 1900.

NOTICE.

Mr. N. Ponniah Travelling Agent of the Hindu Organ has the authority of the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, Jaffna, to recover the arrear donations subscribed for the Hindu College in 1895 as well as to collect fresh Subscriptions on account of the institution. All amounts paid to him on account of the College will be acknowledged in the Hindu Organ and receipts duly signed by the Treasurer of the S. P. Sabai will also be posted direct to the subscribers.

V. CASIPPILLAI
Secretary,
S. P. Sabai
JAFFNA

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY APRIL 11, 1900

The "Observer" and Ourselves.

Our article on the acting Attorney-Generalship has touched the Editor of the "Observer" to the quick. We stated some unpalatable truths concerning him in that article, and, instead of refuting them in a straightforward manner, he resorts to a novel and ingenious way of replying to our article. He addresses the Hindu Organ as a correspondent and characterizes the article as a "scurrilous production." It is passing strange that the "Observer" which has had to face a number of libel cases does not know what a scurrilous production is. The Observer says further that our article is "from beginning to end special pleading and misrepresentations woven with a few facts and probably penned by the same hand that is responsible for the many columns of invention and abuse that have appeared in a morning paper."

We do not know why the Observer calls our article "a scurrilous production." Does our contemporary suppose that his *ipse dixit* will be accepted by the public? Perhaps he thinks that anything written contrary to the opinions of the Observer and exposing the questionable tactics of its editor, however temperately and dispassionately it might have been done, is scurrilous. He is welcome to say anything he likes to extricate himself from the inconvenient position in which he has placed himself. We are, however, glad that others are of a different opinion about the article, quite complimentary to us. Indeed, the fairness and moderation with which we treated the subject, are admitted by all who do not constitute themselves judges in their own cause, and whose minds are not warped by long-standing prejudice. If the Bailie Street Oracle and Messrs Fidelis Perera and Co, in their common hatred of the Tamil Solicitor-General, think that any defence of him cannot but be scurrilous, we are, we own, quite powerless to cope with them.

We have a right to ask the Editor of the "Observer" in what respect our article is a "special pleading and misrepresentation." We said that the "Observer" was at one time the warmest of Mr Ramanathan's supporters and admirers, but has, for some years past, for reasons well-known in Ceylon, become the bitterest of the Solicitor-General's critics, and has never missed an opportunity of attacking him. Is there an iota of misrepresentation in it? We do well remember the time—it was when Mr Ramanathan had not started the now defunct Ceylon Examiner Press Company Limited—when the Observer held up Mr. Ramanathan as a paragon of everything that is desirable in public and private life. The "Observer" not only strenuously supported the candidature of Mr. Ramanathan for the Tamil seat when it fell vacant by the death of his uncle, Sir Coomara Swamy, but denounced the rival candidate, Mr. Brito, so strongly and unreasonably that the latter was obliged to appeal by wire to his friends in Batticaloa to support him in spite of, what he considered, the "lies of the Observer."

An enemy of Mr. Brito sent a copy of this telegram to the Editor of the "Observer" who published it in his paper and made very damaging comments on the sender. We allude to this incident to show that the support accorded by the "Observer" at that time to Mr Ramanathan was not of an ordinary kind, as its hatred of Mr. Ramanathan at the present time is of the bitterest character. Our contemporary cannot deny that Mr Ramanathan was subsequently obliged to bring a case of libel against the Observer in consequence of taunts published in that paper as to his religious belief. The present Senior Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court who heard that case as acting District Judge of Colombo had, we believe, to state in his judgment that the Observer committed an offence not only against Mr Ramanathan individually, but also against the millions of Her Majesty's Hindu subjects whose religious practices were held up to public ridicule. Ever since that time, the "Observer" has not missed an opportunity of attacking Mr. Ramanathan. There is no doubt whatever that much of the Observer's opposition to Mr Ramanathan is due to his religious belief. This we gather from the Observer's own confession in the article which formed the subject of the Libel suit. It is now sought to be explained by the "Observer" that its present Editor did not write the article complained of by Mr. Ramanathan. But does the present Editor deny that he was one of the defendants in the Libel suit? If the present editor did not write the article and still he was made one of the defendants, it is all the more reason for him to give vent to his feelings against Mr. Ramanathan.

Now as regards the authorship of the article in the Hindu Organ, we ask the Editor of the "Observer" to say what led him to think that the article was penned by others than ourselves? Is he in the habit of publishing as editorials the productions of others? Does he think that the facts contained in it are such as are not within our reach? Let him disabuse his mind of any such notion. We know not only the facts embodied in the said article about the Observer but many more. We can recount all the Libel cases the "Observer" has had to face, and know everything relating to its past career generally. The persistent attacks of the Observer on one of the most eminent judges and jurists of Ceylon, Mr Berwick, are matters of history. To say that the writer in the Independent wrote the Hindu Organ article is of piece with the policy usually adopted by the Observer of setting up or magnifying side issues. It is a dishonest attempt made to obscure the real issues involved in the controversy. We need hardly give our readers the assurance that the article in question was written by us as we have written any other article that has appeared in the "Hindu Organ" and that it was not sent for publication from Colombo, nor even published by us at any body's request. The "Hindu Organ" is not conducted on mercantile principles. We do not derive any income from the paper and have no personal ends to serve. This is a fact well-known in Jaffna. It is a surprise to us that a daily paper like the "Observer" in its inveterate hatred of its enemies and in its attempt to minimise the effect of any defence published on their behalf, has descended so low. The "Native Opinion" says that Mr. Ramanathan is the author of the "Hindu Organ" article, but the "Observer" without telling it in so many words puts in words calculated to create that impression. Knowing personally the utter fallacy of the statements in regard to the authorship of the article, we are now convinced more than ever that all other allegations in the "Observer" and "Native Opinion" in regard to Mr Ramanathan are as baseless and false. In a matter which lies peculiarly with in our own knowledge, the "Observer" makes a false suggestion and the "Native Opinion" a false statement. Knowing as we do such falsity, we have to conclude necessarily that all other statements made in those papers as regards the issues involved in the controversy have no foundation in fact.

The Editor of the "Observer" calls the "Hindu Organ" an "obscure Jaffna" paper. What does he mean? Are we to understand him to say that the name of the Editor of the "Hindu Organ" is not on the Queen's House List? The eminent and non-obscure Editor of the "Observer" must understand that the word "Obscure" is only a relative term. The "Hindu Organ" can boast of a very wide circulation among the Tamil speaking people in Ceylon and the Straits, not to speak of Southern India. It is the only organ of the Hindus of Ceylon, and as such it commands an influence amongst that community unsurpassed by that of any other newspaper. Among the European Planters and Merchants and the European members of the Public Service, the "Hindu Organ" may not be known as much as the "Observer". But is the existence of the "Observer" known among the Tamils as much as that of the "Hindu Organ"? The "Observer" is much "Obscure" amongst the Tamils as the "Hindu Organ" amongst the Europeans. The circulation of the "Hindu Organ" among Tamils is much larger than that of the "Observer" among Europeans. The bigoted "Observer" once found fault with a public man for professing the Hindu religion. Can that paper be expected to take kindly to the "Hindu Organ"?

LOCAL & GENERAL.

The Weather—In spite of the drizzling shower of rain that fell last week the heat continues to be intense.

Ourselves—Owing to the New Year Holidays the next issue of our paper will be on the 25th Instant instead of on the 18th.

The Government Agent—Mr Ievers who went to Kankesanthurai to make payment for the value of lands acquired for the railway has returned to Jaffna.

A New Minute—A Minute by His Excellency the Governor requires that every officer in classes IV and V of the Ceylon Civil Service to pass an Examination in the Criminal Procedure Code within six months. This minute, it is said, will affect 24 officers.

Burglaries in Colombo—There is a perfect epidemic of burglaries now in Colombo. The burglars are armed with revolvers which they have used in some instances, to protect themselves from arrest.

The Supreme Court—The Hon'ble Frederick Moncrieff, has arrived in Colombo and assumed duties as a Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court in succession to Mr. Withers.

The Steamer Service—Mr. Walter Lamont of Walker Sons and Company arrived here on the 3rd Instant and had on the same day a conference with the Chetties in their Nagaram house. The differences between the parties have been amicably settled, we understand. The Chetties promised to patronise also the steamers of the Steamship Company, and Mr. Lamont also undertook to make some reductions in the freight and passenger fare. The "Illaface" having gone to the Maldives the Steamship Company are for the present masters of the situation. It remains to be seen whether matters will again come to a crisis with the arrival once more in Jaffna of the steamer of Messrs Noor-bhai and Co.

Tobacco—There being good demand for Jaffna tobacco in Colombo and Galle large quantity of new tobacco has been sent to those places by steamer.

Obituary—We regret to chronicle the sudden death of Mrs. Leembruggen, wife of our popular School Inspector Mr. R. H. Leembruggen which took place at her residence at Pasaiyur on the 5th Inst.

The Last Cambridge Local—It gives us great pleasure to be able to announce that Miss Grace Nallamma Tampoe, the youngest daughter of our Police Magistrate, has successfully passed the Cambridge Junior Local, held in December last. The information, we understand was received by wire from England. We congratulate all concerned on her success.

A marriage—Mr. K. Chelliah, Railway clerk, Jaffna Kachcherai, was married on the 4th Inst to Miss Ponnammamma Nagamuttu a daughter of Dr. V. Nagamuttu, Health officer, Mandativu and Elovativu. We wish the couple long life, health, wealth and prosperity.

Mr. S. Ramanathan—We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. S. Ramanathan the manager of Sir Graeme Elphinstone's properties in Ceylon and the Straits who is now in Jaffna. It is rumoured that Mr. Ramanathan will sell the Temple Bar estate belonging to Sir Graeme and situated at Pallai in the Jaffna District. The estate is about 275 acres in extent.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

THE QUEEN IN IRELAND.

GREAT REJOICINGS.

London, April 3.

The Queen has arrived at Kingstown. The Squadron saluted and all the ships in the roadstead dressed. The heights round Dublin are ablaze to night with illuminations and bonfires.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER THE PRINCE OF WALES.

FIRE AT BY AN ANARCHIST AT BRUSSELS.

London, April 4.

The Prince of Wales, when passing through Brussels to-day on his way to Denmark, was fired at with a revolver at the railway station.

His assailant, who was arrested, is a Belgium tin-smith aged 16, named Sipido and is an Anarchist.

He states he wanted to avenge the thousands slain by us in South Africa.

It appears the assailant jumped on the foot board of the carriage, in which were the Prince and Princess of Wales and Squerry, and fired twice through the window hitting nobody.

The newspapers unitedly denounce the dastardly attack on the Prince of Wales, which some attribute to the bitter attacks England in the Continental Press and to Dr. Leyd's pro-Boer propaganda.

Lord George Hamilton, speaking at Acton, said, that if there was reason to be sought for the outrage, it must be recollected that Brussels is the headquarters of a factory of lies of which Dr. Leyds was the manager.

THE WAR

A despatch from Lord Roberts, confirming Reuter's despatch, says, that Colonel Broadwood informed him that the enemy were approaching Thabanchu in two bodies from north and east. Colonel Broadwood stated that he intended retiring on the Waterworks, seventeen miles nearer to Bloemfontein. Lord Roberts replied that the 9th Division would march at daylight to support him, and left it to Col. Broadwood's discretion to retire as proposed. Colonel Broadwood moved at night and bivouacked and was attacked at daybreak on the 31st march on three sides. He then despatched his batteries and baggage towards Bloemfontein, covering them with Cavalry. Two miles from the Waterworks, the road crosses a deep nullah in which the Boers, during the night had concealed themselves so well that the British scouts passed over without discovering them. The Boers opened fire when the waggons and guns entered the drift and many driver and horses were shot at short range, and the uncaptured guns galloped away. The scouts found the passage across the nullah unoccupied by the enemy by which the remainder of Colonel Broadwood's Horse crossed and reformed with great steadiness.

On hearing that Colonel Broadwood was hard-pressed, Lord Roberts ordered General French, with the two remaining Cavalry Brigade to follow and support the 9th Division. The latter, after a magnificent march, arrived on the scene at two in the afternoon.

Reuter, wiring from Bloemfontein, says that the spruit where the ambush occurred is a terrible sight, filled with corpses, horses, and broken waggons in hideous confusion.

London April 3rd—A *Times* despatch from Bloemfontein, dated 1st April, states that, after a march of eighteen miles to the support of Col. Broadwood, General Colville sent General Macdonald's Brigade against the main drift leading to the Waterworks, while General Smith Dorrien's Brigade attempted another drift, which turned the position of the Boers, who fell back slowly before the Infantry and lagged at the foot of the hills between the Modder River and Thabanchu.

London April 4.

Reuter's correspondent, wiring from Bloemfontein, on April 2, says the destruction of the Waterworks causes inconvenience, but there is a plentiful supply of drinking water in the town.

General Colville's division and General French's cavalry have returned to Bloemfontein.

The guns and waggons captured by the Boers in the ambush have not been recovered, as erroneously stated by the *Daily Chronicle*.

The pursuit of the Boers has been abandoned, and General French has returned to Bloemfontein.

Reuter's correspondent, wiring from Springfontein on April 3, says it is believed there are a number of the enemy between there and Bloemfontein.

General Gatacre is preparing to cope with any attempt to cut Lord Roberts' communications.

Commandant Cronje and a number of other Boer prisoners have sailed for St. Helena.

All Britishers have been ordered to leave the Transvaal, except the employees in the Government mines.

A mass meeting was held at Cape Town to-day, the Mayor presiding, when a resolution was enthusiastically passed in favour of the annexation of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State republics.

Returning in a procession the meeting met Mr. Schreiner, who was hissed and hooted, and had to take refuge in a cafe.

Calcutta April 4.

The reverse near Bloemfontein has created a painful sensation in England.

People discuss the circumstance, that, although Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener and General French invariably do right, their lieutenants, when left to themselves invariably do wrong.

The *Times*, discussing the affair, observes that after all the Boers have some brains, whereas British Officers too often behave as if dealing with a lot of congenital idiots.

Senator Davis, Assistant Secretary of the Interior at Washington, who has lately visited Pretoria, has resigned his office preparatory to "stumping" America for the Boers.

London, April 5.

A *Times* telegram, dated Bloemfontein April 2, says the Boers across the Modder River are in some force to the east of Bloemfontein.

Our mounted infantry has been in touch with them all day at Bushmanskop, 12 miles distant.

SELECTIONS.

LONDON AS A MORAL FORCE

(continued from our last issue)

It must not be supposed, however, that this party fictitious nature of London's reputation as the capital of the world diminishes its moral force. London is, and must be, the most potent influence for good or ill in Great Britain, and the strongest international moral force in the world. The voice of London on great moral and social questions, if it does not become the voice of England, is at least the paramount influence in moulding the opinion of the nation. That is not true of ordinary political questions, on which the constituencies have a peculiar way of straying here, there, and everywhere at the heart's desire; but it is emphatically true of the great questions which come up now and again independently of politics—questions like those of the Armenian massacres, and the Turkish War.

IMPERIAL LONDON.

Londoners generally have not an exaggerated conception of their mission in the world. Their responsibility as citizens is great, no doubt, but their responsibility as Englishmen is infinitely greater. Even the largest of our provincial cities have a localism about them which narrows down their national importance; but London is the nation in miniature. Local London does, indeed, exist, as all who pay rates know; but it is as distinct from National London as Manchester is from Maidstone. Local London is largely a matter of rates and personalities; National London is an Imperial city embracing the moral and social interests of the world. Thousands of Londoners who have little or no interest in the local government of the Metropolis would hardly be induced to miss a demonstration in Hyde Park or a meeting in Trafalgar Square. The reason is obvious. A Hyde Park demonstration appeals to a much wider constituency than a meeting of the County Council. Hyde Park belongs not to London only, but to England, and there, in days gone by and in days to come, the hopes and sympathies of England have been and will be concentrated.

One must be out of London to appreciate the full effect of a demonstration in Hyde Park. "Hyde Park" is the point on which more than one national agitation has revolved. The influence of such a meeting, indeed, is enormously greater than the average Londoner imagines. Every mass meeting in Hyde Park, it may be said, means that at least fifty meetings will follow immediately in the country, at which the Hyde Park assembly will be the basis of hundreds of speeches. Indeed, it may almost be said that Hyde Park is the moral barometer of the nation. If the Londoner cares little how he himself is governed, he has a large measure of sympathy with those who endeavour to lift up the level of our national reputation. He is more imperial than local. The sense of bigness which London breeds broadens his mind and scatters his thoughts over a wider area, and in becoming a patriot he is apt to forget that he is also a citizen.

THE MORAL OF IT ALL.

It is in this fact that one finds the secret of London's moral influence. London is so cosmopolitan. It represents every nation, every race, every sect, every interest, every human grade on the face of the earth. When it speaks the whole world listens. What it says on an international question is accepted in foreign Courts as the voice of England. Its resolutions are known in every Court in Europe soon after they are passed. Even the Sultan of Turkey was moved by an indignant meeting in London, the echo of which penetrated the inner apartments of Yildiz Kiosk, and a London protest against Spanish atrocities was felt in Spain last year hardly less strongly than if the protest was made in Madrid. It is a striking proof of London's influence in the moral government of Europe that foreign governments not rarely intervene in the hope of securing the suppression of the London demonstration. The liberty afforded by London to foreign refugees adds, no doubt, to its force abroad. How many leaders of national movements nipped in the bud have left their native country to live exiled in London? Their presence in the Metropolis, and their freedom to carry on their work there unmolested, gives rise to apprehension in high places all over the world, and lends significance to the opinion of London generally on questions of foreign politics and foreign government.

Every sermon has its application—or should have. An adequate conception of the greatness of London and the part London plays in the world, would surely

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