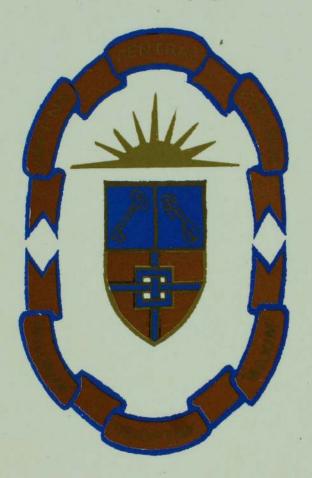
JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE 1816-1996



180th Anniversary Souvenir

Published by
Jaffna Central College Old Boys Association
Colombo Branch

OCTOBER 1996

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with best compliments from





Tyres with Muscle

Sri Brothers

271, Sea Street, Colombo - 11, Sri Lanka

JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE 1816-1996



180th Anniversary Souvenir

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With Best Compliments From

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A WELL ~ WISHER

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JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION - COLOMBO BRANCH

PREFACE

Earlier it was believed that Jaffna Central College was started in 1834 and, infact, the Centenary Celebration was held in 1935 and even a Centenary Memorial Edition published the following year. Similarly, the 125th Anniversary was celebrated in 1959 and the 150th Anniversary in 1984.

Now, the chance discovery of the deed pertaining to the purchase of the present College site from the Government by Rev. James Lynch on 1st August 1816 has put back the date of commencement by nearly 18 years. This new date has been subsequently confirmed by a Special Committee appointed for the purpose of determining the date of founding of JCC, by their Report of 5th January 1993.

This new evidence makes JCC the oldest Methodist educational institution in South-East Asia and the second oldest School in Sri Lanka.(the oldest is reported to be Jaffna College which was established by American Missionaries in 1814)

The Jaffna OBA celebrated the 175th Anniversary in 1994 and have even put out a Special Souvenir for the occasion. We, however, decided to wait for the next big occasion. i.e. the 180th Anniversary which really commenced on 1st August 1996.

At our request, the Philatelic Bureau has already released a 2/- Commemorative Stamp and First Day Cover on 7th September 1996. Now we are publishing this Special Souvenir to mark this important milestone in the College's history. We hope you will find its contents interesting and useful.

In conclusion, we wish to thank all Centralites, old and new, the Principal and Staff and Advertisers and Well-Wishers for rallying round us on this important occasion.

K.Thayaparan President T.Chinniah Secretary

JCC OBA, Colombo Branch.

Congratulations & Best Wishes From









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MESSAGE FROM HON. RICHARD PATHIRANA, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION



180th Anniversary of Jaffna Central College

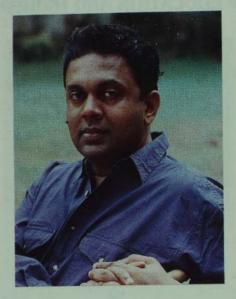
It is with great pleasure that I issue this message of felicitation on this occasion when Jaffna Central College is celebrating its 180th Anniversary. I congratulate the Colombo Branch of the Old Boys' Association for making it known to the world, how this College has performed its task in its long history. I must also thank the Philatelic Bureau for issuing a commemorative stamp and honouring the school in a befitting manner.

Jaffna Central College has stood as a pioneer and a giant in the education scenario of the country, having born as far back as 1816, soon after the British occupation of the country. Your school has produced eminent scholars who excelled not only in the academic field but also in other spheres such as sports, politics and nation building. Jaffna Central College has contributed its share in steering the destiny of the nation in the past, by extending its services beyond the boundaries of Jaffna. It is heartening to note that this College has among its old boys, people from all walks of life representing all parts of the country and all its races and religions.

I am also glad to share my sentiments with your school and help bring back the glory of the past providing it with facilities to suit a leading National School in the North.

I wish Jaffna Central College all success

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF POSTS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS



At the request of the Colombo OBA, I was able to arrange through the Philatelic Bureau, the release of a special stamp and first day cover to mark the 180th Anniversary of Jaffna Central College. I am now pleased to send this message for publication in the souvenir to be published by you for the same occasion.

Being the oldest Methodist educational institution in Sri Lanka is not its only claim to fame, it has also pioneered higher education in this country by establishing links with Indian Universities in the early 40's, and is today one of the leading Colleges with a consistent performance at public examinations and in extra curricular activities.

I am aware that the protracted conflict in the area has had serious adverse impact on the educational progress of this school. However I am confident that in the coming years Central College will return to its former glory. The College stands right within the area secured by the government and therefore it is assured of unhindered progress.

I wish the College all success in its future endeavours.

M.L.A.M. HIZBULLAH, M.P. DEPUTY MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS



MESSAGE FROM HON. M. L. A.M. HIZBULLAH, M.P. FOR BATTICALOA DISTRICT AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF POSTS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the special Souvenir to be published to mark the 180th Anniversary of the founding of Jaffna Central College.

The first day of August, 1816 saw the birth of Jaffna Central College in the premises of the old Orphanage and the Lutheran Church which were bought by the Christian Missionaries for 646 Rix dollars. For the early Christian Missionaries, education of young people was the most important means of forming and building a healthy society and a valuable public service. I find from printed records that it was after Rev. Fr. Peter Percival's assumption of duties as principal of the college in 1834 the institution made great progress.



Though founded by Christian Missionaries it produced the champion reformer of Hinduism and creator of Tamil prose, Savant Srilasri Arumuga Navalar who was a pupil and preceptor of this great institution. It was with the help of Srilasri Arumuga Navalar the distinguished principal of that time Rev Fr Peter Percival translated the Holy Bible into Tamil.

At no time in the history of this school religious bias manifested in fields of Education or Sports. Talent was recognized as the sole criterion in the progress of the pupils. Parochial feelings were unknown and discouraged among pupils since the schools remote beginnings in 1816. The Tamil, Sinhala, Moor and the Burgher community learnt in complete harmony at Jaffna Central.

Students of this prestigious institution are spread all over the world to-day, served and serving in various capacities. To mention a few Prof. C. J. Eliezer, the eminent mathematician, Dr Kandiah of the British Atomic Power Establishment at Harwell and the famous athlete, Nagalingam Ethirveerasingam.

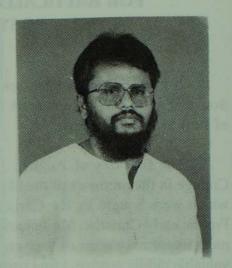
The light the Christian Missionaries lit 180 years ago continues to shine in every way despite the ongoing war in the north and east. May this light-house of knowledge, Jaffna Central College, steer many more thousands of students to success and fame in their lives in the years ahead.

சு. பி. டி. பி. செயலாளர் நாயகமும் யாழ் மாவட்ட பாராளுமன்ற உறுப்பினருமான டக்ளஸ் தேவானந்தாவின் வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி.

தமிழ் மக்கள் கல்வியை பெரிதும் நேசிப்பவர்கள். கல்வியைப் பெரும் பேறாகக் கருதுபவர்கள்.

யழ்பாணத்தில் கல்வி அறிவூட்டும் நற் கல்லூரிகள் பல உண்டு. யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரிக்கு தனித்துவமான இடமொன்று உண்டு.

நம் சமூகத்தின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்காக அரும்பணியாற்றிய கல்விமான்கள் பலரை, நற் சிறப்பு வாய்ந்த நல்லொழுக்க மாணவர்களை தனது கொடையாக வழங்கிய பெருமை யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரிக்கு இருக்கிறது.



ஆரம்பக் கல்வி முதல் பத்தாம் வகுப்புவரை யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் பயின்றவன் என்ற வகையில் நான் பெருமகிழ்வு கொள்கிறேன்.

180வது ஆண்டு விழாக் கண்டு கல்வியின் கற்பகதருவாக உயர்ந்து நிற்கும் கல்லூரியின் பெருமை கண்டு பூரிக்கும் பழைய மாணவர்களில் நானும் ஒருவராக இருப்பதையிட்டுப் பூரிக்கின்றேன்.

நாட்டின் இன்றைய நிலையும். அனர்த்தங்களும் தமிழ் மாணவர்களின் கல்வி வளர்ச்சிக்கு சவாலாக மாறியுள்ளன. யாழ் குடாநாட்டு மாணவர்கள் கல்வி கற்றல் என்பதே ஒரு பெரும் போரட்டமாக மாறியிருக்கிறது.

எனினும் கல்வி என்னும் ஞான ஒளிதான் சூழும் இருள் அகற்றி நாம் முன்னேற துணைபுரியும்.

கல்வி கற்றலும், கற்பித்தலும் கடும் போராட்டமாக மாறியுள்ள இன்றைய நிலையில் யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் கடமையும். பொறுப்பும் முன்பை விடப் பாரியதாகும்.

ஞான ஒளியூட்டி நம் மாணவர் சமுதாயத்தை எதிர்காலச் சிற்பிகளாக உருவாக்கித்தரும் பொறுப்பை நம் மத்திய கல்லூரி நிச்சயம் நிறைவேற்றும் என்பது உள்ளங்கை நெல்லிக்கனி போன்றதாகும்.

யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி மேலும் வளரட்டும். நம் மாணவர் சமுதாயம் ஏற்றமும். ஊக்கமும் பெறட்டும்.

" நன்றி வணக்கம்"

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M. A. ABDUL MAJEED, B.A. (Econ) Ceylon

Ex Minister of Handlooms Industries

D 8/G/1, Manning Town, Housing Scheme, Colombo 8. Tel: 683867 Ismail Lodge 3rd Cross Street, Sammanthurai Tel: 067-2431

MESSAGE FROM A DISTINGUISHED OLD BOY



I wish to congratulate the Colombo O. B. A. for organising the 180th Anniversary Celebrations of our College by the release of a Commemorative Stamp and First Day Cover by the Philatelic Bureau and the publication of a special Souvenir.

I joined Jaffna Central in 1943 and left in 1946 on gaining admission to the Ceylon University. The Principal was Rev. C.A.Smith and our class teacher in the HSC was Mr. Issac Ponnambalam who taught us English. The other teachers were Mr. S. Mahalingam (History), Mr. Sarma Iyer (Tamil) and Ms. Mabel Thambiah (Geography). I resided at Rigg Hall Hostel throughout my 4 years stay at J. C. C.

Jaffna Central always had a very good reputation as an allround school and I am grateful to my alma-mater for having prepared me for a University education.

I wish the College well in all its future efforts.

M. A. Abdul Majeed
Minister of Handloom Industries
1991 - 1994

METHODIST CHURCH, SRI LANKA

Methodist Headquarters, 252, Galle Road, Colombo 3.

President

Rev. Duleep R. Fernando

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MESSAGE FROM REV. DULEEP R. FERNANDO, PRESIDENT, METHODIST CHURCH, SRI LANKA

I write on behalf of the Methodist Church, Sri Lanka to extend our good wishes and felicitations to Jaffna Central College, on it's 180th Anniversary. We hope the various programmes held in connection with this celebration, will contribute towards the enrichment and development of the school.

We are very pleased that as a Church, we were instrumental in the founding of the school and was involved in it's management for over 145 years of its existence. The vision of its founders was to give a holistic education to our children. An education that integrates physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual training, so that our children may develop in body, mind and spirit and become good, useful citizens of this country.



As a Church, we hope that Jaffna Central College will be able to give this kind of education, so that the products of this school, will be men of learning and integrity and with a dimension of service in their attitude to life. This country needs that kind of person to develop its resources and build up its community life, so that as a nation we can live in peace and harmony.

May God Bless Jaffna Central College and may it grow from strength to strength in the future.

METHODIST CHURCH SRI LANKA

NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT SYNOD

Rev. S. S. Karunairaj Chairman

LOCKWOOD HOUSE 9, VEMBADI ROAD, JAFFNA

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN, NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT SYNOD

Central has gone through a period of crisis and is still living in a period of crisis. When you walk through the portals of Jaffna Central College, you see the injuries that has been caused to the College. The word sports have been taken out of their hands. The Esplanade lies waste. The College, one time beautifully reflected the St. Peter's Church and the Munniappar Temple for religious fervour, the Subramaniam Park for relaxation and cultivate friendships, the Law Courts for justice and peace--all in ruins give no breath for the College to regain her momentum. In spite of all the devastations and ruins, the education pursues. When education is imparted to everyone, there will be power to magnify himself, to multiply the ways in which he exists, to make his life full, significant and interesting.

The two lines of the college song reels in my mind.

"Now's the time for combined action, pass the ball from man to man"

So let us with courage rise to mend our ways.

On behalf of the OBA in Jaffna, I do congratulate the Colombo Branch OBA as they take steps to celebrate the 180th Anniversary. The years have rolled by and through the ages we have remembered God's grace.

Let us thank God for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come.

Rev. S.S. Karunairaj

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF JAFFNA



We faithfully remember the meritorious service rendered to the education of Tamil-speaking students by the Central College situated in the Jaffna Town, on its 180th anniversary. On this occasion we gratefully remember the services rendered by the Methodist Mission, especially that of late Rev. Dr. Peter Perceival, the founder of this College. It is praiseworthy to note that this college continues its service to the students, in spite of the drawbacks caused from the present situation here.

On this occasion I send my greetings to the College Principal, Teachers, Old Students and others. I pray that the Lord Almighty bless this College in all its endeavours.

Bishop's House Jaffna. Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Saundaranayagam Bishop of Jaffna குருபாதம்

ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ சுவாமிநாத தேசிக ஞானசம்பந்த பரமாசார்ய ஸ்வாமிகள் குருமஹா சந்நிதானம் – ஆதிமுதல்வர், ஸ்தாபகர்

ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ சோமசுந்தர தேசிக ஞானசம்பந்த பரமாசார்ய ஸ்வாமிகள்

இரண்டாவது குருமஹா சந்நிதானம் – ஆதீன முதல்வர்

நல்லை திருஞானசம்பந்தர் ஆதீனம்

பருத்தித்துறை வீதி, நல்லூர், யாழ்ப்பாணம், இலங்கை.

தொலைபேசி, 24018

ஆச்ச் செய்தி

கல்விசார் பெரும் தகையீர்,

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் 180 ஆம் ஆண்டு நிறைவு விழாவையொட்டி கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர்சங்கம் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தினுடைய கல்விப் பாரம்பரியத்தில் தனியான ஓர் இடத்தை யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி அமைத்துக் கொண்டது. அது போல இன்றும், என்றும் கல்வியில் தனியான இடத்தை வகித்துக் கொள்ள இறைவனைப் பிரார்திக்கின்றோம்.

பழைய மாணவர்களைப் போல இன்றைய மாணவரும் கல்லூரியின் வளர்ச்சிக்கும், சமுதாய முன்னேற்றத்துக்கும் இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறோம்.

> " வாழ்க பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம் வளர்க யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி என்றும் வேண்டும் இன்ப அன்பு "



ஆதீன முதல்வர் : ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ சோமசுந்தரதேசிக ஞானசம்பந்த பரமாசார்ய ஸ்வாமிகள்.

நல்லை திருஞானசம்பந்தர் ஆதீனம், யாழ்ப்பாணம்.

Clem Smith

Ph.D., F.R.A.C.S. General Surgeon 172 Eastfield Rd., Croydon Vic.3136 phone 97258770

Email Clem.Smith@HCN.net.au
ร้อง 97255230

MESSAGE FROM DR. CLEM SMITH

Greetings to you all. I have fond memories of my childhood spent in Jaffna. I still remember the balmy days, the many impromptu cricket games with home-made bats and tennis balls, flying kites on the oval outside the college, catching small fish with a handnet in the storm water drains after the monsoon rains, and racing around on my bike.

My memories of my Father's dedication to Jaffna Central, his interest in the students, his respect for his peers and his team of teachers, and his concern that each student should do his best, are values that he handed down to me.

His interest in the practical and the mechanical have been expressed in my job as a surgeon. At the moment I spend each Friday operating in rural Australia, flying to these towns in my Beechcraft single engine aeroplane. I have invited Dr. Ponnampalam (JCC old boy) to accompany me on a number of occasions but he has declined. However he still sends me patients!

My Father wrote a quote from Rudyard Kipling in my autograph book:

"If you can fill each unforgiving minute with 60 seconds worth of distance run, Your's is the earth and everything thats in it, and what is more You'll be a man my son!"

Three hearty cheers for the chocolate and blue

Umudaya Majan,

Thumbumutaz (The fairy floss head has now gone grey-like my fathers)

21.10.1996

Clem Smith Australia 172 Eastfield Rd., Croydon Vic.3136 phone 97258770

Email Clem.Smith@HCN.net.au
โลง 97255230

MESSAGE FROM MRS. JOY SMITH (REV. C.A. SMITH'S WIFE)

To the Colombo Branch of Jaffna Central College Old Boys Association

Dear "Old Boys"

Congratulations to you all on being part of this great occasion. I was very interested in the contents of Clement's letter. It brought back vivid memories of our days in the life of the college, when we just lived for Central and its boys. During the years since we have never lost interest and love for the College and never shall! Amid all the trials of later years I rejoice that the spirit of Central has survived. Keep it up!

May every blessing be upon you, and going out from you into the world to help make Sri Lanka a country known for its honesty and concern for the interest and good of its people with consideration for all.

The Lord bless you all

Ever your friend and well-wisher.

21.10.1996

Joy Smith Australia

MESSAGE FROM A FORMER VICE PRINCIPAL



Congratulations on your efforts to arrange for the release of a Commemorative Stamp and First Day Cover and the publication of a Souvenir on the occasion of the 180th Anniversary of Jaffna Central College.

Thanks to the Principal and Staff of Jaffna Central College for running the school inspite of the hazards and travails of a war-time atmosphere.

The College needs funds to repair and renovate the damages caused in the recent past. We the old boys and teachers will have to give a helping hand.

4, Whitehouse Way, Southgate London N2 72T 27th October 1996

S. Mahalingam Staff-1945-65 Vice Principal - 1965-69 (Tel. 0181 361 1635)



JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

OLD BOYS AND GIRLS ASSOCIATION UK BRANCH

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION, U.K. BRANCH

It gives me great pleasure to send this message for publication in your souvenir on the 180th Anniversary of our Alma mater.

These occasions bring back nostalgic memories of our College days. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder". Though distant from you, our thoughts and hearts are always with all of you.

Our Association will be prepared to help our College to our maximum and I am sure your Association will be able to play a key role in that direction



With the indefatigable Mr.K. Thayaparan at the helm of affairs, with my friend "Evergreen" Mr. Thavarajah Chinniah as Secretary and with such galaxy of dedicated office-bearers, I am sure your Anniversary Celebration is bound to be a great success.

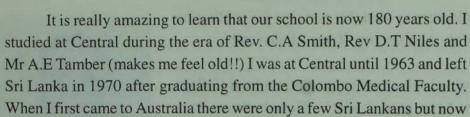
We hope and pray that this occasion would mark a new era for our institution, which has produced so many outstanding personalities, in all walks of life.

In conclusion, on behalf of our Association, I wish your Association and the 180th Anniversary a great success.

Dr. Jayasingham C. Duraisingham President, U.K. Branch.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OSA - SYDNEY BRANCH

First of all I must thank the OBA - Colombo Branch for asking me to send a message for publication in the 180th Anniversary Souvenir. Inspite of the political problems in our home town of Jaffna, I am glad to note that people like Mr Thayaparan are still active in maintaining links not only with our school in Jaffna but also with the Associations overseas. This is really an encouragement for those past students living overseas.





there are more than 5000 in Sydney itself. For many years I was able to contact only about half a dozen Centralites in Australia, but after 1982 the number started to increase. Now we have about 90 Centralites (boys and girls) living in and around Sydney. This increased number prompted us to form an Association in August 1993. We started with a handful of members which gradually grew in number mainly by word of mouth.

We formed the Association with the intention of social gatherings and sporting activities. Each year we have been organising family BBQ's, Central - St Johns Cricket Match and Annual Dinner. Last year we organised a combined Central / Vembadi Dinner which was very successful. About 650 people attended the function and were entertained by our own musicians. You wouldn't imagine the musical talent many Centralites have! These functions gives us a chance to meet the other Centralites and their family and have a yarn about our old days at school. Our family members are amazed to hear the stories we tell. Our students, teachers and principals were a bit different from other schools (this is my opinion). They were all very enthusiastic and exhibited various very interesting characteristics. Our students were very talented in many activities including giving appropriate nicknames to the teachers. I cannot forget the way Rev Smith looked after the school. He was a great disciplinarian and encouraged sports. His daily trips around the nearby Tea Boutiques on a bicycle in his shorts to catch students smoking will be remembered by most.

During my time some people used to say that Centralites are rowdies, but Central has produced many sportsmen, professionals, academics, and businessmen, which disproves this opinion. We must be proud of this. Our College has brought us to the level we are now at, even in foreign countries. Therefore we have an obligation to the school. Whenever we can, we should help the school. Our Association in Sydney has decided to send any profits from our functions to the school. The proceeds

of 1994 has been sent direct to the OBA Jaffna. Unfortunately, the proceeds of 1995 (about Rs 100,000) has not been remitted yet, owing to the problems in Jaffna. It has been suggested by our Committee to send the money to Colombo Branch to be invested in fixed deposit. We will await advice from Mr Thayaparan.

Now, on a sad note, for the benefit of those who are not aware, I like to inform the deaths of the following Centralites / Teachers:

- 1. Mr Thambyrajah (Teacher) Died in Sydney about 16 years ago.
- 2. Dr S. Balarajan died in a car accident in Brisbane about 6 years ago.
- 3. Mr S Amirthalingan died in Sydney about 2 years ago
- 4. Mr K. Arasalingam (Teacher / Old Boy) died in Sydney about 2 years ago.
- 5. Mr Balasingam (Engineer) brother of Mr RadhaKrishnan teacher Sydney 2yrs ago
- 6. Mr M Paramananthan (Teacher) died in USA, last year.
- 7. Mrs Inpamani Mathiaparanam (Teacher) died 18.10.96 Darwin

I like to conclude by wishing your activities and the printing of the 180th Anniversary Souvenir a great success.

22nd October 1996

Dr E.S Seelan
President.

JCC Old Students Association
Sydney, Australia.



JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION - FRENCH BRANCH

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE O.B.A FRANCE AND CO-ORDINATOR OVERSEAS BRANCHES

I have great pleasure in sending this message of greetings and best wishes to be published in the Souvenir of the 180th Anniversary of Jaffna Central College. Jaffna Central College has played an important role in the academic advancement and social development of our people. In 1816 the Jaffna Wesleyan School was founded by Rev. James Lynch and today we are proud of it. Jaffna Central is 180 years old. It is to be commended that Jaffna Central has produced many eminent men in all walks of life.



We pray that Jaffna Central will grow from strength to strength and will continue to serve the needs of our society. To achieve this all overseas branches should co-ordinate and work for the upliftment of our Alma-mater.

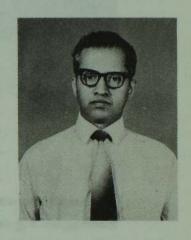
K. Muthukumar Co-ordinator Overseas Branches



வட-கீழ் பிரந்திய பாடசாலைகளின் பழைய மாணவர் சம்மேளனம் NORTH-EAST REGION SCHOOLS PAST PUPILS FEDERATION

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் 180^{ம்} ஆண்டு நிறைவு வட - கீழ் பிராந்திய பாடசாலைகளின் பழைய மாணவர் சம்மேளனத் தலைவரின் வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

எமது நாட்டை அன்னியர் ஆண்ட காலம் அது. வட பகுதியில், குறிப்பாக யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில், காலத்திற்கு ஏற்ற மாற்றங்கள் உருவாகிக்கொண்டிருந்தன. ஆங்கிலக் கல்விவசதி எமது மாணவர்களுக்கு இல்லாதது ஒரு பாரிய குறைபாடாக இருந்தது. இக்குறையை நிரப்புவதற்கு மெதடிஸ்ற் மிஷனறிமார்மூலம் ஒரு வரப்பிரசாதமாக 1816ம் ஆண்டு வந்து உதித்ததுதான் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி. இக்கல்லூரி வெகு விரைவாக வளர்ந்து வெள்ளிவிழா, பொன்விழா எல்லாம் கொண்டாடி, மிகவும் இக்கட்டான அண்மைக் காலங்களிலும் எமது மாணவர்களின் கல்வி முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு அளப்பரிய தொண்டு ஆற்றி வந்துள்ளது. கடந்த ஆண்டு பிற்பகுதியிலிருந்து யாழ்ப்பாண மாவட்ட மாணவர்களின் கல்விக்கு ஏற்பட்ட பாரிய சவால்களையும் மக்களுடன் சேர்ந்து யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியும் எதிர்நோக்க வேண்டிய நிலை உருவானது.



சவால்களும் தேவைகளும் மனித வாழ்க்கையில் நாம் அன்றாடம் சந்திக்கும் விடயங்களாகும். அவற்றை எதிர் கொண்டு தாண்டுவதற்கு நாம் ஒன்றுபட்டு புது அமைப்புக்கள் மூலமும் உழைக்க வேண்டிய காலகட்டம் இதுவாகும். எமது மக்களின் கல்விக்கு ஏற்பட்ட தாக்கத்தின் எதிரொலியே வட – கீழ் பிராந்திய பாடசாலைகளின் பழைய மாணவர் சம்மேளனமாகும். 1996 ஜனவரி தைப்பொங்கல் தினத்தன்று உருவாகி எமது சம்மேளனம் ஆற்றவேண்டிய பணிகள் பல உள்ளன. கல்வி தொடர்பான பாரிய பிரச்சினைகளை உரிய அதிகாரிகளுக்கும் அரசுக்கும் தெரிவிப்பது ஒரு முக்கியமான பணியாகும். இது தொடர்பாக சம்மேளனமும் ஏனைய அமைப்புக்களும் எடுத்த நடவடிக்கைகளின் பயனாக இடம் பெயர்ந்த மாணவர்கள் அவ்வப்போது தாங்கள் இருக்கும் இடங்களிலேயே கல்வியை தொடரவும் பல இன்னல்களுக்கு மத்தியிலும் பரீட்சைகள் எழுதவும் ஏற்ற குழ்நிலைகள் ஒரளவாவது உருவாகி வந்துள்ளது.

சம்மேளனம் உருவாவதற்கான பூர்வாங்க அலுவல்களைச் செய்வதிலும், உருவான பின் அதைச் சரிவரக் கொண்டு நடத்துவதிலும் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர் சங்கக் கொழும்புக் கிளையின் அங்கத்தவர்கள் ஏனைய சங்க அங்கத்தவர்களுடன் அயராது உழைத்துள்ளனர். இதற்குச் சம்மேளனமும் மாணவ சமூகமும் என்றென்றும் நன்றி உடையவர்களாக உள்ளோம்.

எமது சம்மேளனம் எந்தச் சூழ்நிலையில் எக்காரணங்களுக்காக உருவானதோ, அதே சூழ்நிலையிலும் அதே

காரணங்களுக்காகவும் சென்ற ஜுன் மாதத்தில் உருவானது தான், யாழ்ப்பாண மாவட்ட பழைய மாணவர் சங்கங்களின் இணையம். இந்த அமைப்பின் அலுவல்களிலும் ஏனைய கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர்களுடன் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர்களும் ஆர்வத்துடன் உழைப்பதை நாம் அறியக்கூடியதாய் உள்ளது.

மிகவும் பிரபலமான அறிஞர்களையும், இலங்கையிலும், உலகெங்கும் பற்பல துறைகளில் அருந்தொண்டாற்றிக் கொண்டிருக்கும் பழைய மாணவர்களையும் படைத்த யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி மீண்டும் பழைய உன்னத நிலைக்கு விரைவில் வரவேண்டும் என்று எமது சம்மேளனத்தின் சார்பில் வாழ்த்துகிறேன். இக்கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவர் சங்கக் கொழும்புக் கிளையின் முயற்சிகளும் இச்சிறப்பு மலரும் அவர்கள் விரும்பிய நற்பலன்களைக் கொடுக்க எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றேன்.

> வி. அம்பலவாணர், தலைவர், வகீபிபாபமாசம்.

මහා ලේකම් කාර්යාලය அரசாங்க செயலகம் Secretariat

அரசாங்க அதிபரின் ஆசிச்செய்தி

180 வது வருடத்தைப் பூர்த்தி செய்யும் யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி நிறைவையொட்டிவெளியிடும் மலருக்கு ஆசிச்செய்தி வழங்குவதில் நான் பெருமையடைகின்றேன். கிறிஸ்தவ மிஷன்மார்களினால் இலங்கையில் குறிப்பாக யாழ் மாவட்டத்தில் கல்வியை அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்காக நிறுவப்பட்ட பல பாடசாலைகளுள் முன்னனிக் கல்லூரியாகத் திகழும் கல்லூரிகளுள் ஒன்றாக யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி விளங்குகின்றது. நகரின் மத்தியில் திறந்த விளையாட்டு மைதானத்தையும், மணிக்கூட்டுக் கோபுரத்தையும் முகப்பாகக் கொண்ட இக்கல்லூரியை யாழ் மாவட்டத்தில் தெரியாதவர்கள், அறியாதவர்கள் இருக்கமாட்டார்கள் எனக் கருதுகின்றேன்.



கடந்த பல வருடங்களாக பல கல்விமான்களையும், பொதுசேவையாளர்களையும், தலைசிறந்த விளையாட்டுவீரர்களையும் இம்மண்ணுக்கு அளித்த பெருமை இக் கல்லூரிக்கே உரியதாகும். யாழ் கோட்டைக்கு அண்மையில் அமைந்ததனால் இக்கல்லூரியின் அமைவிடம் கடந்தகால வன்செயல்களினால் இக்கல்லூரிக்கும், அதன் அமைவிடத்திற்கும் ஏற்பட்ட பேரழிவால் கல்லூரியில் பயின்ற பல மாணவர்கள் அகால மரணமாவதற்கு காரணமாக அமைந்த இத்துயரநிலை நீங்கி, மாவட்ட கல்வி பாரம்பரியத்தை தொடர்ந்து இட்டுச் செல்வதற்கு கல்லூரி மாணவர்களினதும் ஆசிரியர் குழாத்தினரதும், பழைய மாணவர்களினதும், கல்லூரி சமூகத்தினரதும் ஒன்றுதிரட்டிய முயற்சி அவசியமானதாகும். இதுவே எதிர்காலத்தில் இக்கல்லூரி வளர்ச்சியடைய உந்துகோளாக அமையுமெனத் தெரிவித்து, இம்மலரை வெளியிடுவதற்கு உறுதுணையாக உள்ள அனைவருக்கும் எனது நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கின்றேன்.

செ. பத்மநாதன் அரசாங்க அதிபர் யாழ்ப்பாண மாவட்டம்

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, JAFFNA - FELICITATES,

I am greatly delighted to associate myself in sending this message of congratulations to the 'Old Boys' of Jaffna Central College to commemorate 180 years of the founding of their "Alma - Mater' with a deep sense of gratitude.

Jaffna Central has undoubtedly travelled the hard road these 180 years and however arduous the it journey has achieved its purpose both academically and in all other activities.

Jaffna Central founded by the Wesleyan Methodist Mission is the oldest school established in the Northern Province in Sir Lanka. Rev. Dr. Peter Percival, one of the very early Methodist missionary Principal, followed by a long line of Principals, all well known educationists, ably assisted by the tutorial staff, with close bondage with the Parents and Old Boys have brought the school today to the status of a National School producing men of exemplary character to serve with honour, distinction and pride.

Jaffna Central remains unique in having many 'FIRSTS'. Both Cricket and Football were introduced into Jaffna for the first- time by Jaffna Central during the stewardship of Rev. Fredrick Webster and Rev. Gabriel Leese respectively. Shakespear's plays were staged in full at 'first' at Jaffna Central- the architect being Mr. J.C. Charles, an actor, a student, teacher and acting Principal who was an authority on Shakespearean Theatre. The 'first' student athlete in the Olympics from Sri Lanka, Dr. Nagalingam Ethirveerasingham, Gold medalist at the Asian Games, Ceylon Record holder in High Jump, and winner of the most coveted 'Sports Star of the Year' title, two successive years in 1955 and 1956, remain worthy of special mention.

The O.B.A. started in Jaffna in 1906, gradually had branches in Colombo and Malaysia and is now globalised with branches in Canada, France, Germany and U.K., fulfilling the College Motto with true spirit and affection to their Alma-mater.

Let Centralites not only look back with pride but look ahead with renewed dedication and make the future 'inmates' of Central men of glory to which the Education Department too will give its 'hand'.

Good Luck.

Dept. of Education, Jaffna.

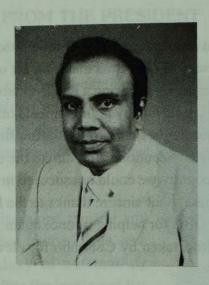
S. Sivanandan,
Director of Education
Jaffna-Zone 1.

JAFFNA DISTRICT OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS CONSORTIUM

யாழ்ப்பாண மாவட்ட பழைய மாணவர் சங்கங்களின் இணையம்

> 105, Arasady Road, **JAFFNA**

வாழிய நீடுழி



யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவர் சங்கக் கொழும்புக் கிளையினர் கல்லூரியின் 180வது ஆண்டு நிறைவு மலரை வெளியிடுவதையிட்டுப் பெரு மகிழ்வடைகின்றேன். எமது பிரதேசத்தில் மகத்தான பணியாற்றி பல நற்புதல்வாகளை ஈன்ற கல்லூரித் தாய், என்றும் மங்கா இளமையுடன் நீடுழி வாழ்க. கடந்த தசாப்தங்களாகச் சொல்லில் அடங்கா இன்னல்களை அனுபவித்த கல்லூரித் தாய் அவற்றினின்றும் விடுபட்டு முன்னர் போல அனைத்துப் பெருமையுடன் திகழ் ஆண்டவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றேன். நூற்றாண்டு கண்ட யாழ்ப்பாணம் இந்துக் கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவ சங்கத்தின் தலைவர் என்ற வகையிலும், யாழ் மாவட்டப் பழைய மாணவ சங்கங்களின் இணையத்தின் தலைவா் என்ற வகையிலும் இம் மலருக்கு வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி அனுப்பி வைப்பதில் மட்டற்ற மகிழ்வடைகின்றேன்.

> க. பரமேஸ்வரன். பதிவாளர். யாழ். பல்கலைக்கழகம். திருநெல்வேலி.

JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE



FOUNDER: Rev. JAMES LYNCH Founded: 1816-08-01

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FOUNDER: Rev. W.M.P. WILKES

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT, JAFFNA OBA

We are very happy indeed to send this message of felicitations on the occasion of the 180th Anniversary of our Alma mater on 1st of August 1996. Indeed it is an achievement by releasing a Rs. 2/- Stamp and 1st day Cover to commemorate this occasion, by giving global publicity to our College. On assuming office as President of the Jaffna Branch, we brought in 7 project proposals for execution. But, due to the ethnic crisis prevailing in our part of the country we could not succeed in completing them except the stamp release. Our sincere thanks to the President and the Exco of the Colombo OBA for helping us once again, and I recall with gratitude the earlier effort taken by Colombo for elevating our College to National Status.



"Now's the time for combined action, Pass the ball from man to man"

Our College at the moment urgently needs your helping hand for the purchase of equipment for routine administration. Typewriter (English & Tamil), Roneo Machine etc. We the Jaffna OBA is in constant and close touch with the Principal and assist him within our means. We intend providing a Water Pump for drinking purposes and toilet facilities of the students. Once the College reopens after the August vacation, this will be fulfilled. You can channel your assistance through the Colombo OBA or direct to us so that we can feed the requirements on a priority basis.

Finally, we trust the Colombo OBA will promote the fellowship and fraternity among centralites all over the globe and wish them the very best on the occasion of the release of a "Souvenir" and a very pleasant "Evening" to the participants and a big "Thank you" to every one.

R. Rajaram, President OBA, Jaffna.



VEMBADI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL OGA Colombo Branch

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to send this message of felicitation to the old boys association of Jaffna Central College, Colombo Branch on the occasion of their releasing a souvenir to mark the 180 th anniversary of their Alma Mater.

Undaunted, by the vicissitudes of the life and politics, Jaffna Central College has loomed large, as a brilliant star amongst the galaxy of outstanding educational institutions in the Jaffna Peninsula and has achieved enviable records both in the academic field as well as in sports which any great school could be proud of.



However, it is sad to note that during the last decade or so its brilliance and performance have been stifled-due to circumstances beyond the control of the school authorities and the community.

As a member of a sister school-Vembadi- I avail myself of this opportunity to extend all good wishes to Jaffna Central College on its completion of 180 years of fruitful existence and hope that the college will draw strength and inspiration from its luminous past of sound values and traditions, and raise its head above troubled waters, to glow brightly to regain its pre-eminence as a prestigious educational institution of Sri Lanka.

Mrs.Kamala Thambyah President Vembadi Girls High School OGA-Colombo Branch

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St. John's College, Jaffna SRI LANKA



MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, JAFFNA

It is generally accepted that Jaffna has a firm Foundation, wide back-ground and a conducive environment for Education. This has been largely due to the Christian Missionaries who arrived in this Country and ventured in the field of Education. The people of Jaffna should ever be grateful and indebted to them and their noble act.

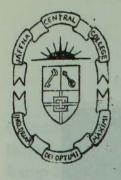
Among the pioneers were the Wesliyan Missionaries who founded a school in the Heart of Jaffna one hundred and eighty years ago, which is to-day known as Jaffna Central College. Ever since, Jaffna Central has withstood the time of trial to be one of the leading Institutions. As a sister school, we congratulate Jaffna Central on its 180th anniversary for which an issue of a commemorative stamp is a fitting tribute.



Although Jaffna has suffered a serious setback in the recent past as far as education is concerned, it has the zeal to bounce back to its past glory.

Is the Paradise (Jaffna) of Education lost? If so let's join hands and work hard to regain it.

S. Thanapalan



JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

I have great pleasure in sending this message to the Souvenir to be published in connection with the hundred and eightieth anniversary of our Alma Mater.

Jaffna Central College has been fortunate to have dedicated principals, teachers and old boys throughout the 180 years of its existence Through academic education, sports, scouting and other co curricular activities it has moulded the character and developed the talents of children in various fields. Many distinguished old boys living in different parts of the world have brought fame to our illustrious institution.



The war situation in Jaffna for over a decade has adversely affected our effort to continue to give a sound education to the children. Buildings damaged during the recent past need urgent repairs. Valuable books and equipments lost have to be replaced. In this hour of need I earnestly appeal to our old boys living in Sri Lanka and abroad, the parents and well wishers to rise to the occasion and help in whatever way possible for Jaffna Central College to regain its pristine glory.

I am very grateful to the OBA in Jaffna and the branches in Colombo and overseas for their continued support, cooperation and dedicated service. My special thanks to the President and members of the Colombo Branch OBA for their untiring effort towards the release of the 180th Anniversary Commemoration stamp by the government.

May the Lord protect and guide our Alma Mater for ever and ever.

S. Sivanrooban

20.09.96

MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, VEMBADI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

It gives me great pleasure to send a message to the Souvenir being published to mark the 180th Anniversary celebrations of this most prestigious institution of the North founded by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries who, brought with them the Torch of Education that illuminated homes in the Peninsula. The School which is one of the oldest educational institution in the country, has over the past 180 years made an unveiled contribution towards educational developments. It's pupils occupy eminent positions, not only in the country but all over the Globe.



I take this opportunity to request those who have passed through the portals of this renowned institution to contribute their mite to build up this institution which has faced severe trials and tribulations in the recent past and present.

My congratulations to the Principals who were fortunate to serve the Community through the school in all walks of life. The role of a Principal is very challenging. They have to innovate forward working and pioneering. The present trying conditions are far too challenging to the Principals, staff and students. Having the welfare of our society at heart, the Principals and staff must continue to impart A Quality Education and Moral Values.

The grand old Gentleman must be given a strong hand by all to maintain its glorious traditions and standards and to mould useful citizens.

Mrs. K. Ponnampalam

23.09.96

MESSAGE FROM AN OLD BOY FROM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

It affords me immense pleasure to convey to the JCC - OBA Colombo Branch my best personal wishes and those of the Old Boys living in Sydney, of resounding success upon the release of a stamp and first day cover including publication of a souvenir to mark the 180th Anniversary of our Great Institution.

JCC OBA - Sydney Branch was inaugurally formed in 1994 by a small number of old boys. The membership has grown in strength and now stands around 100. The prime objective of our organisation is to maintain links with the Institution and JCC OBAs in all parts of the world in order to co-ordinate and provide the



required assistance to our Institution. I therefore request all Old Boys of Jaffna Central College living in various parts of the Globe to come forward to form many more JCC - OBA Branches and to channel your financial assistance through such Branches, according to the needs of our institution.

Finally, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to the current Principal, Teachers and Students of Jaffna Central College for their courage and determination shown in the running of the College in the middle of unsettled condition in Jaffna.

May God Bless the Institution and all Branches of JCC - OBA.

77, Lyle Street, Girraween NSW 2145 Australia M.Mohankumar JCC - OBA Sydney Branch, Australia.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASST. SECRETARY JCC - OBA JAFFNA

I am very happy indeed to send my felicitations to the Colombo OBA of Jaffna Central College on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of our Alma Mater. In the absence of our Secretary Mr. K. Manikavasakar, our former librarian, I am functioning as Assistant Secretary until his return. The task is so difficult to fill the vacuum caused.

We have celebrated the 180th anniversary of our college quietly at the Tamber Memorial Hall where our OBA President was the guest of honour on that day. He recalled the days of Rev. Dr. D.T. Niles, J.C. Charles, Mr. A.E. Tamber, Mr. K. Mathiaparanam, Mr. S. Mahalingam, Mr. S. Arunasalam, Mr. Ariyaratnam, Mr. Rajasena, Mr. Ratnasingam,



Mr. M. Paramanantham who are worthy to be mentioned. Among the old students many from the South of Sri Lanka were students of Jaffna Central. Among them those worthy of mention are Mr. Gauthamadasa, retired Justice Abdul Cader, Mr. Bunny Vantwest, and R.K.V. Premachandra, are a few. In the field of sports - Dr. N. Ethirveerasingam brothers, Ganeshalingam brothers, N. Seevaratnam, Donald Ganeshakumar made their mark.

September 6th Teachers' Day was observed jointly with the present students. The Chief Guest was Mr. S. Pathmanathan, Principal, Teachers' Training College, Palaly. Tree planting was done to mark the occasion. All the teachers were honoured, garlanded and a Token present was presented individually to honour them. Senior prefect, Mr. V. Nishanthan presided at the function.

The Vembadi-Central annual quiz is to be held shortly. Due to the A/L Exam we could not have it in July as in the past. The Exco meets once a month and discusses measures to uplift our college in the field of education. Once a week the President and myself meet the Principal, Mr. Sivanruban and Deputy Principal, Lt. K. Nagaratnam and help in the upliftment of our Alma Mater. We are also contemplating to improve the standard of sports in the near future.

Finally I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the President and the Exco of the Colombo O.B.A. for their cooperation and goodwill extended to us whenever we write to them for assistance and guidance.

"Central Flag must never be lowered"

R. Chelliah Thirunavukarasu

MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT JCC OBA, JÁFFNA

It is with a state of jubiliation and sense of pride that I am sending this message to the souvenir to be published to mark the 180th Anniversary of Jaffna Central College.

The Primary School which was first established in 1816 in North Sri Lanka by the Wesley Mission has grown as a National School serving over the years, the educational and extra curricular needs to all communities in Sri Lanka. The School having introduced Cricket, Soccer and Scouting first in North Sri Lanka continues to contribute to the community its best.



The school had its ups and downs due to the conditions that prevailed and the difficulties and problems encountered. However overcoming these the progress achieved in the field of education and sports from its inception is purely due to the dedicated services which the Principals, Teachers, Students and Parents both past and present in Sri Lanka and Overseas rendered towards it.

It is my prayer and believe that the strong and sound foundation laid for the noble cause will help to progress further and achieve lasting glory.

S. Ramakrishnan Past President, JCC OBA, Jaffna. 1991-94

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT, CENTRALITE'S SPORTS CLUB, JAFFNA

The Centralites Sports Club which caters to the need of sports of Jaffna Central College was formed in 1982 and is now a legally constituted body. The official inauguration of the C.S.C took place on 11th March 1990. Since then the Club is fully committed to providing sports not only amongst centralites but also to the public of Jaffna. Initially, the Club focussed its attention only on Cricket. However, in latter stages our field has been diversified to Basket Ball, Football, Volley Ball and Athletics. We are proud to be the forefrontiers in organising tournaments and promoting sports in Jaffna even during this dark period. It is worthwhile to overlieu



that some of the tournaments we have been conducting, namely, Donald Ganeshakumar Trophy, V.T. Mahalingam Relay Carnival, Vipulananda Trophy Basket ball and of which the Donald Ganeshakumar's Trophy Limited-Overs Cricket Tournament has now become a very popular sporting event in Jaffna. The Centralites who have actively participated in these tournaments are exhibiting their talents in other parts of the world as well as in Sri Lanka. The Centralites in U.K became Champions for four consecutive years in the Cricket Tournament conducted by the London Committee of Old boys Association of Sri Lanka Schools. Let us also take this opportunity to pay tributes to the centralites who have reached the highest level in Sports, namely M/s N. Ethirweerasingham, Donald Ganeshakumar, V.T. Mahalingam, K.M. Shanthikumar, R. Nagulesan etc.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Colombo OBA for having taken special interest to celebrate the 180th Anniversary of our Alma Mater by releasing a Rupees Two value stamp on September 7th 1996 and also a Souvenir to grace the occasion.

S. Sothilingam

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RE: 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR COLLEGE

I am happy that the Colombo OBA is celebrating the 180th Anniversary of our Alma Mater in a fitting manner.

I joined Jaffna Central College in 1958 and left in 1964 after completion of Advance Level. I was the Secretary of the JSC Literary Association and President of the G.C.E. Prep and G.C.E. Literary Associations and Captained the 2nd Eleven Cricket and Football Teams in 1961 and was a member of the 1st Eleven Cricket Team in 1962, 1963 and 1964 and was the Vice Captain of the Team in 1963 and Captain in 1964.



I represented my house in Athletics. Cricket, Basket Ball and Football. I also represented the College Athletic Team in the Junior Schools' Sports Association Meet. I obtained the Best Fielder's Cup in the Central St. John's Cricket matches in 1962, 1963 and 1964. I also obtained the Cup for the Best Wicket Keeper of the North awarded by the Times of Ceylon in 1963.

I was awarded colours for Cricket in 1964. I was also a member of the Jaffna Schools' Cricket Team in 1963 and 1964. I represented the College P.T.Squad and was the Leader of the House in 1961 and 1962.

May the College grow from strength to strength and continue to serve the community and the nation.

V. Sivapothanathan Managing Director

With Best Compliments.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

T. Chinniah,
Hony. Secretary
JCC OBA - Colombo Branch.

A group of Methodist missionaries from Britain, first came to Ceylon in the year 1814 arriving on the 29th June which date is observed every year by the Methodist Church in our country as Methodist Day. After they arrived, they learnt that there was also a need to establish English Schools in the country. Rev. James Lynch and Rev. Thomas Squance, two of the original group of six missionaries travelled to Jaffna to start their mission there. They first mixed freely with the local people and started learning the local language and getting acquainted with the local customs.



On 1st August 1816, they purchased a centrally and ideally situated property, opposite the esplanade, that had earlier been used as an Orphanage that had closed down. The buildings and Chapel were quite adequate for their purpose and they established an English School. This School which has a continuous history from that date, was reorganised by Rev. Dr. Peter Percival, a great scholar and Principal who named it Jaffna Central. It was Rev. Dr. Peter Percival, himself a Tamil Scholar, assisted by Arumuka Navalar, the celebrated Tamil Scholar who was a student of his at Central that produced a Tamil version of the Scriptures for which elegance and dignity of expression has never been equalled.

This School is the oldest Methodist Mission Institution in South East Asia and has had a long line of missionary Principals who were also educationists of their time and they worked untiringly and with indomitable will and spirit to leave the place much better than when they entered it. The Staff too worked with devotion and dedication. The School grew from strength to strength.

Academic education was unbeatable for quality and standards. The goal was excellence. The School progressed, achieved Collegiate status, became affiliated to the Calcutta University preparing students for the F A Examinations of Calcutta and Madras, Junior and Senior Cambridge, London Matriculation and Commerce examinations. The School continued to grow and expand. New buildings were started on the original site and the School expanded. Several students attained academic distinction and went on for higher studies to the University in Colombo or abroad.

In the forties of this century, after the University of Ceylon came into being, the first batch of students prepared for the medical entrance examination, all were successful and all of them entered

39

the medical faculty. University entrance to all faculties has been a regular feature with very good results in the entrance examinations.

Side by side Sports and extra curricular activities also flourished and many students excelled in these as well, going further to represent the School in outside competitions. Cricket, Football, Athletics, Scouting, Debating, Oratory, Elocution, Music, were all fields in which students excelled themselves. More than a hundred years passed by.

In the House system, all houses, namely, Percival, Romaine, Wilkes and Bullough are all named after former Principals and there is healthy rivalry between houses, especially on the Sports field.

In 1945 the School entered the free - education scheme and numbers increased. Rev. C. A. Smith, the Principal at that time, added more buildings to the School and Hostel.

In 1960 when Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles was Principal, the School was handed over to the State along with several other Methodist Mission Schools. The Methodist Mission retained only one Boys School and one Girl School, both in Colombo, to be run privately.

Thereafter, Jaffna Central had local Principals many of whom were Old Boys who continued to maintain the standards and traditions that had been established.

Now the School has the status of a "National School" with about 3000 children on the Roll. The School still continues to keep the flame burning. But there are many constraints.

Many old boys of all communities-Sinhalese, Muslims, Burghers, Tamils, have all happily studied together in this School and have also lived together in the Rigg Hall Hostel as one happy family without differences or problems.

The Parent Body OBA is in Jaffna and is very closely associated with the School, while there are branches in Colombo as well as overseas in UK, Canada, Australia, France and Germany, all showing great and active interest in the welfare of their Alma mater.

Professors and lecturers in Universities here and abroad, Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Civil Servants, Legislators, Politicians, Diplomats, Businessmen, have all been products of this School, that have taken their due place in Society, served and continue to serve their country with honour, distinction and pride.

The motto of the School is "In Gloriam Dei Optimi Maximi" which means "Unto the Glory of God, the best and the highest" and this the School has continued to observe down the years.

The college song and college Hymn were composed by Rev. Percy T.Cash, a former Principal and set to music by Mrs. Cash. Centralites are proud to sing the college song whenever they get together.

The School buildings, furniture and equipment have been badly damaged and plenty of repairs and rehabilitation work needs to be done. Basic requirements of books and writing materials have to be found and provided. Students and teachers who were grouped in combined schools spread here and there are slowly coming back and work is being resumed. A great deal has to be done. That is the present state of affairs.

180 years is a long and glorious period for Jaffna Central. The spirit of Central still grows and glows. We Centralites are justly proud of the past. But now we know and realise that the past should challenge the present and bring hope and fulfilment to the future. Long live Central!

V. M. Shanmugam & Bro.

With Best Compliments From

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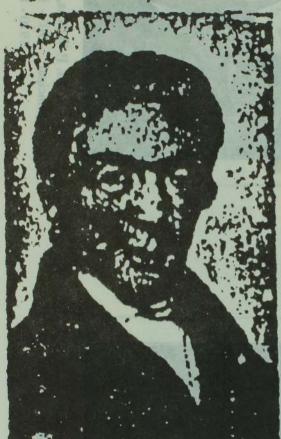
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FOUNDERS OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

James Lynch



Thomas Squance



01 AUGUST 1816



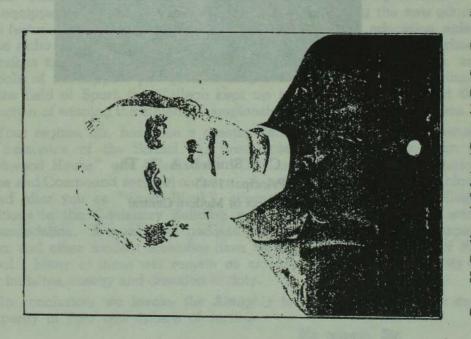
Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, B. A., L.C.P. Principal 1903 - 1908 1910 - 1916.



Rev. Dr. Peter Percival Principal, 1834 - 1851.



W. Romaine Cooke, Esq., Vice Principal, 1901 - 1917.



Rev. H. Bullough M.A. (Cantab) B. Sc. (Lond). Principal 1917 - 1921.



Rev. C. A. Smith B. A., L. Th. Principal 1945 - 1955. Architect of Modern Central

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS PRESENTED TO REV. C.A. SMITH ON 9-12-55

To

Rev. C. A. Smith, B. A., (Hons.) L. Th., Principal, (1945 - 1955). Jaffna Central College.

Sir.

We, the Staff and Students of Jaffna Central College, take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation of the services rendered by you to our Alma Mater during your tenure of office as Principal for a period of eleven years.

Your appointment as Head of this Institution almost synchronised with the inauguration of the Free Education Scheme in this country. A couple of years later, you had the privilege of witnessing the attainment of complete Independence of Ceylon. The Government of free Lanka, soon after, enacted the Education Amendment Act, and gave effect to a new Educational Policy. Through all the vicissitudes of the vast and significant changes involving heavy financial commitments and many educational adjustments, you most skilfully guided the destinies of the College to a position of stability and honour as one of the leading educational institutions of the Island.

Your stewardship at Central marks a new phase in the history of the College. It has been a period of expansion and consolidation. Consistent success at public examinations characterised the academic work of the school. The organisation of a Kindergarten Department and provision of a fully equipped workshop for practical education are among the new educational features. The encouragement given to audio-visual education, aided by the radio and the film projector, and opportunities provided for school excursions and educational tours, using a bus owned by the college, are symbolic of the support you gave to keep the school abreast of the times. On the field of Sport, the College kept up to its traditions and had the distinction of winning the athletic championship successively for ten years.

Your regime, Sir, has seen a greater Central in more than one sense. The campus of the School has been enlarged by the acquisition of "Lockwood House" and "Esplanade Villa", not to speak of the Mission House and Compound secured on lease. A magnificient two-storeyed block named after you as "Smith Block", adorns the frontage of the College. Additions to the Centenary Building and Rigg Hall have provided extra accommodation. A number of gadgets, fitted under your personal supervision, and other modern amenities have helped to brighten the life of the school. Many of these will remain as monuments to remind posterity of your initiative, energy and devotion to duty.

In conclusion, we invoke the Almighty to grant you happiness and prosperity in your new sphere of service

We remain. Sir.

J. C. Charles Chairman, Farewell Committee

V. V. Rajaratnam Secretary. Farewell Committee

T. Pararajasingam Sentor Prefect ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF & STUDENTS

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With Compliments From

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BAIRAHA FARMS

407, Galle Road, Colombo - 3 Sri Lanka.

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THE HISTORY OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION - COLOMBO BRANCH.

T. Chinniah,
Hony. Secretary,
JCC OBA - Colombo Branch.

Inauguration

The Old Boys of Jaffna Central College in Colombo met for the first time to inaugurate the Colombo Branch of the Jaffna Central College Old Boys Association on 26th July 1913 at Wesley College, Colombo. Approximately seventy old boys gathered together and a commemorative group photograph marked the occasion. The Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes presided at this meeting. The speakers at this meeting were Revs. H. Highfield, A. C. Restarick, Dr. E. V. Ratnam FRCS and Mr. Joseph Grenier KC. Mr. K. Sivapragasam of the Registrar General's office and subsequently Appraiser H. M. Customs, was elected the first Honorary Secretary of the Association.

Period of Inactivity

Records of the O.B.A. Colombo Branch for the period beginning a couple of years after its inauguration up to about 1930 does not speak of great achievements or profound activity. Members met infrequently, and the fellowship within the folds of the Association, though maintained, the uncertain influences of World War I as also that of the post-war period, apparently contributed towards the lack of concentrated activity of the newly formed Association.

Rebirth

The O.B.A. Col Branch came into its own once again in the year 1930. The Inaugural Constitution provided that the President of the Association shall be the Principal (ex officio). The Rev. Percy T. Cash MA, B.Sc., Principal, was President of the Association and actively campaigned with the assistance of the office-bearers, chiefly, Mr. J. V. Dharmarajah, Dr. H. W. Tambiah and Mr. A. A. Cooke to properly constitute the Association and to increase the membership, no less to instil in the old Boys scattered through the length and breath of Colombo and its outskirts that spirit of comradeship and loyalty to the Alma Mater which our Old Boys Association stands for. From this year onwards, the Old Boys' Association of J. C. C. no longer merely existed. It was an active body of enthusiasts working towards a common cause. This period of the history of the Association is significant for the part played by the Old Boys of the Colombo Branch in swelling the funds of the School towards its building projects.

The Professor Emeritus

The early era in the development of the O.B.A. (Col Br.) is a period in which the personality of Professor F. H. V. Gulasekharam projects itself into a prominence it richly deserves. If the

Association lived through these difficult days of its existence it was entirely due to the tireless efforts and the almost proverbial tenacity of the Professor Emeritus who graduated into the Presidentship of the Colombo OBA in the year 1946. Associated with Professor Gulasekharam in the affairs of the OBA were Dr. G. Cooke, Messrs. J. N. Arumugam, W. R. Chanmugam, K. S. Arulnandy, Professor P. K. Chanmugam, Mr. J. V. Dharmarajah, Dr. V. Sivalingam, Mr. A. A. Cooke, Dr. H. W. Tambiah, Messrs. T. Nadarajah and V. Chelvathurai. This band of loyal old boys continued to evince undiminished interest in the affairs of the Association for a long period of time.

The return of Rev. Wilkes

The Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes, the inaugural president of our Association, returned to Ceylon on 6th August 1938, and the occasion served as the greatest re-union event of the Association since its inception. The Methodist College premises witnessed a very large gathering of Old Boys, who mustered strong to the tune of a couple of hundreds and sat for a group photograph.

Rev. Bullough

Rev. Bullough visited the School in 1956. The Old Boys in Colombo met him in Colombo when he arrived, had a pleasant re-union and get together.

Rev. and Mrs. Smith

Rev. and Mrs. Smith visited the School in 1973 and on that occasion too the Col. Br. OBA had a re-union and get together. The function was well attended by the Col Br. old boys.

The Constitution

The first comprehensively drafted Constitution which was officially adopted by the Association, came into being in the year 1941. It was printed and circulated among members. In 1947 the Constitution was amended at a meeting of Old Boys. Chief among the amendments brought into the Constitution on this occasion was the new provision enabling an Old Boy to be elected its President.

Annual Events

From the year 1943 certain traditions crept into the life of the Association and these have been cherished and fostered in subsequent years. The first regular annual event of the OBA Col. Br., besides the Annual General Meeting and the Garden party that accompanied it, was a Y. M. C. A. lunch, at which members, their spouses and guests participated. At one of these Annual events, the celebrations were heightened by the arrival of Rev. Percy T. Cash and Mrs.. Cash in the Island in 1951, and a new tradition was born on this occasion when the Annual lunch became a formal Dinner, every subsequent year. In the sixties and seventies old boys like V. S. Nadarajan, A. R. R. Tambyrajah, Dr. M. C. Karunairatnam, J. Rajasingam, Fred Armstrong and V. Sundharalingam along with others worked with great enthusiasm to organise functions and events and keep the Association going.

Membership

With the increase in the activity of the Association, there was a corresponding increase in the membership, which during this period up to the late seventies, had more than doubled from 200 to 500 strong. There was a noticeable widening of the area of active interest and participation in the affairs of the Association on the part of the membership. Whereas in the past a handful of Old Boys bent their energies to keep the Association going, it was being felt that practically every member of the Association contributed in his own way towards its activities.

Vembadi - Central Joint Social

For twenty six years in succession, a special event, which had grown increasingly in popularity with the Old Boys in Colombo has been the Joint Social of the Central OBA and the Vembadi OGA (Colombo). This occasion has proved to be of considerable fellowship between the Alumni of the two sister institutions and the overall attendance at each of these events has always been over 200. The last of these functions was a Joint Social and Dinner held at the Women's International Hall, Colombo, in 1980. This was acclaimed an unprecedented success and 300 guests participated.

Special Events

Two special events had been organised by the Colombo OBA. One was a Garden party to felicitate the Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles, a distinguished Old Boy, who was honoured and appointed Principal of JCC in 1956. The other event was a trip to Jaffna by the Colombo OBA to participate in the Golden Jubilee of the OBA in Jaffna in Sept. 1956.

The Garden Party to felicitate Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles was held at the Colombo Town Hall in February 1956 and this spacious venue was filled to capacity by the Old Boys and their wives.

On 28th Sept 1956 nearly 50 Old Boys of the Colombo Branch and their wives went down to Jaffna, by the Yal Devi which was specially manned on this occasion by an old boy driver and an old boy guard. This delegation was received upon its arrival at the Jaffna Railway Station by the Station Master who was himself an Old Boy. The delegation resided at the College Hostel during the three day celebrations and took part in Cricket and Football matches, Fancy Dress Parades, staged a One - Act Play at the Variety Entertainment and participated in the various events, arranged to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Big Match in Jaffna

In the sixties and seventies the Association regularly organised a trip by train to Jaffna to witness the Central-St. John's Cricket match and attend celebrations in Jaffna. The group was given accommodation in the Hostel and a trip to Keerimalai was also a feature.

Period of Inactivity

There has been a period of inactivity from 1981 to 1992. Some of the Senior old Boys who held office passed beyond, some migrated to other lands. This mass exodus among other difficulties

left the Association without leadership. In 1992 the Colombo Branch OBA was again revived and reorganised and a new Constitution adopted. Brigadier Dr. R. T. Tambiah became President. Since then regular activities, Committee Meetings and Annual General Meetings have been held. Now the Colombo Branch also serves as a liaison between overseas branch OBA's and the School and Jaffna OBA.

The present President of the Colombo OBA is Mr. K. Thayaparan who takes a great deal of interest. The OBA Colombo was instrumental in obtaining "National School" Status to the School in Jaffna.

The 180th year of the founding of the School on 1st August 1816 could not be celebrated in Jaffna in 1996. and the Colombo Branch OBA organised the release of a special stamp and First Day Cover by the Philatelic Bureau in Colombo and this ceremony took place in the Methodist College Auditorium on 7th Sept 1996.

The publication of this Souvenir too is an effort by the JCC OBA, Colombo Branch.

Finances

The finances of the OBA have never been a headache to the Association. Old Boys have always rallied round and contributed liberally towards the activities of the Association.

The future

The record of the history of the Colombo Old Boys' Association is a record of increasing activity, membership and greater fellowship and the Association has now lived through a period of 83 years. We are confident the Association will continue to grow from strength to strength.

"For your comrades of the old days Scattered far though they may be For your School and for her true praise Live in service glad and free!"

CONTENT OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION - COLOMBO BRANCH

OFFICE - BEARERS FOR 1996/97

Patron - The Principal

Vice - Patrons - Brig. Dr. R.T. Tambiah

K.T.G.T. De Silva K. Kanag Iswaran V.E. Selvarajah Sam. N. Vadivelu

President - K. Thayaparan

Vice Presidents - W. Terence Fernando

A. Sivanandan
P. Manokeran
N. Rajasingam
V.R. Vadivetkarasan

Hony. Secretary - T. Chinniah

Hony. Asst. Secretary - A. Balasingham

Hony. Treasurer - P. Ragunathan

Hony. Asst. Treasurer - V. Neelalojanan

Committee Members - M. Arulanantham

K. Mahendranathan S. Mageswaran

V. Nadarajah

R. Thalayasingam K.M. Sri Pathmanathan

M. Krishnapillai

K. Anton Ravindrakumar

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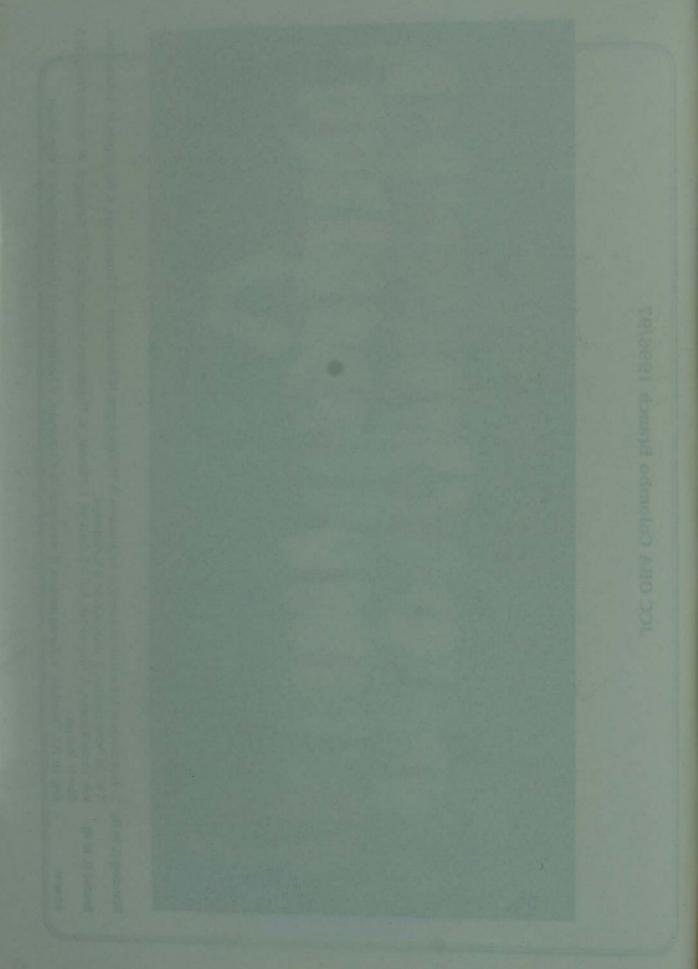


K.M. Sri Pathmanathan, S. Udayakumar, & V. Nadarajah. V.R. Vadivetkarasan, A. Sivanandan, K.T.G.T. De Silva, T. Chinniah, K. Thayaparan, P. Ragunathan, V.E. Selvarajah, W. Terrence Fernando & S. Vamadevan, K. Anton Ravindrakumar, S. Mageswaran, R. Thalayasingam, M. Krishnapillai, S.P. Kumararajaa, A. Balasingam, M. Arulanantham, Standing (L to R): Seated (L to R):

Sam N. Vadivelu

Brig. Dr. R.T. Thambiah, K. Kanag Iswaran, P. Manokeran, N. Rajasingam, V. Neelalojanan, K. Mahendranathan & S. Yogaratnam.

Absent:



ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT OCTOBER 1996

Introduction

When we were displaced from Valikamam and temporarily at Thenmaradchi and Vadamaradchi our College functioned as a displaced school at Chavakachcheri Drieberg College from February to April 1996. When the situation at Valikamam became normal we started functioning again from our old premises in May 1996.

Damages

The Romaine Hall building and the two-storied Hostel building are severely damaged and have to be completely renovated. The Thamber Block, Smith Block, Cash Block, Centenary Block, the 150th. Anniversary Block, the Primary Section Buildings and the Laboratories are partly damaged. We have attended to the minor repairs from funds allocated by the Department and funds from the S. D. S. The Education Department has prepared the estimates for major repairs to some of these buildings and has promised to do the repairs as soon as possible. Other buildings like the Romaine Hall and the Hostel have to be repaired from funds from other sources. The furnitures, important documents, valuable equipment and library books are either badly damaged or lost. Now we are in urgent need of type-writers, roneo machines, computers, laboratory and workshop equipment, sports materials, library books, water pumps etc. for the efficient functioning of the College.

Enrolment

The number on roll now is 945. The break-up being 220 in the Primary Section, 601 in years 6 to 11 and 124 in the Advanced Level classes. The number on roll before we were displaced was 1936.

Staff

We have 43 members on our Tutorial Staff now-11 Trained Graduates, 14 Graduates, 17 Trained Teachers and one Advance Level Teacher. Before we were displaced the total number was 67. Our former Principal, Mr. N. K. Sanmuganathapillai retired on the 3rd. of February and six other teachers, including Mr. N. Sivanesan, Head of the Primary Section retired during the period March to September 1996. Others are displaced and living in various parts of the country.

Curricular Activities

Due to the prevailing situation in Jaffna students cannot stay after school for various reasons and Inter-School Sports activities are at a standstill. Students play football and soft-ball cricket during their P.T. and free periods. We also conduct the daily keep-fit exercises where all the students of the school participate.

The Advanced Level Union, the Science Union, the Commerce Union, English Union, the

Tamil Manram, the Leo Club, the Religious Associations, the Scouts and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade have started functioning again from the beginning of this Term.

Examinations

G. C. E. A/L 1995 August: Students sat for the Examination. ie.36 Physical Science, 34 Bio-Science, 72 Commerce and 24 Arts. 69 students qualified to apply for admission to the University-5 Physical Science, 12 Bio-Science, 37 Commerce and 15 Arts.

G.C.E.A/L 1996 August: 169 students applied for the Examination-Physical Science 37, Bio-Science 29, Commerce 90 and Arts 11. However, only 81 students sat for the examination at the Jaffna Central College Centre-23 Physical Science, 12 Bio-Science, 42 Commerce and 4 Arts. Others were displaced students.

G.C.E.O/L 1995 Dec.:- 228 students applied for the examination and only 87 sat for the Special Examination held in July 1996 at the Jaffna Central College Centre. Others were displaced.

G. C. E. O/L 1996 Dec: 168 students have applied for the examination.

5th. STD. Scholarship examination, 1996. 37 students sat for this Examination.

31-10-96

S. Sivanrooban,
Actg. Principal,
Jaffna Central College



Acting Principal, Mr. S. Sivanrooban B. Sc. (Cey) Dip. in Ed.



The Staff - October 1996

(Absent - 21 Displaced Teachers)
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Other Staff - Oct 1996.



Board of Prefects - Oct 1996.

DAMAGES TO COLLEGE BUILDINGS

(Pictures were taken in late Oct. 1996)



Smith Block and Tamber Block-view from front.



St. Peter's Church
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150th Anniversary Block



Closeup of 150th Anniversary Block
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New Science Block



Tamber Block



Romaine Cooke Hall



Romaine Cooke Hall



Rigg - Hall Hostel - Dining Room & Kitchen



Rigg - Hall Hostel

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MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

It is with a sense of great pleasure I write this message to the souvenir that marks the 180th anniversary of Jaffna Central College which I believe, has never looked back since its inception and which enjoys an enviable position as one of the few oldest and leading educational institutions in the Jaffna peninsula.

My joy gets enhanced that a commemorative stamp has been issued by the State in recognition of its excellent services on the eve of my taking over the reins of the School.



This School which has now grown into a National School due to the selfless services of my predecessors who were all surely my betters, has been remaining as a timeless monument to the devotion and dedication for the cause of Education by the Christian Missionaries. They have made the people talk that a fair portion of the cream of the Sri Lankan Nation is in Jaffna.

This school is also a proud possessor of a unique tradition, the tradition of treating people and students irrespective of religion race, or caste. Many of the outstanding students who passed out from here were Non-Christians.

A former Director of Education, Mr.M.M.Munsoor, the architect of the Colombo Zahira, College Mr.A.M.A.Aziz, an eminent Civil Servant who opted to serve as a Principal and a famous jurist, Abdul Cader were some of its proud products.

Besides, the greatest Tamil Scholar and Hindu revivalist, Sri Arumuganavalar was not only a shining student here but also served on its tutorial staff.

Let us all get reminded of the lofty ideals and traditions of this College and work collectively using all the resources and talents at out disposal to make this school attain more heights in its stature.

K.Rasathurai B.Ed (Cey) B.A. (Pol-Sc.) (Cey), M.A.(Ed)

(Mr.K.Rasathurai has assumed duties as Principal of JCC with effect from 4th November 1996)



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1996. 09. 07 දින පෙ. ව. 10.00ට

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දුරකථන අංක: 325588, 326163, 326177

புதிய முத்திரை வெளியிடுதல்

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி - 180ஆவது ஆண்டு நிறைவு முத்திரைப்பெறுமதி - ரூபா 2 / -

1996 ஆம் ஆண்டு செத்தெம்பர் மாதம் 07ஆந் திகதி மு. ப. 10.00க்கு

கொழும்பு 3, மெதடிஸ்ட் கல்லூரி முகாம் அஞ்சல் அலுவலகத்தில் வெளியிடப்படும்

முதல் நாள் உறைகளும் அஞ்சல் குறியச்சுக்களும் கொழும்பு தலைமை அஞ்சல் அலுவலகத்திலும் பிரதான அஞ்சலலுவலகங்களிலும் கிடைக்கப்பெறும். திகதி முத்திரையிட்ட முதல் நாள் உறைகள் முத்திரைப் பணியபத்தில் கிடைக்கப்பெறும்.

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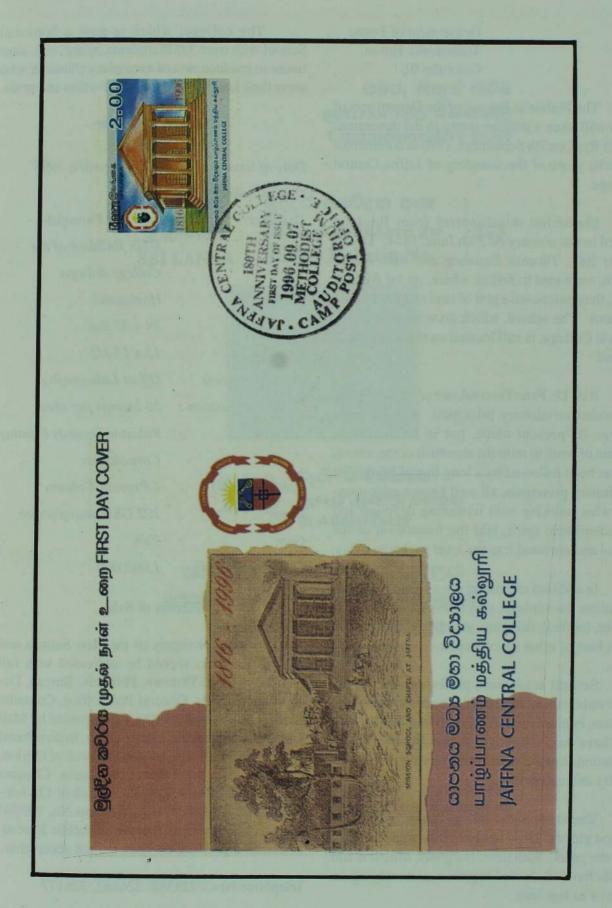
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Department of Posts, Transworks House, Colombo 01.

The Philatelic Bureau of the Department of Posts will issue a postage stamp in the denomination of Rs. 2 on 7th September, 1996 to commemorate 180 years of the founding of Jaffna Central College.

Methodist missionaries from England landed in our country on 29th June, 1814. Two of these; Rev. Thomas Squance and Rev. James Lynch, were sent to Jaffna, where, on 1st August, 1816, they purchased a plot of land and established a school. The school, which grew into the Jaffna Central College, is still located on this same piece of land.

Rev. Dr. Peter Percival, one of the very early Methodist missionary principals, who gave the college its present name, put in an enormous amount of work to raise the standards of the school. He has been followed by a long line of Methodist missionary principals, all well known educationists, who, working with unstinting devotion and an indomitable spirit, laid the foundation of the school and nurtured it to the level we know today.

In addition to being given a sound academic education the students also take part in scouting, cricket, football, debating, athletics, music, drama and a host of other ex curricular activities.

Several academics, professors and lecturers in universities, both here and abroad as well as lawyers, engineers, civil servants and leading citizens have passed through the portals of this great institution, to take their place serving their community and country.

The motto of the college "Give the best and highest glory to God" has been followed faithfully over the years. Sinhalese, Burghers, Muslims and Tamils have all studied together, some staying on to serve as teachers.

The college, which is now a National School with over 3,000 students on the, roll, continues to produce men of exemplary character who serve their land with honour, distinction and pride.

Technical Details

Date of issue : 7th September, 1996

Denomination : Rs. 2.00

Designer : Sudeepa Purnajith

Design : Main Building of the

College & Logo

Format : Horizontal

Stamp size : $29 \times 37 \text{ mm}$

Perforation : $13 \times 13 \times 1/2$

Printing process : Offset Lithography

Sheet Composition: 50 Stamps per sheet

Printers : Pakistan Security Printing

Corporation

Colours (used) : 4 Process Colours

Paper : 102 GSM stamp paper

Gum : PVA

Quantity printed : 1,000,000

Terms of Sale

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සමරු තිකුත් කිරීම ஞாபகார்த்த வெளியீடு Commemorative Issue

ශී ලංකා **ඉ**බාම්ණය SRI LANKA මුද්දර තිවේදත අංක _{ගුන්නිකரச் செய்නින්නாள்} இல. Stamp Bulletin No.

395



180 වැනි සංවන්සරය අඛු පුණේල තිකුතුඛ th Anniversary

යාපනය මධා මහා විදාහලය யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி Jaffna Central College 1996.09.07

Philatelic Bureau

Department of Posts,
General Post Office, Colombo 01,
SRI LANKA.

මුද්දර කාය්හාංශය පුඩාන තැපැල් කාර්යාලය කොළඹ 01. முத்திரைப் பணியகம் தலைமை அஞ்சல் அலுவலகம் கொழும்பு 01. அஞ்சல் திணைக்களம் திறான்ஸ்வேக்ஸ் ஹவுஸ், கொழும்பு 01.

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் 180 ஆவது ஆண்டு நிறைவு ஞாபகார்த்தமாக ரூபா 2.00 இனப் பெறுமதியுள்ள அஞ்சல் முத்திரையொன்றை அஞ்சல் திணைக்களத்தின் முத்திரைப் பணியகம் 1996. செத்தெம்பர் 7ஆம் திகதி வெளியிடும்.

மெதடிஸ்த மிஷனரிமார் இங்கிலாந்திலிருந்து வந்து 1814 ஆம் ஆண்டு யூன் மாதம் 29 ஆம் திகதி எமது நாட்டில் ஆரம்பத்தில் வந்த காலடி எடுத்து வைத்தனர். மிஷனரிமாரில் இருவரான அருட்திருவாளர்கள் தோமஸ் சிகுவென்ஸ், ஜேம்ஸ் லிஞ் ஆகியோர் யாழ்ப்பாணம் சென்று, 1816 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஒகத்து மாதம் 1 ஆம் திகதி காணியை வாங்கி அதில் ஆங்கிலப் பாடசாலை உருவாகுவதற்கான தளத்தை அமைத்தனர். இப்பாடசாலையே காலக் கிரமத்தில் வளர்ந்து மத்திய கல்லூரி ஆனது. இப்பாடசாலை இன்னும் அதே காணியில் தான் அமைந்துள்ளது. ஆரம்ப மெதடிஸ்த மிஷனரியும் அதிபருமான அருட்திரு. கலாநிதி பீற்றர் பேசவல் ஐயர் மிகவும் சிரமப்பட்டு இதன் தரத்தை உயர்த்தி இப்பாடசாலைக்கு இப்பெயரைச் சூட்டினார். இவ்வரிசையில் வந்த பிரசித்தி பெற்ற அனேக மிஷனரி அதிபர்கள் இப்பாடசாலைக்காக முழுமையான ஈடுபாட்டுடன் அயராது உழைத்துப் பராமரித்து இன்று காணும் நிலைக்குக் கொண்டு வந்துள்ளனர்.

இலங்கையிலும் மற்றும் பல நாடுகளிலும் வாழும் பல அறிவாளர்கள், சர்வகலாசாலைப் பேராசிரியர்கள், விரிவுரையாளர்கள், வைத்தியர்கள், நீதித்துறையினர், பொறியியலாளர்கள், சிவில் உத்தியோகத்தர்களும் மற்றும் பிரபல்யமான பிரசைகளும் இந்தக் கல்லூரியின் நிழலை அனுபவித்தவர்களாகத் தாங்கள் வாழும் நாட்டுக்கும் சமுதாயத்துக்கும் தொண்டு செய்து ஒவ்வொரு துறையிலும் பிரகாசித்த வண்ணம் இருக்கின்றனர். இதில் கல்வி கற்ற மாணவர்கள் பட்டப்படிப்பிலும், சாரணியத்திலும், கிறிக்கட், கால்பந்து ஆட்டம், உடற்பயிற்சி, இசை, நாவன்மை, விவாதம் ஆகிய துறைகளிலும் பிரபல்யமிக்க வல்லுணர்களாக வாழ்கின்றனர்.

இக்கல்லூரியின் குறிக்கோள், நீதிவாக்கியம் "முழுக்கவனமும் மேலான மகிமையும் கடவுளுக்கே" என்பதே. இது இன்றுவரை கடைப்பிடித்து வரப்படுகிறது. இலங்கையில் உள்ள சிங்களவர், பறங்கியர், முஸ்லிம்கள், தமிழர் ஆகிய ஒவ்வொரு இன மக்களும் ஒன்றாகப் படித்து மேன்மை மிக்க இக்கல்லூரியில் ஆசிரியர்களாகக் கடமையும் ஆற்றியுள்ளனர்.

இன்று இக்கல்லூரி தேசிய பாடசாலையாகக் கணிக்கப்பட்டு, 3000த்துக்கும் மேற்பட்ட மாணவர்களுக்குக் கல்வியை ஊட்டி நமது நாட்டுக்கும், சமுதாயத்துக்கும் தொண்டு செய்யும் பெருமக்களை விருத்தி செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது.

தொழில்நுட்ப விபரங்கள்

வெளியிடும் கிகதி : 1996.09.07

இனப் பெறுமதி : ரூபா 2.00

நிறங்கள் : நான்கு நிறங்கள்

வடிவம் : கிடையானது

வடிவமைப்பாளர் : சுதிப புர்ணஜித்

வடிவமைப்பு : கல்லூரியின் பிரதான

கட்டிடமும் சின்னமும்

அளவு : 29 x 37 மி. மீ

அச்சாளர்கள் : செக்கூரிட்டி பிடின்டிங்,

பாகிஸ்தான்

அச்சடிக்கும் முறை : எதிர்ப்படி கல்லச்சு முறை

தாளமைப்ப : தாளொன்றுக்கு 50

முத்திரைகள்

தாள் : 102, ஜீ.எஸ்.எம். முத்திரைத்

காள்

பசை : பிவிஏ

துளையீடு : 13 x 13 1/2

அச்சடிக்கும் தொகை : 10,00,000

விற்பனை நிபந்தனைகள்

காசுக் கட்டளைகள், தபாற் கட்டளைகள், காசோலைகள் "இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி, தபால் தலைமை அதிபதியின் இல. 1, கணக்கு இலக்கம் 10396" என்ற பெயருக்கு எழுதப்பட்டு முழு விபரங்களுடன், பணிப்பாளர், முத்திரைப் பணியகம், தலைமை அஞ்சல் அலுவலகம், கொழும்பு 1 என்ற முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பப்பட வேண்டும்.

தொலைபேசி : 325588, 326163, 326177

තැපැල් දෙපාර්තමේන්තව. ටාන්ස්වර්ක්ස් මන්දිරය. කොළඹ 01

යාපනය මධා මහා විදහලය ආරම්භ කර අවුරුද 180ක් ගතවීම නිමින්තෙන් 1996 සැප්තැම්බර් 7 වන දින රු. 2.00ක වටිනාකමින් යුත් සමරු මුද්දරයක් නැපැල් දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ මුද්දර කාර්යංශය මගින් නිකුත් කරන ලැබේ.

මොතොදිස්ත මීපතාරීවරුත් එංගලත්තයෙන් ලංකාවට සැපැත් වූයේ 1814 ජුනි 29 දිනය. එම මුල් ම්පතාරීවරුත් දෙදෙනෙකු වන ගෞ. තෝමස් ස්කොන්ස් සහ ගෞ. පේම්ස් ලින්ව් දේවගැනිවරුන් දෙදෙන යාපනය බලා පිටත් විය. 1816 අගෝස්තු 1වන දින ඔවුන් යාපනයෙ ත් ඉඩමක් මිලදී ගත්හ. එහි ඔවුන් විසින් ආරම්භ කළ ඉංගුීසි පාසල අද එම භූමි භාගයේම පවතින යාපනය මධා මහා විදුහලය බවට පත්විය. ආරම්භක මෙතොදිස්ත ම්පතාරීවරයෙකු වූ ගෞ. දේවධර්මාවාර්ය පිටර් පර්සිවල් දේවගැති තුමාගේ මහත් උනන්දුව හා ව්යෳී හේතුවෙන් අධ්යාපන මට්ටම උසස් කොට විදුසාලයේ නම නැබිය. ඒ කාලයේ නම් දැරු මෙතොදිස්ත ම්පනාර් අධ්නාපනඥයන් හා ව්දුහල්පති වරුන්ගේ කැපවීම නොබ්දෙන උන්සාහය අද පවතින උසස් තත්වයටහා ස්ථීර භාවයට පැවැත්මට එක ලෙස උරදී ඇති බව පුකාශ කළ හැක.

බොහෝ උගතුන්, මහාචාර්යවරුන්, දේශීය හා විදේශීය ආචාර්යවරුන්, වෛදෳවරුන්, නිතිඥයන්, ඉංජිනේරුවන්, රජයේ උසස් නිලධාරින් හා ජෞෂ්ඨ පුරවැසියන් මෙම මහා විදහලයේ දොරටු තුලින් ඇතුල්ව ඔවුන්ගේ රටට ජාතියට සේවය කිරීම සඳහා ඔවුන්ගේ ස්ථානය ගෙන ඇත. අධෳාපනික උගතුන් මෙන්ම බාල දක්පයන්, කිකට්, පාපන්දු, මලල කිඩා, සංගීතය, තර්ථනය . කථිකත්වය යන සෑම මට්ටමකින්ම මෙම පාසැලේ ශිෂාය න් නම් දරා ඇත.

ව්දහලයේ ආදර්ශ පාඨය "දෙවියන් වහන්සේට සිය එ විශිප්ඨ හා උසස් ගෞරවය දෙන්න" යන්නය.

මෙම මහා විදුහලයේ ආයු කාලය දෙස බැලීමේදි මෙම පාඨය විශ්වාසවන්නව පවත්වා ඇත යන්න සැක හැර පැවසිය හැක. සිංහල, බර්ගර්, මුස්ලිම්, දෙමළ සියල්ලෝම එකම පියසක සේවය කොට මෙම ව්දුහලේ පුගතියට, කටය තු කොට ඇත.

වර්තමානයේ මෙම විදහලය ජාතික පාසැලක් වන අතර ශිෂායන් 3.000කට අධික සංඛ්‍යාවක් අධ්‍යාපනය ලබති. එය අදත් රටට ආඩම්බරය, ගෞරවය අත්කරදෙමින් විශිෂ්ඨත්වයෙන් යුත් දරුවන් බිහි කරමින් සිටිති.

මුද්දරය පිළිබඳ විස්තරය

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PICTURES TAKEN AT THE STAMP RELEASE CEREMONY HELD ON 7TH SEPT 1996 AT THE METHODIST COLLEGE HALL, COLOMBO 3.



Chief Guest, Hon. M. A. L. M. Hizbullah, Deputy Minister of Posts & Telecommunications lighting the traditional oil lamp. Besides him is Rev. Duleep Fernando, President of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka.



The Hon. Deputy Minister of Posts & Telecommunications officially releases the new Stamp & First Day Cover by handing it over to Mr. K. Thayaparan, the President of the Colombo OBA. On the extreme right is Mrs. Soma Kotakadeniya the Post-Master General.



The First Day Cover being exhibited prominently by Mr. T. Chinniah, Secretary of the Colombo OBA. The others in the picture are Mr. K. Thayaparan, Rev. Duleep Fernando, Hon. M. A. L. M. Hizbullah and Mrs. Soma Kotakadeniya.



The Old Boys and Girls Singing the College Song at the concluding stages of the Ceremony

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Jaffna Central its name renown, In the annals of history wore a crown, Pioneer college of western erudition Which many a school, sought emulation.

A century, and four score years, old, Served long years to uphold. Virtues, wisdom, veneration, divine That spirit of Central ever shine.

Carvings on its hall's doorway
Depict play, study, and pray.
Care for body, mind and soul,
Was school's concern, its righteous goal.

A national school of nation's pride Served Sri Lanka countrywide Professionals, pedagogues politicians true This school produced, not few.

Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Burghers Mingled freely, all like brothers. No caste, creed, colour, or kind, Then did cleave us, we mankind.

But ethnic war, in recent times Struck the school in Northern climes It had its rise, but will never fall "Lets build Central" my clarion call!

The College colours, chocolate, and blue Flag flew high, as the College grew With pomp, pride, and blessings showered Central's flag will never be lowered.

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THE NEED FOR A DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED SCIENCE CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS

Professor V. Navaratnarajah*

Introduction

"If an unfriendly power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might as well have viewed it as an act of war. As it stands, we have allowed this to happen to ourselves. We have in effect been committing an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament".

This startling conclusion was made in the document 'A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Education Reform' by the National Commission on Excellence in Education, U.S.A. in 1983. This statement could as well apply to us looking at what has happened to our educational system over the last 4 or 5 decades.



The recent pronouncements made in the media that a new national education policy is to be implemented very soon seems to confirm that the policy makers are aware of the deficiencies of the present educational system. It has been pointed out at various times that the country does not have the required trained manpower that is necessary for carrying out the development of the country. It is axiomatic that the development of a country depends on the availability of scientifically and technologically trained manpower. It is the responsibility of the indigenous educational system to provide such manpower. However, the present educational system unfortunately is lacking in providing the training of manpower with the necessary skills that are required for development.

Present Scenario

The problems we face in the lack of the correct type of training being imparted to our children are partly a result of the continued wholesale adaptation of the British system of education. We should not forget that the British have designed their education system to suit their needs commensurate with their level of development, and it is incumbent for us to design our system to suit our needs. In designing our system, we could look at various other systems and select the appropriate elements that would suit our purpose. Our present educational system is very good at producing youth with

Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Jaffina & Vice Patron JCC-OBA.

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academic A - levels and university degrees but lacking in producing manpower with technical or entrepreneurial skills. It is not surprising that this academic oriented system is under attack even in Britain as its industry faces stiff competition from the industries of Japan and of the countries of the European Union, notably Germany. Although the aspiration of every student (and his parents) is to enter the University, only about 1.2 percent of the students sitting the O-Level examinations are successful in gaining entry to the universities in any one year. Of the total number sitting the O-Levels, about 20 percent qualify to proceed to the A-levels. Out of this number, although 30 percent qualify at the minimum level required to enter the universities, the actual number gaining entry is only 20 percent of this 30 percent. Hence, the balance of more than 98 percent find themselves lost and unable to fit themselves into any type of life-long employment. This is primarily because the O-Level and more pertinently the A-Level courses in our school curriculum are only academic courses meeting the examination requirements at the end of these courses and do not prepare the students for any employment. The Salaries and Cadres Committee (1962) emphasized the need for our students to be given a sound education in scientific and technical subjects if they were to be employed in the development projects.

The Ten Year Plan (1958) stated that "the education system must now be more aggressively geared to the needs of development with greater bias to technical and scientific education. This would require greater provision for technical and practical courses in schools (the present curriculum is unduly academic) and a larger flow of pupils into technical and scientific courses in specialised institutes and universities." Almost 40 years later, we do not seem to have moved from the situation mentioned in the Plan! This lackadaisical attitude to reform is partly due to our attitude towards such an education. In this context, it is useful to recall the views expressed by the World Bank Commission on Economic Development in Ceylon, in respect of parental attitudes towards vocational and technical studies- 'as studies relegated to those students who had not performed well in academic studies; as studies which did not provide an avenue to acquire the prestige of a white-collar job.' Under the circumstances, it is imperative that the school curriculum should move away from the academic and vocational or technological divide that exists in the present educational system.

3. A New Approach

We should be able to evolve an integrated curriculum with elements of academic and technological subjects to be followed by the students from the primary school up to upper secondary levels. This type of curriculum has been recognised in many countries which are in difficulties in their development due to lack of sufficient trained manpower in the technical and technological fields. China has called for a reform in the upper secondary education from a predominance of general education to an equal mix of general education and vocational/ technical education. The need for reform arose out of the large-scale industrialisation programme launched in the late 1970s and the serious shortage still prevailing in the early 1980s (Tsang, 1991). Similar steps are being taken in the

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United Kingdom to introduce more technology in the national curriculum at the Advance Level as a stepping stone to technology in higher education. The Engineering Council (EC) has stated that "there should be a clear progression in content with the subject acting as a stepping stone to higher education and employment" (EC, 1992). The IPPR document 'A British Baccalaureat', proposes a common curriculum i.e. instead of having separate academic and vocational courses, the curriculum would consist of a range of theoretical and applied modules within a single unified system (Finegold et al, 1990). Such a unified curriculum, it is argued, does not separate the preparation of young people for employment from the wider role of preparing them to become better citizens in a democratic society (Young, 1993).

4. Implementation of Suggested Approach

After making a case for integrating science and technology into the general curriculum, the next step is to decide the level at which this integration is to be effected. The new science curriculum that is being implemented in Japan in 1992 for elementary schools, in 1993 for lower secondary schools and in 1994 for upper secondary schools in their 6-3-3-4 system of school education where the first nine years - six years of elementary education and three years of lower secondary education are compulsory, is worth a close look. For the elementary schools, the subjects of social studies and science have been replaced with a new subject called environmental studies as an integrated subject combining the two. Many selected science subjects are offered at upper secondary school. In addition to subjects which stress the systems of science as much as before, subjects which emphasize the relationship between science and human life as well as the applications of science, and subjects which aim to help students to understand nature comprehensively (integrated science) have been created. Observations and experimentation are to be emphasized more than ever before in all science subjects from the elementary school to the upper secondary school (Umeno, 1992)

Science education at secondary level in our schools seems to be designed primarily to prepare students for university entrance as it has to provide the foundation for more specialised scientific studies in the universities. Its links with technology and every day world are tenuous and illdefined. On the other hand, technology education deals with the technology that pervades all our lives and which determines the quality of our life. For example, it is not sufficient to know all about plants in conventional studies in Botany unless the student is able to correlate the knowledge to its use in agriculture. Hence, the curriculum would be more realistic if agricultural science is integrated with conventional Botany syllabus. Probably the most established agricultural science curriculum with a wider focus on developmental science and society issues is the Agriculture and Environmental Science curriculum in Israel, which is co-ordinated with the Biology and Physical science curriculum of Junior High School (Israel, 1978). It came to be respected as more relevant to social and developmental issues than conventional science courses and led to the full integration of Agriculture and Biology in the upper-high school Life and Agricultural Science curriculum which is interwoven with aspects of economics (Israel, 1980). There is a need to inculcate in our community, ideas of consumerism and quality control in respect of goods produced. The existence of standards and the need to test the goods produced according to these standards must be brought to

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the attention of students. This is probably best done in the secondary school curriculum when dealing with subjects of production, nutrition and health.

5. Conclusion

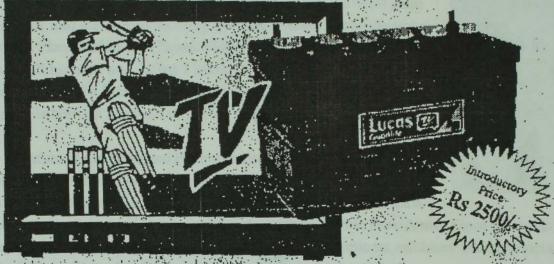
There is a need to reorganise our system of science education in schools and integrate it with general education with relevant inputs of technology so that our students and hence the community would be able to appreciate the importance of science and technology to improve our material needs and quality of life, find meaningful and relevant employment and participate fully in the development efforts of our country.

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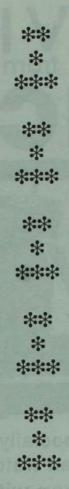
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P. Manokeran
Vice-President
JCC-OBA, Colombo Branch

The birth of the nineteenth century heralded the dawn of British Imperialism in Ceylon. The Christian Missionaries from the West soon made inroads into the already existing Portuguese and Dutch Christian Institutions. They established Christian Missionary Institutions with bias to Western Education and Jaffna Central is the second of its kind in Ceylon. It is also the Premier Methodist Missionary College in South and East Asia born on August 1st, 1816.

That small sandy rugged Peninsula situated on the remote tip in the North or this island should enjoy the privilege of one of the Pioneer institutions of Western Missionary education in South and South East

Asia can only be accounted for the inscrutable ways of Divine Providence. Since then many sages and seers, priests and pedagogues, elite and intellectuals, eminent ministers and bureaucrats have tread the hallowed portals of this great institution.

Jaffna Central College being placed in the city of Jaffna had the rare privilege of receiving a galaxy of dignitaries local and foreign who visited this part of the country at all times. Mahathma Gandhi visited us in 1927 when he addressed a very distinguished crowd in our College Hall. This was followed by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in June 1937. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike made his maiden visit in mid 1930's with Dr. James Ratnam when he first expressed his views on Federalism as a solution to the problems of a multi-ethnic society. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, too, visited us in early 1952.

Influence

Indian politics always had its influence in the peninsula. The youths of that time were an unsophisticated generation, but yet believed that what their fathers failed to do, that they should do. They may not have heard then about Karl Marx, but were much inspired by the rising call for "Swaraj" by Mahathma Gandhi in India.

Mahathma Gandhi's visit resulted in the formation of a group called "Servants of Lanka Group", a predecessor to the National Congress. The young intelligentsia of the North, mostly

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teachers of Jaffna College and Jaffna Central College comprised this movement. To mention a few, Mr. Handy Perinpanayagam, Swami Vipulananda, Mr. Lyman Kulatungam, Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, Mr. A. E. Thamber, Mr. S. R. Kanaganayagam, Mr. V. K. Nathan were in the forefront advocating Nationalism and Swadeshi Cult. They were national dresses as teachers which was then tabooed. They proudly protested against British Rule in Ceylon.

Jaffna Central had produced distinguished men in this Isle, Arumuganavalar who translated the Holy Bible with Rev. Percival, then Principal of the School. He also contributed much to the Tamil Language and Hindu Religion. Sir Kanthiah Vythianathan was a distinguished Civil Servant who later served as Minister in the first UNP Government, Sir Vythilingam Duraisamy was Speaker of the State Council, Mr. V. Cumarasamy, Mr. Abdul Majeed and many others have served in the Cabinets of various governments in power. Many reputed galaxies of the bench and bar, eminent Doctors and Engineers have been the proud products of the school. Proud to mention Professor Aries Kovoor, an old Centralite now serves the President as her Adviser.

Doyen

In the higher classes there were many devoted teachers who were dedicated to their vocation. Mr. J. S. Selvaratnam ranked very high amongst them. An eminent teacher in English whose speciality was training students in oratory and elocution. Jaffna Central College regularly participated in All Ceylon Oratorial Contests where it won many laurels. Two brothers, Mr. S. Sithampalam and Mr. S. Shanmugarajah who consequently won the first and second prizes in the years 1945, 1946 needs special mention. The whole College assembled in the College Hall to listen to their oration broadcasted over the All Ceylon Radio in those times. Mr. S. Mahalingam was a doyen in the teaching of English and English Literature. An ardent communist and a nationalist by conviction he never permitted his idealogies to permeate our class room discussions. He was also a strict disciplinarian. Mr. Alagakone was another who taught us English Literature in the senior classes, when he often delved into the appreciation of poetry with respect to Shakespeare's sonnets.

Dr. K. Theivananthampillai was another who was highly devoted to his profession and who trained and produced plays one of those which needed special mention viz. "Man who married a Dumb wife", by Anatole France. Mr. MacIntyre a popular play actor was then a student in our school and played the chief role in the above play. Mr. and Mrs. Mathiaparanam were teachers of Tamil and Latin Languages. Mr. Sharma Iyer, a Brahmin clad in classical Brahmin fashion was an ideal Tamil and Sanskrit teacher who recited Tamil verses from Tamil texts in typical classical sonorous tone. He was an amiable teacher and carried an erudite demeanour which everybody respected. The sciences were taught mostly by Indian graduates who were Indians, but the teaching of Chemistry was synonymous with Mr. G. N. Edwards. An ideal in his profession, that he saw none failed his subjects, in public examinations. Later he joined Teachers Training College, Maharagama as a Lecturer and was also appointed Chief Examiner in Chemistry for the Senior School Certificate Examination. Mr. and Mrs. Ariyaratnam too were in the Staff. The former taught Botany, was well

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respected and popular teacher in the University Entrance Classes. In the field of mathematics Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Rajasingam and Mr. Arunachalam cannot be forgotten. They produced brilliant students like Mr. Raviraj, Mr. Kathirgamanathan, Mr. Kathiramalanathan, Dr. Christopher Kanagaratnam in the nineteen forties who have won much laudable awards in their educational career in the University. Mr. V. Subramaniyam, an Indian was a distinguished Chemistry Teacher of the University Entrance Classes and a journalist. He produced the first Tamil Language Science Magazine called "Vijnani" in Ceylon. On the death of Premier D. S. Senenayake, Mr. Subramaniyam sent the first story to the popular "HINDU" thus "Literally and Metaphorically Premier dies on the Saddle", which was front page news. He left to join UNESCO as a civil servant.

Distinct

The University classes were distinct in their own merit. The girls from Vembadi Girls School joined us for the science classes. Mr. A. E. Thamber was our class teacher and taught us Physics. Don in national costume he was a nationalist who advocated liberal education and democracy. He was also then President of the All Ceylon Union of Teachers successfully for three years and friend cum adviser to Sir Oliver Goonatilake, the then Governor General of Ceylon.

The years that I spent as a teacher at Jaffna Central College were very eventful. Rev. C. A. Smith was the Principal and who dedicated his best years of his life to the school in many ways. He was very pragmatic in his thinking and attitude. He was also industrious. He never dismissed a student, but believed in reforming the student. He believed that a delinquent or mischievous student out of the school, will be more indisciplined and the school would do a disservice to the student.

The college went through a period of transition when it was Nationalized in 1960. The old order changed yielding place to new, Unlike many other schools that were nationalized, Name of the College, its Crest, Its Motto "In Gloriam Dei Optimi Maximi" and College song needed no change for these were not prejudicial to any race or religion. But the school had its teething problems on nationalization when Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles was at the helm of the school. The missionary involvements and its trappings were to be severed. Then Non-Christian staff were beginning to assert and aspire for new positions while their Christian Colleagues who held positions of importance and recognition were feeling frustrated and insecure. This caused an apparent conflict of ideas and attitudes which affected the general progress of the school and temporarily lowered its grace in the public eye. Some loyal to the school, with the guidance of a senior and experienced retired teacher, Mr. Kalaipulavar Navaratnam played a crucial role to soften the issue of confrontation and bridged the gap between the conflicting parties to bring back the school on the track of progress.

Momentous

the school increased under the Principalship of Mr. A. E. Thamber followed by Mr. Sabalingam. Jaffna Central College had very good results in the University Entrance classes for Biological Science, Medicine and Arts in 1960's. The School played a crucial role in the study and development of the Hydrological Survey and Subterranean Water Survey of Jaffna Peninsula.

In the mid 1950's there was popular notion that "Jaffna will become a desert". Mr. Neville Jayaweera, then GA Jaffna called a conference of Heads of all Departments, Scientific Institutions including the President and Secretary of the NPSTA. Mr. Ariyaratnam, the President and I its Secretary attended the Conference. This was followed by the meetings of the Steering Committee. A survey of the subterranean water levels of the peninsula was then carried out with the help of the big schools in the peninsula. Dr. Arad, Hydrologist from Israel, Mr. S. Arumugam and Mr. Tissaveerasingham, both from the Irrigation Department helped us in this project. A paper was presented by me on this topic at the Ceylon Association for the Advancement of Science in 1965. Based on these studies and other investigations barriers were built at Elephant Pass and Thondamannar, preventing the inflow of lagoon waters into the peninsula, thereby preventing the increase of salinity in the inland waters.

The first Scout Movement in the peninsula was started at Jaffna Central College called the First Jaffna Group. I had the opportunity of attending the Asian Scout Jamboree in Japan from Jaffna Central in 1961. Jaffna Central was also the pioneer Institution to introduce sports, soccer and cricket in Jaffna. Special mention should be made of Dr. N. Ethirveerasingam, then a student of Jaffna Central participated in OLYMPICS, in 1952 a feat yet remains un-rivalled. From the very old times our College grounds called JAFFNA ESPLANADE was the popular arena for all sports and games, in Jaffna.

The College Magazine, "The Central" was first published in 1900 by Rev. E. C. Martin, the then Principal of the school. It was sponsored by the then Old Boys Association and gave an opportunity for the old students, principal and staff and current students of that time to have a rapport and express their ideas, views on various matters. The Magazine rapidly grew in size and numbers, when the staff and the principals of later years took over the responsibility in publishing it.

Scholastic

The library situated on the floor of Romain Cooke Hall though of mediocre standard provided the needs of various scholastic needs of the Institution. "What the Chapel is to Spiritual Life, the Library is to the Intellectual Life."

Jaffna Central imparted a liberal education in a democratic paradigm. All communities of all faiths mingled freely and unitedly to the good of the institution and to themselves at large. Education is for learning, learning how to learn, and not what to learn, learning to understand, and learn all ones life. Rabindranath Tagore on Educations said, "It is not the objective to keep putting

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in more and more fuel in the fire. The meaning of fire arises in the food that is cooked. Progress has come to mean to go on walking about ever reaching not the GATE but the CHASE. Europe perpetually revels in chasing the GAME and never obtaining IT.

There is no better school of character and personality than a College Life which resembles closely to real life with the real array of virtues, passions, plans and counter plans, frailties and difficulties. Many of us who spent our formative years in the great institution bear witness to this fact.

In conclusion, I wish to quote Sir Winston Churchill, "The further backward you can look, the future forward you can see". Our aim in looking backward is, therefore, not so much to gloat over the past, rich as it has been; but to discover the new objectives and purposes which enable us to face the turbulent future with undaunted steps of confidence and conviction.

To many of us, it is a master piece, whose subtle influence will remain in the minds of every Centralite long after we have left college like unto a memory attuned to mystic melodies. The mystic melodies linger in us, for most of what we are, from what we imbibed in young formative years. We never lose contact with our roots. Whilst writing this article, I have had the feeling that my words fail to convey the loyalty and affection they seek to express. I retain a kind of nostalgic longing for all my school days that remain etched indelible in my memory.

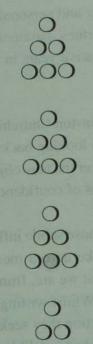
"Old men shall dream dreams, while young men shall see visions, is an old Biblical saying.

Many young Centralite see visions, visions that become realities to build our College and restore it to its pristine glory.

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THE NURTURING ENVIRONMENT OF JAFFNA CENTRAL

Nagalingam Ethirveerasingam, Ph. D. (Cornell)

"Whatever authority I may have rests solely upon my knowledge how little I know." Socrates (about 425 B.C.)

"It is better to submit than to commit injustice."

Socrates

Writing an article to commemorate the 180th celebration of our College is not an easy task under the prevailing conditions in the Jaffna peninsula. I wish that two of my English teachers, Mr. Victor Rajaratnam and Mr. Alagakone were living to help me out. Not just to guide me on the mechanics of writing, but to distill the Giga bytes of information and collate them to transmit a message through the medium of print. The numerous essays and precis they made us write, though we did not see the point of it then, have born fruit through the years during higher education and at work and now in numerous writing I have done during the past thirty years. I also took tuition from them, to get one-on-one attention, as I was weak in English. To this day, the grammar of the English language escapes me. But I think my teachers gave me the foundation skill to express my thoughts and feelings adequately. The readers shall be the best judge of it. I was one of those students who came from a Tamil school after the third grade and joined Central in 1943 in the second grade, instead of fourth grade. Moses teacher was our class teacher. Perceival Hall was our Kingdom.

Though I was out of Sri Lanka since 1956, I visited and spoke at Jaffna Central in 1961, '65, '67, '73, '77, '79, '80 and in '82. In April 1994, while I was Visiting Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture at Kilinochchi, it was with tears I saw the ruins of Perceival Hall, Romaine Hall, St. Peters church, the Court Houses, the Jaffna Library, the Municipal Hall and other buildings around Central that were part of our heritage. Strangely, the tall, majestic clock tower, built during Queen Victoria's reign and opened by her son Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales, still stands. Though the copper plate that bore inscriptions is gone and the four clocks are either missing or broken, the tower still stands like a sentinel without an eye or knowledge of time guarding over the Central grounds, which was home to me. In all my travels I have yet to see a playing field that inspires me more.

The physical damage to the buildings, emotional catastrophe and injuries and death to friends and relatives in the Jaffna peninsula before 1995 and since then, are the heavy sacrifice of our people to protect our rights and freedom. The nightmarish onslaught of the armed forces on innocent men, women and children was the worst suffering of the Tamil people in more than the 2000 years of our community's history. It was more than the injustices visited on us by the Portuguese and the Dutch combined.

army operation "Riviresa" were streaming into Kilinochchi in pouring rain. All of the students and many members of the staff of the Faculty of Agriculture were assisting the Tamil refugee organizations and other national and international Non Government Agencies to receive, house and feed the families. I worked as a volunteer to help the team of students, teachers and other citizens who were receiving and settling the refugees in Kilinochchi.

To say the least, it was a nightmare for the fleeing souls. Their faces creased with sorrow and pain. Their sleepless swollen eyes with no more tears were blank and staring in to the distance. They obeyed instruction without questions. They took their cup of tea and bread and ate them obeying the instinct of hunger. The children held onto the wet and soiled clothing of their mothers who held on to them on instinct. They had been on the road for two or more days. They had walked, travelled in boats to cross the lagoon, by tractor through the sand and by lorry to reach Kilinochchi all the time in pouring rain. They had lost their homes and their livelihood. They had very little to eat. Most of them had coughs and colds. Children with runny noses were crying most of the time. Most of the children had by this time developed a vacant distant stare. They were taking in all the events in their subconscious mind. How such traumas will be played out when they grow up as adults will be a psychologist's nightmare.

The people were tired, confused, traumatized by exploding shells, the long walk and sleepless nights. Some of them left their parents, and grand parents. Others lost their loved ones in the shelling and bombing that preceded the evacuation. A few died during the exodus. Two of them I knew died of suffocation in the lorries. They arrived in over crowded lorries like cattle going to the slaughter house. At the end of the first month, three hundred thousand of the five hundred thousand refugees arrived in Kilinochchi. Two hundred thousand of them stayed on in Kilinochchi. Many of them had been displaced two to five times before. Among the refugees who left Jaffna were my brother, sister and their families and all of my cousins and their families and hundreds of my extended family.

Many of the refuges who came to Kilinochchi during the first two weeks had been in refugee camps in two or more places since 1990 unable to go back to their homes in army occupied territory in the islands and in the northern coasts of the Jaffna peninsula. All their possessions were in white synthetic fertilizer bags. The status of their refugee lives is evidenced by the number of fertilizer bags. The richest of them had four bags. May be the number of bags only reflected the size of their family. In addition, some of the children brought with them their puppies. The men brought with them their bicycles. Artisans brought with them their tools rolled in a sack. Older children had their school books. For a Tamil learning is a synonymous with life.

Since those horror stricken days in November, 1995, the suffering of the Tamils has worsened. Kilinochchi district is now deserted. Many civilians have died. A few have returned to the Peninsula to live a regimented life. Others are still out in the harsh environment of the Vanni.

In the present atmosphere of death and destruction we should remember our past and be thankful for it. However, I would wait to applaud or be part of the honouring of our alma mater until

a government that will accept our right to self determination takes office in Colombo or we wrest our right from it. To receive an honour we should be worthy of it. Similarly, the government from whom the honour is received should be moraly worthy of honouring the achievement of an educational institution that has stood the test of time.

While waiting for that day, I would like to share with all Centralites, my thoughts on the meaning of our College song and what we learn from it at this tragic time in our history. Some of us are in the last ten minutes of our play in the field.

"Wet the ground and wind opposing, Just ten minutes yet to play; play up Central, No reposing On the gains of yesterday."

The bed rock of our fundamental rights and our heritage is being cut from under our feet. We are unable to get a grasp on our lives. The forces of nature and those of the enemy are preventing us from achieving our goals in life. Let us, under such adversity, keep on striving without resting or being satisfied about what we have achieved in the past.

"Now is the time for combined action;
Pass the ball from man to man;
Never selfish play nor faction,
Proved worthwhile since sport began."

In the hard times we are facing now, we should work as a team and not assume only one of us has what it takes to achieve our goal. Team play has won since life began. If we unite together our strength will be great enough to win. The rest of the song urges us to keep our honour true and bright while striving in life, wherever in the world we may be and whatever we do, in the end, our service to the community is what is remembered.

We all should work towards the day we can raise our heads high and say, free at last, we have achieved peace with dignity. Then, begin the arduous task of rebuilding our institutions and the life of our community from the ashes. That would be the greatest monument we can build for those who have worked long and hard and those who have paid the ultimate price for the future the freedom of our community.

"Everything flows, nothing is stationary. You cannot step twice in the same river."

Heraclitus (about 500 B.C)

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JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE -A COLLEGE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES AND ALL FAITHS

M.M. Munsoor Retd. Secretary Ministry of Education & Cultural Affairs North-East Province

Jaffna Central was founded by the Methodist Missionaries as far back as August 1816, records reveal. It was one of the pioneer institutions of Western education during the time of the British Colonial regime. To commemorate the 180th year of its founding which fell due in August this year, the Colombo Branch of the OBA took the sole initiative and prevailed on the Government and had a Postage stamp and First Day Cover released at a simple but elegant Function at the Colombo Methodist College. The Old Boys thronged in large numbers and exchanged remembrances with their counterparts. This souvenir, I am sure, will also serve to document this milestone in the long and proud history of the College.



Jaffna Central has all along produced men of erudition and eminence in practically all walks of life. It has produced men of character, candour and commitment. Also men who could stand up to any challenge.

The College has also had a long line of illustrious Principals who have adorned the chair. Their task had also been made easier by a Tutorial Staff comprised of men of scholarship and dedication, peerless in their committed service to education and sports. The College was right on top and was so popular that it was almost bursting at its seams.

But tragedy befell the College on account of the ethnic strife. The location of the College in the heart of Jaffna Town added to its popularity. With the ethnic war gaining fresh blood with every communal flare up, the distinct advantages turned out to be severe setbacks. The College in point of fact became one end of the battle front, while the Jaffna Fort occupied by the Security Forces the other end. One can imagine how severe the battering the College, would have been subject to. Even after the 'Fall of the Jaffna Fort' the College has not retrieved itself from this calamity. Despite several reconstruction and rehabilitation measures undertaken by the educational authorities, the College has yet to come back to its pristine glory. However, with life in Jaffna inching towards normalcy it is hoped the College could be put back on track. Of course the large galaxy of Old Boys spread all over the globe have a sacred duty to rally round the College and evolve strategies for a long term development programme. It would be a daunting task but the Old Boys must face the challenge.

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Let me now take my memories back to the mid 1950's when I was a student. My joining Central was not preplanned. With my father's retirement from Public Service in Colombo, the parental decision was to return to Jaffna, our home town, once and for all. Having gone back bag and baggage, I had to gain entry to a College in Jaffna Town in January 1953 to follow the HSC and University Preliminary Class as it was then known. Jaffna Hindu was closer to my home and I also had my Primary and Junior Secondary Education there. But Jaffna Central was a college I had an admiration for. To me the environment of Central looked lively with the Jaffna Esplanade, the Subramaniam Park, the Jaffna Town Hall, the Clock Tower all overlooking the College. There was so much life and activity throughout the day and throughout the year. I approached the Late Justice M.M. Abdul Cader (Judge of the Supreme Court) a distinguished Centralite and a close relative of mine for his advice. He promptly said "Munsoor, there is nothing to think. Jaffna Central provides a Liberal Education you wouldn't get anywhere else. It is the College for all communities and all faiths". I joined Central in January '53. I later realised how prophetic his words were.

My short spell at Central ('53 - '54) was exciting, memorable and productive. Rev. C.A. Smith, the last of the expatriates to occupy the chair was the Principal. He stood out anywhere, with his spotlessly white short sleeve shirt, white shorts, white shoes and stockings and a white hat. He was blunt in his speech and ways too. He was very simple and unassuming, but discharged his duties in a professional manner, with objectivity and detachment. To him work was worship. The one handicap he had was that he couldn't make out many of the students. Sometimes even the School Prefects. When confronted with for some lapse or the other, they had to tell him and escape punishment. He knew that some students were scooting out of College during College hours and were loitering about or were to be seen in Cinema Halls or the Public Library. Many a times he had given chase in his car to hound them out. One specific incident that I yet remember was when he set out to the Public Library during College hours to physically maul the truants. He did catch a few; one student B. Yogasunderam (who later became a successful lawyer and passed away very early in life) nearly got caught. He being an intelligent chap promptly pulled out his shirt and threw it to a corner, tucked up his verti and held on to the broomstick and pretended to sweep the Library floor. Rev. Smith unsuspectingly came away and Yogasunderam escaped the punishment. He related this to us, later.

Another incident I recall is when a Play was staged in the College Open Air Theatre to raise Funds for the College Building Development Programme. The English Play was a Comedy called 'REFUND', an English Version of Molier's French Play. Yogasunderam, Wijeyarajah, Sri Prakasa, Gnanendran, myself and a couple of others whom I have forgotten were all on the stage. There was a large crowd and Rev. Smith was watching the Drama from the front row. Suddenly something went wrong with the Curtain and the scenes couldn't be manipulated. Even after 43 years I remember Rev. Smith leaping on to the stage and within seconds he had got on to the top of the roof to undo the mess. Within minutes the Rev. Principal had the play resumed. To us who were his students it was no surprise as we have seen him handling the mammoty and the showel with the masons at work in the College. But the Co-Principals of neighbouring Colleges and the distinguished crowd in the audience were stunned. That was the type of leadership that Rev. Smith provided us.

The Vice Principal was Mr. J.C. Charles, a small modern man neatly dressed in full suit and moving around all the time. He in fact bore the burnt of the administration. He was very agile and alert with hawk eyed reflexes. He was very cunning and crafty. I would say that he was more respected than loved. I remember an incident where a group of college boys had gone on a picnic in the College bus. Two Muslims students who also went on the picnic had consumed some liquor and probably not very seasoned in that habit, had vomited inside the bus. Somehow Mr. Charles had come to the know of it. A severe punishment was on the cards, I was made aware. As a senior student holding certain positions in the College I went up to Mr. Charles and pleaded on their behalf. Mr. Charles, the Vice Principal smiled and said OK I will excuse them. The two students thought they would go scot free. But Mr. Charles summoned them and gave a whipping. Nevertheless the College then needed a man like Mr. Charles in that position.

There was Mr. A. E. Tamber a respected and leading Teacher Trade Unionist. He was a man of intense nationalism and patriotism. He was absolutely free from sectarianism. He was noted for his quick wit and humour. He had a very fine sense of judgement and was the man looked upon to diffuse tensions and volatile situations that are so common in educational institutions.

We also had Kalai Pulavar Navaratnam, a literary figure and a much respected man in religious and cultural circles. He was an asset to the College, helping the College with various forms of assistance through his rapport with influential personalities.

Coming on to my revered teachers the names of Messers Isaac Ponnambalam, Mahalingam, Sarma, Duraisingam, Storer and Mathiaparanam come to my mind. We had a little over a dozen students in the Arts Class, so much so the Teachers were able to pay even individual attention. Mr. Isaac Ponnambalam was the Government Teacher. He was very precise and thorough in his teaching. He wouldn't tolerate irrelevancies and ambiguities in our Tutorials. He was a perfectionist so that obtaining even 50% marks from him was an achievement. He was generally soft spoken and reserved in his dealings with us. Mr. Mahalingam, the History Teacher had an analytical mind and with his superb command of the language would make even the dullest portions in history lively. Although an active Marxist there was no mix up of politics in the classroom. We were free to have our own ideologies. He was one whom we looked upon to speak for us when matters had to be presented to the Administration. We had Shri Sarma for our Tamil. He was a Brahmin and always sported the Brahmin dress but wore the Kadar home spun cloth in true Gandhian tradition. He was a symbol of simplicity. As a Brahmin he had the Sanskrit background which helped him immensely in his teaching of Tamil Sangam Literature. He rendered the Literary poems and verses in raga and his lessons were very fascinating. However when some of us who took our studies rather seriously there were a couple of my batchmates who were inattentive and distracting. Mr. Sarma used to be very hard on them. He was asset to the College and was a very respected man for his knowledge. Mr. Oliver Thuraisingam, Mr. Storer and Mr. Mathiaparanam also toiled hard with us. I salute all of them for leading us on the right path and providing all encouragement.

Although Mr. E. S. Thambiah was Physical Trained Instructor and Teacher in charge of Cricket, he was a colourful personality. He lived next to the College and was all the 24 hours attached to the College. He had a puckish smile and full of humour One could always see him in high spirits.

Another personality I wish to recall was the Librarian Mr. J. S. Sellathurai. He was nicknamed Jomo Kenyatte for his beard and moustache that went very well with his features. He was somewhat of an odd job man. Everyone wanted him and he also rendered all assistance with a smile. He was a man of all seasons. Both Mr. Thambiah and Mr. Sellathurai liked me a lot and came to my assistance whenever I approached them.

At College I was elected President of the Historical Association. Out of admiration for Dr. N. M. Perera and Dr. Colvin R de Silva I thought I should, to start with, bring Dr. Colvin to deliver a Lecture under the auspices of the Historical Association, on a Topic relevant to our studies. The subject chosen was "the development of the working class movement in Sri Lanka". It was customary for one Association to invite the other Association for such activities. I personally extended an invitation to B. Yogasunderam who was then the President of the Science Association. He remarked thus, "Munsoor, I am not a lunatic to waste my time listening to a gymnastic, please excuse me therefore". What he meant was that Dr. Colvin's speeches were full of gesticulations and therefore time consuming. He never meant to ridicule or insult Dr. Colvin.

Mr. Mahalingam, our History Teacher was the Patron of the Historical Association and it was with his blessings Dr. Colvin was invited. In fairness to Mr. Mahalingam he did not object to Dr. Colvin's coming, although both held different Marxist ideologies.

To be doubly sure that Dr. Colvin came, I travelled from Colombo with him in the same train. It was dawn and the sun was just beginning to rise. Looking through the window Dr. Colvin spotted a few persons young and old defecating along the railway track. Dr. Colvin the intellect looked at me and remarked "I thought the Jaffna man sat in private and ate in public but now I begin to think that they eat in private and sit in public". What ready wit it was from a great man. Coming to the Lecture, it went on well and the question time came. One of our boys got up and asked for the difference between the Lanka Sama Samaja Party and the Communist Party. Mr. Mahalingam was also present. Dr. Colvin was in all smiles at this question, as he had been given an opportunity to have a dig at the Communist Party. He promptly said "the difference is between consistency and inconsistency". I could even after 43 years remember how Mr. Mahalingam blushed at that biting reply.

Yet another incident and that was the annual Inter House Sports Meet for 1954. Somehow the elections for office bearers for the various Houses took place and I was elected House Captain for Percival, K. Kanageswaran was elected House Captain for Bullough, K. Satcunarajah for Wilkes and B. Yogasunderam for Romaine. The night before the day of the Meet we House Captains along with our House members were busy with the erection of sheds, arrangement of chairs, decorations etc. It was almost dead of night. Kanageswaran just to tease Yogasunderam shook hard one of the poles erected in the Romaine House Cadjan shed. The shed being a temporary one, swung this way and that way. Yogasunderam really got worked up and apart from using raw filth on Kanageswaran at the top of the voice in that dead of night, but even went to assault Kanags. Fortunately we who enjoyed the whole incident diffused the tension and the arrangements went on. The day of the meet came and everybody talked of the capability of my House athletes of the calibre of T. S. de Silva, R. K. V. Premachandra, T. S. Winslow, M. Sivasithamparan to mention some of the names, I remem-

Another personality I wish to recall was the Librarian Mr. J. S. Sellathurai. He was nicknamed Jomo Kenyatte for his beard and moustache that went very well with his features. He was somewhat of an odd job man. Everyone wanted him and he also rendered all assistance with a smile. He was a man of all seasons. Both Mr. Thambiah and Mr. Sellathurai liked me a lot and came to my assistance whenever I approached them.

At College I was elected President of the Historical Association. Out of admiration for Dr. N. M. Perera and Dr. Colvin R de Silva I thought I should, to start with, bring Dr. Colvin to deliver a Lecture under the auspices of the Historical Association, on a Topic relevant to our studies. The subject chosen was "the development of the working class movement in Sri Lanka". It was customary for one Association to invite the other Association for such activities. I personally extended an invitation to B. Yogasunderam who was then the President of the Science Association. He remarked thus, "Munsoor, I am not a lunatic to waste my time listening to a gymnastic, please excuse me therefore". What he meant was that Dr. Colvin's speeches were full of gesticulations and therefore time consuming. He never meant to ridicule or insult Dr. Colvin.

Mr. Mahalingam our History Teacher was the Patron of the Historical Association and it was with his blessings Dr. Colvin was invited. In fairness to Mr. Mahalingam he did not object to Dr. Colvin's coming, although both held different Marxist ideologies.

To be doubly sure that Dr. Colvin came, I travelled from Colombo with him in the same train. It was dawn and the sun was just beginning to rise. Looking through the window Dr. Colvin spotted a few persons young and old defecating along the railway track. Dr. Colvin the intellect looked at me and remarked "I thought the Jaffna man sat in private and ate in public but now I begin to think that they eat in private and sit in public". What ready wit it was from a great man. Coming to the Lecture, it went on well and the question time came. One of our boys got up and asked for the difference between the Lanka Sama Samaja Party and the Communist Party. Mr. Mahalingam was also present. Dr. Colvin was in all smiles at this question, as he had been given an opportunity to have a dig at the Communist Party. He promptly said "the difference is between consistency and inconsistency". I could even after 43 years remember how Mr. Mahalingam blushed at that biting reply.

Yet another incident and that was the annual Inter House Sports Meet for 1954. Somehow the elections for office bearers for the various Houses took place and I was elected House Captain for Percival, K. Kanageswaran was elected House Captain for Bullough, E.J. Satcunarajah for Wilkes and B. Yogasunderam for Romaine. The night before the day of the Meet we House Captains along with our House members were busy with the erection of sheds, arrangement of chairs, decorations etc. It was almost dead of night. Kanageswaran just to tease Yogasunderam shook hard one of the poles erected in the Romaine House Cadjan shed. The shed being a temporary one, swung this way and that way. Yogasunderam really got worked up and apart from using raw filth on Kanageswaran at the top of the voice in that dead of night, but even went to assault Kanags. Fortunately we who enjoyed the whole incident diffused the tension and the arrangements went on. The day of the meet came and everybody talked of the capability of my House athletes of the calibre of T. S. de Silva, R. K. V. Premachandra, T. S. Winslow, MoSivasithamparan to mention some of the names, I remem-

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ber. True to expectations, Percival House won the Inter House championship after several years and I had the proud privilege of receiving the challenge shield in my capacity as House Captain. That was a moment not to be forgotten. I have now lost the photograph that was taken. Another memorable event during my College career was my appointment as a Temporary Teacher to cover up the work of Mr. Tommy Abraham who was indisposed with a severe skin ailment. This happened in January 1955 immediately after my sitting the HSC and University Preliminary Exam in Dec. '54. Apart from the little monetary gain, I was thrilled that I could step into a class and get on to a platform, that I could occupy the staff room with my teachers who taught me upto the previous month etc. I do not think the Staff Room of any College could be so lively and jovial as the Central College one. There were teachers to crack jokes and keep all of us in laughter. There were others who could narrate anecdotes, so on and so forth. The Staff was a well knit one and stood as a Team when it came to defending an individual members rights or collective rights. Even the Principal and the Vice Principal had to plead with the Teachers than dictate at their will and pleasure on knotty issues.

The annual St. John's - Central Cricket Match in 1955 was to be played at the Central grounds according to the turn. This match was called the Royal-Thomian Match of the North. I was witness to the meticulous care with which the older members of the Staff, ably backed by the younger members, got about preparing for their celebrations. Committees were set up to look into liquor, edibles, musical entertainment etc. Infact the staff of Jaffna Central were more involved in the match than the players or the old Boys. The Teachers literally went flat out the two days the match was played. They temporarily even abandoned their wives. Such was the mood. That was bit of an experience I yet remember so vividly. I taught for six months till I entered the University of Peradeniya Arts Faculty as the only student selected that academic year.

Another memorable event in my school career was the Annual Prize Giving of the College that was held in the Second Term of 1955. On my class performance and the results obtained at the HSC and University Preliminary Exam, I carried away the prizes for General Proficiency, Government, History, Tamil and English Essay (Special Prize). It was a great moment in my life when I walked up to the Stage to receive these Prizes from Dr. H.W. Thambiah reigning Supreme Court Judge and a distinguished old Boy.

Jaffna Central did me good. The environment was quite warm and friendly. It was free of prejudice or bias. Teachers and students of all communities and all faiths mingled in harmony. Talent was the main criteria. There was no conflict of interest.

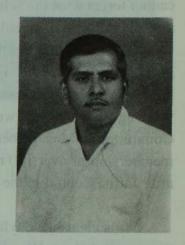
If I may conclude, not only as a student and for a short while as a Teacher, but as an education administrator closely linked up and associated with Central's progress and development I could vouch that Central had always provided an education total in effect and leading to the full flowering of the students personality. Central has produced worthy citizens. It has provided the training ground for life. Education becomes essentially the art of learning not solely from the books, but from the whole movement of life.

Let us all Old Boys pool our energies and resources together and rehabilitate the College so that Central's flag shall fly high and shall never be lowered.

JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE - 180 YEARS OLD

K.T.G.T.De Silva
Vice - Patron
JCC - OBA Colombo Branch

Jaffna Central College completed 180 years on 1st August, 1996. The Colombo Branch of the Old Boys Association arranged with the Postal Department to issue a First Day Cover and a Two Rupee stamp to commemorate 180 years of the founding of Jaffna Central College. The issue of the First Day Cover was made at 11.00 a.m. on 7th September, 1996 at the Methodist College Auditorium. The Chief Guest was the Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Hon'ble M.L.A.M. Hizbullah., Mrs. H.M.S. Kotakadeniya, the Postmaster-General and Rev. Duleep Fernando, the Head of the Methodist Church and the Manager of the Methodist Mission Schools graced the occasion by their presence. Let us thank them sincerely for their presence. We also thank the staff of



the Philatelic Bureau and the Ministry of Posts for the spade work done to make the issue a success. The Principal of Methodist College, Mrs. Priyani Fernando kindly consented to allow us the use of the College Auditorium and we thank her sincerely for the kind gesture.

Let me now be permited to write a few lines about the history of the School. Methodist Missionaries came to our country as early as 29th June, 1814. Two of them, Rev. Thomas Squance and Rev. James Lynch, were sent to Jaffna. On 1st of August, 1816 they were able to purchase a block of land and establish a School. Rev. Dr. Peter Percival one of the very early Methodist Missionary Principal's, who gave the college its present name, put in an enormous amount of work to raise the standard of the School. His good work was followed by a long line of Methodist Missionary Principals, all well known educationists, who working with unstinting devotion and an indomitable spirit nurtured it to the level we know today.

Special mention must be made of the late Rev.C.A Smith, the Principal from 1945. He did lot of improvements to the buildings of the school and the Hostel. Water service was provided to the 'Rigg Hall" Hostel in 1946. Let us remember him as one of the greatest principals we had in the recent times.

When I joined Jaffna Central in 1943 the buildings were large enough to accommodate a large number of students. Our school was not second to any other big school in Colombo at that time.

The Methodist Mission of which we should be proud of has done yeoman service in respect of Education, not forgetting their own Missionary work. Vembadi Girls School which is in close proximity to Central and Hartley College in Point Pedro are two sister Colleges we have in the North. Kingswood in Kandy and Richmond College in Galle are two other Sister Colleges. Wesley and Methodist Girls College are the two sister Colleges in Colombo.

I as a Sinhalese, was the Senior Prefect of the Rigg Hall Hostel, an elected Prefect of the School, and a teacher for sometime. I was at Jaffna Central College for only about 05 Years but I cannot forget what the School had done for me. It is strange to note that those who started schooling at Central and left school either for Higher studies or employment have forgotten the school so soon. All the Centralites then and now are doing well and I am sure there should be a large number in and around Colombo. I regret very much to state that the Old Boys Association, Colombo Branch has a membership of less than 100. Let us get together as we were Ten, Twenty, Thirty or Forty years ago and see what we could do to enrol as many members as possible. Let us rally round the Committee of Management headed by M/S K. Thayaparan and T. Chinniah to see that we have a membership of over 180 members during the course of this year. The Old Boys will have to look after Jaffna Central in the years to come.

It is clear like daylight that Centralites did not care whether we were Tamil, Burgher, Muslims or Sinhalese. We studied, played games and dined together irrespective of caste, creed or colour. We were together then-why not now?

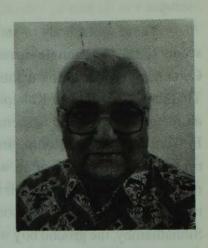
The writer of the above article Mr. KTGT de Silva joined Jaffna Central College in 1943 during the Principalship of Rev: C.A. Smith. He was a Senior Prefect of Rigg-Hall Hostel and Prefect of the School. In 1947 he joined the Staff of the School. He left Jaffna Central in 1948 to join the Postal Clerical Service. He is a retired Volunteer Officer. He was a member of the Coronation Contingent that represented Ceylon at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on June 2,1953. He retired from the Postmaster-General's Office as an Assistant Secretary in January 1986. He is one of our Vice-Patrons.

Hony. Secretary.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF THE NOT SO DISTANT PAST

T. Pararasasingham Old Boy & Teacher

"On the field of life when striving, Keep your honor true and bright" was and is being immortalized by many a Centralite across the length and breadth of this planet. Though we are scattered far and wide, we share a common bond, a bond nurtured by our Alma Mater - Jaffna Central College.



She is 180 years old today, dynamic and vibrant, tolerant and encouraging as always. Thousands upon thousands have passed through the portals of this great institution and have left everlasting impressions on her personality. I am proud and happy to associate with other old boys in singing the praise of our beloved institution.

When I take the pen to write, many a thought is swimming in my mind to gain precedence. Some of these thoughts evoke fond and not so fond memories. On this happy and solemn occasion I wish to pen some of the events that stir fond memories.

Central, was not only geographically central to the peninsula but acted as a central place for all nationalities and cultures. Singhalese, Muslim, Burgher and Tamil students, though coming from different backgrounds blended harmoniously in the all embracing environment of this great seat of learning. This diversity presented a beautiful mosaic rather than a melting pot.

I belong to a select group of old boys who were privileged to serve the Alma Mater as teachers. As an old boy I should take this opportunity to put on record my memories of a great humanitarian, builder and administrator, the late Rev. C.A. Smith. His achievement and contributions were many but in my belief his policy to give a second chance in life to many hundreds of students thrown out by other educational institutions should be considered the pinnacle of his achievement. In spite of opposition from many quarters this humanitarian feature of our much respected principal resulted in many, if not all of them becoming productive members of the society. Another fall out from this policy of his was the availability of funds not only to expand the infra-structure but also to buy much needed educational aids and a good transport-bus. This observation of mine would be incomplete if I do not mention the dedication and commitment he put in, building up desperately needed class rooms, bigger office space and a fully equipped Open Air Theatre. Every brick that had gone into the construction of the buildings will hold a good percentage of his sweat. If the stones and mortar could speak they will bear testimony to my observation. The theatre gave many of us an opportunity to see and to be seen by our peers and the populace at large. It also stimulated

literary and dramatic activity on an ongoing basis and gave an opening to Messrs. Theivananthampillai and Ratnasingam to produce dramas of high calibre.

There was a body of staff who were giants in their fields of expertise. I now wish to paint a scene, of the Quadrangle surrounded by the old Staff Room, Smith Block, Romaine Cook Hall, and Centenary Block during a short break, on a typical day. The Big Three, namely the late Messrs. Thamber, Charles and Kalaipullavar Navaratnam are seen in front of the Physics lab entrance in animated conversation, a scene which the student population interpreted as scheming and plotting. In front of the Staff Room, are Mr. Mahalingam, our political science Guru in spotless white national, in deep conversation with Messrs. Ariaratnam and Abraham. Cigar and cigarette smoke make a round cloud over their heads. Our beloved Tamil pundit Sarma Iyer is seen briskly walking towards Romaine Hall. Good old Rasiah's head appears through the half open gas room door. Sinnathamby, the ground boy with hands flying in the air is trying to convince sports master Thambiah Selvarajah who is leaning his frame on a cricket bat after one of his relays to the rest house. Mr. Subramaniam, the scientist from South India who was our Chemistry teacher is in animated conversation with Manoharan and a few others on how to increase the circulation of the science magazine "Vingnani". I am there, with a small cane by the side of the quadrangle well urging Satkunarajah, the high jumper, Nagendra the spinner, and Kanageswaran of the 400 meter fame and other prefects to their duty stations. In the upper veranda of the Centenary Block can be seen Messrs. Alagacone, Mathiaparanam, Manickavasagar and Jeyasingam. Not far from me, walking briskly towards the staff room are Messrs. Vancheeswaran, Rajasenan, Thiruchelvam and Storer. Holding court in front of the Diplomat's class room with many students is the ever loved teacher Mr. Arunachalam. In the crowd can be seen my friend Yogasunderam. Walking towards the tuck shop are Messrs. Kandasamy, Alagarajah Arumugam, the chief clerk, fondly remembered as Harry Moghan, along with the Aran Singo, the friendly and helpful Singhalese teacher and boarding master Sellathurai. There is Mr. Victor Rajaratnam in earnest conversation with Mrs. Mathiaparanam and Mrs. Ariaratnam under the age old mahogany tree. I can see Dharmasena, our all purpose handyman trying to fix the leaking water main at the well nearby. All these individuals singularly and collectively contributed their skill and know how to make the place better than they found it.

An event I recall with pride was the selection of N.Ethirveerasingham to represent Sri Lanka in the Helsinki Olympics. This humble and unassuming brilliant athlete placed Central on the International scene. He was a role model to many in the athletic community of Sri Lanka.

Central is synonymous with sports. Centralites excelled in all departments of sports with very few equals in cricket, football and athletics. The annual Battle of the Blues was an event longed for by the cricked loving community, the student body, staff and old boys of both colleges. I can recall with nostalgia, one such encounter, wherein our senior prefect of that time, Thavalingam who is now a superintendent of police riding a white thoroughbred, holding the college flag flying high leading the well wishers along Main street. What a sight it was!

There were more than twenty clubs and associations catering to the intellectual and artistic thirst of the student population. One of the popular forums was the H.S.C union. The most prestigious event in the calendar was the formal annual dinner. We used to borrow or rent all our requirements of linen, crockery cutlery etc. The year I was president of the union, we had problems in procuring these requirements. At the last moment, our Principal, Rev. C.A. Smith rushed to Colombo in his rickety old van and brought all our requirements over night. The next day when we saw the shining, blue crockery and stainless steel cutlery we were all, in total shock and disbelief. This effort of his made us independent and self sufficient for years to come. The effort and energy put in by Messrs. Mahalingam, Thamber, Ariaratnam and other members of the staff always made this occasion a success. The very thought of the union dinner brings to memory the flurry of activities that take place within and outside Romaine Cook Hall. At the entrance to the hall is the table plan attacked by many a Romeo looking for the place where his sweet heart is to be seated. You could see disappointment in the eyes of some as they keep looking for the person in charge of seating. Some of the bold ones, when the coast is clear would do the switching. All in all it was a milestone in the life of all the members of the union.

Other college occasions which we looked forward to were the annual prize giving and sports meet. Many of us would wait in anticipation to read the prize list before the rehearsal. I still remember the joy and feeling of achievement I felt when it was announced that I had won gold medals for oratory in Tamil and English. Prize winners were treated to ice cream from our very own ice cream machine bought by our principal Rev. C.A. Smith.

Time and space will not permit me to pen my memories of the happy and productive years I spent as a teacher at Central. I finished writing my final paper at the University of Ceylon on April 4th and on April 6th I was enrolled as a member of the teaching staff at my Alma Mater. I fondly remember the trust the late Mr. Charles and other members of the staff had in me which made them to offer me an opportunity to join the elite staff of Jaffna Central College. I also wish to put on record the cordial relationship I had with the students during my tenure as a teacher. I continue to enjoy the same relationship with many old boys in Canada. I owe my sucess in life to what I learnt from my teachers and from the great personality of the college.

I thank the Colombo branch O.B.A committee, particularly Mr. K. Thayaparan for having given me this opportunity to put to paper some of my fond memories at Central. It is my hope and prayer that your endeavors will be a great success.

Central's flag must never be lowered.

MY MEMORIES OF GOOD, OLD CENTRAL

Dr. T. Sooriabalan MBBS, MRC Psych (UK), FRCP (C) *
President, JCC OBA,
Canada Branch.

Heartiest Congratulations to our Mother of Mothers-Our Alma - Mater has reached 180 years of dedicated service, a unique and unparalleled achievement. I am grateful to the Lord for my days at Jaffna Central, 13 years in total.

Jaffna Central always had a very interesting and colourful calendar throughout the year. Athletic meets, soccer matches, cricket matches, prize giving days, H.S.C Union dinners, Saraswathy Poojas, Carol services, carnivals and exhibitions to name a few.

As a Primary School student we always looked forward to the last day of the Term which our then principal, Rev. Smith would address the students in Tamil and then distribute candies. It was not the candies that mattered but the way it was carried out term after term, year after year by the Australian missionary.

At the age of 8, I learned the first steps of Baila dancing at the Central - St. John's cricket match - the Big Match of the North. What fun we had year after year at the "friendly" battles! The music of the guitars, mouth organs, accordions, bongos, and the rabanas combined with the singing and dancing of the bailas made the event more entertaining. Of course, added to this was the high pitched cheering by the girls from our sister school Vembadi - God bless their voice boxes. There were some of us who wanted to celebrate the event by fortifying their blood stream with a kind of fermented palmyrah juice, affectionately called "panapaptan". Some of them argued that it was a good source of vitamin B complex, which they lacked during the hot afternoons.

Another event which we enjoyed during our early days was the film shows organised and shown by Mr. Victor Rajaratnam. They were mostly shown on a Friday evening and we thoroughly enjoyed the cartoons and the western cowboy movies filmed in black and white. What a way to start our weekend.

As a cub and later as a scout I learnt quite a lot of practical things, from reef knot to real issues of life. We thoroughly enjoyed the annual scout camping held at the Old Park, sleeping inside canvas tents, cooking, having camp fires, singing, dancing, and meeting many other scouts from various schools of the Province. During our time Mr. P. Manoharan was our scout master, a kind hearted,

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^{*} Consultant Psychiatrist, Scarborough General Hospital, Toronto.

pleasant and ever smiling soul who met every criteria of the word gentleman. He was a true scout, ever ready and willing to help any body at any time.

Prize giving days were very colourful events, rewarding for those who had worked hard with their books. During the Primary and Middle school days I had mixed feelings about these events because I was always picked up to play the female role in the plays or in the group dancing. We had days of practice under the supervision of Miss Thambiah, Miss. Joseph, and Miss Somasundram. Looking back it was fun dressing up like a girl but thank God I didn't turn out to be a cross dresser!

Mr. Kanagasabai taught Ethics in our 3rd standard. He was strict but kind and we enjoyed his classes thoroughly and were fascinated by the pungent smell of cigars!

School exhibition and carnivals were favourite events which everybody took part enthusiastically and enjoyed to the fullest. I still remember the trumpet music and the dancing at the "merry go rounds". During the school exhibition we thought we were "mini professors" of chemistry and other sciences, trying our best to impress the innocent girls who came from other schools to see and listen to our demonstrations and "lecturers." We came down to earth when we received our end of the term report cards!

Then the school sports meets - the excitement of track and field practices under the watchful eyes of Mr. T. Selvarajah, along with the daily consumption of a glass of ovaltine and an egg, never thought about our cholesterol levels. Mr. Nava Niles was always our favourite announcer for these events with his crispy clear, commanding voice.

Thanks to our school peon, Sangaran who allowed a few of us to practice the piano after school hours. We were 13 at that time and later with the encouragement given by then principal Mr. A.E. Thambar, went on to form the first ever all school boys pop band of the North. We performed at various schools, Thinakaran festivals, wedding receptions and various parties held at the King's House inside the Jaffna Fort hosted by the elites of those days. We even played at a place in Ottisuttan. We were paid Rs. 100 for each performance and the next few days we would haunt the Premier Cafe at 2nd Cross Street, loading ourselves with cakes, mutton rolls, and patties till we were broke and the cycle was repeated again and again!

The H.S.C Union dinners were very memorable evenings for every senior student for various reasons. A chance to wear full suit on a humid evening and to dine in western style. A very formal event with full courses starting with the soup. An occasion to practice the art of using fork and knife without causing any injury to the innocent person seated next to you. There were rare occasions when the chicken on our plates suddenly became alive, and landed on the plate of the other. Also a chance to listen to Mr. Guitan and his band playing the good, old songs of the mid fifties and sixties, year after year. If you were very lucky you may get a "once in a life time chance" of sitting next to a student representative from one of the girls schools. Then of course the "after dinner speeches" full of

puns and jokes aimed at various members of the staff. We also enjoyed attending such functions in other schools and we were considered to be the "chosen ones" when picked to attend the H.S.C. Union dinner at a girls school. Needless to say it had sparked school day romances in a few who were under the influence of full moon.

October/November period was Saraswathy Pooja time. We enjoyed the classical music, prayed earnestly that we should pass our exams and later enjoyed the "prasadam". Come December, we always looked forward to carol singing at the school assembly, at St.Peters Church and finally at the Town Hall for the All Schools Carol service. Miss Raja was very patient in training our undisciplined vocal cords and late Rev. J. Wilson was our patron -another loving soul who inspired us during our formative years.

Elections of the Board of Prefects was another major event where the names were selected by the staff and voted by the students. Thus to know that you were liked by the teachers and popular among fellow students gave a very good feeling. We were given a silver plated badge in the shape of our school crest and would proudly wear them for special events of the school. I still regret for losing this priceless ornament. Another item I lost and miss very much was the "Choc and Blue" rosette which I religiously wore for every Big Match. I suppose one cannot have everything in life.

On a serious note, we are thankful to the years and years of dedicated service of the teachers who taught patiently and helped us to achieve our dreams. Mrs. Mathiaparanam who taught us maths in Middle school, Mr.Nadarajah who made the boring civics and history classes into very fascinating ones, Mr.Rajasanan for his lively zoology lectures punctuated by the "annual jokes" and for his neat dissections of rats, frogs and cockroaches. Thanks to Mr. Thiruchelvam and Mr. Balasundram for their chemistry lessons, Mr. Vigneswaran and Mr. Nadarajah for the physics education. Special mention should be made of late Mr. Paramanantham, a very dedicated teacher who taught us botany and chemistry, organised botanical excursions and school picnics, and spent hours after school preparing us for the University examinations. In a material world where time was equated with money, he gave hours and hours of his valuable time free of charge.

Thanks to late Mr. E.T. Rajaratnam and Mr. Ratnasingam for teaching our mother tongue. We thoroughly enjoyed Treasure Island with Mr. Alagakone, our English teacher. However, he put us to sleep during the civics lessons. I suppose the Donoughmore Constitution was too much to handle at that time by our 11 year old brains! We were very alert for the arithmetic class taught by Mr. Vellupillai, which immediately followed our napping session. The first and the only time I received "Pirapam palam" was for not memorising the thirteenth times table! If I remember correctly, that day except for two students, the whole class received the "palam". Obviously, the number 13 was unlucky for many of us. However, Mr. Vellupillai was a very good teacher and a man with a heart of gold.

For those younger generation who haven't heard of "pirapam palam" it is a type of fruit, slim

and elongated in shape, plucked from the tender bamboo shoots, grown locally, taken not by mouth, but by the palms of your hands or on rare occasions presented at the gluteal region.

On a lighter note, we may fail to go to the temple on Fridays or attend the church service on Sundays but never failed to pay our Sunday homage to the Regal "Matha". It was part of the "curriculum" for most of the Centralites. The 4pm "arati" / "service" was very popular as we would be home by 6pm. Our unsuspecting parents thought we had returned from a game of cricket at the college grounds. One rupee was more than enough for the "pooja", 65 cents for the front seat reservation in the gallery and 25 cents for a packet of peanuts. It was no wonder that when I went to England, I felt I was in a very familiar surrounding.

It was standard joke during our time that any student who was sacked from his school, could be accepted at Jaffna Central. Very true but those who joked, failed to understand the compassion and sympathy shown by our principals towards these unfortunate ones. Central had students from all walks of life. The school hostel was a "mini U.N.", Sinhalese, Burghers, Muslims and Tamils from all parts of the Island came to live and study together. I am very proud to be a product of such an institution.

Well, it is nearly two decades since I left my homeland and I am very "homesick". Through the media and others when we hear the tragic stories of our land, our heart bleeds, our eyes are dry, no more tears to shed. Oh God, forgive us for the sins of our past, please grant us peace and tranquillity, let our younger generation live in harmony.

I still hope and pray that one day we will be back in good old Jaffna to see the Choc and Blue flag flying high with children playing merrily in the field. May God bless all those who have sacrificed their lives for the betterment of the students.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PERIOD 1953-58 IN PICTURES

K.Thayaparan President, JCC OBA Colombo Branch

Born and bred in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the necessity to return to motherland came early in May 1951. And after a brief period at Sri Somaskanda College, Puttur, I joined Jaffna Central College in January 1953 and left in April 1958 on gaining admission to the Peradeniya University.

Thanks to Mr. Victor Rajaratnam, our English Teacher, (of tiger, tiger burning bright fame) a Photographic Club was formed at JCC in 1954 and armed with a camera from Malaysia I soon became the Secretary of the Club and its main livewire. Hence it is my intention to record some of the highlights of my period in pictures from my album.

Rev.C.A.Smith, our Principal was man of many talents - missionary, teacher, disciplinarian, builder and mechanic. He was really the architect of the modern era. We all loved and respected him so much that we still continue our links with his beloved wife, Joy Smith, who tended for us in the Sick Room and his son, Clement who is now a Surgeon in Australia.

I still remember the strike of 1955 when the entire hostellers of Rigg-Hall came out in support of some senior students who were punished for cutting second studies. Rev.Smith retaliated by closing down the Senior Hostel. I remember bringing in bags of manioc from Atchuvely to feed the strikers. Ultimately some compromise was reached but the Senior Hostel remained closed and I became a day scholar for the rest of my stay in Central.

Our School Prefects System had some novelty about it in that the majority were elected by a popular vote. Since the elections normally takes place in the first term, the cricketers have the advantage. Nevertheless, in the Prefects Board of 1956 we can see non-cricketers, like Kanag-Isvaran, Iyoob, V.S.Maheswaran, Sivakumaran A.Balasubramaniam and myself.

I was never good in sports, inspite of my imposing physique. The best was a second place in Putt-shot. Of course, badminton in which I won colours, later, in the University was not played in our school at that time. However, as Captain of Romaine House in 1957 we won the Inter-House Athletics, Football and Volley-Ball Tournaments. The other House Captains in 1957 were C.Somaskandan (Wilkes), M.Spencer (Bullough) and A. Balasubramaniam (Percival)

The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Old Boys Association was celebrated in September 1956 and I remember the old boys from Colombo coming by train and enjoying themselves in the

fancy-dress parade and cricket and football matches. It was really a festive mood.

Central was good in Science but in Arts the entry was only a trickle. Munsoor entered the University in 1955, T.Pararajasingam in 1956, Boniface in 1957, Myself in 1958 and Cader in 1959. This trend was there right throughout. Our Teachers in the HSC were Messers Mahalingam, Storer, Mathiaparanam and Manickavasagar.

On the whole, Central was an all-round College. It was also recognized as the "Town School" where students from all over the country studied. During my time there were at least 5 Sinhalese and 3 Burghers in the Hostel. There was also a large contingent of Muslims from Mannar. The Eastern Province, too, was well represented.

With Best Wishes From









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DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 1956



Hitler leading his stormtroopers!



Mr. W. R. Chanmugam (Govt. Analyst) being introduced to the College SoccerTeam.

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DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF 1956



Fancy Dress Group Photo



Fancy Dress Line - up.

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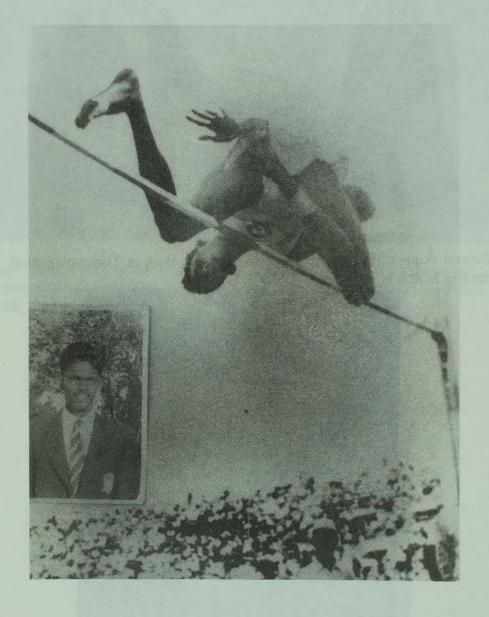
H.S.C.Arts Class at the Annual Union Dinner



Staff Captain, Mr. J. S. Ariaratnam and Prefects Captain, K. Kanag Isvaran going out to toss in the friendly cricket match.

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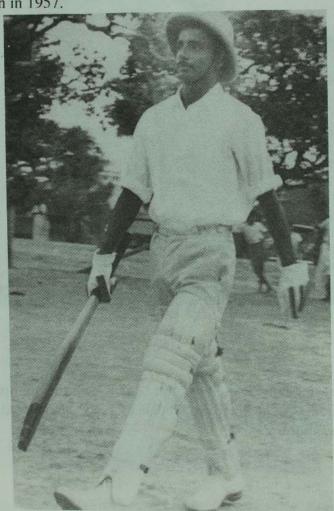
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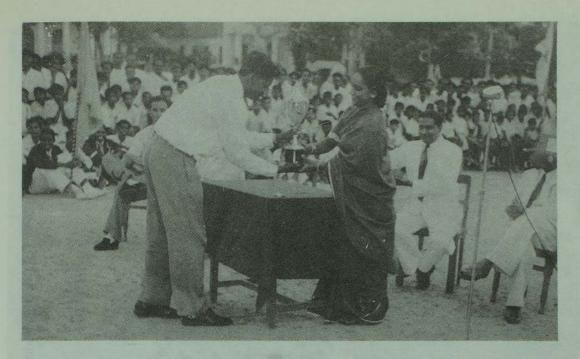
N. Ethirveerasingham clears the bar at 6 '8" to win the gold medal at the 3rd Asian Games held in Tokyo, Japan in 1958. Undoubtedly the best athlete from Central.



Central skipper, Bunny van Twest and Johnian skipper, Tissanayagam at the Big Match in 1957.



R. K. V. Premachandra-outstanding cricketer & footballer. Captained College in both games. Digitized by Noolaham Foundation. noolaham.org | aavanaham.org



As Captain of Romaine House in 1957 I am receiving the Inter-House Athletic ChampionshipTrophy from Mrs. Pathmanathan. (Chief Guest was Mr. W. Pathmanathan).



Receiving the same Trophy again at the Annual Prize Day from the Mrs. Kanagaratnam (Chief Guest was Dr. K. Kanagaratnam)

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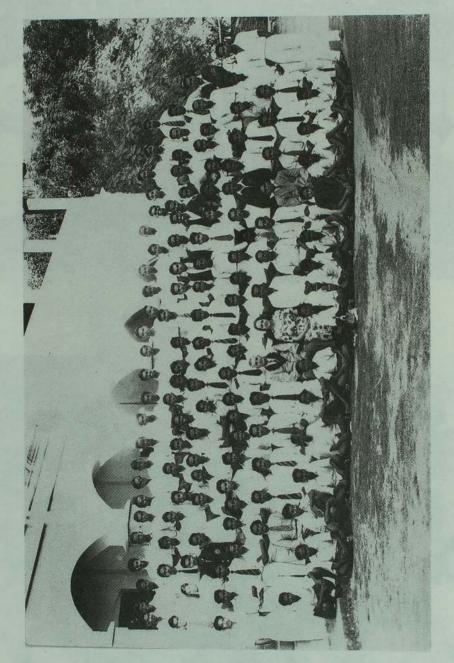
Romaine House Athletic Team which won the Championship in 1957.



Romaine House - Soccer Champs in 1957



Romaine House - Volley-Ball Champs in 1957
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Rigg-Hall Hostel 1954 (with Rev. Smith & Joy Smith)



After conquering Adams Peak!



Staff on excursion somewhere in Nawalapitiya noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

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MY STUDENT DAYS AT JAFFNA CENTRAL

E. Nadarajah
Fellow,
UN Institute for
Planning & Development

All of us would agree that the best period of the life of a person is the student days as he is free from stress and devoid from family responsibilities. Jaffna Central has moulded tremendously my "thinking" on every aspect of human conduct whether it is on political sphere, economic affairs or on social behaviour. My period of life at Central did not exceed beyond four years (1946-1949). However, this short span of time had influenced my life to such an extend that even today I cherish the noble ideal of "Liberalism" that I learnt not only in theory but also in practice at this great institution of learning in the North dominated by great intellectuals of that period. Unlike many educational institutions of North and South, Jaffna Central was a cosmopolitan one during my time.



In the first place, it catered to both the sexes above G.C.E O/Levels, which is a rare phenomenon and there was no disturbance in the social fabric due to this co-education policy. The liberal approach on the merits of co-education was well received by the intellectuals of the North in spite of the conservatism of the majority of the people at that time to uphold traditional values.

Secondly, as Jaffna Central did not insulate itself from its liberal spirit, it did not suffer from parochialism, racialism or from fanatical religiosity. Chauvinism of any brand was unheard of or unthinkable during my time thanks to the intellectual leadership of late Mr. A E Tamber and Mr. Navaratnam. Due to this global outlook, students from far away places like Mannar, Kalmunai, Batticaloa, Colombo and Ambalangoda were able to get the benefit of this liberal education imparted at Jaffna Central. I can still remember that Mr. Gilbert Silva from Ambalangoda and Mr. Gafoor from Mannar were appointed as Senior Prefects of the hostel at different times and they were also elected by secret vote by the student population as College Prefects. What does it convey? It clearly illustrates that we Centralites of that time stood for secularism and rejected the narrow concepts of racialism or fundamentalism. But on the other hand, we cherished the principle of merit over anything else. One should compare this situation with the current scenario, and it is high time that the politicians of today should emulate something from the liberal spirit of Jaffna Central.

Moreover, Jaffna Central, though it was a Christian managed institution, it did not impose its faith on non-Christians, thus displaying its broad-mindedness of true Christian understanding. Many of the hostel and College Prefects were not Christians. During my time, Rev. C A Smith, an Australian was the Principal, and being a new comer to Jaffna was not aware of the excellent religious harmony prevailing at that time, noticed two Hindu youths with Holy Ash on their foreheads. Much to the consternation of those two youths, he erased the Holy Ash and this had a very bad effect not only on the students both Christians and Hindus, but also on the Christian teaching staff. On the next day even the Christian students applied Holy Ash to show their strong disapproval of the action

of the Principal and the entire student population with the moral support of the staff resorted to a "Strike Action". The intellectual trio of the College Messers. Tambar, Navaratnam and Charles pleaded with the Principal to soften his stance on this sensitive issue. But as this had no effect, they brought this to the notice of the Manager, late Mr. A R Subramaniam. The intervention of the Manager saved the situation from further embarrassment. This is another example to show that Jafffna Central did not adopt a very rigid doctrinaire approach but preferred pragmatism based on justice and fair play with liberal flavour.

As we were imbued with Leftist political philosophy of Dr. N.M. Perera and Dr. Colvin R De Silva, we resorted to a strike action at the hostel when the quality of food served was not palatable. This strike had the support of the College students. Immediately the "Trio" of the College took action to the entire satisfaction of the hostel students and there was no victimisation. Presumably, Jaffna Central would have been the only one to resort to strike action and this would have been possible solely due to the liberal spirit encouraged and practised at Jaffna Central .

In spite of all pervading Christian spirit with liberal approach, still caste feelings also existed during my time. One day the dish washer of the hostel was absent and the students refused to wash the plates on caste grounds. As I was the Senior Prefect of the hostel I had no option but to bring this to the notice of the Principal Rev. C A Smith. Being a true Christian in practice he did not believe in caste system and promptly volunteered to wash the plates. It was a soul searching affair to all of us and we followed him to wash the plates. A foreigner had to teach us the value of dignity of labour.

Jaffna Centralites of my time did not isolate themselves from national activities. Jaffna intelligentsia drew political inspiration from the freedom fighters of India, viz. Mahathma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh. As this freedom struggle had a vibrating effect on Jaffna Central we decided to celebrate the Independence of India on 15 August 1947, and approached Rev. C A Smith through the "Trio" of the College. It was decided that the Principal should hoist the Tricolour flag with Asoka Chakra. To our surprise, he made a speech on the benefits of British Rule in India on the Independence Day. However, an Indian teacher spoke on the philosophical meaning of Asoka Chakra widely displayed on the Indian flag.

I could still remember, after being successful at the University Entrance Examination in 1949, I approached the late Mr. A E Tamber for a testimonial. He was the President of All Ceylon Union of Teachers. I had to mention that apart from being the hostel Senior Prefect and College Prefect, I was the treasurer of Rigg Hall Hostel Union, Historical Association and H.S.C. Union. He smiled at me and asked why the students elected me as custodian of finances of all associations and jokingly wished that I should be custodian of Nation's Finances!!!!

The pleasure that I derived by making representations on behalf of the students of the hostel and Jaffna Central College to the then Principal was more than that of the pleasure that I derived when the Secretary - General of United Nations (UNCTAD) invited me on a personal basis to be the sole representative for the entire countries of Afro-Asian region along with five other global experts of other geographical regions to review a UN draft on a specialised subject. This proves beyond any doubt that my period of stay at Jaffna Central as a student was the most happiest one in my life.

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REMINISCENCES OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE IN THE 1940'S

Mrs. N.G. Dain (ne'e Gnaima Meera Lebbe) Rajagiriya

I well remember the day I went to Jaffna Central College with my father, to seek admission to the H.S.C. form in 1946. We met the Principal, and before we left the office, the Vice-Principal, Mr. J.C. Charles encountered us, and I cannot forget his words- "You, young ladies must be in saree when you attend College."

My first day at College, was a new experience, having come from a Convent. Assembly being over, we were free to mix with all the students. What a surprise! The boys were very cordial, helpful and made us quite at home.

The Principal, Mr. C.A. Smith wished us well, while the Vice-Principal was very vigilant, walking along the corridors, keeping an eye on the classes. The next important figure was the Senior Prefect, Thurairajah, who strutted to and fro, checking on late comers.

Coming to our class! Oh! it was a mixture of students from a number of schools. The youngest was Somasunderam from Hartley College- very vehement in his speech and also very bold-always decked in white vertie and shirt, not forgetting his shawl. Today he is a prominent lawyer. Wijenathan was a familiar figure, a peace- maker, good organiser and soft-spoken. With him were the late Rajalingam, Terence Fernando and Abdul Cader from A.K.S. Jewellers. I have a faint recollection of the others, but on the whole they were very friendly.

The H.S.C. Union, of which I was also President once, cannot be forgotten and so was the first debate conducted, where I had to speak against the topic- "The dowry system is thoroughly justified "This of course did not go well with the boys.

During free periods, we had to walk across to the Ladies' Room in the Primary section, where we met the Primary teachers, Misses Sundari Bai Lewis, Jeevu Hitchcock and Arulampalam and also the Science students.

Mr. Isaac Ponnambalam who taught us Ancient History of Ceylon, was quite a gentleman, but expected everyone to be very attentive, neat in taking down notes and doing up maps. A strict disciplinarian, no doubt, and expected much from his students.

Next, Mr. S.Mahalingam, an authority in English, a contemporary of Dr. Ludowyke. He was full of humour, but firm in getting us to work. His lectures were very interesting, and while doing the text- Tennyson's In Memoriam, one cannot forget these lines:-

"It is better to be loved and lost Than never to be loved at all"

His knowledge of European History was superb. In one of his History classes, he related how Disraeli at a dinner, noticed the steward hurriedly carrying a dish with a full turkey covered with a mouth-watering gravy. In his hurry, the steward had slipped and fallen with the dish. To the dismay of all, Disraeli remarked: This indicates the fall of Turkey, the overflow of Greece and the break-up of China; and his prophecies were correct.

Mr. Oliver Thuraisingham was in charge of British History who often dealt on England's policy of 'Splendid Isolation', Lord Palmerston's foreign policy, Parliament Act of 1911, not forgetting that the glorious revolution of 1688 was a bloodless one.

It will be ingratitude personified, if I do not speak of Sarma Iyyer- the Sanskrit teacher who never forgot his black umbrella and the Sanskrit texts. We were thorough with Bandarkar's book of grammar, not forgetting the texts- Hitopadesa, Nalopakyanam and Ritusamhara. "Ahimsa paramodharmaha." (Non-Violence is the greatest virtue.) These words still echo and re-echo in my ears.

Gone are those days, sans responsibility, but full of vitality and joy, having imbibed the best of everything from our Gurus, who gave of their best. I am proud to say that after completing 37 years of service in the Department of Education, I had the privilege of serving as Principal and Lecturer as part of my career. Central's flag must ne'er be lowered!

"சிறந்ததும், உயர்ந்ததும் இறைவனின் மகிமைக்கே" ("UNTO THE GLORY OF GOD, THE BEST AND THE HIGHEST")

நா.க. சண்முகநாதபிள்ளை ; முன்னாள் அதிபர்; J.C.C B.Sc, Dip - in Ed, Teacher Councellor, S.L.E.A.S - II

இக்கட்டுரையை எழுதுவதற்கு முன்னர் எனது மனக் கண்முன் தோன்றுவது மத்திய கல்லூரியின் மகுடமும் (Crest) அதன் மகுட வாசகமுமாகும். (Motto). உதிக்கின்ற சூரியன் ஒன்பது கதிர்களுடன் மகுடத்தின் உச்சியில் அமைந்துள்ளது. இது – ஞானசூரியனின் உதயத்தையும், நவரசங்களையும் குறிக்கின்றது.அதன்கீழ் நான்கு பகுதிகளாகப் பிரிக்கப்பட்ட கேடயம் (Shield) அமைந்துள்ளது. இது மத்திய கல்லூரியின் இதய தாகத்தை வெளிப்படுத்துவதாக நான் உணருகின்றேன். இடதுபக்கத்தில் யாழ். – இது அந்தகனாகிய யாழ்பாடி பரிசாகப் பெற்ற யாழ்ப்பாணத்தைக் குறிக்கிறது.வலதுபக்கத்தில் திறப்புக் காணப்படுகிறது.இது அறிவுக் கண்ணைத் திறக்கும் திறவு கோலாகும். கீழ்ப்பகுதியில் பிணைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள சட்டகம் அல்லது பிணைப்பு :–மனிதன் சுதந்திரமாகப் பிறக்கிறான் ஆனால் அவன் எங்கும் பிணைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறான் என்பதை ஞாபகப்படுத்துகின்றன. வர்ணங்களாக கபிலநிறமும், நீலநிறமும்அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.இது மண்ணையும் விண்ணையும்



உணர்த்துகின்றது. இந்தஅமைப்பு அழகிய கோப்புக்குள் அமைந்துள்ளது.கோப்பின் மேல் வளைவில் மத்திய கல்லூரியின்பெயரும். கீழ்வளைவில் மகுடவாசகமும் பொறிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. மகுட வாசகம் IN GLORIUM DEIOPTMI MAXIMI என லத்தீன்மொழியில் வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது.இதன் ஆங்கிலமொழியாக்கம் "UNTO THE GLORY OF GOD, THE BEST AND THE HIGHEST" என்பதாகும். இதன் விளக்கத்தைப் புரிந்துகொள்வதற்கு, இதனை "THE BEST AND THE HIGHEST UNTO THE GLORY OF GOD" என்று வாசிக்கலாமென உலகத் தேவாலயச்சபையின் உறுப்பினராகிய கலாநிதி அருட் திரு.வெஸ்லி அரியராஜ் அவர்கள் கருத்துத் தெரிவித்துள்ளார். இதனைச் "சிறந்ததும் உயர்ந்ததும் இறைவனின் மகிமைக்காக" என்று தமிழில் அமைத்து வாசிக்கலாம். இதன் சுருக்கம் கருதி தற்போது "இறைவனின் அதி உன்னத மகிமைக்காக என்று தற்போது தமிழில் பொறிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்த மகுடமும், மகுட வாசகமும் வர்ணங்களும் முன்னாள் அதிபர் திரு. W. றொமைன் குக் (Romaine Cooke) அவர்களால் 1901ல் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது.

மண்ணில் நல்ல வண்ணம் வாழ்பவர், விண்ணில் நல்ல வண்ணம் வீற்றிருப்பார் என்பதற்கு அறிகுறியாகவே மண்ணின் நிறமும் (Chocolate Colour) விண்ணின் (Blue Colour) நிறமும் காட்டப்பட்டுள்ளன. மண்ணில் நல்ல வண்ணம் வாழ்வதற்கு அறிவுக்கண் அகலத் திறக்கப்பட வேண்டும். அதனைத் திறப்பு வெளிப்படுத்துகின்றது. இந்த அறிவை உப்யோகித்து மெய்ப்பொருள்கண்டு உலகக் கட்டுக்களிலிருந்து விடுபட்டு ஞானம் கைவரப் பெற்று நலமான பெரும் பேறு அடைதல் வேண்டும். யாழ்மண்ணில் தோன்றும் மக்கள் அனைவருக்கும் அவர்களுடைய இதயதாகமாகிய அறிவுப்பசி தீர யாழ் இசை எழுப்பி "மத்தியத்தின் ஊடாக மலர்த்தி, மத்தியமணிகளை (CENTRALITES) உலகெங்கும்— "சென்றிடுவீர் எட்டுத்திக்கும் — கலைச்செல்வங்கள் யாவும் கொணர்ந்திங்கு சேர்ப்பீர் '' என்று அனுப்பும், அனுப்பவேண்டும் என்பதே மத்தியத்தின் மகோன்னதமான அவாவாகும். 180 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்னர் மத்தியத்தின் நிறுவனர்களும் இதனையே குறிக்கோளாகக் கொண்டனர்.

1813ல் கலாநிதி அருட்திரு தொமஸ் கோக் (Thomas Coke) அவர்கள் இறைதூதுவராக ஒழுங்கமைப்புக்கு அல்லது மெதடிஸ் திருச்சபையினூடாக இலங்கைக்குப் புறப்பட்ட போது God himself has said to me "Go to Ceylon'' என்று கூறியுள்ளார். அவரைத் தொடர்ந்து வந்த லிஞ் (Lynch) ஸ்குயான்ஸ் (Squance) என்போரும் இறைதூதுவர்களாக கல்விப்பணியே கடவுட்பணியாகக் கொண்டு யாழ் மண்ணில் மத்தியத்தை உருவாக்கினர்.

'மத்தியம்' இற்றைவரை கல்வியின் சரணாலயமாக விளங்கி செந்தமிழும் ஆங்கிலமும் ஒன்றித்த யாழ்ப்பாண மண்ணின் மகிமையைப் பறைசாற்றும் விதமாகப் பணியாற்றியுள்ளது. சைவம் தழைக்கவந்த ஆறுமுகநாவலரையும், உய்யும் நெறிகண்டு செய்யும் தொழிலையே தெய்வமாகக் கொண்டு பணியாற்றிய, பணியாற்றும் ஆன்று அவிந்து அடங்கிய கொள்கைச் சான்றோரையும் உருவாக்கித்தந்த பேறும் பெருமையும் 'மத்தியத்'திற்கே தனித்துவமானது.

அருட்திரு பீற்றா் போ்சிவல் அடிகளாாின் கல்வி வழிகாட்டலில், கீழைத்தேயமரபும், குறிப்பாகத் தமிழ் மரபும் பேணப்பட்டு, கிறிஸ்தவ நெறியோடு இந்துமதப்பண்பாடும் பாரம்பாியங்களும் அன்புடன் ஆரத்தழுவிச் சென்ற சால்பும் மத்தியத்தின் இனித்துவக்கும் இயல்புகளாகும்.

கல்வி என்பது இடையறாத படிப்பும், தவறக்கூடாத பரீட்சைச் சித்தியுமே என்று இயக்கும் யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்விச் குழலில், விளையாட்டு, சமூக ஊடாட்டம் ஆகியவற்றினூடாக மாணவரின் ஆளுமை வளர்ச்சிக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுக்குமொரு பண்பு யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பாரம்பரியங்களிலொன்றாகும். மாணவர்களைத் தன்னம்பிக்கை உடையவர்களாய், செல்லும் இடங்களில் செல்வாக்குடையவர்களாய்ப் பழகக்கூடிய பண்பை யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி வளர்த்து வந்துள்ளது. இது யாழ்ப்பாண இளைஞனின் ஆளுமைக்கு யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி செய்துள்ள பங்களிப்பாகும்" எனப் பேராசிரியர் கலாநிதி கார்த்திகேசு சிவத்தம்பி குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளமை கருத்திற் கொள்ள வேண்டியதாகும்.

> எமது கல்லூரிக்கீதம் மேன்மையுடையது, அது— "வாழ்வெனும் தளத்தில் தளம்பிடும்போது ஆழ்க நின் கீர்த்திஅகமெய் ஒளிர்க உன்னவர் தோழர் உள்ளனர் முன்னாள் அன்னவர் அகலப் பரந்துள போதும் உன்னது பள்ளிஅன்னவள் அரும்புகழ் எண்ணில் தொண்டில் இன்பம் ஏகாந்தம்" என்று இசைக்கின்றது .

எமது மத்தியம் காலதேவனின் கடுகடுப்புகளுக்கெல்லாம், முகம் கொடுத்து, நம்முன்னோரின் ஆத்ம தரிசனத்தினால் உயிர்ப்பும் மீள் பிறப்பும் பெற்றுள்ளது. நமது கல்லூரியின் கல்விசார் சமூகத்தினர் அனைவரும் துன்பம் சூழ்ந்த இவ் வேளையில் " யாழ் எடுத்து இன்பம் சேர்க்க வேண்டும்." நூற்றுஎண்பது ஆண்டுகளாக அயராது தொண்டாற்றிய பெருமைக்குரியவர்களின் வழிநடத்தலில் புதிய பரிணாமம் உண்டாக்கப்படவேண்டும். அந்தப் பரம்பரை அலகுகள் பழைய மாணவரின் சொல், செயல், எண்ணம் என்பவற்றில் ஆழப்பதிந்து மீழ்பிறப்பாக்கம் பெறவேண்டும் "வந்ததுநேரம் ஒன்றிய செயற்கு" (Now's the time for combined action) என்று எமது தாய்ப்பாடசாலையைக் கட்டி எழுப்புவோம் என உறுதிபூணுவோமாக.

" மந்திரத்தை முணுமுணுத்து ஏட்டை வரிசையாக அடுக்கி அதன் மேல் சந்தனத்தை மலரை இடுதல்சாத்திரம் அவள்பூசனை அன்றாம்"

–பாரதி

எனவே மத்தியத்தை நேசித்துப் பூசிக்கவும் நிறைவான கல்வியை மாணவர்கள் மனதாரப்பெறவும் மனநிறைவோடு பணியாற்றுவோமாக.

> "மத்தியின் மணிக்கொடி நித்தியம் நிலைக்கும்" CENTRAL'S FLAG MUST NE'ER BE LOWERED

SWEET MEMORIES OF MY GLORIOUS SCHOOL DAYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

R. Chelvaratnam,
Secretary
JCC - OBA, Canada Branch

It was a day to rejoice, a day of reconciliation when the Jaffna Central College 2nd. Eleven Soccer Team walked into St. Patricks College Grounds for their encounter being played after ten long years. Yes, after a long lapse of period both School authorities decided to make truce, forget the past and get together on the field of sports. When we walked in, we noticed to our amazement none on the grounds but we heard thunderous applause coming from the balcony of St. Patricks College building and immediately we noticed the Rector, Staff and leading old boys there to welcome us. This was a day none of the Centralites would forget in their life.



Another incident I could recall was the big match between Jaffna Central College and St. John's College, if I recall correctly was 1954, and J.C.C. O.B.A., was celebrating the event on a grand scale. The match commenced with a massive crowd of old boys and cricket enthusiasts watching the match. On the second day before tea St. Johns College was in a precarious position loosing 8 second innings wickets and the J.C.C. O.B.A. officicals sent word to our Skipper R.K.V. Premachandra not to finish the match before tea interval but to prolong the game after tea. The skipper was faced with a difficult decision to make but on the other hand was compelled to comply to the request of the O.B.A officials. The match commenced after a grand tea everyone expecting an early win for Central College., But the St. Johns batsmen were holding on, batting with determination and purpose. The time was running, Central has lost its grip, St. Johns batsmen batting stubbornly. The crowd on the other hand was shouting for the Centralites to go for the kill. The skipper went all out using all his best bowlers attacking the batsmen, even the fielders were positioned just in front of the batsman not even yards from the bat. But of no avail, St. Johns batsmen were holding on, doing a wonderful job for their College. Finally, the match ended in a draw with jubilation from St. Johns camp. Yes cricket is a game of chance, WHEN YOU ARE ON THE TOP YOU MUST ATTACK AND IF YOU RELAX, THE GAME IS BOUND TO HAVE A TURN,. Determination on the part of St. Johns batsmen with full concentration was the result, where Cricket was the Winner.

Another occasion where Romaine House camp rejoiced was, when Romaine House with House Master, Alagacone, Captain Yogasunderam, Athletics Captain Self with tremendous backing

from V.T. Ganeshalingam and S. Thavalingam emerged as House Athletic Champions after a lapse of ten long years. It was a joyous day for the Romaine House boys with House Master Alagacone beaming with a broad smile was another rememberable day of my school life.

This was a day of sorrow in the history of the College, where I wish to mention about the Hostel Strike. The strike was over after some days and on our return to school an Assembly was called-for by the Principal Rev. C.A.Smith. There was pin - drop silence when Rev. C.A. Smith entered the open-air theater stage. He came forward to the mike, threw some thing on the stage breaking to pieces with a loud sound. The impact was something like a blast in the hearts of the boys and masters. With tears rolling from his eyes, he spoke with a trembling voice - - - "Boys my heart also broke to pieces like the glass tumbler" and then begged to the students that Centralitics should maintain the dignity of the College which we are thriving to hold and CONTINUED SAYING FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING AND CONTINUE YOUR STUDIES AND BE YOURSELF A MAN YOUR PARENTS ARE EXPECTING FROM YOU AND THE COLLEGE. After the Assembly we went to our Classes with a feeling of guilt. This is another day and an incident no Centralite would like to remember.

There are numerous sweet and sour memories I could relate or recall during my School days from 1947 to 1957 - ten years of school life.

The foundation and the training we received from our Alma-mater gave us courage, determination and the ability to take up any position in our life and has given great opportunity on numerous occasions to hold administrative posts in the field of Sports.

I was elected to hold the Post of General Secretary in the Jaffna Amateur Athletic Association under the leadership of V.T. Sivalingam; Jaffna District Cricket Association under Dr. J.P.C.Phillips and was also associated in the Jaffna Cricket Umpires Association not only as an Active Umpire but also as an Administrator as well . .

Work involvement took me to Colombo where I was proud to be the first Centralite to be the Cricket Umpire in the Association of Cricket Umpires Sri Lanka panel officiating numerous School, Mercantile, State Services, Nationalised Services and the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka Tournament matches in Colombo.

Thereafter I was elected to various administrative posts - - elected as the General Secretary of the Association of Cricket Umpires in Sri Lanka for three consecutive years with Upali Mahanama, R.I.T. Alles and Bandula Warnapura as Presidents during my tenure of office and the General Treasurer for two years, thereafter.

As a Representative of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment I was elected as the Tournament Secretary of the Nationalised Services Cricket Association for three years and thereafter

the General Secretary for two consecutive years under Noel Wimalasena and Ashroff Ghany as Presidents . .

I was also elected unanimously as the Secretary General of the Nationalised Services Sports Federation holding this prestigeous post under the leadership of Ashroff Ghany for two years where the membership comes from Corporations, Boards, Banks and Peoplised Establishments amounting to more than 50 members.

I am also proud to state that I was involved actively with the Old Boys Associations of my Alma - mater with the Jaffna Branch, Colombo Branch and at present the General Secretary of the Canada Branch. I am proud to be called a Centralite in view of the foundation and sound training received from Jaffna Central.

I proudly remember M/S. Alagacone, Rajasena, J.C.Charles, Selvarajah Thambiah, V.D.Jeyaratnasingham, Theivananthampillai, , A.E.Thamber, T.I.Abraham, Rev. C.A.Smith., and many more where the list is a very long one.

The College Song and the meaning still rings in my ears:

Nows the time for Combined Action: pass the ball from man to man:

never selfish play nor faction: proved worthwhile since sports began:

Central rally for the school then: take the field with one accord:

Keep your courage cool and clean then: Central "s flag must ne'er be lowered.

On the field of life when Striving: Keep your Honour true and bright: Play up Central ever Thriving on the fruits of grace and light.

Yes Centralites, I take this opportunity to appeal to all Centralites all over the World when we are celebrating the 180th year of foundation, please remember:-

For your comrades of the old days, scattered far though, they may be, For your school and for her true praise, live in service glad and free".

"Nows the time for Combined Action - Centrals flag must Ne'er be lowered."

REMINISCENSES OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

Lt.T.Nagaratnam
Deputy Principal
Jaffna Central College

I joined this College in 1973 as an Assistant Teacher. Even now I could think of my very first day at the school. On that day when I was entering the school one boy standing at the entrance said "Anna, where are you going". Saying that I have come here to get admission to this school I entered the school. I went to the Principal's office where I found a gentleman wearing a tie. I spoke to him "Sir, I have got a transfer to this school. Shall I assume duties". He replied "All of a sudden I cannot allow you, please go back and come tomorrow". Then I went back.



Soon after I left the place he telephoned to Canagaratnam M.M.V., since I am an old boy of that school. At that time, the Principal of

Canagaratnam M.M.V. was Mr.Ariyaratnam, former teacher of Jaffna Central College. Mr.E.K.Shanmuganathan, Principal of Central College had enquired about me from him. He gave a good recommendation of me. The following day I went back to Central. The Principal said "You could assume duties now." Since then I have been a teacher at Jaffna Central College.

I became Deputy Principal in 1993. I am very proud because I am about to finish my 25 years of service at this esteemed institution. At present I am the most senior teacher. No other teacher's seniority is close to mine.

I remember my past days in this school. During the seventies our school had many reputed teachers like Messrs. Rajasenan, Kulendran, Puththirasingham, Ramalingam, Selvarajah, Balendra, David, Rathinasingam, Kandasamy, Balasundaram, Rajaratnam, Mahadeva, Sivapragasam and others. In Central most of the teachers used to converse in English. During the lunch interval under the presidentship of Mr.Rajasenan we used to assemble at a corner of the staff room. Messrs Rajasenan, Pararajasingam and Selvarajah used to crack jokes which we enjoyed thoroughly.

Our School was shining in sports, especially in Cricket where Central College remained unbeaten for a long period. Most striking cricketers- like Naguleswaran, Sivamithran, Thomas, Paul and Sutharsan are not to be forgotten. Rajan got the first place in high jump at the Public School Meet. Sherif Ali and Shankar were remarkable in the sprints. In soccer also Central continued to be the champion for many years.

The ethnic problem reached it's highest point in 1985. Since our School was very close to the Army Camp it was affected very badly. Parents were very reluctant to send their children to Central College which had devastating affects in the long run. One day, one of our Prefects was shot dead in a cross-fire. Subsequently, the Department wanted Central to be shifted to some other place. We were shocked. We all got together and opposed the move saying that our School must remain in the same place. So the Department responded favourably. Had our School been shifted it would have been destroyed by anti-social elements.

Around our school almost all the buildings are destroyed and razed to the ground but Central's three storied building is intact. Inspite of all the catastrophies our School is functioning at the same place. This is because Central has accumulated enough strength and vitality through her service.

Now Central marches forward steadfastly and fruitfully. Central is recovering very fast. We must thank our old boys for their devoted, untiring service rendered to our School. Our College is now a National School. We are very proud to be teachers at Jaffna Central College.

I represented Jaffna in the Hockey Nationals. I got first place in long jump at the Jaffna District Meet. People keep telling me "You are a very good Chemistry Teacher". I was able to gather all these plaudits because of the rich experiences that I acquired by serving in this prestigious College.

MY DAYS AT CENTRAL

K. Thurairajah (J.P.)
B.Sc.(Hons) FCIB, FCMA(Lon)
Retired Deputy General Manager
Bank of Ceylon

It was on a Saturday evening in August 1960, the late Mr. Kirupakaran, the sports master came to my house in a car which he borrowed from a friend of his. I lived in a village where cars were seldom seen then. This was an old Austin 7 car and when I started the car and ran a few yards, I was able to note that all parts of the car except the horn was making noises.

Kirupa has visited me earlier and it had become a practice that he should be greeted with a type of liquid which gives him dutch courage, supplemented with packets of three roses.

His mission to me was simple. He said that Thambar master who was soon to take up the post of Principal of Jaffna Central College from Rt. Rev. D.T. Niles, is in search of teachers for the college. It appears that one of my respected principals, the late orator C. Subramaniam has recommended my name to Thambar master through Kirupa.

The offer was in no way attractive to me, because there was not going to be an increase in salary, instead I had to cycle 15 miles a day up and down to Jaffna town where as I was then teaching in my village school. Kirupa insisted that I should reconsider the offer and gave me time. Finally I agreed because of the simple reason that I can teach Hinduism in addition to Physics and Mathematics.

I joined the Jaffna Central College on 01-01-1961 and assumed duties on 17-01-1961. At that time there were over 50 teachers, but Kirupa made me comfortable. Central to me became automatic. As soon as I land at the college, I go to the Maniam kade to have a cup of plain tea for five cents. Tea was very good and equally hot and should be consumed quickly, because students will come there and these students normally do not like to smoke in the presence of teachers, however junior they be.

The class rooms, the external atmosphere, the infrastructure facilities provided were all ideal for teachers to teach and students to absorb. Further, work was not over loaded to teachers, but fair distribution of work load enabled the teachers to give their maximum. As for students every possible opportunity was provided at the Central College to develop their skills. At that time there were some fine teachers, Mr. Mathiyaparam for Tamil, Victor Rajaratnam for English, Manokaran for Chemistry, Nadarajah for Physics, Ariyaratnam for Botany and Navan Niles for Zoology to name a few.

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Mathematics to those who were repeating their exams. I was doing the past papers for them. These classes became so interesting that our sister school "Vembadi" wanted my services. Thambar master readily agreed. Thus I started to have evening and Saturday classes at Vembadi. This was really exciting to me. The class rooms were filled to capacity even before I arrived at Vembadi. In those days there were no tuition classes, because teachers were asked to teach in classes and to take personal interest in the students unlike now when mass tuition classes are organised and there by degrading teaching to not so a noble profession.

Alas my stay at Central was short lived because in July 1962 I was selected to the Bank of Ceylon. Each class I thought held separate functions. On the day I left Jaffna, I travelled from my home station 'Chunnakam' and when 'Yaladevi' arrived at Jaffna station there was a crowd of over 250 of my students from Central to bid me as Shakespeare sang

'Fare-thee well'

After 35 years in the banking service I now regret very much to have left Central which gave me the highest satisfaction in my life, and where I worked assiduously relentlessly and brazenly.

MY DAYS AT RIGG HALL HOSTEL

Hosteller

Many have come and many have gone through the dormitories of Rigg Hall Hostel where if the walls could speak, they would relate anecdotes legion. It had nurtured and fostered the formative and adolescent youths from far near, rich and poor. It harboured a class-less, creed-less, inter racial, integrated community of Centralites that developed a friendship and fellowship cultivated even long after we left the homely halls of the hostel. A feeling of melancholy and sadness crept within us when we bade good-bye for-ever to those venerable precincts that tended and moulded our youth.

"Memory is the residue of incomplete experiences" said Jittu Krishnamoorthy. Major part of my school life was spent in the hostel which was a complete experience from childhood to adulthood. As such, I do not remember much of it, but memories of my masters and intimates are undoubtedly many.

The day begins with rising bell at 5.30 a.m when we pull ourselves drowsily off our beds and stand in a row to do the morning exercises or "drill" as it was called. Some too lazy, excuse themselves, feigning ill. Then follows our morning ablutions, after which studies begin at 6.30 a.m for an hour. Pangs of hunger grip our tender stomachs before breakfast. Breakfast is served at 8 a.m before which we dress ourselves to go to school. The morning meal is normally kothambai pittu and sambaru, satirically remarked Sambaru with Pittu. At times, we get three Thosais with Sambaru. Lunches and Dinners were mostly rice and curry with meat on Wednesdays and Sundays. Some try to annex an extra ration by lifting an extra plate called "Kalla Plate", stealthily or that of an absentee. The "Kalla Plate" is often shared with the neighbours.

We also had our funny side too. When we had taken our seats at the dinning table, a Christian boy calls for Grace. He loudly chants, "O' God Almightly, we thank Thee for the meal set before us and all your mercies, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen". Some who had by then secured a Kalla Plate on their laps loose their hold when they stand up for Grace; and the plate falls to the floor with a clatter, causing giggles and laughter that drowns the Grace. Often when all close their eyes to say Grace, Lo! and Behold! the precious delicacy, a fried fish or a pappadam gets lost. The wiser ones cover their plates with both their palms or have one eye open. Fridays are special for vegetarians, when they get an additional vegetarian dish and pappadams which the generous ones share with their friends. The quality of food was not bad, but we were never satisfied, at least large scale cooking cannot be ideal.

On Sundays the non-Christians are expected to idle, while the Christians go to church and attend Sunday School. A Sunday School was organised for the non-Christian too with the help of

Miss. Mabel Thambiah, then Principal of Vembadi Girl's High School and Dr. D. T. Niles the then Principal of our School. Bachelor teachers resident in our hostel and the spinster teachers of Vembadi inaugurated the programme. This programme was very lively and enthusiastic. Classes were graded in age groups. Girls and boys, in my group, of the ages between 15 to 17 were very active. Subjects other than those taught at school were only to be discussed. Subjects on Ethical and Moral Standards, Marriages, Dowry System and Caste system were lively debated. Unfortunately the Nationalisation of the two schools involved many changes which short-lived this programme.

A memorable but little known event was the Army occupation of Rigg Hall Hostel in 1958, I remember it was a Monday morning, when all hostellers were having their breakfast. Mr. Somasunderam, the then Education Officer in Jaffna, Mr. N. Q. Dias, the then Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Col. Udugama, Army Commander walked into my room and told me to make arrangements to keep the hostel vacant by twelve noon that day for the army to occupy same. I then sent a message to Dr. K. Theivananthampillai, the Warden who was living next door. He soon joined us, and we inspected the whole hostel. We also informed the Principal, Dr. D. T. Niles. Meanwhile, a small Ceylon Army had gathered on our college grounds under the Command of Major George Abraham, an old student of Jaffna College. The school assembled for the morning sessions, and the Principal at the assembly declared the school closed until further notice; and requested all students to go to their homes as early as possible without causing any disturbances, anywhere.

The boarders were against the army occupation and refused to vacate the hostel. However, after much discussion and persuasions with the hostel board of prefects and some teachers, they decided to show their protest by performing Satyagraha in front of the College Hostel gates. We requested Major George Abraham not to show any form of violence, however provoked, when our students protest by performing satyagraha. To this he readily agreed and showed much goodwill, understanding, and diplomacy. As we squatted on the road, the public applauded us and some joined. The army then slowly marched towards us and deftly made their way to the hostel past us, though the students pushed and nudged them. They eventually occupied the hostel and offered assistance to all, to transport them to their homes. Many were thus benefitted.

I had to stay back to look into the needs of the resident army. My room was made the Army office where the telecommunication and radio equipments were installed. Mr. N. Q. Dias, Col. Udugama and Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne who was then the G. A. Jaffna often visited their office and I had the privilege of conversing with them and be of great assistance. Meals were cooked at the Hostel Kitchen and the cooks were benefitted with extra cash and liquor. After four days of occupation the army left when the above officials thanked me; and Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne told me that he was being transferred as G. A., Anuradhapura. He added that he is obliged to invite us to Anuradhapura, whenever we make our All Island Excursions. We made use of his kind offer on our next Annual Trip. We were gladly received in Anuradhapurarbyo Mr. Nissanka Wijeyaratne and his officials.

They provided us with accommodation in a big school, and provided us with guides and vehicles to go around sight seeing. He wound up his kind hospitality with a grand dinner at Anuradhapura Kachcheri, where we acknowledged his kind gesture with many expressions of gratitude.

Among the follies and foibles of youth, some of us were addicted to "picture-going" the best English film be adults only or violence and good Tamil shows were never missed. Some scoote out for matinee shows or for the thrill of venturing out in the nights to have dinner in a cafe and see a film. Once our Principal, Rev. C. A. Smith had seen some running accross the grounds in the dead of night to Regal Theatre. This aroused his suspicion and made a bee-line to the theatre where he rounded up the culprits. Some of course, have cunningly escaped the episode, got back to their beds in the hostel and feigned asleep. When the Principal again reached the hostel some of the culprits were not detected.

Whenever there were exceptionally good films shown, such as, "Living Desert", "Sound of Music", "Big Fisherman", "Ten Commandments", or "Silver Chalice" the school organised for all students to see such films, On other occasions the boarders had the opportunity of seeing a film once a month. All have to go to the same theatre. With much enthusiasm and joy, everybody gets dressed in their best, line up in double rows led by prefects, tread down the town to the theatre. Seats were pre-booked and all were seated together. When the film is over we trek back in the same form but some slip out and make a bee-line to the nearest Koisk for' cup de punt' or a short dinner etc. The guardians of discipline, the prefects, either turn a blind eye or join them.

The fun, frolics, and follies of youth, have no limits. To many of us who spent long years in our formative ages in Rigg Hall Hostel memories remain indelible in our minds, which on recapitulation give us joy and contentment. Jaffna Central imparted a liberal education in a democratic paradigm. All communities of all faiths mingled freely and unitedly to the good of the institution and to themselves at large.

மத்தியின் வர்த்தக கல்வி பற்றிய நோக்கு

திரு. சு. நடராஜா B.Com (Hons) B.A.Dip. in Ed ஆசிரியர் (யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி)

நூற்றெண்பது ஆண்டுகளாகக் கல்விச் சேவையாற்றி தரணி எல்லாம் தன் புகழ் பரப்பி நிற்கும் கல்வி நிறுவனம் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி ஆகும். அதன் பேரும் புகழும் சிறந்து விளங்குவதற்கு எடுத்துக் காட்டாக பல்வேறு நாடுகளிலும் தன்கிளை பரப்பி தம் நாட்டிற்கும் தாம் கற்ற கல்விக் கூடத்தின் பெருமைகளை மணம் கமழச் செய்பவை பழைய மாணவர் சங்கங்களாகும்.

யாழ் மாவட்டத்திலேயே பல்வேறு கல்வித் துறைகளையும் விளையாட்டுத் துறைகளையும் ஆரம்பித்து வைத்த பெருமை பெற்ற கல்லூரி இதுவாகும். அதனோர் பங்களிப்பாக 1920 ம் ஆண்டு அதிபராக இருந்த தவத்திரு. புள்ளோ அவர்களின் முயற்சியும் ஆசிரியர் திரு. நவரத்தினம் அவர்களின் ஈடுபாடும் இணைந்து வர்த்தகத்துறைக்கு அத்திவாரமிடப்பட்டது. இவ் ஆண்டே வர்த்தகப் பாடங்கள் கற்பிக்கப்பட்டன. இதன் மூலம் வர்த்தகப் பாடங்களை யாழ் மாவட்டத்தில் முதல் முதல் ஆரம்பித்து வைத்த பெருமையும் தட்டிக்கொண்டது.



கலைப்புலவர் என்ற பட்டம் பெற்ற ஆசிரியர் திரு. நவரட்னம் அவர்கள் கவாமி விபுலானந்தரின் தமிழ் வாழ்விலும் தவவாழ்விலும் ஈடுபாடு கொண்டவர். இவர் இந்து சமயத் தத்துவங்களை விளக்கி விரிவான நூல் ஒன்றினை ஆங்கிலத்தில் எழுதினார். கலைச் சொல்லாக்க முயற்சியில் ஈடுபாடு கொண்டவர். சிறப்பாக வர்த்தகத்துறைக் கலைச் சொல்லாக்கத்தில் பெருமைக்குரியவராவர். இவர் இந்து சமயத்திற்கும், தமிழுக்கும், கலைக்கும், வர்த்தகக் கல்விக்கும் ஆற்றிய தொண்டு போற்றுதற்குரியதாகும். கலைப் புலவரின் அயரா உழைப்பினால் கவின் கலையும் வர்த்தகமும் ஒன்றிணைந்தன. அறிவியலும் வர்த்தகமும் கணக்கியலும் ஒன்றிணைந்தன. இதனால் கலைத்திட்டம் மெருகூட்டப்பட்டது.

1920 ம் ஆண்டு மத்திய கல்லூரியின் வர்த்தகக் கலைத் திட்டம் கேம்பிறிச் சர்வ கலாசாலை கனிஷ்ட சிரேஷ்ட பரீட்சைகளுக்கும் இலண்டன் சர்வ கலாசாலை மெற்றிக் குலேசன் பரீட்சைக்கும் ஏற்றவாறு அமைந்திருந்தது. (இலண்டன்) London Chamber of Commerce பரீட்சைக்கும், Ceylon Senior School Certificate பரீட்சைக்கும் மாணவர்கள் பயிற்றப்பட்டனர். ஆங்கில மொழி மூலமே கற்பித்தல் செயற்பாடுகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன. கலைப்புலவர் முப்பத்தெட்டு ஆண்டுகள் வர்த்தகப் பாடங்களைச் சிறந்த முறையில் கற்பித்ததின் மூலம் வர்த்தகத் துறையின் தந்தையெனப் பாராட்டப்படுகின்றார். அவரிடம் கல்வி பயின்று முதல் முதலில் இலண்டன் வர்த்தகப் பரீட்சையில் சித்தியடைந்தவர் திரு. எ. நமசிவாயமாகும். இவரிடம் கல்வி பயின்ற பல மாணவர்கள் உயர் பதவி வகிக்கின்றனர்.

1957 ம் ஆண்டு மகரகம ஆசிரிய பயிற்சிக் கல்லூரியில் சிங்கள மொழியில் வர்த்தகக் கல்வி விசேட பயிற்சியாக அளிக்கப்பட்டது. ஆனால் தமிழ் மொழியில் இப்பயிற்சி ஆரம்பிக்கப்படவில்லை. அரசின் இந்த மாற்றாள் தாய் மனப்பாங்கை உணர்ந்த வர்த்தக மாணவர்கள் தமிழ் மொழியில் வர்த்தகக் கல்வி விசேட பயிற்சி ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட வேண்டுமெனக் கோருவதற்காக அகில இலங்கை வர்த்தகக் கலை மன்றத்தை 1961 ல் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் ஆரம்பித்தனர். இதற்கு அயராது உழைத்தவர் அதன் செயலாளர் திரு. மா. புவனேந்திரன் ஆவார். இவர் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவர் ஆவார்.

1968 ல் கல்வித் திணைக்களத்தால் வர்த்தகக் கல்விக்கு வேண்டிய தட்டெழுத்துப் பொறிகளும் தளபாடங்களும் வழங்கப்பட்டன. 1969 இல் சுருக்கெழுத்து, தட்டெழுத்து கற்பிக்கும் பணி ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டன. 1971 ம் ஆண்டு செல்வி பொன். செல்லையா வர்த்தக ஆசிரியராகக் கடமையேற்றார். இவர் 1995 ம் ஆண்டு வரை சுருக்கெழுத்து, தட்டெழுத்து கற்பித்தல் செயற்பாட்டை வழிநடத்திச் சென்றார். எமது கல்லூரியில் பத்து தட்டச்சுப் பொறிகள் இருந்தன. இவை தற்பொழுது பயன்படுத்த முடியாத நிலையில் காணப்படுகின்றன. இதனால் இப்பாடத்துறை தற்காலிகமாக நிறுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது மிகவும் மனவேதனைக்குரியதாகும்.

1969ல் நடைபெற்ற க.பொ.த (உயர்தரப் பரீட்சையில்) இரு மாணவர்கள் கனிஷ்ட பல்கலைக்கழகத்திற்குத் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டனர். இவ்வாண்டு ராணியின் சாரணராகத் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்ட நால்வரும் வர்த்தகத் துறையைச் சார்ந்த மாணவர்களாவர். 1970 க.பொ.த உயர்தரப் பரீட்சையில் ஒன்பது மாணவர்கள் சித்தியடைந்தனர். அவர்களில் நால்வர் விசேட சித்தியடைந்தனர்.

1969ல் வர்த்தக மாணவமன்றம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. அதன் போஷகராக திரு. இ. சபாலிங்கமும் உபபோஷகராக க. கந்தசாமியும் பணியாற்றினர். 1970ம் ஆண்டு வர்த்தகத்துறையின் ஐம்பது ஆண்டு நிறைவை பொன் விழாவாகக் கொண்டாடினர். இவ்விழாவுக்குப் பிரதம விருந்தினராக கலா நிதி S.L.D . சில்வாவும் சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக C.A.M கொகுவலவும் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

1975ல் பாடசாலை வங்கி ஒன்றினைத் தேசிய சேமிப்பு வங்கியின் ஒத்துழைப்புடன் வர்த்தகத்துறையினர் ஆரம்பித்தனர். இவ்வங்கி மாணவர்களுக்கு சேமிப்பு, சிக்கனம் ஆகிய பழக்கங்களையும் தலைமைத்துவம், பொறுப்புணர்ச்சி ஆகிய பண்புகளையும் அளித்து வந்தது. வங்கியின் போஷகராக திரு. வ. க. பாலசுப்பிரமணியம் கடமையாற்றினார்.

1989 ம் ஆண்டு வர்த்தக மாணவ மன்றத்தின் உபகாப்பாளராக திரு. சு. நடராஜா நியமிக்கப்பட்டார். இவரது திட்டமிட்ட செயல் நடவடிக்கையின் மூலமும் ஊக்கப்படுத்தல் மூலமும் வர்த்தக மன்றமும், வர்த்தகத்துறையும் அபிவிருத்தியடையத் தொடங்கியது. 1990ம் ஆண்டு முதன் முதலாக மத்திய வணிகம் என்னும் சொற்பத மலரை வெளியீடு செய்து கல்லூரிக்கும் மன்றத்திற்கும் பெருமை தேடிக் கொண்டது.

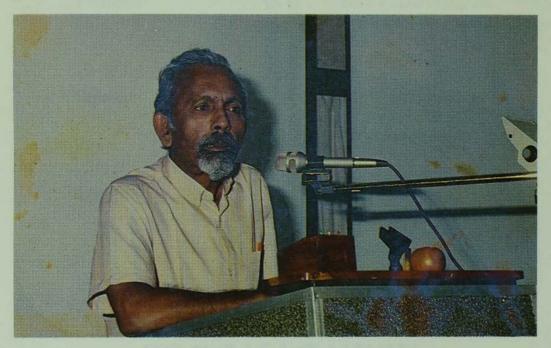
1991ம் ஆண்டு பாடசாலைக் கூட்டுறவுச்சங்கம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. இதன் தலைவராக திரு. க. நாகேந்திரம் கடமையாற்றினார். இதன் மூலம் ஒன்பதாம் ஆண்டுக் கூட்டுறவுக் கல்வி செயலூக்கம் கொண்ட கல்வியாக வளர்ச்சியடைந்தது. இச்சங்கம் மாணவ உணவு முத்திரையைப் பொறுப்பேற்று பொருட்கள் வழங்கியதின் மூலம் மாணவர்களுக்கும் பாடசாலைக்கும், வர்த்தகத்ததுறைக்கும் பெரும் சேவையாற்றியுள்ளது. 1993ம் ஆண்டு வர்த்தக நூல் நிலையமொன்றை உருவாக்கியது. இக் காலங்களில் வர்த்தகத்துறை அபிவிருத்தி அடைந்தது. கற்கும் மாணவர்களின் தொகை அதிகரித்தது. 90 களில் வர்த்தகமும் நிதியியலும் கணக்கியல், பொருளியல், அளவையியலும் விஞ்ஞான முறையும், புவியியல், இந்து நாகரிகம் போன்ற எல்லாப் பாடங்களிலும் எண்பது வீதத்திற்கு மேற்பட்ட அடைவினைப் பெற்று பாடசாலைக்குப் பெருமையைத்தேடிக் கொடுத்தது.

1992ம் ஆண்டு உதவிச் சிரேஷ்ட மாணவன் செல்வன் க. கிருஷ்ணகுமார் 4 A பெற்று பாடசாலைக்கும், வர்த்தகத்துறைக்கும் பெருமையை ஈட்டிக் கொடுத்தார். 1993ம் ஆண்டு செல்வன் – டின் ராஜ்குமார் முந்நூறு புள்ளிகளைப் பெற்றார். 994ம் ஆண்டு செல்வன் எஸ். ஆகாஷ் 308 புள்ளிகளைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்டார். இவ்வாண்டு வர்த்தகத்துறையில் க.பொ.த உயர்தரப் பரீட்சைக்கு தோற்றிய மாணவர்கள் அனைவரும் பல்கலைக் கழகத்திற்கு அனுமதி பெறக் கூடிய புள்ளிகளைப் பெற்றதன் மூலம் பாடசாலைக்கும் வர்த்தகக் கல்வித்துறைக்கும் பெரும்புகழ் தேடிக் கொடுத்தனர். தொடர்ந்தும் இத்துறை வளர்ச்சிக்கும் அபிவிருத்திக்கும் பாடசாலைச் சமூகத்தின் ஒத்துழைப்பு ஈடு Digitized by Noolaham Foundation. noolaham.org

NEWS FROM NEAR AND FAR

PROF. A. KOVOOR, COLOMBO

Professor Aries Kovoor has recently been appointed as Presidential Advisor on Science and Technology by Her Excellency The President of Sri Lanka.



Prof. Kovoor studied at Jaffna Central College from 1932 to 41 and remembers the Centenary Celebrations held in 1935. His father, Mr. Abraham Kovoor, who is equally well known in this country, was a teacher at JCC for a very long period.

After leaving JCC, Prof. Kovoor entered the University of Madras where he commenced his research career in Soil Microbiology and later in Radiation Biology in Bombay.

In 1952 he entered the Laboratory of Roger Gautheret (the inventor of plant tissue culture) at Sorbonne, with whom he collaborated for 18 years before heading a laboratory of plant cell biology in that University and as a Director of Research of the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

He retired from the University of Paris and the CNRS in 1992.

A recipient of the Lemonon Award of the French Academy of Science for his fundamental studies in plant molecular biology, he has turned to the bio-technology of tropical trees in recent years, notably at the Coconut Research Institute in Lunuwila and at the Institute of Fundamental Studies in Kandy.

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	start are as Official management	rest lien inclumed
Committee Member	Mrs. L. Selvaratnam	416 - 439 - 9491
Committee Member Committee Member	Mrs. L. Selvaratnam Mr. S. J. Ravindrakumaran	416 - 439 - 9491 416 - 746 - 0487

REPORT OF THE SPORTS COMMITTEE- 1995/96 JCC OB & GA, UK

Cricket

Our members have shown great enthusiasm in every field of sports but with special emphasis in cricket

Members of the Sports Committee -1995/96

S.Sivakumaran (Chairman), V.Shivakumar, R.Balendran and R.Saravanabavan. President and Secretary are ex.Official members.

At the annual encounter with St.Johns held on 16.07.95 we beat them comfortably

S.Prabakar (Captain) V.Jeyanathan -Man of the match

At the over 40's encounter also we beat St.Johns-Runners up

S.Pathmanthan-Captain, Dr.J.Ariaratnam-Man of the Match and D.J.Niles

JSSA-Seven a side -held on 27.07.95-Champions beating St.Johns

Captain -T. Vijayanathan. Man of the Match-T. Raviraj

At the over 40's cricket- We were runners up to Jaffna Hindu College

Captain- N.Y. Arasaratnam

Football - 1995/96 May 1996

Runners up to Chithampara College - Captain N. Annadurai

Festival of Cricket -We decided to keep out of the tournament

Sports Committee- 1996/97

R.Rajasingam -Chairman, R.Shanmugarajah, R.Balendran, R.Saravanabavan, S.Yogarajah. President and Secretary are ex.Official members.

Tamil Cricket Festival -Seven a side

Runners up to Jaffna Hindu College, Captain - Mano Tharmarajah

Annual encounter with St.Johns - 20.07.96 We lost

Captain B. Muralitharan, Best batsman - Mano Tharmarajah

At the same encounter our over 40's team beat St. Johns

Captain and man of the match-K.Selvasingam. Best Batsman-J.Mahesan and Best Bowler T.Sriharan

We started an under 20's that is children of old students JCC. At the inaugural match held on 20.07.96. St. Johns beat us. Captain .G. Pathmanathan and Best Batsman - Ananthan.

Other matches over 40's we beat Ananda College at a friendly match when S.Sivakumaran captained the team

JSSA over 40's we beat Hartley and Union College but the tournament was cancelled due to sudden death of Mr. Albert Joseph of St. Patricks College. Our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Joseph and members of his family.

JSSA -Seven a side 26.08.96

We lost to Jaffna Hindu College in the semi -final, Captain T.Raviraj

Team Members for the regular Matches

Mano Tharmarajah	Andrew Gratian	N.Tharmakulasingam
------------------	----------------	--------------------

T.Raviraj	N.Annadurai	Ganeshan
N Siyathasan	N Thamilalagan	Shankar

B.Muralitharan	T.Vijayanathan	K.Kalavannan
----------------	----------------	--------------

G.Anurudran

Team Members for the Over 40s

K.Selvasingam	S.Sriharan	S.Nallanathan

S.Jeyalingam R.Srikantha S.Kugan

N.Arasaratnam T.Selvarajah J.Sutharsan

J.Ariaratnam S.Sivakumaran V.Shivakumar

J.Mahesan

As Chairman of the Sports Committee, I thank the President, the Secretary, the members of the committee for helping me to organise these matches and also team members for their valuable contribution

R.Rajasingam

Chairman-Sports Committee



Runners up to Jaffna Hindu College - Cricket Team 1995/96 Tamil Cricket Festival

Standing (left to right): A.Ganeshan, A. Gratian, Jeyathevan, S.Vijayanathan, K.Kalavannan, S. Rengan, Sir.Gary Sobers, R.Shanmugarajah, T.G.Singam, S.Saravanabavan, T.Puthirasingam, T.Yogarajah Below (left to right): N.Thamilalaghan, S.Raviraj, N.Annadurai, M.Tharmaraj, S.Rajasegar

THE TRADITIONAL CRICKET MATCHES IN SYDNEY -SPORTS UPDATE

We have met a lot of old boys of Jaffna Central, St.Johns, J/Hindu and Jaffna College in Sydney. We want to maintain the traditional relationship between the schools and to share the sweet and valuable memories that we had ever experienced during our time.

1989

We first organized our traditional big match in Sydney between Old Boys of Jaffna Central Vs.Old Boys of St.Johns College in 1989. The Challenge trophy for the winning team was donated by NSW Tamils Sports Club in memory of late Mr.Donald Ganeshakumar. Donald was one of the best outstanding Cricketer that our school had ever produced in 1960's. He played for the under 19 Sri Lanka Cricket Team and played matches in Australia too. St Johns beat us in the first inaugural big match.

1990

In addition to the big match, we organised a match against Old Boys of Jaffna College (Old Golds). The challenge trophy was donated by Strathfield Sports Club in memory of late Mr.K.S.Selliah who was a principal of Jaffna College. We won both matches against St.Johns (2nd encounter) & Jaffna College Old Boys.

1991

Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys wanted to play a cricket match against us and the Sydney Tamils Sports Club donated a Challenge trophy in memory of late Mr.Thamber, who was a former principal of Jaffna Central College. We beat both Jaffna College & Jaffna Hindu College and lost our big match against St.Johns (3rd encounter)

1992

Once again we beat Jaffna College and Jaffna Hindu College and lost our big match against St.Johns (4th encounter)

Sydney Tamils Sports Club organised six-a-side cricket match among Sri Lankan schools and six teams participated. The 'Ward & Davy' challenge trophy was donated in memory of Dr.Muthuthambipillai who was the author of the 1st Tamil English Dictionary. The 'Ward & Davy Cup' was won by Old Golds, Jaffna College who beat J/Hindu College in the finals.

1993

The Old Boys Association of Jaffna Central College was formalised in Sydney in 1992 and the first time the JCC-OBA organised our big match on a grand scale. We unfortunately lost the 5th big match in Sydney. JCC-OBA president Dr.Nirmalanandan presented the trophies. Sydney Tamil Sports Club organised 40 overs game among four Jaffna schools, Central, St.Johns, Hindu & Jaffna

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College. The challenge trophy was donated by Sydney Tamils Sports Club in memory of late Mr.Mahadeva (Thevan master -J.Hindu College) We were the proud winners of 'Mahadeva Cup' and beat St.Johns in the finals.

We lost to J/Hindu College & they won the 'Thamber Trophy' in the 3rd annual event. Once again we beat Jaffna College Old Boys (4th consecutive year). There were eight schools participating in the six-a-side cricket match organised by Sydney Tamils Sports Club. We were defeated by St.Johns in the six-a-side finals &they won the 'Ward & Davy Cup'

1994

Once again we were the proud Champions of 40 overs matches among schools organised by Sydney Tamil Sports Club and we retained the 'Mahadeva Cup'. This time we beat J/Hindu College in the finals. We also beat J/Hindu College in the annual event and reclaimed the 'Thamber Cup'

We lost to .St.Johns in the big match (6th encounter)

Once again we beat Jaffna College and retained the "Selliah Memorial Cup" A six-a-side cricket festival was organised by Sri Lankan Schools OBA (NSW) & Sydney Tamils Cricket Club. This time 12 schools participated and we lost to Royal in the semi finals. Royal for first time won the "Ward & Davy Cup".

1995

Once again J/Central OBA very successfully organised the big match. We lost to both St.Johns in the big match (7th encounter) & J/Hindu College (5th annual event). A special challenge trophy was donated by Dr.Senthil, in the name of "SRK Memorial Trophy" for the best all rounder for an Old 'Centralite in the annual big match. I am proud to say that I am the first lucky winner to obtain the "SRK Trophy". Our OBA president Dr.Seelan was the chief guest and presented the trophies.

Once again a six-a-side cricket festival was organised on a grand scale and this time 16 schools participated. We lost to Colombo St.Josephs in the quarter finals and finally they won the 'Ward & Davy Cup'

A. Bhahirathan & T.Sasitharan Sports Secretaries, OSA Sydney (1995-96)

SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN CANADA

The following have been extracted from "Toronto" Cricketer - June/July '95:

JAFFNA CENTRAL V.ST JOHN'S

Perennial rivals clash again on August 7 at Sunnybrook Park

The eagerly awaited annual cricket encounter between the two perennial rivals from northern Sri Lanka is slated for Saturday August 7 at the beautiful Sunnybrook Park grounds in East York. Play commencing sharp at 12.00 noon

Central College is responsible for organizing this year's match, an arrangement which alternates between the colleges and as the chairman of the organizing committee, K J Thirukumar, the dynamic Centralite livewire, is sparing no pains to make this another memorable event in the intensely contested, though friendly series.

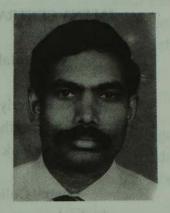
Last year, after a close fight for most of the way, Central finally pulled out in front and ran away with the winner's trophy. This year, however, St John's are rearing to get their own back and a great finish is on the cards. The organizing committee invites everyone to come and have a fun-filled day in the park and enjoy the cricket and do much flag-waving

Leading the sides are two stalwarts of their old schools. Captaining St.John's will be P.Ravirajan and Central K.Thomas

The Toronto Cricketer June-July 1995 records his achievement as follows:

"For K.J. Thirukumar it is a dream come true, on being elected to the full membership of England's prestigious Association of Umpires and Scorers in June of this year, the first Sri Lankan to achieve the distinction in Canada.

Thiru as he is popularly known to many, hails from Sri Lanka where he represented Jaffna Central at cricket, 1968-69 and later Jaffna District. At the time of leaving Jaffna he was also an active umpire and belonged to the Jaffna Cricket Umpires Association.



In the Middle East where he was later employed, he played for Bharain Cosmopolitan and did some coaching too. He was held in high regard in Bharain, and from 1985-91 he was the Chairman of the Bharain CA's umpires' panel.

He continued his great interest in cricket when he immigrated to Canada a few years ago and has been very active as a coach and umpire. Winston Churchill CI's cricket team has been one of the beneficiaries of his coaching talents as an Ontario Level I coach.

As a member of the Toronto and Scarborough Umpires Association he officiates in the premier division.

The secret of his success is an intimate knowledge of the game as a player and keen student of cricket.

He has achieved all this through hard work and dedication and, there is no doubt, cricket lovers everywhere will join Toronto Cricketer in wishing him much success in his endeavours, both as a full fledged umpire and a dedicated coach in his new homeland Canada."

நாவலர் ஞாபகார்த்த துடுப்பாட்டப் போட்டி - பெர்லின்

யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர் சங்க பெர்லின் கிளையினரால் மூன்றாவது தடவையாக நடாத்தப்பட்ட வண. பீற்றர் பேர்சிவல் — ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ ஆறுமுக நாவலர் ஞாபகார்த்த வெற்றிக் கிண்ணங்களுக்கான மென்பந்து துடுப்பாட்ட சுற்றுப்போட்டியில் பேர்லினிலுள்ள ஏழு விளையாட்டுக் கழகங்கள் பங்கு பற்றின.

லிஸ்ரபெல்ட் தமிழர் விளையாட்டுக் கழகமும் நாவலர் தமிழர் விளையாட்டுக் கழகமும் இறுதிப்போட்டிக்கு தெரிவாகின.

முதலில் துடுப்பெடுத்தாடிய லிஸ். தமிழர் விளையாட்டுக் கழகம் பதினாலு பந்து வீச்சு மாற்றங்களுக்கு சகல இலக்குகளையும் இழந்து 81 ஓட்டங்களைப் பெற்றது.

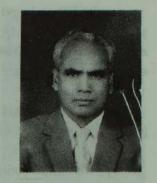
நாவலர் விளையாட்டுக் கழகம் 14.1 பந்து வீச்சு மாற்றங்களுக்கு சகல இலக்குகளையும் இழந்து 67 ஓட்டங்களைப் பெற்றது. இதன் மூலம் லிஸ்ரபெல்ட் கழகம் 96ஆம் ஆண்டிற்காக வண. பீற்றர் பேர்சிவல் ஞாபகார்த்த சுழற்சி வெற்றிக் கிண்ணத்தையும் ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ ஆறுமுக நாவலர் ஞாபகார்த்த வெற்றிக் கிண்ணத்தையும் பெற்றுக் கொண்டது. இப்போட்டிகளில் இருந்து சிறந்த துடுப்பாட்ட வீரராக விஸ்ரபெல்ட் கழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த என். கேசவன் சிறந்த பந்து வீச்சாளராகவும் இறுதிப் போட்டியின் சிறந்த ஆட்டக்காரராகவும் நாவலர் கழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த பாஸ்கரன் சிறந்த பந்து துடுப்பாளராக நாவலர் கழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த வி. சோதிலிங்கம் சகல துறை வீரராக லிஸ்ரபெல்ட் கழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த எஸ். சிவகுமர். இவர் மூன்று வருடங்கள் நடைபெற்ற சுற்றுப் போட்டிகளிலும் வெற்றிக் கிண்ணத்தைப் பெற்றவர் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

சுற்றுப்போட்டியின் சிறந்த வீரராக ரெம்பிள் கொப் தமிழா விளையாட்டுக் கழகத்தைச் சோ்ந்த எஸ். சுதாகரன் ஆகியோரும் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டனா். இப்போட்டிக்கு நடுவா்களாக பிறீமன் மாநகரத்தின் சிறந்த துடுப்பாட்ட வீரா்களான சரவணபவான், பிரேமராஜா, ராஜரட்ணம், புவனேந்திரன் ஆகியோரும் பிரதம விருந்தினா்களாக திரு. ஜெரி ஜெயரட்ணம், திரு. சின்னப்பு சின்னத்தம்பி ஆகியோரும் கலந்து கொண்டனா்.

திரு. வ. நடராசா, கொழும்பு.

நாவற்குழியைப் பிறப்பிடமாகவும், உரும்பிராயில் வசித்தவரும் தற்போது சென் செபஸ்தியார் தொடர் மாடியில் வசிப்பவருமாகிய திரு. வயிரமுத்து நடராசா, தீவு முழுவதற்குமான சமாதான நீதிவானாக கொழும்பு மாவட்ட நீதிமன்ற நீதிவான் திரு. யோகசிகாமணி முன்னிலையில் சத்தியப்பிரமாணம் செய்து கொண்டார்.

இவர் நாவற்குழி மகா வித்தியாலயம், சாவகச்சேரி டிறிபோக் கல்லூாரி, யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரி ஆகியவற்றின் பழைய மாணவராவார். யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் கொழும்புக் கிளையின் நிர்வாக சபை உறுப்பினரும், ஆயுட்கால அங்கத்தவருமாவார்.



யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரி பாடசாலை அபிவிருத்திச் சங்கத்தில் தொடர்ந்து மூன்று ஆண்டுகள் கௌரவ செயலாளராகக் கடமையாற்றினார்.

பிரபல தொழிற்சங்கவாதியான இவர் 1977ம் ஆண்டு நடைபெற்ற பாராளுமன்ற தேர்தலில் ல. ச. ச. கட்சியின் கோப்பாய்த் தொகுதியில் போட்டியிட்டார். 1978ம் ஆண்டு கியூபா நாட்டில் நடைபெற்ற உலக வாலிபர் சங்க மகாநாட்டில் பங்குபற்றியதோடு நாடு திரும்பும் வழியில் சோவியத் யூனியனுக்கும் விஜயம் செய்தார். சமய, சமூக சேவையில் ஈடுபாடுடைய இவரை 1966ம் ஆண்டு புரட்டாதி மாதம் இரத்தினபுரியில் நடைபெற்ற அகில இன நல்லுறவு ஒன்றிய விழாவில் சாமஸ்ரீ சமூக திலகம் என்ற பட்டம் வழங்கி, பொன்னாடை போர்த்தி கௌரவித்தது.

இவர் உலக சைவப் பேரவையின் இலங்கை மன்றத்தின் கௌரவ செயலாளராகக் கடமையாற்றி கடந்த ஐப்பசி மாதம் தென் ஆபிரிக்காவிலுள்ள டேபன் நகரில் நடைபெற்ற 5வது உலக சைவப் பேரவையின் மகா நாட்டில் பங்குபற்றியது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. Mrs. Padma Thiruchelvam, (nee Duraisingham) a former old student of Vembadi and Jaffna Central and a livewire of both Associations passed away peacefully when on holiday in Los Angeles, U.S.A. She was the Editor of the Jaffna Central - Vembadi Girls School Joint Nite for many years. May her soul rest in peace.



அமரர் எஸ். சிவமித்திரன்

யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியின் மாணவனாகவும், ஆசிரியராகவும் விளங்கிய அமரர். மித்திரன் ஆற்றலும் திறமைகள் பலவும் மிக்கவராக தமது கல்லூரிக்கு பெரும் புகழை ஈட்டித் தந்த ஒருவராகக் கருதப்படுபவர். கல்வித் திறனுடன் கிரிக்கெட் விளையாட்டிலும் சாதனை படைத்து, 1975ஆம் ஆண்டு பாடசாலைகளுக்கிடையே நடைபெற்ற சிறந்த விளையாட்டு வீரர் தெரிவில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டு சிறப்பு விருதைப் பெற்ற அதே காலப்பகுதியில் உயர் கல்வி மாணவர் சங்கத்தின் தலைவராகவும் விளங்கி அதன் வளர்ச்சிக்குப் பாடுபட்டவர். 1978இல் யாழ். மாவட்டக் "கிரிக்கெட்" குழுவின் **தலைவராக** இவ்வாண்டில் இவர் யாழ். தெரிந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார்.



பல்கலைக்கழக கரப் பந்தாட்ட குழுவின் தலைவராகவும் தெரிவாகினார். இருபத்திமூன்று ஆண்டு இடைவெளிக்குப் பின் யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரிக்கும், சென் ஜோன்ஸ் கல்லூரிக்கும் இடையே நடைபெற்ற கிரிக்கெட் போட்டியில் யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரி ஈட்டிய மகத்தான வெற்றிக்கு மித்திரனின் வழிகாட்டல் பெருந்துணை புரிந்தது.

யாழ். பல்கலைக்கழக விஞ்ஞான பட்டப்படிப்பினை பூர்த்தி செய்து பின் எலக்ரொனிக் பொறியியல் பரீட்சையிலும் சித்தியடைந்தார். பண்பாளனாகவும், கடமை வீரனாகவும் நின்று மாணவருக்கு கல்வி புகட்டியவர். எல்லோருடனும் அன்போடும் நட்புடனும் பழகும் உயரிய பண்பை அவரிடம் காண முடிந்தது. விளையாட்டுத் துறை வரலாற்றில் தனக்கென ஒரு வரலாற்றுப் பதிவை ஏற்படுத்திய மித்திரன் பிரான்ஸ் நாட்டில் சிலகாலம் வாழ்ந்து பின்னர் மீண்டும் தாய் மண்ணில் பணிபுரிந்து அண்மையில் இறைபதம் எய்தினார். அவர் வாழ்ந்த காலங்கள் சிலவானாலும் படைத்த சாதனைகள் என்றும் அவராக வாழ்ந்து அவரது பாடசாலைக்கும் பெருமையை பெற்றுத் தரும்.

மத்தியின் இளம் மைந்தன் மணிவதனன்.

மத்தியின் வானில் பிரகாசமாக ஒளிந்த நட்சத்திரம் ஒன்று உதிர்ந்து விட்டது. மணி என அனைவரது உதடுகளும் ஒலித்த ரீங்காரம் ஒய்ந்து விட்டது. சற்குணமூர்த்தி மணிவதனன் ஆரம்ப வகுப்பு முதல் உயர்தர வகுப்புவரை மத்திய கல்லூரியிலேயே கல்வி கற்றான். தன் விளையாட்டுத் திறமையினால் அனைவரையும் வியக்க வைத்து கல்லூரித்தாய்க்கும் புகழ் சேர்த்தான்.

கிரிக்கெட்டில் மட்டுமன்றி உதைபந்தாட்டம், உள்ளக விளையாட்டு, மெய்வல்லுனர் போட்டிகளிலும் பங்குபற்றி தனது திறமைகளை வெளிப்படுத்தி சாதனைகள் புரிந்தான். தலைமை தாங்கும் திறன், எதையும் சவாலாக ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பண்பு, அமைதியான சுபாவம் இவையே அவனது அணிகலன்கள்.



மணியின் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க சில பதிவுகள்.

- ★ 1992 இல் 19 வயதுக்குட்பட்ட உதைப்பந்தாட்ட அணிக்கு தலைமை தாங்கியமை, ஆண்டின் சிறந்த விளையாட்டு வீரனுக்கான விருது பெற்றமை.
- ★ 1993 இல் யாழ் மாவட்ட பாடசாலைகளுக்கிடையிலான பற்மின்றன் போட்டியில் ஒற்றையர் ஆட்டத்தில் சம்பியனாகியமை, இரட்டையர் ஆட்டத்தில் தனது சகோதரனுடன் சேர்ந்து இரண்டாமிடம் பெற்றமை, ஆண்டிற்கான சிறந்த மெய் வல்லுனர் விருது பெற்றமை, கிரிக்கெட்டில் வர்ண விருது பெற்றமை.
- ★ 1994 இல் 19 வயதுக்குட்பட்ட கிரிக்கெட் குழுவிற்கு தலைமை தாங்கி ஏறக்குறைய 20 ஆண்டுகளின் பின் சென்றல் சென்ஜோன்ஸ் போராட்டத்தில் (Big Match) பெரு வெற்றியீட்டச் செய்தமை.

விளையாட்டுக்களில் தனக்கென ஒரு பாங்கினை (Style) அமைத்து விளையாட்டு அபிமானிகளின் மனம் கவர்ந்த 'மணி'யை குறுகிய காலத்தில் இழந்தது, மத்தியின் சமூகத்திற்கு ஒர் பேரிழப்பாகும்.

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் ஆரம்ப ஙாள் வெளிப்படுத்தல்

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் ஆரம்ப நாளை உறுதி செய்வதற்காக யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவர் சங்கத்தினால் நியமிக்கப்பெற்ற குழுவின் அறிக்கை, கல்லூரி சார்ந்த அனைத்துச் சபைகளினதும், மன்றங்களினதும் செயற்குழு அங்கத்தினர் முன்னிலையில் 31–03–93 ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை என்னால் சமர்ப்பிக்கப் பெற்றது. அறிக்கையைப் பரிசீலனை செய்த சபையினர், கல்லூரி முதன் முதலில் ஆரம்பிக்கப் பெற்ற தினம் 01–08–1816 என்பதை ஒரு மனதாக

ஏற்றுக்கொண்டனர்.

இத்துடன் சபையின் முன்னர் சமாப்பிக்கப் பெற்ற கல்லூரிக் கீதத்தின் ஆங்கில மூலத்தின் புதிய தமிழ் ஆக்கமும் சபையினரால் ஏகமனதாக ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளப் பெற்றது.

மேற்படி தீர்மானங்களைக் கல்லூரியோடு தொடர்புடைய சகலருக்கும் இத்தால் வெளிப்படுத்துகின்றேன்

> நா. க. சண்முகநாதபிள்ளை அதிபர் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி

02-02-1993

THE COLLEGE SONG

Wet the ground and wind opposing,
Just ten minutes yet to play;
Play up Central, No reposing
On the gains of yesterday.
Now's the time for combined action;
Pass the ball from man to man;
Never selfish play nor faction,
Proved worthwhile since sport began.

Chorus

Central! Rally for the school then, Take the field with one accord; Keep your courage cool and clean then, Central's flag must ne'er be lowered.

On the field of life when striving, Keep your honour true and bright. Play up, Central! Ever thriving On the fruits of grace and light; For your comrades of the old days, Scattered far though, they may be; For your school, and for her true praise, Live in service glad and free!

Chorus

Composed by Rev. P.T. Cash, M.A., B.Sc. Music by Mrs. P.T. Cash, A.R.C.M., L.L.C.M.

கல்லூர்க் கீதம்

1993–01–31ல் நடைபெற்ற கல்லூரியினதும், கல்லூரி சார்ந்த சங்கங்களினதும் செயற்குழுவினர் கூட்டத்தில் அங்கீகாரம் பெற்று 175–வது ஆண்டு நிறைவு விழாவில் அரங்கேறியது.

> ஈரம் திடலில் எதிர்க்கும் காற்று நேரம் மணித்துளி பத்தினும் ஆட; ஆர்வம் குறையா தாடிடு மத்தி ஒர்மம் நேற்றுள வெற்றியில் ஊட்டு வந்தது நேரம் ஒன்றிய செயற்கு; பந்தினை மாறு ஆளுக்கு ஆளாய்; என்றுமே சுயநலம் பிரிவினை நீக்கு நன்றிது ஆட்டம் முன்தொடர் சான்று!

இணைந்து பாடல்

மத்தியம் நித்தியம் கலையகம் காக்க ஒத்திசை வாகக் களத்தினைக் கொள்ளு; மெத்தென உறுதி சுத்தமாய்ப் பேணு மத்தியின் மணிக்கொடி நித்தியம் நிலைக்கும்.

வாழ்வெனும் தளத்தில் தளம்பிடும் போது, ஆள்கநின் கீர்த்தி அகமெய் ஒளிர்க, ஆடிடு மத்தி அனுதினம் முயல்க கூடிடு கருணை குவிசுடர் கனிய; உன்னவர் தோழர் உள்ளனர் முன்னாள்; அன்னவர் அகலப் பரந்துள போதும்; உன்னது பள்ளி அன்னவள் அரும்புகழ், எண்ணிநில் தொண்டில் இன்பம் ஏகாந்தம்!

இணைந்து பாடல்

தமிழாக்கம்: கவிஞர் நா.க. சண்முகநாகபிள்ளை, B.Sc. SLEAS

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE OLD BOY'S ASSOCIATION OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE TO DETERMINE THE DATE OF FOUNDING OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

THE COMMITTEE

Mr. K. Kathiravelupillai District Judge (Chairman)

Dr. K. Sitrampalam, M.A., Ph.D Head: Dept of History University of Jaffna (Member) Rev. A.W. Jebanesan, B.D.
Minister: Methodist Church
Jaffna
(Member)

1993-01-05

EXTRACTS

The Executive Committee of the Old Boys' Association of Jaffna Central College appointed us to determine the Date of Founding of Jaffna Central College. The said Association invited written submissions as regards to the Date of Founding of the College from those connected with Jaffna Central College and, they received written submissions from three people, namely:

- 1. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muthaiah, M. A. (Hull), B. D. (Seram)
 President: Methodist Church of Sri Lanka, Colombo.
- 2. Dr. A. Sinnathamby, B.A., Dip. in-Ed., M. A. (Ed), Ph.D (Ed) Formerly, Education Officer.
- Mr. K. Manickavasagar Librarian, Jaffna Central College, Jaffna.

The Old Boys' Association tendered the written submissions of the above-named three persons for us to consider the Date of Founding of the College.

In addition to the written submissions of the above-said people, the following publications, among many others, were used for our guidance:

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- Jaffna Central College: Centenary Memorial Edition (1834-1934) published in 1936 by a Committee appointed to write the history of Jaffna Central College.
- 2. A History of the Methodist Church in Ceylon, 1814-1964 Edited by Rev. W.J.T. Small.
- 3. A History of St. John's College, Jaffna (1823-1923) published in 1924 and reprinted in 1983; written by J. C. Handy.
- 5. Kankesan Kalvi Malar, published by the Principals' Association of Kankesanthurai Circuit in . 1985.

In the absence of any written documents left by the Founders, the history of a college is normally traced from the contemporaneous writings, correspondences, and also related writings of the Old Boys. Fortunately, as far as Jaffna Central College is concerned we were able to go through the centenary publication, along with the literature on the history of the Methodist Mission in Ceylon and other Missionary schools in Jaffna.

Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muthaiah in his written submission has stated as follows: "In 1989 Methodist Central College, Batticaloa, started by the Methodist Church celebrated the 175th anniversary. In 1991 Newstead Girls' School in Negombo, another Methodist School celebrated its 175th anniversary. While checking our records we came across a new fact regarding Jaffna Central College. I wish to pass on this information as to the Date of the Founding of the school which came to be known later as Jaffna Central College.

The Rev. James Lynch and the Rev. Thomas Squance arrived in Jaffna on 10th August 1814. On arrival in Jaffna they met Mr. James Mooyart, the Sub-Collector who received them gladly and with whom they stayed. The two Missionaries began to study Tamil and were assisted by the Rev. Christian David, a pious Tamil preacher who was a convert of the pioneer Indian Missionary, Christian Schwarts.

According to our records: On August 1st 1816 the Old Orphan House and the Lutheran Church opposite the Esplanade were purchased from the Government by James Lynch for a sum of 646 Rix Dollars. It was the first property acquired by the Mission in Jaffna, and provided it with a well situated chapel and school. (Small, W J T Ed. A History of the Methodist Church in Ceylon 1814-1964, Wesley Press, Colombo, 1964 p. 63) The English School which was started in this building was later named in 1817 as Jaffna Wesleyan English School. In 1824 the School which existed at the Esplanade site was moved to the Vembadi Mission House building. In 1834 the Rev. Peter Perceival expanded the school curriculum and facilities and renamed the school as 'Jaffna Central School'.

From these records you will see that 1st August 1816 is the date of the opening of Jaffna Central College."

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Dr. A. Sinnathamby, in his short written submission states as follows: "My research on Jaffna Central College reveals the fact that Jaffna Central College was founded earlier than 1834. The fact to be brought out is that Rev. Peter Perceival reorganised Jaffna Central College and not founded it.

The Wesleyan Missionaries came in 1814 and in the same year they founded the Sunday School which became popular internationally. The modern trend in educational history of this institution is to go by the continuity of the tradition of the institution from 1814. The Wesleyan Missionaries started educational activities in Jaffna in 1816 after purchasing the Old Orphan House. Lynch and Squance began teaching in the purchased building itself. It is the Sunday School which began by the Methodist Mission, later became Jaffna English School, and subsequently renamed as 'Jaffna Central School'. The Jaffna Central School became 'Jaffna Central College' in due course."

Mr. K. Manickavasagar, in his thirty-three page type written submission has analyzed various sources to determine the Date of Founding of Jaffna Central College. His work pertaining to the origin of this school is more or less a research and cited reliable authorities to determine the date of founding of this institution. His has brought out the draw-backs of the 'Jaffna Central College (1834-1934) Centenary Memorial Edition, published in 1936. In fact, his submission was a guidance for us to consider various authorities, and to determine the date of founding of Jaffna Central College. In his conclusion he has stated that the forerunner of Jaffna Central College was founded on the First day of August 1816.

The Centenary Memorial Edition of Jaffna Central College (1834-1934), published in 1936; and the History of Methodist Church in Ceylon (1814-1964) published by the Wesley Press, Colombo are the most important materials available to us to trace the founding of Jaffna Central College.

Though the Centenary Memorial Edition of 1936 says about the period of development between 1834 and 1934, it covers a period anterior to it.

Mr. K. Navaratnam, Secretary to the Centenary Memorial Edition Committee, in his preface to the Edition states that this book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the arrival of the pioneer Missionaries and the founding of schools. The period dealt with in this section is from 1814 to 1833, during which time Central was a mixed English School catering to the needs of the children of the Jaffna Town. The second part begins with the reorganization of the school by Rev. Perceival, under the new name of Jaffna Central School and covers the period between 1834 and 1869. The third part deals with University Affiliation and the development of Collegiate Education as far as 1934.

It is clear from the Centenary Memorial Edition of Jaffna Central College that this school was started before 1834 and it was only reorganised and re-named as Jaffna Central School in 1834 by Digitized by Noolaham Foundation noolaham.org | aavanaham.org Rev. Perceival.

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The following four chapters of the Centenary Memorial Edition are important for our considerations and comments. I. The Wesleyan pioneers II. Founding of schools III. Wesleyan English School IV. The Jaffna Central School...

Conclusion as to the Date of Founding of Jaffna Central College

- A. The first Wesleyan Missionaries arrived in Ceylon on the 29th of June 1814. Their idea was to spread Christianity. On their arrival they felt that they could use education as a medium to achieve it. This is quite evident from their activities soon after their arrival. For, they established English Schools in the same year of their arrival in Galle, Matara and Batticaloa.
- B. At this time they were also assured of Government support. This is known from the letter of the 'Good Christian Brownrigg' dated 17th of August 1814, written to the Secretary of State. This letter is quoted in T. Ranjit Ruberu's book Education in Colonial Ceylon (1962) p. 136 as follows: 'When the first batch of four Wesleyan Missionaries arrived in the year 1814, Brownrigg granted an allowance of 50 Rix Dollars per month to each priest on condition that they would in return give instruction to the native Headmen and their children in the great object no less important to the Government of acquiring a knowledge of the English language". This information in also found in the 'History of the Methodist Church in Ceylon' (p.84) where it is stated that "the Government paid small sum to the Galle and Matara English Schools begun in 1814 at Governor Brownrigg's suggestion".
- C. Therefore, one has to review the activities of the Wesleyan Missionaries in Jaffna against the above background. These Missionaries reached Jaffna on the 10th of August 1814. As stated in the Centenary Memorial Edition of Jaffna Central College, the two Missionaries, Lynch and Squance, proposed immediately on their arrival to open up schools. Their work during this period (1814-1816) was largely preliminary. No building had yet been purchased. Services were conducted in the Fort Church. Lynch and Squance were learning Tamil and a beginning in the way of Christian literature was made by circulating sermons in Tamil written on olas. They were also preaching in the bazaar, conducting a Sunday School and converting people.
- D. However, on the First of August 1816, the Old Orphan House and Lutheran Church opposite the Esplanade were purchased by Lynch from the Government for a sum of 646 Rix Dollars. This was the first property acquired by the Mission in Jaffna.
- E. The naming of the School and the Date of its Founding are the two other key issues which deserve our consideration.
- F. With regard to naming: As there is clear evidence for the naming of the schools opened by the Wesleyan Mission in 1814 at Galle, Matara and Batticaloa as English Schools, we are convinced that in Jaffna too they adopted a similar method by naming their first school as 'English School'.

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- G. Regarding the Founding of the School: The available evidence suggests that the property for the school and a chapel was bought on the first of August 1816. The authors of 'Ceylon and its Methodism' say that the building was provided with a well situated chapel and a school (p. 35). This is in agreement with the reference found in the book titled 'Notes on Jaffna' where the author says that the building was converted at a small expense into a small school and a chapel (p.8). Spending money for the repairs is also further confirmed by the letter of Harvard written in 1816.
- H. Although the evidence cited above confirm the repairs effected to the newly purchased building, they do not mention anywhere categorically as to when this was done; before the actual occupation of the building or during the occupation of the building. Probably, they would have been done at a time when the school had started functioning.
- The perusal of the documents of the Wesleyan Mission Church clearly shows that the actual founding of the English School took place on the date of the purchase of the property on the First of August 1816. This is also testified to by the letter by Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muthaiah who, being the President of the Methodist Mission in Sri Lanka had the materials of the Mission at his disposal. This is in tune with the activities of this Mission in other parts of Sri Lanka as well.
- As far as Jaffna is concerned the real execution of the plan of the Missionaries was delayed for want of a suitable building at the time of their arrival on the tenth of August 1814— for two years. Nevertheless, the evidence at our disposal vouchsafes the fact that they were doing preparatory work during this period before the purchase of the building on the First of August 1816. They were engaged in preaching in the bazaar organising a Sunday School, converting people and finally drawing up a plan for schools.
- K. With a definite plan and property at their disposal their task of founding the school was facilitated by other factors as well. For instance, the Orphan House they purchased had the tradition of functioning as a school during the Dutch period although it ceased to function since the year 1803. There is also evidence to show that the very same Missionaries who worked in Colombo had used the Orphanages of the Dutch for similar purpose.
- L. The preparatory work of the Missionaries during the period 1814-1816 shows that there was no problem in getting teachers or students for this purpose. Lynch, along with the assistance rendered by Daniel Theophilus, who was very keen in opening up schools found it easier to execute his plan smoothly.

Moreover, Governor Brownrigg's letter to the Colonial Secretary dated 6th June 1816 assured a regular monthly pay for the teachers of these schools. All the factors would have encouraged the Missionaries to found the school on the very same day of the purchase of the property.

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- M. The founding of the school on the First of August 1816 is also further confirmed by the reply Lynch received from Rev. Glennie, Colonial Chaplain, dated 6th Sept. 1816 quoted by Ranjit Ruberu (p. 182). Although we did not come across the copy of the letter written by Lynch to Rev. Glennie, the reply itself vouches for the fact that Lynch had really written to Rev. Glennie about his recently founded school itself. It is quite possible that Lynch as the Chairman of the Wesleyan Mission of Ceylon (1816-1824) would have been happier in announcing the Foundation of the school before the 6th of September. The letter reads as follows. "No school, I feel, will succeed in this country however properly established in the first instance, unless they are strictly and constantly attended to, afterwards. All institutions of this kind, however good the rules of discipline, will rapidly degenerate, unless strictly attended to by active European Superintendents who have the success of the Gospel principally at heart and uppermost in their thoughts".
- N. There is also some more evidence for the functioning of the School established by Lynch. Mr. Carver in his letter of 31st of March 1817 has mentioned that a youth of eighteen years, a student of Lynch, been violently persecuted because he became a Christian. Moreover, Lynch visited Madras in February of the same year (1817) to lay the foundation for a Methodist Mission there. Hence it is very likely that his visit would have been a follow up of his success in Jaffna. The Wesleyan Mission drew up a programme of establishing schools in August 1817. Three more schools were established at Vannarpannai, Navatkuli, and Puttur in 1818, probably after their initial success in founding an English School on the First of August 1816 which was renamed as Wesleyan English School in the following year. This school was reorganised and renamed as Jaffna Central School by Rev. Perceival in 1834. Finally it was named as Jaffna Central College in 1869.
- On the basis of the facts mentioned above, we are convinced, beyond doubt, that the Jaffna English School, the nucleus of the present Jaffna Central College, was founded on the First of August 1816, the date on which a property was purchased for establishing a school and a chapel.

மத்திய இடம் வகிக்கும் மத்திய கல்லூரி

கலாநிதி கார்த்திகேசு சிவத்தம்பி தமிழ்ப் பேராசிரியர் தலைவர், நுண்கலைத்துறை யாழ். பல்கலைக்கழகம், யாழ்ப்பாணம்

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி 175 வருடகாலச் சேவையைப் பூர்த்திசெய்தே இப்பொழுது இரண்டு வருடங்களாகிவிட்டன.

யாழ்.மத்திய கல்லூரி இலங்கையினதும் வட இலங்கையினதும் தேசிய உணர்வு வளர்ச்சிக்கும், கல்வி வளர்ச்சிக்கும் ஆற்றிய பங்களிப்பு வரலாற்றில் பிரசித்தமானது.

பீட்டர் பர்சிவல்—ஆறுமுகநாவலர் வரலாறுகள் இலங்கை என்ற வட்டத்தையும் மீறித் தமிழ்நாட்டு வளர்ச்சியிலும் முத்திரை பதித்தவை.

ஆறுமுகநாவலரது மத, இலக்கிய நோக்குகள் பர்சிவலின் செல்வாக்குகளினூடாக வந்ததென்பதும் நமக்குத் தெரிந்த ஒன்றே. நாவலர் பர்சிவல்பால் வைத்திருந்த மதிப்பும் மரியாதையும் மஞ்சக்குப்ப வழக்கு மூலம் நமக்குத் தெரியவருகின்றது.

வெஸ்லிய மரபுக்குரிய மதத்தூய்மைவாதப் போக்குச் சைவத்தினைப் பேண உதவிற்று.



யாழ்.மத்திய கல்லூரியின் இந்த வரலாற்று முக்கியத்துவம், அது வளர்ந்துவிட்ட ஒரு கல்வி ஆளுமைப் பாரம்பரியத்தை மறைத்து விடக்கூடாது.

கல்வி என்பது இடையறாத படிப்பும், தவறக்கூடாத பரீட்சைச் சித்தியுமே என்று இயக்கும் யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்விச் குழலில், விளையாட்டு, சமூக ஊடாட்டம் ஆகியவற்றினூடாக மாணவர்களின் ஆளுமை வளர்ச்சிக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுக்கும் ஒரு பண்பு யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பாரம்பரியங்களிலொன்றாகும். மாணவர்களைத் தன்னம்பிக்கையுடையவர்களாய், செல்லும் இடங்களில் செல்வாக்குடையவர்களாய்ப் பழகக்கூடிய ஒரு பண்பை யாழ்.மத்திய கல்லூரி வளர்த்து வந்துள்ளது. இது யாழ்ப்பாண இளைஞனின் ஆளுமைக்கு யாழ்.மத்திய கல்லூரி செய்துள்ள பங்களிப்பாகும்.

மத்திய கல்லூரியின் அதிபர்களின் பெயர்களை மீட்டுக் கொண்டாலே போதும்; யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்விப் பாரம்பரியத்தின் சில அத்தியாயங்களும், பந்திகளும் அந்தப் பட்டியலுக்குள் அடங்கிவிடும். தம்பர் முதல் சபாலிங்கம் வரை என அந்தப் பாரம்பரியம் நீளும். ஸ்மித் முதல் சண்முகநாதபிள்ளை வரை இந்த அதிபர்கள் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் மதிப்பு மிக்க கல்விமான்களாக விளங்கியவர்கள் / விளங்குபவர்கள்.

இன்று நம் சமூகத்தில் கொண்டிருக்கும் பாரிய மாற்றங்களை உள்வாங்கி, பழைமையின் தொடர்ச்சியையும் புதுமையின் உத்வேகத்தையும் இணைத்துக் கொள்வதிலே தான் யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரி போன்ற நிறுவனத்தின் பலம் தங்கியுள்ளது.

மெதடிஸ்த பாரம்பரியத்தினின்று சைவப்பாரம்பரியத்துக்கு வந்து, பண்பாட்டுத் தொடர்ச்சியைப் பேணிய இக்கல்லூரி இந்தப் புதிய சவாலையும் திறம்பட நிறைவேற்றும் என்பது எனது நம்பிக்கை. அதற்கு வேண்டிய தீட்சண்யமுள்ள அதிபரும், ஆசிரியர்களும், இவர்களுக்கு மேலாக மாணவர்களும் அங்கு இருக்கின்றார்கள்.

யாழ்.மத்திய கல்லூரி பல விடயங்களில் நமது பாரம்பரியத்தில் ஒரு மத்திய இடத்தை வகித்துள்ளது. அந்த இடம் தொடர்ந்து பேணப்படுவதாக.

் (நன்றி ்யாழ் மத்தியம்-1992)

யாழ் பல்கலைக்கழக தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவரின் வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் அமைந்த பழைமைவாய்ந்த கல்விக்கூடங்களில் யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியும் ஒன்றாகும். 175 ஆவது ஆண்டு நிறைவினைக் கடந்து வெற்றி வாகையுடன் (கிரிக்கட் உட்பட) நடைபோடும் இக்கல்வி நிறுவனம் பல்வேறு தரப்பட்ட பெரியார்களை உருவாக்கித் தந்துள்ளது. ஈழத்து இலக்கிய வரலாற்றையோ சமய வரலாற்றையோ நாவலருடைய பெயரின்றி எழுதமுடியாது. அவ்வாறு நாவலரை நினைக்கும் போதெல்லாம் யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியும் உடன் நினைத்து எண்ணப்பட வேண்டியது இன்றியமையாததொன்றாகும். நாவலர் பெருமான் சிறிது காலம் கல்வி கற்பித்த கூடம் இதுவாகும். இதனால் இக்கல்விக்கூடம் பெருமை பெறுகின்றது. போரினால் ஏற்பட்ட புறவடுக்களையும், விபுலானந்தன் போன்ற மாணவர்களினால் ஏற்பட்ட அகவடுக்களையுங் கொண்ட யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி தனக்கென ஒரு மாட்சிமை பெற்ற நீண்ட வரலாற்றையுடையதாக அமைந்துள்ளது. ஒரு நல்ல கவிஞரை இன்று முதல்வராகக் கொண்டு திகழும் இக்கல்விக்கூடம் மேலும் பல சாதனைகள் மூலம் தனது இரண்டாவது நூற்றாண்டுக் காலத்தை எட்டிப்பிடிக்க வேண்டுமென்று இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன். 175 ஆவது ஆண்டு நிறைவை நினைவிலே நீண்ட காலம் இருத்துதற்காக வெளியிடப்படவுள்ள மலருக்கு இவ்வாசியுரை எழுதுவதிலே மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறேன்.

பேராசிரியர் கலாநிதி, அ.சண்முகதாஸ் தலைவர்/தமிழ்த்துறை யாழ்.பல்கலைக்கழகம் யாழ்ப்பாணம்

(நன்றி - யாழ் மத்தியம்- 1992)

யாழ்ப்பாண மத்திய கல்லூரி **அ**ளித்த கல்வி மரபு

பேராசிரியர் ப. சந்திரசேகரம்

யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி, யாழின் இனிய ஓசையாய் ஞாலந்தழுவிய நயங்களின் வண்ணமாய்க் கல்வியின் செம்மைசால் வளர்ச்சியின் இயக்க வரலாற்றைக் கொண்ட நிதியமாய் மிளிர்ந்து வந்துள்ளது.

வையம் தழைக்க அவதரித்த யேசுபகவானின் ஆணையால் வெஸ்லியன் சங்கத்தினரின் சிந்தையில் உதித்த இக் கல்லூரி, வாழையடி வாழையாகக் கல்விமரபுகள் வளர்ந்தோங்கிய யாழ் நகரிலே வேர்பரப்பிய ஞாயிறாக 1817 ஆம் ஆண்டிலே ஒளி காலத் தொடங்கியது.

அருந்தமிழும் ஆங்கிலமும் சங்கமமாகிய பண்பாட்டு விளை நிலத்தின் அழியாத சுவடுகளும் சின்னங்களுமாகிச் செங்கதிர்ச் செல்வர்களாக மிளிர்ந்த பலர் இக்கல்லூரியின் அருந்தவப்புதல்வர்களாவார்.

1834 ஆம் ஆண்டில் இந்நிறுவனம் மத்திய கல்லூரி என்ற மணிமகுடத்தைச் சூடி, உயர் கல்வி நிலையமாகி ஏறக்குறைய நாற்பது வருடங்களாகக் கல்கத்தா, சென்னைப் பல்கலைக்கழகங்களின் இணைப்புக் கல்லூரியாகவும் படிமலர்ச்சி கொண்டது.

பல்லவர் காலத்திலே சைவநாயன்மார்கள் பக்தி இயக்கம் தழுவிய ஒரு மறுமலர்ச்சியை எவ்வாறு ஏற்படுத்தினார்களோ, அதேபோன்று ஈழத்திருநாட்டில் மேன்மைகொள் சைவநெறி தழைக்க வந்த நாவலரைத் தமிழ் உலகுக்குத் தந்தமை இக்கல்லூரி இயற்றிய அழியாப் புகழாரமாகும். பதின்நான்கு வருடக் கிறீஸ்தவச் சூழலின் (1834 – 1848) புகழ் மிகு வித்தியா பலமே நாவலரைத் தமிழ் உலகுக்குத் தந்ததென்றும் நல்லறிஞர் கூறுவர். இக்கல்லூரியின் நன் மாணவனாயும், நயம்மிக்க ஆசிரியராயும் விளங்கிய ஆறுமுக நாவலர் வணக்கத்துக்குரிய பேர்சிவல் அடிகளாரின் வேண்டுகோளுக்கிணங்கி விவிலிய நூலைத் தமிழாக்கித் தந்தார்.

போசிவல் அடிகளார் தமிழறிவும் இலக்கிய உணர்வுங் கொண்ட கல்விச் செம்மல். ஆங்கிலத் தமிழ் அகராதியைத் தொகுத்துத் தமிழ் மொழி வளத்துக்கு முத்தாரம் இட்டவர். கல்வியா, சமயமா முக்கியம்? என்று பிரித்தானியாவிற் கேட்கப்பட்ட பொழுது கல்வி என்று அறைந்துரைத்த நல்லறிவாளர். அதன் றொடர்பாய் வெஸ்லிய திருச்சபை அவரது சேவையை நிறுத்தியது. அவர் திருச்சபையை விட்டகன்று தமிழ்நாடு சென்றார். மீண்டும் சென்னைப் பட்டினத்திலே ஆறுமுக நாவலரும் பேர்சிவல் அடிகளாரும் ஒன்றிணைந்தனர். வசந்தமும் தென்றலும் ஒன்றிணைந்த கல்விப் பொலிவாய் அந்த ஒன்றுகூடல் அமைந்தது.

இந்நாட்டின் கலைச் செல்வங்களை அகிலத்து அரங்கில் அணிசெய்தவரும் சிவதாண்டவத்தின் உட்பொருளாம் அண்ட சராசரச்சலன முறைமையின் தரிசனத்தை, விளக்கியவருமாகிய கலாயோகி ஆனந்தகுமார சாமி அவர்கள் யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரிக்கு 1906ஆம் ஆண்டு விஜயம் செய்த வேளை இங்கு தமிழ் மொழிக் கல்விக்கு கொடுக்கப்பட்ட முக்கியத்துவத்தையும், தமிழின் தொல்சீர் இலக்கியங்களிலே மாணவர் கொண்டிருந்த அறிவையும் ஆர்வத்தையும் விதந்துரைத்தார். அற்றை நாளில் யாழ். மத்தியக் கல்லூரி சென்னைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்துடன் இணைப்புக் கொண்டிருந்த தொடர்பும், அந்தத் தொடர்பு மேலும் மேலும் தமிழியற் கற்கைகளுக்கு அணிகலனாக அமையுமென்றும் விதந்துரைக்கப்பெற்றது. தமிழ்க் கல்வி முழுமைப்பேற தமிழிசையும் கல்வி அனுபவமாக மிளிர வேண்டும் என்ற Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.

இந்நூற்றாண்டின் மலர்ச்சியிலே மத்திய கல்லூரியின் அதிபராக விளங்கிய டபிள்யு. றொமைன் குக் அவர்களும், அவரைத் தொடர்ந்து அதிபர் பதவி ஏற்ற டிபிள்யு. எம். பி. உவில்க்ஸ் அவர்களும் சிறந்த கல்விமான்களாகவும் கல்லூரியின் வளர்ச்சியை முன்னெடுத்துச் சென்ற சிற்பிகளாகவும் விளங்கினர். அதிபர் குக் அவர்கள் கல்லூரியின் மகுட வாசகத்தை அமைத்துக் கொடுத்தார்.

இக்காலகட்டத்தில் இங்கு கல்வி கற்ற மாணவர்களின் மாண்பு இங்கு பெற்ற கல்வியின் மூலம் இலங்கையிலும் பாரத நாட்டிலும் உலக அரங்கிலும் முதன்மைப் பெற்றது. அவர்கள் கணிதத் துறை, கலைத் துறை, அறிவியற் துறை, மருத்துவத் துறை ஆகியவற்றில் முதன்மை பெற்று தமிழ் மக்களுக்கும் நமது நாட்டுக்கும் புகழ் ஈட்டிக் கொடுத்தார்கள்.

கால மகளின் வண்ணத்திலும் வளத்திலும் எண்ணரிய கல்வி நலன்களை வளர்ப்பதிலே திண்ண முரைத்த நிறுவனமாக விளங்குவது இக்கல்லூரி. 1859ஆம் ஆண்டில் உயர் மன்ற நீதியரசர் கல்விமான் றிச்சர்ட் மோகன் அவர்கள் இக்கல்லூரியின் முதற் பரிசளிப்பு விழாவிலே சிறப்புப் பேருரை நிகழ்த்தினார். அன்று முக்கியமாக முதல் நிலையிலே தாய்மொழியே போதனா மொழியாக இருக்க வேண்டுமென அவர் வலியுறுத்தினார். தாய்மொழிக் கல்வி இயக்கம் என்ற அருவி தேசிய மறுமலர்ச்சி என்ற பேரருவியாய் வளர்ந்தது.

நமது நாட்டு உயர் கல்வி முறை ஆங்கிலேய கல்வி முறையின் பாங்கில் அமைய வேண்டும் என்ற முடிவினை எதிர்த்துத் தமிழ் மரபும், கீழைத்தேய மரபும் பேணப்படுவதற்கு இந்நாட்டுக் கல்லூரிகள் பாரத நாட்டுப் பல்கலைக்கழகங்களுடன் தொடர்பு கொண்டிருக்க வேண்டும் எனும் கருத்தினை வலியுறுத்திய பெருமை யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரிக்கு உண்டு. ஆயினும் இக்கருத்து அரசினால் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட வில்லை. ஐக்கியராட்சிய பல்கலைக்கழகங்களோடு இவ்விணைப்புக் கல்லூரிகள் தொடர்பு கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்று தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது. கல்வி நெறியாளர் பீட்டர் பேர்சிவல் அவர்களின் கல்விக் கொள்கையைப் பின்பற்றி 1867ஆம் ஆண்டு தொடக்கம் இன்றுவரை உயர்க்கல்வித் தத்துவத்துறை இக்கல்லூரியில் உருவாகி உள்ளது என்பதற்கு இந்நிறுவனத்தின் வரலாறு சான்று பகர்கின்றது.

இலங்கையில் 1911ஆம் ஆண்டில் இடைநிலைக் கல்வி, உயர்கல்வி ஆணைக்குழு நியமிக்கப்பட்ட போது அவ்வாணைக் குழுவுக்குச் சாட்சியம் அளித்த யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரி அதிபர் வண. உவில்க்ஸ் அவர்கள் இலங்கையில் மருத்துவ, சட்ட, பொறியியல், கலை ஆகிய துறைகளைக் கொண்ட பல்கலைக்கழகம் அமைக்கப்பட வேண்டும் என குழுவினருக்கு எடுத்துரைத்தார்கள். இக்கருத்து ஏற்கப்பட்டமை நமது கல்வி வரலாற்றில் மாற்றம் அமையக் காரணமாக இருந்தது என்பதை விதந்து கூற வேண்டி உள்ளது.

அகிலத்து உண்மை நெறியின் அகல் விளக்குகளுள் ஒன்றாக மலர்ந்த கிறிஸ்து மத முறைமைகளிலே மத்தியக் கல்லூரி கட்டியெழுப்பப்பட்டாலும், அது இந்து மதப் பண்பாட்டையும், மக்களையும் பாரம்பரியங்களையும் அன்புடன் ஆரத்தழுவிச் சென்ற சால்புகளைக் கொண்டது. வண. ஜி. ஜே. றிம்மர் அவர்கள் மேற்கூறிய இலட்சியத்தின் வழி சென்று இந்துக்களின் இலட்சிய ஆசானாகவும் அன்பனாகவும் விளங்கினார். ஆசிரியத் தொழிலை அன்பில் எழும் சேவையாக அவர் கொண்டார். சமய வேறுபாடற்ற மக்கள் நலமே தமது கடமையாகக் கொண்டார். கலையருவியும், அறிவியல் அருவியும் ஒன்றிணைந்து சங்கமமாகி முழுமைத் தழுவிய கல்வி மரபுகளைக் கொண்ட இக்கல்லூரி அறிவின் பண்பு நலன்களை ஆற்றலாகக் கிளர்ந்தெழச் செய்தது. கல்லூரியின் பழைய பதிவேட்டிலே காணப்படும் ஆள்பதிசேர். உவில்லியம் ஹென்றிமானிங் அவர்கள் தமது கைப்பட எழுதிய வாசகங்கள் — அறிவியலை பிரயோக நலமாக்கிப் பயிர்ப்பண்புகளோடு இணைத்துக் கற்பித்து நிலமெனும் நல்லாளைப் பொலிவுறச் செய்த பாங்கு 1923ஆம் ஆண்டின் நினைவலைகளாக நிற்கின்றன. பயிர் நலத்தைத் தமது பொருள் நலமாகக் கொண்ட இந்நாட்டின் எண்ணரிய இலட்சியங்களின் செயல் முழுமை கொண்ய கலைத்திக் தமது பொருள் நலமாகக் கொண்ட இந்நாட்டின் எண்ணரிய இலட்சியங்களின் செயல் முழுமை கொண்டி கலைத் திட்டிய பாங்கு மறுமலர்ச்சியையும் நோக்க முடியும்.

1927 ஆம் ஆண்டிலே ஹேபேற் ஸ்ரான்லி அவர்கள் தொழிற் கல்விக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் அளித்தமை செய்யும் தொழிலைத் தெய்வம் எனக் கருதும் பாங்கையும், உழவுக்கும் தொழிலுக்கும் வந்தனை செய்வோம் என்ற உயரிய மாண்பையும் கலைத் திட்டத்திலே பொதிய வைப்பதற்கு உந்து விசைகளாயின. அதன் செம்மையமைதியைச் சூடிய நிலையமாக யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரி விளங்கியது.

யாழ். மத்தியக் கல்லூரியின் பரிசளிப்பு விழாக்களில் இந்நாட்டின் தேசிய முன்னோடிகளும், கல்வி மான்களும், தேசாதிபதிகளும், உயர்க்கல்விப் பீடங்களின் முதல்வர்களும், கலந்து கொண்டமை, இக்கல்லூரியின் கல்வி நலவியாப்தியின் மேம்பாட்டினையே எடுத்துக் காட்டுகின்றது. 1925 ஆம் ஆண்டின் பரிசளிப்பு விழாவிற் கலந்து கொண்ட இலங்கைப் பல்கலைக்கழகக் கல்லூரியின் முதல்வர் பேராசிரியர் மார்ஸ் அவர்கள் கீழைத்தேயக் கலாசார முக்கியத்துவத்தையும் கீழைத்தேயந் தந்த மன்பதை நீதிகளின் மாண்புகளையும் எடுத்துரைத்தார். 1930 ஆம் ஆண்டின் பரிசளிப்பு விழாவிலே கலந்து கொண்ட இந்நாட்டின் தேசாதிபதியும், 1934 ஆம் ஆண்டின் பரிசளிப்பு விழாவிலே கலந்து கொண்ட உள்நாட்டுத் துறை அமைச்சர் டி. பி. ஜயதிலகா அவர்களும் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் அறிவு, ஆற்றல், ஆக்கம் தழுவிய பன்முகப்பட்ட வளர்ச்சிகளைப் பாராட்டிப் பேசினர்.

அகில ஜோதியாம் அண்ணல் காந்தியடிகள் புனித பாதங்கள் பதிந்த ஈடில்லாப் புகழ் படைத்த கல்லூரியாகவும், மத்திய கல்லூரி விளங்குகின்றது. தனது இதயத்தின் இருளகற்றிய அகல் விளக்காம் யேசுபகவானின் புனித ஒளியின் தரிசனத்தை விதந்து கூறிய காந்தியடிகள் மாசுநீக்கி மாண்புற வைக்கும் ஆசிரியத்துவத்தின் மாண்பையும் வலியுறுத்தினார். எழுபத்தைந்து சதவீதமான இந்து மாணவர்கள் கல்வி பெறுகின்ற இந் நிலையத்தில், இந்துச் சிறார்கள் யேசுபகவானின் தூய போதனைகளைக் கற்பதன் மூலமே தூய சைவர்களாக வாழ முடியும் என்றார்.

மனித குலத்தின் மரபினை வளம் பெறச் செய்வது சமய மரபுகள் இவ்வுலகினை இறைவனின் இராச்சியமாக அமையுங்கள் என்று வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழும் தெய்வ மரபினைக் காந்தியடிகள் எடுத்துரைத்தார். அனைத்துச் சமயங்களும் மனிதரை நல்லாற்றுப் படுத்துவதையே நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டுள்ளன. இறைவனே மனுக்குலத்தை புனிதமாக மலர்விப்பாயாக! என்ற அஞ்சலியை இப்புனித கல்லூரியில் இருந்து மகாத்மா முன்மொழிந்தார்.

தற்காலத்திலே விதந்தும் நயந்தும் பேசப்படுகின்ற சமநிலைக் கலைத்திட்ட நெறி ஐம்பது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்னரே யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியில் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டமைக்கு ஆதாரங்கள் உள்ளன. ஆங்கிலமும் அருந்தமிழும் தொல்சீர் இலக்கியங்களும், கணிதமும், சமயமும், தூய பிரயோக விஞ்ஞானங்களும், பயிரியலும், ஒவியமும், இசையும், வர்த்தகமும் ஒருங்கே கற்பிக்கப்பட்டன.

ஆங்கிலம் தமிழ் என்ற இருமொழி வல்லுனர்களைத் தோற்றுவித்த பாரம்பரியமும் மத்தியக் கல்லூரிக்கு உண்டு. நாவலர் கோட்டம் முத்துத்தம்பிப்பிள்ளை, நெவின்ஸ் சிதம்பரப்பிள்ளை, ஜே. டபிள்யு. அருட்பிரகாசம், கு. கதிரவேற்பிள்ளை போன்றோரை இவ்வரிசையிலே குறிப்பிட முடியும். தமிழ்ச் சொல் அகராதியைத் தமிழ் உலகுக்குத் தந்து அழியாத புகழைத் தேடிக் கொண்டவர் தமிழறிஞர் கு. கதிரைவேற்பிள்ளை. இவரது அகராதி மதுரைத் தமிழ்ச் சங்கத்திலே வெளியிடப்பட்டது.

யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியில் வர்த்தகக் கல்வி ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு ஐம்பது வருடங்கள் பூர்த்தி அடைந்துள்ளன. இன்று வர்த்தகக் கல்வி பெருமையடையக் கூடிய அளவில் வந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றது. இக்கல்வி தொடர்பான தெளிவான தரிசனம் அரைநூற்றாண்டுகளுக்கு முன்னர் யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியில் இடம் பெற்ற ஆற்றலைப் பாராட்டாமல் இருக்க முடியாது. பொருளாதார உற்பத்தி ஒரு நாட்டிற்கு முக்கியமாகும் பட்டயக் கணக்காளர், பொருளாதார வளத்துக்குரிய மனிதவள ஆக்கத்துக்கு முக்கியமாகின்றனர். வர்த்தகக் கல்வி பொருளியலாளரைத் தோற்றுவிப்பதற்குரிய இயங்குதளஙிடுகின்றது Jaham Foundation.

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1920 ஆம் ஆண்டிலே தவத்திரு புள்ளோ அவர்கள் கல்லூரி அதிபராக இருந்த வேளை வர்த்தகக் கல்வித் துறை ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. கலைப்புலவர் க. நவரத்தினம் அவர்கள் யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியில் ஆசிரியராகவிருந்து வர்த்தகவியலைக் கல்லூரியிலே தோற்றுவித்து ஆற்றிய சேவை அளப்பரியது. கலைப்புலவர் நவரத்தினம் அவர்கள் சுவாமி விபுலானந்தரின் தமிழ் வாழ்விலும், தவ வாழ்விலும் ஈடுபாடு கொண்டவர். சுவாமிகளின் அடிச்சுவட்டில் தமிழ்க்கலையாக்க ஆய்வுகளிலும், கலைச் சொல்லாக்க முயற்சிகளிலும் ஈடுபட்டவர். வர்த்தகவியற்றுறைத் தமிழ்க் கலைச் சொல்லாக்க முயற்சிகளில் அவர் ஈடுபட்டதுடன், கணக்குப் பதவியலுக்குத் தமிழ் நூல் இல்லாத குறையையும் நிவர்த்தி செய்தார்.

கலைப்புலவர் நவரத்தினம் அவர்கள் இந்து சமயத் தத்துவங்களை விளக்கி விரிவான நூல் ஒன்றினை ஆங்கிலத்தில் எழுதினார். தமிழுக்கும், கலைகளுக்கும், இந்து சமயத்துக்கும் ஆற்றிய தொண்டுகளின் சின்னமாக விளங்கும் கலாநிலையத்தை ஆரம்பித்தவர்களில் ஒருவராகவும் அவர் விளங்கினார்.

கலைப்புலவர் நவரத்தினம் அவர்களின் முயற்சியால் வர்த்தகமும் கவின் கலைகளும் ஒன்றிணைந்தன. வர்த்தகமும் கணக்கியலும், அறிவியலும் ஒன்றிணைந்தன. கலைத்திட்டத்தின் ஒன்றிணைந்த தத்துவத்தை நடைமுறைப்படுத்திய கலைப்புலவர் நவரத்தினம் அவர்கள், தென்னிந்தியச் சிற்ப வடிவங்கள் இலங்கையிற் கலைவளர்ச்சி போன்ற அரிய நூலாக்க முயற்சிகளையும் செய்தார். இந்தியச் சிற்பக் கலை, இசை நாட்டியம் சடமயமான இயற்கையினது முறைமைகளை மட்டும் பின்பற்றாது மனித இயற்கைக்கு பின்னேயுள்ள ஆன்மதத்துவத்தையே புலப்படுத்துகின்றன.

யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியின் அமரத்துவத்தில் அழியாப் புகழ் சூடிய அதிபர்களும், நல்லாசிரியர்களும் வளர் கல்வி விளங்க வைத்த மாணவர்களும் அளப்பரியர். அனைத்துலக இறையியல் ஆய்வாளர்களுள் ஒருவராக மிளிர்ந்த கலாநிதி டி. ரி. நைல்ஸ், சேக்ஸ்பியர் நாடக அரங்கினை ஆராய்ந்த திரு. சார்ள்ஸ், கல்விமானும் காந்தியவாதியுமான ஏ. ஈ. தம்பர், ஆராய்ச்சியாளர் பி. ரி. காஷ் போன்ற பெருமைமிக்க அதிபர்களின் தனித்துவங்கள் தனி ஆய்வுகளாக விளக்கப்பட வேண்டியுள்ளன. அதிபர் தம்பர் அவர்கள் இலங்கை ஆசிரியர் சங்கத்தின் ஆலோசனைச் சிற்பியாக விளங்கினார். அமைதியும் அடக்கமுமுடைய நிர்வாகியாகச் செயலாற்றினார். வாழ்வில் ஏழ்மையுற்ற மாணவர்களை அறிவாற்றலாற் செல்வர்களாக்கிய ஓர் அனுபவக் கல்விமான் தம்பர் என்றே கூற வேண்டும். இலங்கையின் பல்கலைக்கழகக் கல்வி விரிவெய்த வேண்டுமென்றும் தனித்த ஒரு பல்கலைக்கழகம் ஒன்றினால் இலங்கையின் உயர் கல்வித் தேவை நிறைவேற்றப்பட முடியாதென்றும் இடித்துரைத்தார். யாழ். இளைஞர் காங்கிரஸ் இயக்கங்களிலே தோள் கொடுத்து இயங்கிய தம்பர் அவர்கள் கல்வியின் தேசியப் பணியை, வாழ்க்கைப் பணியை இயக்கங்களிலே சங்கமிக்கச் செய்தார்.

அறிவையும் உடலியக்கத் தொழிற்பாடுகளையும் ஒன்றிணைத்த முழுமையான கலைத்திட்டச் செயற்பாடுகளைப் புரிந்த வினைத்திறனை மத்திய கல்லூரியிலே காண முடியும். உடற் கல்வியில் அனைத்துலகச் சாதனையை நிலைநாட்டிய எதிர்வீரசிங்கம் அவர்கள் யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவர் என்பதை நினைவுகூர வேண்டியுள்ளது.

ஒவியத்துறையிலும் சிற்பத்துறையிலும் வல்லவராக விளங்கி, யாழ். நகரை அணி செய்யும் கலைநயம் மிக்க சிலைகளையுருவாக்கிய சிற்பி திரு. செ. சிவப்பிரகாசம் அவர்கள் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பிறிதொரு பரிமாணத்தைத் தமது கைவண்ணத்தாற் காட்டுபவராக விளங்குகின்றார்.

யாழ். மத்திய கல்லூரி கல்வியின் சரணாலயம். மண்ணையும் மக்களையும் வாழ்வித்து வரும் பொன்னொளிர்கலைக் கோவில். Digitized by Noolaham Foundation. இருளிலும் ஒலிக்கின்றது அந்த ஓசை – வாழ்வின் நித்தியத்தை நோக்கிய தேடல் – கல்லூரி வாழ்வின் மகரந்த மணிகளாக மட்டுமன்றி வாழ்க்கை முழுதும் வியாபித்துச் செல்லும் அறிவின் தேடலை ஒவ்வொரு கணமும் உயிர்ப்பிக்கும் நாதம் – அதுவே மத்திய கல்லூரியின் கீதம்! தெய்வீக உழைப்பு, கேண்மை, நாட்டு அன்பு, உண்மையே உயர்ந்த அறம் என்ற நீதி, கல்லூரியை ஒரு குடும்பமாகக் கருதும் நல்லறம், ஆகியவற்றை மீட்டும் கனிவு ததும்பியதே கல்லூரியின் கீதம்.

சைவமும் தமிழும் மறுமலர்ச்சி பெற்ற பொற்காலமாகிய சென்ற நூற்றாண்டில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் இரு பெரும் பெரியார்கள் வாழ்ந்தார்கள். ஒருவர் தமிழர். மற்றையவர் ஆங்கிலேயர். ஒருவர் சைவசமயத்தை வளர்க்க அரும்பாடுபட்டவர்; மற்றையவர் கிறிஸ்தவ சமயத்தைப் பரப்ப மேல்நாட்டிலிருந்து வந்தவர். முன்னவர் ஆறுமுகநாவலர். பின்னவர் பீற்றர் பேர்சிவல் அடிகளார். யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் தமிழ் வளர்த்த பொற்காலத்தைத் தோற்றுவித்த இவ்விரு அறிஞர்களை அளித்த பெருமை யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரிக்கே உரியது.

தமிழ் மரபும், மறுமலா்ச்சித் தத்துவமும், ஆங்கிலப் புலமையும் முருகியல் உணா்வும் வாழ்க்கைக் கல்வியும் சமய சமரச உணா்ச்சியும் அளித்த கலைக்கோவில் மத்திய கல்லூரி.

(நன்றி – யாழ். மத்தியம் – 1984)

யாழ்ப்பாண மக்களுக்கு மேற்கத்திய விளையாட்டுக்களை அறிமுகப்படுத்திய கல்லூரி

கிறிக்கெற்

யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் அந்நாட்களில் நொண்டி, வாரோட்டம், கிளித்தட்டு, படியோட்டம் முதலிய தேசிய விளையாட்டுக்களே இடம்பெற்று வந்தன. 1881ல் கல்லூரி அதிபராயிருந்த வண. பிரெடெறிக் எம். வெப்ஸ்ரர் அவர்களே கிறிக்கெற் விளையாட்டை முதல்தடவையாகக் கல்லூரியில் தொடக்கி, யாழ்ப்பாணத்துக்கு அறிமுகப்படுத்தினார்.

தசைப்பயிற்சி

1888ல், அதிபராயிருந்த திரு. எம். ஏ. அருளானந்தம் தசைப் பயிற்சி விளையாட்டுக்களைக் கல்லூரியில் தொடக்கி வைத்தார்.

உதைபந்தாட்டம்

1894ல் அதிபராயிருந்த வண. கபிரியல் லீஸ், யாழ்ப்பாண மக்களுக்கு உதைப்பந்தாட்டத்தை முதன் முதலில் அறிமுகப்படுத்தினார்.

(நன்றி – யாழ். மத்தியம் – 1984)

யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி சைவ சமயத்துக்கு ஆற்றிய பங்களிப்பு

க. சி. குலரத்தினம்

ஐரோப்பிய நாடுகளுள் கல்வியறிவு, கலைத்திறமை முதலிய நாகரிகத் துறைகளில் முன்னோடிகளாய் விளங்கிய கிரேக்க நாட்டவரின் தலை நகரமான கொன்ஸ்ரன்ரினோப்பிள் என்னும் பெரு நகரத்தைத் துருக்கியர் 1453 ஆம் ஆண்டில் கைப்பற்றியதால், ஆங்குறைந்த கலைஞர், அறிவாளிகள் முதலானோர் தங்கள் ஏடுகளுடன் பல நாடுகளிலும் தஞ்சம் புகுவாராயினர்.

இங்ஙனம் கிரேக்கா் ஐரோப்பாவெங்கும் செறிந்த காலத்தில் கல்வி கலாசாரத்துறைகளில் ஒரு மறுமலா்ச்சி உண்டாகிப் பரந்த அளவில் பரவி வளா்ந்து வளஞ் செய்வதாயிற்று.

இத்தகைய மறுமலர்ச்சியின் பயனாக ஐரோப்பாவெங்கும் சமய சீர்திருத்தம் உண்டாகிப் பழைய போக்குக்கு ஓரளவு திருத்தங்கள், திரிபுகள் அடங்கிய புதிய போக்கு உண்டாகியது. புதிய போக்கில் பெரியவர்கள் பலர் ஊறித்திளைத்து ஊக்கம் கொண்டு, அதனை உலகமெங்கும் பரவும் வகை செய்வதற்கு இயக்கங்களை உருவாக்கினர்.

மிசன் என்னும் தாபன ரீதியாகப் பணி செய்யப் புறப்பட்ட மதவாதிகள் சிலர் ஐரோப்பாவில் நடைபெற்ற மதக் கிளர்ச்சிகள், கெடுபிடிகளினின்றும் விலகிச் சுதந்திரமாக வாழ்வதற்கு அமெரிக்காக் கண்டத்துக்கு இடம் பெயர்ந்ததும் உண்டு. அவர்களே அமெரிக்காவை உருவாக்கிய முன்னோடிகள் யாத்திரைத் தந்தையர்கள். இவ்வாறாக ஆசியாக் கண்டத்தில் மிசனரிமாரைக் கவர்ந்த நாடுகளுள் இலங்கையும் ஒன்று. இலங்கையில் முதலில் போர்த்துக்கேயரும், பின்னர் ஒல்லாந்தரும் கரை நாடுகளைக் கைப்பற்றித் தம் வழியில் அரசியற்றிய பின், ஆங்கிலேயர் 1796 ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் கைப்பற்றி 1815 ஆம் ஆண்டில் மலைநாட்டையும் கைப்பற்றி, இலங்கை முழுவதையும் 1815 தொடக்கம் ஒரு நாடாக்கி அரசாண்டு வந்தார்கள்.

ஆங்கிலேயர் தங்கள் அதிகார பலத்தினால் தங்கள் மொழி, தங்கள் மதம் தங்கள் நாகரிகம் முதலானவற்றை இலங்கையில் திணிப்பதற்குப் பெருமுயற்சியெடுப்பாராயினர். வேற்று நாகரிகம், அதுவும் புது நாகரிகமாயின் மக்கள் மனத்தைக் கவருவதும் ஒரு இயல்பூக்கத்தின் பாற்பட்ட தன்மையாகும் என்பது மனோதத்துவம்.

ஆங்கிலேயர் மொழியடிப்படையில் கல்வித் துறையில் பெரும்பாலும் தங்கள் மதத்தையும் புகுத்துவதற்கு வழிவகுத்தார்கள். இங்கிலாந்திலேயே அரசாங்கத்தின் கல்விப்பணியிலும் பார்க்க மிசனரிமாரின் பங்களிப்புப் பெருமளவில் மக்கள் மனம் கொள்ளக் கூடியதாக அமைந்ததும் உண்டு என்பது வரலாற்றுண்மை.

அந்தப் பயிற்சி விசேடத்தினாலே, தங்கள் சேவை மனப்பான்மைத் துடிப்பினாலே உந்தப் பெற்ற மிசனரிமார் இலங்கையை நோக்கி வந்தனர். இலங்கையிற் சேவை செய்ய வந்தவர்களை இனங்கண்டு கூறின், அவர்கள் அமெரிக்கா மிசனரிமார் எனவும், கத்தோலிக்க மிசனரிமார் எனவும், சேர்ச் மிசனரிமார் எனவும் வெஸ்லியன் மிசனரிமார் எனவும் அணிவகுத்துத் தங்களுக்கு வசதி வாய்ப்புகள் உள்ள ஊர்கள் தோறும் முகாமிட்டுப் பரந்த அளவில் பன்முகமாகப் பணி புரியத் தொடங்குவாராயினர். இங்ஙனம் பணிபுரியத் தொடங்கிய மிசனரிமாருக்கு அன்றைய ஆங்கிலேய அரசின் கல்வித் துறைக் கண் துடைப்புப் போக்கு சாதகமாயிருந்தது எனவே கருதக் கிடக்கிறது. முன்னர் ஒல்லாந்தர் காலத்தில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் நிலவிய நாற்பத்தேழு பாடசாலைகளை ஆங்கிலேய அரசு நிதிபற்றாக்குறை காரணமாக 1805 ஆம் ஆண்டில் மூடியிருந்தது. இலங்கையில் நிலவிய 170 பாடசாலைகளுள் 47 யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் இருந்தன என்பதால் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தின் கல்வித்தரம் புலனாகிறது.

இந்நிலையில் 1816ஆம் ஆண்டில் அமெரிக்க மிசனரிமார் வருகையும் 1818 ஆம் ஆண்டில் சேர்ச் மிசனரியரான யோசேப் நைற் யாழ்ப்பாணம் வந்ததும், அவர் முயற்சியால் நல்லூரில் ஆங்கிலப் பாடசாலை 1822இல் ஆரம்பிக்கப் பெற்றதும், 1823 ஆம் ஆண்டில் அமெரிக்க மிசனரிமாரின் வட்டுக் கோட்டை சாஸ்திரசாலை ஆரம்பிக்கப் பெற்றதும், ஆசியாவிலேயே முதல் பெண்கள் விடுதிச்சாலையாக உடுவில் பாடசாலை ஆரம்பிக்கப் பெற்றதும், 1824 இல் உவின்சுலோ தம்பதிகள் வந்தமையும் பிறவும் வரலாற்று நிகழ்ச்சிகளாயின. இக்காலத்தில் 1805 முதல் 1865 வரையில் அரசாங்கம் போதிய அக்கறை எடுக்காத காரணத்தால் மிசனரிமார் பெருஞ் செல்வாக்குப் பெறக் கூடியவராயிருந்தனர்.

கல்வித் துறையில் ஆங்கிலேய அரசின் கண்மூடித்தனமான போக்கு, 1833 ஆம் ஆண்டளவில்தானும் மேற்படிப்புக்கு வசதிகளின்றி, இலங்கை முழுவதிலும் ஏறக்குறைய நூற்றுவர் மாத்திரம் ஆங்கிலம் அறிந்தவராயிருந்தனர். ஆனால் மிசனரிமாரின் பணியினால் 1901 ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் இலங்கையில் 76,500 மக்கள் ஆங்கிலம் பேசவும் எழுதவும் வல்லவராயிருந்தனர் என்பது ஓர் உத்தேச மதிப்பீடாகும்.

யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் போர்த்துக்கேயர் 1621 முதல் 1658 வரையும் றோமன் கத்தோலிக்க மதத்தைப் பரப்பியமை போல, ஒல்லாந்தர் 1658 முல் 1795 வரை புரட்டஸ்தன் மதத்தைப் பரப்பி வந்தனர். அந்த வகையில் பத்தொன்பதாம் நூற்றாண்டின் ஆரம்பத்தில் 3,60,000 தமிழர் புரட்டஸ்தன் மதத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவராயிருந்தனர் என்று சேர். எமர்சன்ரென்னன்ற என்னும் வரலாற்றாசிரியர் குறித்துள்ளார்.

ஆங்கிலேயரின் ஆட்சிக்காலத்தின் ஆரம்பத்தில் கலாநிதி கோக் என்பவரின் தலைமையில் ஆங்கிலேய புரட்டஸ்தன் மிசனரிமார் ஒரு சிலர் இலங்கைக்கு வந்தனர். வழியில் தலைவரும் வேறு ஒரு சிலரும் இறந்த பின் எஞ்சியோர்களுள் லிஞ்ச் என்பாரும் ஸ்குவான்ஸ் என்பாரும் யாழ்ப்பாணத்துக்கு நியமனம் பெற்றனர். ஒரு சிலர் மட்டக்களப்புக்கும், வேறு சிலர் காலிக்கும் சென்றனர். நாளடைவில் வணக்கத்துக்குரிய யோசேப் றோபேட்ஸ் என்பார் யாழ்ப்பாணம் வந்து சேர்ந்தார்.

முற்றவெளியில் முன்னர் மாட்டின் லூதர் என்னும் சீர்திருத்தவாதியின் நினைவாக நிலவிய அநாதை இல்லத்தை இவர்கள் விலைக்கு வாங்கி, அந்த இடத்தில் பாடசாலையும் வழிபாட்டிடமும் அமைத்தனர். இவ்வாறாக 1825 ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் இவர்கள் இருபத்தாறு பாடசாலைகளில் 795 பிள்ளைகளைப் பயிற்றி வந்தனர் என்பர். இவற்றுள் பெண்களுக்கான ஒரு பாடசாலை திருவாட்டி சிறாதர் என்னும் ஒல்லாந்துப் பெண்ணாசிரியையால் நல்ல முறையில் நடத்தப்பெற்று வந்ததாகும். இக்காலத்திலே உள்ளூரவரில் ஒருவரான சண்முகச் சட்டம்பியார் என்பார் மதபோதகராய்ப் பணிபுரியலானார்.

வணக்கத்துக்குரிய யோசேப் றொபேட்ஸ் என்பார் 1833 ஆம் ஆண்டில் சொந்த நாட்டிற்குச் சென்ற வேளையில் இங்கே பணிபுரிவதற்கு வந்தவர் வணக்கத்துக்குரிய பீற்றர் பேர்சிவல் என்பவராவர். இவர் முன்னர் கல்கத்தா நகரில் கல்விப் பணியில் பெரும் புகழ் பெற்ற மேதையாவர். இவர் தமக்கு இயல்பாயமைந்த ஆற்றல் காரணமாகக் கல்விப் பணியை அகலிப்பதற்கு வழிவகுத்து 1834 ஆம் ஆண்டில் யாழ்ப்பணத்தில் முதல் தரமான மத்திய பாடசாலையை ஆரம்பித்து நாளடைவில் பிரதான நகரங்களிலும் நல்ல பாடசாலைகளை நிறுவினார். யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் வெஸ்லியன் மிசனரிமாரின் விரிவாக்கப் பணி 1834 முதல் 1845 ஆம் ஆண்டு வரையில் நடைபெற்ற காலத்திலே, யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய பாடசாலையில் 1834 ஆம் ஆண்டில் ஆங்கிலம் கற்பதற்குச் சேர்ந்தவர் நல்லூர் கந்தப்பிள்ளை ஆறுமுகம் என்னும் பன்னிரண்டாண்டு நிரம்பிய பெருந் தமிழ்ப் பண்டிதராவர்.

கந்தப்பிள்ளை ஆறுமுகம் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய பாடசாலையில் C. ஆறுமுகம் என வழங்கி ஏழாண்டுகள் அங்கே ஆங்கிலங்கற்று, அதிவிவேகியாய், ஆங்கில ஆசிரியர்கள் அதிகாரிகள் மெச்சும் வகையில் உருவாய வேளையில்; அவரின் இரு மொழிப் புலமையையும்; இயல்பாற்றலையும், இன்ன பிற தகைமைகளையும் கண்ட வணக்கத்துக்குரிய பேர்சிவல் அவரை அக் கல்லூரியிலே ஆசிரியராய் நியமித்தார். மேல் வகுப்புகளுக்குத் தமிழாசிரியராயிருந்த C. ஆறுமுகம் அவர்கள், அதிபர் பேர்சிவல் அவர்களுக்கும் தமிழாசானாயிருந்து நல்ல முறையில் தமிழ் கைவரச் செய்து வந்தார்.

ஆறுமுகம் அவர்களுக்கு ஈழத்துச் சைவக் கல்விப் பாரம்பரியம் நிறைய உபகரித்திருந்தது. அவர் அதிலேயே உருவானவர். அவரின் ஊனபரம்பரையினரும், ஞானபரம்பரையினரும் பெருமை மிக்கவர்கள். அவரின் ஊனபரம்பரையின் முன்னோர் யாழ்ப்பாணத்து அரசதானியான நல்லூரில் பரம்பரையாகப் பெருங்கிளை சூழ வாழ்ந்தவர்கள்.

மூத்ததம்பி முதலியார், சோதி நாதர், இலங்கை காவலர், பரமானந்தர், கந்தப்பிள்ளை என்பவர்கள் அவரின் முன்னோர்கள். பரமானந்தப்பாட்டனார் இராசவாசல் முதலியார், பெரும்புலவர். பலபிரபந்தங்கள் பாடிய பெருமைமிக்கவர். தந்தையார் கந்தப்பிள்ளை ஆராய்ச்சி உத்தியோகம் வகித்ததோடு, வைத்தியராயும், புலவராயும் இருந்தவர். சண்முகச்சட்டம்பியார் என்னும் பெரியவரிடம் ஆரம்பக்கல்வி கற்றபின், திருக்கைலாச பரம்பரை கூழங்கைத்தம்பிரான் சுவாமிகள் என்னும் கனகசபாபதி யோகிகளிடம் நன்கு கற்றவர். மெல்லோ பாதிரியாரிடம் ஒல்லாந்தம், போர்த்துக்கேயம் படித்தவர். சல்பேட் என்னும் பறங்கியரிடம் ஆங்கிலம் முறையாகக் கற்றவர்.

திருநெல்வேலியில் முன்னர் 1621 ஆம் ஆண்டில் போர்த்துக்கேயப் பறங்கியதிகாரியின் உணவுக்காகப் பசுக்கன்று கொடுக்க மறுத்து, நாட்டையே விட்டு வங்காளம் வரை சென்று வட மொழிப்பாண்டித்தியம் பெற்றுச் சிதம்பரத்தில் தங்கியிருந்து சிவதொண்டு செய்ததோடு, பாரம்பரியமான சைவப் பெரு நூல்களும் செய்த ஞானப்பிரகாசத்தம்பிரான் சுவாமிகள் குலத்தில் வந்த வேதவனத்தார் பெற்றெடுத்த சிவகாமி என்னும் மாதுசிரோமணியை மணந்தவர் கந்தப்பிள்ளை.

கந்தப்பிள்ளையும் சிவகாமியும் பெற்றெடுத்த பிள்ளைகள் எல்லோருமே அறிவாற்றல் மிக்கவர்கள். அவர்களுள் கடைக்குட்டியான ஆறுமுகம் இளமையில் நல்லூரில் சரவணமுத்துப்புலவரிடம் ஆரம்பக் கல்வி பயின்றபின், இருபாலைச் சேனாதிராய முதலியார் என்னும் பன்மொழிப் புலவரிடத்திலே ஆழ்ந்தகன்ற ஆகமசாத்திரங்கள் முதலானவற்றை அவர் திருக்கைலாய பரம்பரைக் கூழங்கைத்தம்பிரான் சுவாமிகளிடம் அறிந்தவரையில் முழுவதையும் முற்றாக முறையாகக் கற்றவர்.

இத்தகைய புகழ் பூத்த ஆறுமுகம் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய பாடசாலையில் ஏழாண்டுகள் ஆசிரியர் வேலை பார்த்த காலத்திலேயே வெளிவெளியாகச் சைவப் பணி புரிவதில் பெருமளவில் ஈடுபட்டுச் சேவை செய்ததை அதிபராய பேர்சிவல் அவர்கள் கவனித்தும், கண்டிக்கும் அளவில் நடவடிக்கை எதுவும் எடுக்காமல் பெருந்தன்மையோடு பொறுத்து வந்ததோடு, ஆறுமுகம் அவர்கள், "எனது குரு" என வெகுசனசமூகத்திலே பாராட்டிப் போற்றியும் வந்தார். அது மத்திய கல்லூரியின் சைவப் பணிக்கு நிகரானது.

பாதிரிமாருள் பாதிரியார் எனப் பெரும் பாராட்டுப் பெற்ற பேர்சிவல் அவர்கள் ஆறுமுகம் அவர்களின் அறிவாற்றல்களை நன்றாக அனுமானித்து வந்தவராகையால், அவரைக் கொண்டு பைபிள் நூலின் பழைய மொழி பெயர்ப்பைத் திருத்துவிக்க விரும்பி விண்ணப்பித்தும், ஆறுமுகம் அவர்கள் பழைய மொழிபெயர்ப்பைத் திருத்துவதிலும் பார்க்கப் புதிதாக மொழி பெயர்த்துக் கொடுத்தல் சிறப்பானது எனக்கண்டு, அங்ஙனம் மொழிபெயர்த்துக் கொடுப்ப; அதனைப் பெறற்கரும் பரிசில் எனவும், பேறெனவும் கருதி உச்சிமேற் கொண்ட பேர்சிவல் பாதிரியார் அவர்கள், அதனைத்தாமே முன்னின்று அச்சேற்றுவதற்கு விரும்பி, சென்னைக் கிறிஸ்தவ சங்கத்தாரின் இசைவு பெறுவதற்கு அங்கே சென்ற வேளையில், ஆறுமுகம் அவர்களையும் உடனழைத்துச் சென்றார்.

யாழ்ப்பாணத் தமிழன் மொழி பெயர்த்த பைபிளின் செந்தமிழ் நடையைக் கருத்தூன்றிப் பரிசீலனை செய்த நடுவராய மழவை மகாலிங்கம் என்னும் பேரறிஞர்,அதனை வெகுவாக வியந்தமை கேட்டு உளம் பூரித்த பேர்சிவல் அவர்கள், ஆறுமுகம் அவர்கள் மேல் மேலும் பெருமதிப்புக் காட்டி வந்தார். ஆனால் ஆறுமுகம் அவர்கள் முழுநேரச் சைவத் தமிழ்த் தொண்டு செய்யக் கருதித் தமது ஆசிரியர் வேலையைப் பரித்தியாகஞ் செய்தார்.

சென்னையெங்கும் புகழ் மணக்க யாழ்ப்பாணத்துக்கு மீண்ட ஆறுமுகம் அவர்கள் தமது சைவத் தொண்டு சிறப்பாக நடைபெறுவதற்கு அச்சுக்கூடம் ஒன்று அவசியம் எனக் கருதித் தமிழ்நாட்டுக்குச் சென்ற போது, அவரின் ஆழ்ந்த புலமையையும், ஆகமமாதியனவற்றின் அறிவுத்திறனையும் அறிந்த தாண்டவராய சுவாமிகள் என்னும் பெரியார், தம்மிடம் கல்விகற்று விற்பத்திமானாகி திருக்கைலாய பரம்பரைத் திருவாவடுதுறையாதீனத்தில் இரண்டாம் பட்டத்தில் எழுந்தருளியிருந்த மேலகரம் சுப்பிரமணிய தேசிகரிடம் சொல்லி, ஆறுமுகம் அவர்களை ஆதீனத்தில் பிரசங்கம் செய்ய ஒழுங்குகள் வகுப்ப, அவர் அங்கே பேசக் கேட்ட பெரிய சுவாமியாய மகாசந்நிதானம் அவர்கள் பெரிதும் மகிழ்ந்து, அவரின் நாவன்மை கருதி, நாவலர் என்னும் பட்டத்தை நல்கிப் பட்டாடை போர்த்திப் பாராட்டிய கௌரவத்தால், அவர் ஆறுமுக நாவலரானார். நாவலர் அவர்கள் செய்த நற்பணிகளை யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பங்களிப்பு எனக் கணித்துக் கூறுவதில் பிழையில்லை.

நாவலரவர்கள் பேர்சிவல் பாதிரியாரிடமும் மத்திய கல்லூரியிடத்தும் பெருமதிப்பும் அபிமானமும் கொண்டிருந்தார் எனின் மிகையாகாது. இத்தகைய மதிப்பும் அபிமானமும் பரஸ்பரமாக அமைந்தனவேனக் கருத இடமுண்டு. நாவலர் அவர்களின் சகவாசத்தால் பேர்சிவல் பெரியார் பாதிரியார் வேலையைப் பரித்தியாகஞ் செய்து விட்டுச் சென்னையில் கீழைத் தேச மொழிகளின் பேராசிரியராயிருந்த பின் அங்கே தினவர்த்தமானிப் பத்திராதிபராயும் இருந்தார் என்ப.

நாவலரவாகளின் நல்வழியில் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் மாணாக்கனாய தனையலங்கரித்து, விற்பத்திமானாய் உருவாகி வெளியேறிய மகான் காசிவாசி செந்திநாத ஐயா், மும்மொழிப் புலவரும் சைவசித்தாந்தக் கடலுமாவா். குப்பிழான் ஊரைச் சோ்ந்த செந்திநாத ஐயரவா்கள் யாழ்ப்பாணத்துச் சைவக் கல்விப் பாரம்பரியத்தில் கல்வி பயின்றதோடு, யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் ஆங்கிலங் கற்று, நாவலரவா்கள் நடத்திய ஆங்கிலப் பாடசாலையில் ஆறாண்டுகள் ஆங்கில ஆசிரியராயும் இருந்தவா்.

செந்திநாதையர் சைவத்தின் பெருந்தலைநகரமாய காசியென்னும் புனித தீர்த்தக் கரையில் பத்தாண்டுகள் தங்கியிருந்து வடமொழி நூல்களை நன்காராய்ந்து பல வெளியீடுகளைத் தந்ததோடு, தரமான தமிழ் மொழி பெயர்ப்புகளும் செய்துள்ளார்கள். திருப்பரங்குன்றத்தில் குடிலமைத்து தவவாழ்க்கை மேற்கொண்டொழுகிய வேளையில் தமிழ் நாட்டில் சிவாசாரியர்கள் பற்றாக் குறையாயிருப்பக்கண்டு, பெரியவர்கள் எழுவரைத் தம்முடன் அமர்த்திச் சப்தரிஷிகள் என அவர்களுக்குப் பட்டும் குட்டிப் பரிவுடன் சிவாசாரியாபிடேகம் செய்து பெருமைப்படுத்திப் பெரும் பணி புரிந்தவர். அவர்களுள் ஒருவரைப் பற்றி இங்கே குறிப்பிட்டாற் போதுமானது. அவர் காசி முதல் கதிர்காமம் வரை புகழ் பெற்ற பழனி ஈசான சிவாசாரியாராவர். அவரை இலங்கைப் பிரதமர்களிருவர் பணிவோடு வணங்கி, அவர் சிவபூசை செய்யும் அழகைக் கண்டு மகிழ்ந்து திருநீறு வாங்கிப் பூசியவர்கள். இன்று இலங்கையில் சைவப் பெருங் கல்லூரி எனப் பழைமையும் பெருமையும் சேர ஒளிகான்று வரும் யாழ்ப்பாணம் இந்துக்கல்லூரி, யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் நாற்றுமேடையில் உண்டாகி உருவாகியது எனக் கூறின் பலருக்கு வியப்பாகவும், பிரமிப்பாகவும் இருக்கலாம். இருக்கட்டும்.

முன்னர் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் வெள்ளைக்காரர் பெரிதும் மதிக்க ஆசிரியராயிருந்தவர் வட்டுக்கோட்டைக்கு அயலூரான சங்குவேலி முத்துக்குமாரு சிதம்பரப்பிள்ளை என்னும் பெரிய நெவின்சர் அவர்களாவர். அவர் யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியை மதிப்போடு விட்டு விலகி, வண்ணார்பண்ணையில் தாமே ஒரு சைவப் பாடசாலையை உண்டாக்கிய வேளையில் அவரைப் பெரிதும் அபிமானித்த மாணாக்கர் சிலர், அவர் பின்னே சென்று புதிய பாடசாலையில் படிப்பாராயினர்.

முத்துக்குமார் சிதம்பரப்பிள்ளை அவர்கள் முன்னோடியாய் ஆரம்பித்த சைவப் பாடசாலையையே வண்ணை வாசகர்களாய அப்புக்காத்தர் நாகலிங்கம் அவர்களும் பசுபதிச் செட்டியார் அவர்களும், அரியாலை யூரினரான காசிப்பிள்ளை அவர்களும் சபையாகச் சேர்ந்து அந்தப் பாடசாலையின் நிர்வாகப் பொறுப்பை ஏற்று அதனை இன்று பெரிய இந்துக் கல்லூரியாக ஒளி காலச் செய்தனர். இந்த ஒளி காலும் கல்லூரியைச் சூழ நிலவிக் காரைநகர், சாவகச்சேரி, கொக்குவில், உரும்பிராய் ஆகிய ஊர்கள் தோறும் பெருங்கல்லூரிகள் ஒளி காலுகின்றன. இவற்றோடிணைந்த சைவத் தமிழ் பாடசாலைகளும் உண்டு.

இலங்கையில் சைவக் கல்விப் பாரம்பரியத்தையும் வரலாற்றையும் தொடர்பாய் ஆராயும் போது, சைவ வித்தியா விருத்திச் சங்கத்தின் பணிகளையும் பங்களிப்பையும் பற்றிக் கூறாமல் விடமுடியாது. யாழ்ப்பாணத்து நாகரிகம் குளத்தங்கரை நாகரிகமாதலின் குளங்களையடுத்து உருவான கிராமங்கள் தோறும் நூற்றறுபதுக்கு மேற்பட்ட பாடசாலைகளை உண்டாக்கிச் சைவமும் தமிழும் ஊட்டிச் சிறுவர்களை மனிதராக உருவாக்கிய பெருமை இந்து போட் என வழங்கிய சைவ வித்தியா விருத்திச் சங்கத்துக்கே உரியதாகும்.

சைவ வித்தியா விருத்திச் சங்கத்தில் சேர் இராமநாதன், சேர் வைத்தியலிங்கம் துரைசுவாமி, அப்புக்காத்தர் வட்டுக்கோட்டை இராசரத்தினம், வைத்திலிங்கம் விஜயரத்தினம், முதலிய எத்தனையோ விற்பத்திமான்கள் பணிபுரிந்த வேளையில், சங்கத்தின் முழு மூச்சாய் உயிர்ப்புச் செய்தவர் சுப்பிரமணியம் இராசரத்தினம் என்னும் அப்புக்காத்தராவர்.

கப்பிரமணியம் இராசரத்தினம் அவர்கள் மத்திய கல்லூரியிலேயே உருவானதோடு, அங்கே ஆரம்பக்கல்வி முதல் அப்புக்காத்து வேலைக்கான எவ் ஏ. (F.A.) என்னும் கல்கத்தா பல்கலைக்கழகப் பட்டப்படிப்புவரை கற்றவராவர். அவர் கல்வியோடு அங்கே பயின்ற கிறிக்கற் பந்தாட்டத்திலும் பெரும் புகழ் ஈட்டிய பெருமைக்குரிய சைவப் பெரியாராவர். இராசரத்தினம் அவர்கள் மத்திய கல்லூரிப் பழைய மாணாக்கர் எனில் அவர் கண்ட பாடசாலைகளின் கணிப்பும் கருதப்பெற வேண்டியதாகும்.

அண்மையில் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் நீண்ட காலம் ஆசிரியராயிருந்தவரும் "சர்மா மாஸ்ரர்" என ஆசிரியர்களும் மாணாக்கர்களும் ஆசை நேசத்தோடு அழைத்து மகிழப் பணி புரிந்தவரும், மும்மொழிப் புலவரும், நூலாசிரியரும், உரையாசிரியருமான இராமசாமி சர்மா அவர்கள் வியாகரணம் அறிந்தவர்கள். கேம்பிரிட்ஜ், லண்டன் பல்கலைக்கழகப் பரீட்சைகளுக்கு மாணாக்கர் விதிக்கப்பட்ட நூல்களை ஆயத்தஞ் செய்தபோதெல்லாம், சைவம் ததும்ப விளக்கிய விற்பத்தித்திறன் சைவத்துக்கு மத்திய கல்லூரி செய்த பங்களியில் ஒரு பங்கு எனலாம்.

இக்கால வரையறையிலே வர்த்தகத்துறை சார்ந்த பாடங்கள் கற்பித்த நவரத்தினம் அவர்கள் சைவசமயத் துறையில் பெரிதும் ஈடுபாடு கொண்டு, சைவக் கலை வளர்த்தலுக்கும், பரப்புதலுக்கும் வாய்ப்பாகக் கலா நிலையம் என்னும் கவின் மன்றம் ஒன்றை, நண்பர்கள் ஒத்துழைப்போடு 1934 ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் உருவாக்கி, மூன்று மாதத்துக்கொரு ஏட்டினை ஞாயிறு என்னும் பெயரில் வெளியிட்டு ஒளி காலச் செய்ததோடு, காலந்தோறும் கலைஞர்கள் கல்விமான்களைக் கொண்டு ஆராய்ச்சிச் சொற்பெருக்குகளும் இடம்பெறச் செய்தவர். இன்னும் தமது ஒய்வு நேரங்களில் கலைகளைப் பற்றியாராய்ந்து தென்னிந்திய சிற்பவடிவம், இலங்கையில் கலை வளர்ச்சி முதலிய நூல்களை நூற்றுக்கணக்கான சிற்ப ஒவியப் படங்கள் சகிதமாக வெளியிட்டதோடு, அத்வைதம், சமய வளர்ச்சி முதலிய தலைப்புகளில் ஆராய்ச்சி நூல்களும் வெளியிட்டவர். இவை அவர் மத்திய கல்லூரியிலிருந்து செய்த ஆக்கப் பணிகள்.

இறுதியாக மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பன்நெடுங் காலம் எழுதுவினைஞர் என்னும் கிளாக்கர் உத்தியோகம் வகித்துப் பெரும் புகழ் பெற்றவரும், அதிபர்கள், ஆசிரியர்கள் பலரை நன்கறிந்தவரும், ஆயிரக்கணக்கான மாணாக்கர்களுக்கு சிட்டாரசாரமான சைவப் பண்பாட்டு முறைகளை விளக்கிய வருமான வைத்திலிங்கம் அவர்களைப் பற்றியும் நினைத்தல் வேண்டும்.

சென்னையிலிருந்து வருகின்ற இந்துப் பத்திரிகையை முதலிலிருந்து இறுதிவரை வாசித்து அதிலே விளம்பரங்கள் விமர்சனங்கள் செய்யப்பெற்ற நூல்களிற் பலவற்றை நேரடியாக வரவழைத்து நன்றாக வாசித்து ரசித்து ஆசிரியர்கள் நண்பர்களுக்கு அவற்றைப்பற்றிக் கூறி, அவர்களை வாசிக்கும் பழக்கத்தில் ஈடுபடுத்தி உருவாக்கிய பெருமை கிளாக்கர் வைத்திலிங்கம்— அவர்களுக்கே உரியது. அதிபர்கள் ஆசிரியர்கள் அடிக்கடி அவரிடம் ஆலோசனை கேட்கத் தவறுவதில்லை. யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் சைவத் தமிழ் நாடியோட்டத்துக்கு உயிர்ப்புக் கொடுத்தவர் வைத்திலிங்கம் அவர்கள் எனலாம். அந்த உயிர்ப்பினால் மாணாக்கர் பலர், மேற்கே திரும்பி கோட்டை முனியப்பரை நினைந்து ஒரு கும்பிடு போடுதல் பெருவழக்கம். வாழ்க யாழ் மத்தி கல்லூரி! வளர்க சைவமும் தமிழும்!!

(நன்றி – யாழ் மத்தியம் – 1984)



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SRI LA SRI ARUMUGA NAVALAR Great Hindu Savant & Reformer

(Student & Later Teacher at JCC who helped Rev. Peter Percival to translate the Bible into Tamil in the early 1830's)



ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ ஆறுமுக நாவலர்

யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியிற் படித்து, அங்கேயே படிப்பித்து, பீற்றர் பேர்சிவல் பாதிரியுடன் கொண்ட உறவினால் அவர்கள் வழியிலே, சைவ சமயத்தை மீட்டெடுக்கவும் தமிழ் மொழிக்குத் தொண்டு செய்யவும் புடமிடப்பட்டு, "நல்லைநகர் ஆறுமுகநாவலர் பிறந்திலரேல் சொல்லு தமிழெங்கே? சுருதி எங்கே?" என்று கேட்குமளவுக்குத் தமிழ் கூறும் நல்லுலகம் முழுவதும் மங்காத புகழ்படைத்த ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ ஆறுமுகநாவலர் அவர்கள். கிறிஸ்தவ நல்லொழுக்கமே நாவலரின் ஆதர்ஸ வழிகாட்டி

மெதொடிஸ்த நெறியின் முக்கிய பண்புகள் எனக் கொள்ளப்படத் தக்க கண்டிப்பான தன்னொடுக்கம், சாதனையோடு கூடிய தூய்மையான போதனை, மத அநுட்டானத்தை அறிவு சார்ந்த ஓர் ஆசாரமாகக் கொள்ளுதல் ஆதியன ஆறுமுகம் என்னும் தலைவரின் மூலம் இந்து சமய மீட்பியக்கத்தை ஆட்கொண்டிருந்ததுடன், அதனை முன்னெடுத்துச் செல்லவும் அவருக்கு வழியமைத்தது. இதில் உள்ள முக்கிய அம்சம் என்னவெனில் நாவலர் தன் வாழ் நாளின் எந்தக் கட்டத்திலும் பேர்சிவல் பாதிரியிடமிருந்து பெற்ற பயிற்சியை மறுதலிக்கவில்லை; அந்தப் பயிற்சியால் தான் பழுதாக்கப்பட்டதாகச் சொல்லவுமில்லை. மாறாக, அது தன்னைத் தன் பணிகளிற் தூண்டியதாகக் கூறியுள்ளார்.

பேராசிரியர் கா. சிவத்தம்பி

பேர்சிவல் பாதிரியும் ஆறுமுகநாவலரும்

கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்போதனைகளையும் மணிமொழிகளையும் மக்களுக்கு எடுத்துரைத்து, அவர்களைக் கிறிஸ்தவ சமயத்தில் சேர்த்துக் கொள்வதே சிறிஸ்தவ தொண்டர்களின் நோக்கமாக இருந்து வருவதாயினும். கல்வித் துறையில் அவர்கள் ஆற்றிவரும் அரும்பணிகள் நாட்டுக்குப் பெரும் பயன்கள் அளித்து வருகின்றன. தமிழ்மொழி இன்று மலர்ச்சியுறுவதற்கும் கிறிஸ்தவ தொண்டர்கள் பலர் மேற்கொண்ட வழிகளே காரணமாகும்.

பேராசிரியா் போ்சிவல் தமது சமயத்திற் கொண்ட பேரன்பானது தமிழ் வசன நடைக்கும் வித்தாக அமைந்து விட்டமை தமிழ் பேசும் மக்களின் பாக்கியமேயாகும். இப்பெரியாரின் தமிழ்ப்பற்றினைத் தமிழ் மொழி ஆக்கத்துக்கு நன்கு பயனுறுமாறு செய்த பெருமை நல்லைநகா் ஆறுமுக நாவலா் அவா்களையே சாரும்.

யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி ஆறுமுகநாவலர் அவர்களைத் தமிழ் உலகிற்குத் தந்ததுமன்றி, ஈழ நாட்டின் சமய சமூக, அரசியல் துறைகளிற் புரட்சிகரமான மாற்றங்களை ஏற்படுத்திய பெருந்தலைவர்களையும் நமக்கு அளித்துள்ளது.

> ஈழநாடு ஆசிரியர் தலையங்கம் 28-2-59

(**நன்றி - யாழ் மத்தியம் - 1984)** Digitized by Noolaham Foundation. noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

யாழ்.குடாநாட்டில் கல்வியில் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள பின்னடைவு: விமோசனம் எப்போது?

நீண்டகாலமாக முடிவில்லாமல் நடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டிருக்கிற யுத்தம் காரணமாக வடகிழக்கைத் தாயகமாகக் கொண்ட தமிழ் மக்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்டுள்ள பாரிய இழப்புகளில் கல்விச் செல்வமும் ஒன்றாகும். கல்விச் செல்வம், எப்பிறப்பும் தொடர்ந்து வருவதும் ஒரு சமுதாயத்தில் சந்ததி சந்ததியாக வளர்ச்சியையும் முன்னேற்றத்தையும் ஏற்படுத்தும் சாதனமுமாகும்.

திருவள்ளுவப் பெருந்தகையும்" ஒருமைக்கண் தான் கற்ற கல்வி ஒருவற்கு எழுமையும் ஏமாப்புடைத்து" என்று குறித்து பெருமைப்படுத்தியுள்ளார். இத்தகைய கல்வியைச் சீர்குலைப்பதும் தடை செய்வதும் கொடிய சித்திரவதைக்கு ஒப்பாகும். அத்துடன் கலைமகள் கடாட்சம் பெற்ற நூலகங்களை எரியூட்டுவதும் கல்விச்சாலைகளைக் குண்டு வீசித் தகர்ப்பதும் படுபாதகமான காட்டுமிராண்டித்தனமான செயல் என்றே சொல்லுதல் வேண்டும். படு வேகமாக நாகரீகத்திலும் விஞ்ஞானத்திலும் முன்னேற்றம் கண்டு வரும் உலக நாடுகளில் நடைபெறாத தீவினைச் செயலாகும்.

கல்வி அபிவிருத்தியில் தேக்கம்

யாழ். குடாநாட்டில் கடந்த 12 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாக பலவிதமான பெயர்களைக் கொண்ட இராணுவ நடவடிக்கைகள் நடைபெற்று வந்துள்ளன. தொடர்ந்தும் நடைபெறுகின்றன.

ஒவ்வொரு பெயர் கொண்ட இராணுவ மோதல்களிலும் மக்கள் புலம் பெயர்வதும் பின்னர் சொந்த இடங்களுக்குத் திரும்புவதும், திரும்பவும் ஓடியாடி வேதனைகளுக்கு உள்ளாவதும், மிகவும் பரிதாபமாகவும் துன்பவியல் காட்சிகளாகவும் நடைபெற்றுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. புலம் பெயர்வு நிகழும் மிக மோசமான வேளையில் தமிழ் மக்களின் அழியாச் சொத்தாகிய கல்வியென்னும் அருந்தனமும் மாணவச் செல்வங்களுடன் கூடி பலவிதமான பின்னடைவுகளைச் சந்திக்க வேண்டிய சூழ்நிலை ஏற்படுகின்றது.

இடம் பெயர்வதால் ஏற்படும் பாதிப்பு

முதலாவது நிலையான மக்கள் இடம்பெயரும் நிலையில் மாணவர்களும் தெறிபட்டு பல்வேறு இடங்களிலும் சிதறிய நிலையில் திக்குத் தெரியாத காடுகளில் தங்கும் நிலைமை ஏற்படுகிறது. இதே நிலை ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் அதிபர்களுக்கும் மற்றும் பாடசாலை ஊழியர்களுக்கும் ஏற்படுகின்றது. இந்த நிலையில் இவர்களை ஒன்றுசேர்த்து கிடுகுக் கொட்டில்கள் அமைத்து வகுப்பறைகளை ஏற்படுத்தி வகுப்புகளைத் தொடர வேண்டியுள்ளது. வகுப்பறைகள் இல்லாதவிடத்து மர நிழல்களில் வகுப்புகளை நடத்த வேண்டியுள்ளது. இதனால் காலமும் நேரமும் வீணாகின்றது. அத்துடன் இடம் பெயர்வு காரணமாக மனச்சோர்வு பேதலிப்பு மனமுறிவு காரணமாக ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் மாணவர்களுக்கும் கல்வியில் அக்கறையும் ஈடுபாடும் முழுமனதுடன் கொள்ள முடியாத ஒருவித விரக்தி மனப்பான்மை ஏற்படும் என்பதும் உண்மையாகும்.

தற்கால நவீன கல்வி முறையில் எவ்விதமான வசதிகளும் இன்றி சரியான வழிமுறைகளில் கல்வியைக் கற்பது என்பது மிகவும் கஷ்டமான விடயமாகும். நவீன விஞ்ஞான ஆய்வுக் கூடங்கள், பூரணமான நூலகம் மற்றும் பாட செய்முறைகளுக்கான வசதியான அறைகள், விளையாட்டு மைதானங்கள், போன்ற வசதிகள் இன்றி மாணவாகளுக்கு பாிபூரணமான கல்வி முறைகளைப் புகட்ட முடியாது என்பது தெரிந்த விடயம். இந்நிலையில் இடம்பெயா் மாணவா்கள் எந்த முறையில் திறந்ந வெளியரங்குகளில் கல்வியை தொடர முடியும். அத்துடன் இடத்துக்கு இடம் மாறிக் கொண்டிருக்கும் மாணவா்களால் பாட்சைக்குரிய பாடத்திட்டத்தை முடித்து பாட்சைக்குத் தோற்றி எவ்வாறு சித்தியடைய முடியும் என்பதையும் சிந்திக்கவேண்டியது அவசியமாகவுள்ளது.

மாணவர் கல்வியில் இடைநிறுத்தம்

வடபகுதியில் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள மக்களின் பாரிய இடம்பெயர்வு காரணமாக ஆண்டு 6 தொடக்கம் ஆண்டு 13 வரை கல்வி கற்கும் மாணவர்களின் கணிசமானோர் கல்வியை இடைநிறுத்தம் செய்து சிறு தொழில்களைச் செய்வதற்குச் சென்று விடுவதாக புள்ளிவிபரங்கள் தெரிவிக்கின்றன. காரணம் புலம் பெயர்தலால் மக்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்டுள்ள வாழ்க்கைச் சுமை, பொருளாதார நெருக்கடிகள் போன்ற காரணங்களால் வாழ்க்கை முறையே மாறிவிட்டது எனலாம்.

முன்பு நிரந்தரமான இடத்தில் கட்டுக்கோப்புடன் செயற்பட்ட மாணவர் சமுதாயம் இன்றைய நிலையில் நிலை தளம்பிக் கரடுமுரடான பாதையில் செல்வதும் வருத்தப்பட வேண்டிய விடயமாகும். வடபகுதி மாணவ மணிகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் இழந்த நிலையில் உள்ளார்கள். நிரந்தர இடங்களில் கல்விச் சாலையில் கல்விக் கற்க முடியாத நிலை, இலவசப் பாடப் புத்தகங்கள் வழங்காத நிலை, இலவச உடு துணிகள் இல்லாத அரைகுறை நிலை இப்படியான பலவித குறைபாடுகளுடனும் அரைவயிற்றுக் கஞ்சியுடனும் எப்படிப் படிப்பில் அக்கறை செலுத்த முடியும். அவர்களுக்கு காலம் தான் பதில் சொல்ல முடியும்.

யாழ் மாவட்ட தற்போதைய கல்வி நிலை

அண்மையில் திருகோணமலை கல்வி அமைச்சில் நடைபெற்ற வடகிழக்கு உயர்நிலை மகாநாட்டில் <mark>யாழ்.</mark> மாவட்டக் கல்வி நிலைபற்றி விபரங்கள் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. முன்பு கல்வி கற்ற ஒரு லட்சத்து 84 ஆயிரத்து 350 மாணவர்களில் 87 ஆயிரம் மாணவர்களே பாடசாலைக்குச் செல்கின்றனரெனத் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. எனவே சுமார் ஒரு லட்சம் மாணவர்கள் இடம் பெயர்ந்த நிலையில் வாழ்கின்றனர் எனக் கொள்ளலாம்.

ஆசிரியர்களில் 6433 தொகையில் 4100 பேரே கடமைக்குத் திரும்பியுள்ளனர். 481 பாடசாலைகளில் 378 பாடசாலைகளே மிகவும் குறைந்த தொகையான மாணவர்களுடன் இயங்குகின்றன.

நல்லூர், வேலணை, ஊர்காவற்றுறை, யாழ்நகரம் ஆகிய இடங்களில் முன்னர் இயங்கிய பிரதேசக் கல்வி அலுவலகங்கள் தொடர்ந்து இயங்கி வருகின்றன. 17 பாடசாலைகளின் கட்டிடங்கள் மிக மோசமாகச் சேதமடைந்துள்ளன என்றும் அவை அவசரமாகத் திருத்தப்பட வேண்டும் என்றும் யாழ் கல்விப் பணிப்பாளர் தெரிவித்துள்ளார். யாழ்மாவட்டத்தில் விஞ்ஞானக் கல்வி பாதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. விஞ்ஞான உபகரணங்களும் இரசாயனப் பொருள்களும் இல்லாமையே இதற்குக் காரணமாகும். வகுப்புக்குரிய பாடவிதானம் இன்னமும் அனுப்பி வைக்கப்படவில்லை. அத்துடன் யாழ் மாவட்டக் கல்வித்திணைக்களத்தில் தொழில்நுட்ப அதிகாரிகளுக்கு கடும் பற்றாக்குறை ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது என்றும் மகாநாட்டில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

எதிர்காலம் என்ன?

எல்லாக்காரணிகளையும் சீர்தூக்கிப் பார்க்கும்போது வடபகுதி மாணவர்களின் கல்வி முயற்சிகள் வெகுவாகப்

பாதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது என்பது தெரிய வருகிறது. மூன்று வகையாகப் பிரித்து ஆராயும் போது ஒரு சிறு தொகையான மாணவர்கள் மட்டும் வவுனியா தாண்டிக்குளம் தாண்டி வந்து வவுனியா, கொழும்பு, மற்றும் தென்னிலங்கைப் பாடசாலைகளில் கல்வியைத் தொடர்ச்சியாகப் பெற்று வருகின்றனர். மற்றும் கணிசமான தொகை மாணவர்கள் திரும்பவும் யாழ். சென்று கல்வியைத் தொடர்கின்றனர். இவர்கள் இராணுவக் கட்டுப்பாட்டுப் பகுதிக்கு வந்து சேர்ந்தவர்கள். இங்கு கல்வி சம்பந்தப்பட்ட வகையில் பலபிரச்சினைகள் புதிதாக எழுந்துள்ளதைக் காணக்கூடியதாக உள்ளது.

இன்னமும் ஆசிரியர்களும் மாணவர்களும் நிம்மதியான கற்றல், கற்பித்தல் முறைகளுக்குத் திரும்ப முடியாமல் தத்தளித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். பலவிதமான தேவைகளும் பிரச்சனைகளும் உள்ளன.

மூன்றாவது பிரிவினரான மாணவர்கள் இராணுவக் கட்டுப்பாடற்ற பிரதேசத்தில் வாழ்ந்து கல்வி முயற்சியை தொடர்பவர்கள். இவர்கள் முற்று முழுதாகக் கல்வி முயற்சியைத் தொடர்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களா அல்லது என்ன நடைபெறுகிறது என்பது திட்டவட்டமாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஏனென்றால் அவர்கள் முழு அளவில் இராணுவ நடவடிக்கையினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டு வழியறியாது திண்டாடிக் கொண்டிருப்பவர்கள்.

இந்த இக்கட்டான மாணவர்களின் கல்வி நிலை குறித்துக் கல்விமான்கள், சமயப் பெரியார்கள், அரசியல்வாதிகள் யாவரும் கூடிய கவனம் செலுத்துவது முக்கியம். இதன் பொருட்டு கற்றோரும் மற்றோரும் விரைந்து செயற்பட வேண்டிய சூழ்நிலையும் அவசியமும் ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது. அரசியலையும் மற்றும் வேறுபாடுகளையும் தூர வைத்து மாணவச் செல்வங்களின் எதிர்காலம் குறித்து யாவரும் சிந்தித்து ஒற்றுமையாக முடிவெடுத்துச் செயல்படவேண்டியது அத்தியாவசியமாகின்றது.

காரைநகர் எஸ். ஆர். எஸ். தேவதாசன் (முன்னாள் உதவிக் கல்விப் பணிப்பாளர்)

(நன்றி - வீரகேசரி 28-10-96)



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JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE PRINCIPALS 1816 - 1996

Rev. James Lynch	1816
Rev. Thomas Squance	1819
Rev. Robert Carver	1820-24
Rev. Joseph Roberts	1825
Rev. Dr. Peter Percival	
Rev. John Walton	1852-54
Rev. William Barber	1855
Rev. William Talbot	1859-61
Rev. John Mitchell	1862-66
Rev. John O. Rhodes	
Rev. D. P. Niles (Acting)	1870-72
Rev. Samuel R. Wilkin	1873-74
Rev. William R. Winston	1874-76
Mr. Edward Strutt	1877-78
Mr. Fredrick M. Webster, B.A.	1879-81
Mr. Thomas Little	1882
Mr. William J. G. Bestall	1883
Mr. Joseph West	1884
Rev. A.E. Restarick, B.A.	1885-86
Rev. D.P. Niles (Acting)	1886-87
Rev. Sheldon Knapp	1888-89
Rev. E. Middleton Weaver	1890
Rev. W.T. Garret B.A.	1891-93
Rev. Gabriel Leese	1894-95
Rev. W.T. Garret, B.A.	1896-98
Rev. George B. Robeson (Acting)	1899
Rev. E.O. Martin	1900
Rev. Arthur Lockwood	1901
Rev. W.T. Garret, B.A.	1901-03
Rev. W.M.P. Wilkes, B.A. L.C.P.	1903-08
Rev. H.A. Meek, B.A.	1908-10
Rev. W.M.P. Wilkes, B.A., L.C.P.	1910-16
Rev. E.T. Selby (Acting)	1916
Rev. Harold Bullough, M.A., B.Sc.	1917-21
Rev. H.R. Cornish (Acting)	1921
Rev. Percy T. Cash M.A., B.Sc.	1922-26

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	1007
Mr. J.K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T. (Acting)	1927
Rev. Percy T. Cash, M.A., B.Sc.	1928-32
Mr. R.J. Seal, M.Sc. (Acting)	1933
Rev. Percy T. Cash, M.A., B.Sc.	1934-39
Mr. R.S.D. Williams, B.A., Dip. Ed.,	1940-42
Mr. J.W. Arudpragasam, B.A.	1943-44
Rev. C.A. Smith, B.A.(Hons) L.Th.	1945-55
Mr. J.C. Charles, (Acting)	1949
Rev. Dr. D.T. Niles, B.A. (Hons), D.D., (Chicago)	1956-62
Mr. A.E. Tamber, B.Sc.	1962-64
Mr. E. Sabalingam, B.Sc., P.g.Tr., S.Gr.P.	1964-71
Mr. E.K. Shanmuganathan, B.A., Dip.Ed., S.Gr.P.	1971-80
Mr. N.S. Rathinasingham, B.A., Eng. Trd., T.C.Cert.	1980-82
Mr. V. Balasuntharam, B.Sc.	1983-90
Mr. N. Rasaratnam, B.A., Dip.Ed.	1990
Mr. N.K. Shanmuganathapillai, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., TC.Cert., SLEAS II	1990-96
Mr. S. Sivanrooban, B.Sc., Dip.Ed. (Acting)	1996

VICE-PRINCIPALS & DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Rev. D.P. Niles	1. Brown Sinnathamby	96978
Mr. W. Romaine Cooke		901-16
Mr. J.K. Chanmugam, B.A., L.T.		924-28
Mr. O.L. Gibbon, M.A.		929
Mr. J.W. Arudprgasam, B.A.	LK Chanmidam, B.A., L.T.	929
Mr. J.C. Charles, Teacher Trd.		939-57
Mr. A.E. Tamber, B.Sc	K. Kanagusabut	958-63
Mr. S. Mahalingam, B.A., Dip.Ed.	r. S. Velupillai	964-70
Mr. V.V. Rajaratnam, B.A., Dip. Ed.	K. Mumah Water	970-73
Mr. N.S. Rathinasingham, B.A., Eng.	Trd., T.C.Cert.	971-80
Mr. V. Balasuntharam, B.S.,	N. Sivarajah	980-82
Mr. R.K. Rajasenan, B.Sc. (Hons)	T. Kanagalangam	980-81
Mr. A. Sinnathamby, B.A., Dip.Ed., S	SLEAS. CI-V	981
Mr. N. Rasaratnam, B.A., Dip.Ed.	t. V. Sivanesan	983-1990
Mr. K. Kandasamy, Sp. Trd. (Comme	erce)	990-91
Mr. V. Aiyathurai, B.A., Dip.Ed.		991-93
Mr. S. Sivanroopan, B.Sc., Dip.Ed.		991-96
Mr. T. Nagaratnam, B.Sc.		993-96

HEAD MASTERS

Mr. Brown Sinnathamby	1835
Mr. Samuel Grenier	1855-60
Mr. William Nevins	1860-86
Rev. D.P. Niles	1886-94
Mr. J.K. Chanmukam, B.A., L.T.	1894-1923
Mr. J.W. Arudpragasam, B.A.	1924-28
Mr. K. Kanagasabai	1929-59
Mr. S. Velupillai	1960-70
	1970-71
	1971-78
Mr. V. Sivarajah	1979-80
Mr. T. Kanagalingam	1980-86
	1986-87
Mr. V. Sivanesan	1987-96

PREFECTS OF GAMES

Mr. J.S. Selvaratnam	1929-43
Mr. T.I. Abraham	1944-69
Mr. A. Kulendran	1969-72
Mr. A.M. David	1972-80
Mr. M.P. Broodie	1980
Mr. C. Dayaladeva	1980-81
Mr. E.S. Thambiah	1982-84
Mr. V. Aiyathurai	1984-86
Mr. V.T. Ganeshalingam	1987-90
Mr. V. Aiyathurai	1991-93
Mr. V.T. Manoharan	1994

I nedinaday (Vool) 2001

SENIOR PREFECTS

1936	S.S.N. Selvadurai	1967	S. Sivasothy
1937	A. Arumanayagam	1968	P. Balendra
1938	M. Sebaratnam	1969	
1939	D.S. Tambyah	1970	
1940	A.J. Tambyah	1971	M.S.S. Sivakumar
1941	V.E. Ratnasabapathy	1972	R. Selvakumar
1942	M.A. Azeeze	1973	G. Sriharan
1943	S. Nagendra	1974	S. Sivakumar
1944	W. Pathmanathan	1975	R.J. Thavachelvam
1945	A. Thurairajah	1976	R. Naguleswaran
1946	S. Vijayapaskaran	1977	A. Ravenndran
1947	C. Wijayanathan	1978	K. Chandramouli
1948	W. Sivagurunathan	1979	K. Jeganathan
1949	W. Sivagurunathan	1980	V. Krishnakumar
1950	L. Selvanayagam	1981	T. Srimohan
1951	V.D. Jeyaratnasingam	1982	K. Thomas
1952	T. Chinniah	1982	Y. Nimalenthira
1953	N. Sri Pragasa	1983	K. Umasuthan
1954	N. Sri Pragasa	1984	N. Mervin
1955	N. Sri Pragasa	1985	S. Joy Purnachandran
1956	T. Pararajasingam	1986	R. Nanthakumar
1957	K. Kanag-Iswaran	1987	T. Kiruparajan
1958	R.K.V. Premachandra	1988	K. Gnanakanthan
1959	P.S. Thavalingam	1989	K. Satheeskanthan
1960	P.S. Thavalingam	1990	M. Surendrajith
1961		1991	T. Rajitharan
1962		1992	P. Vaheesan
1963		1993	J. Anthony Jude
1964	V.T. Mahalingam	1994	M. Jegan Mohan
1965	R. Santhagunanathan	1995	S. Ravi Sankar
1966		1996	V. Nishanthan
1967	K.P. Mahendrayogam		

CRICKET CAPTAINS

1901	R.R. Nalliah	1000	R. Naguloswaran
1902	D D Mallich	1938	R.P. Thangarajah &
1903	D D N 11: 1	1000	R.R.S. Nalliah
1904	o nevolutionite it test	1939	P.P. Thangarajah
1905	D.C. Til. 1:1	1940	D.S. Thambiah
1906	D.C. Thankin	1941	E.R.S. Jacob
1907	WV Water	1942	W.J. Thambiah
1908	S.T. Sivasubramaniam	1943	S.D. Jeyasingam
1909	S.T. Sivasubramaniam	1944	W. Pathmanathan
1910	Victor Paul	1945	W. Pathmanathan
1911		1946	E.S. Thambiah
1912	D.G. Singanayagam S.E.N. Nicholas	1947	Sam N. Vadivelu
1912	F.A.S. Hoole	1948	W. Sivagurunathan
1913	R.J. Nicholas	1949	V.D. Jeyaratnasingam
1914		1950	K. Sivapatham
1915	B.R.M. Cheenivasagam	1951	V.D. Jeyaratnasingam
1910	B.R.M. Cheenivasagam	1952	R. Sundaralingam
	I. Rasanayagam	1953	N. Rajendra
1918	C. Navaratnam	1954	S.R. Kanagalingam
1919	R.R. Arunasalam	1955	R.K.V. Premachandra
1920	S.C. Alagaratnam	1956	R.K.V. Premachandra
1921	G. Sithamparapillai	1957	Bunny Vantwest
1922	S. Muthiah	1958	Ranjan Alagaratnam
1923	A.D. Sellathurai	1959	N. Segarajasingam
1924	P.C. Selvaratnam	1960	M. Sivaratnam
1925	M. Subramaniam	1961	M. Sivaratnam
1926	R.P. Charles	1962	J. Kanaganayagam
1927	M. Kanagaratnam	1963	V.T. Mahalingam
1928	F. Dennis	1964	R. Satchithananthan
1929	F. Dennis	1965	K.D. Ganeshakumar
1930	T.M.S. Mohamooth	1966	A. Patkunarajah
1931	M. Kanagaratnam	1967	S. Sivasothy
1932	S. Navaratnam	1968	P. Balendra
1933	B.S.N. Selvadurai	1969	D. Puradchithasan
1934	B.S.N. Selvadurai	1970	R.Rajasingam
1935	P. Selvaratnam	1971	M. Jeyakumar
1936	V. Arumanayagam	1972	T. Mahendran
1937	V. Arumanayagam	1973	M.S. Nazeer

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1974	R. Srikantha	1985	T. Raviraj
1975	S. Sivakumar	1986	K. Rajasekar
1976	S. Sivamithiran	1987	G. Terry Mahan
1977	R . Naguleswaran	1988	K. Vivekananthan
1978	S. Karunaharan	1989	S. Ramesh
1979	A. Baheerathan	1990	M. Muhunthan
1980	G. Anurudran	1991	T. Arunothayan
1981	R. Balakumar	1992	K. Pirabaharan
1982	K. Thomas	1993	S. Agash
1983	V.P. Prahalathan	1994	S. Manivathanan
1984	V. Sutharsanan	1995	S. Ravi Sankar

SOCCER CAPTAINS

1900	T.R. Nalliah	1937	A. Arumanayagam
1901	1991 N. Vijnyakuma	1938	M. Sebaratnam
1902	R.R. Alexander	1939	M Sabaratnam
1903	R.R. Alexander	1940	M. Kanagaratnam
1904	R.R. Alexander	1941	M. Pararajasingam
1905	R.C. Thambiah	1942	K. Bramanathan
1906	R.C. Thambiah	1943	S.E. Rajanayagam
1907	R.R. Tamber	1944	S. Vijayapaskaran
1908	S. Amoothalingam	1945	K.A. Paramenthiran
1909	S.T. Sivasubramaniam	1946	S. Dharmapalan
1910	V. Cumaraswamy	1947	M. Yogaratnam
1911	G. Singanayagam	1948	A.C. Thiagarajah
1912	G. Chinniah	1949	W. Sivagurunathan
1913	K. Kanagaratnam	1950	V.D. Jeyaratnasingam
1914	V.S. Karthikesu	1951	S. Rajaratnam
1915	W.G. Spencer	1952	S. Nadarajah
1916	A.E. Alexander	1953	M. Rajendra
1917	K. Kanagaratnam	1954	R. Kanagalingam
1918	R.R. Arunachalam	1955	R.K.V. Premachandra
1919	R. Kanagasabai	1956	Tharmanayagam
1920	C. Arasaratnam	1957	Nadarajah
1921	A. Dharmaratnam	1958	V.T. Sivalingam
1922		1959	K. Maheswaran
1923	A.P. Savundranayagam	1960	P.S. Suntheralingam
1924	T. Nadarajah	1961	V. Thanabalasingam
1925	M. Subramaniam	1962	T. Tharmarajah
1926	V.R.E. Nicholas	1963	N. Perinpanathan
1927	V. Arambu	1964	
1928	V. Arambu	1965	R. Sachithanandan
1929	S. Kandiah	1966	
1930	T.M.S. Mohamooth	1967	D. Puradchithasan
1931	P.T. Orantis	1968	G. Shantheeharan
1932	G.C.T. Rajanayagam	1969	era e la
1933	S. Thambimuttu	1970	
1934	S. Vasuthevan	1971	R.J. Edward
1935		1972	S. Thevarajah
1936	C. Vacidevan	1973	G. Emmanuel

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1974	G. Chitranganan	1986	K. Kalavannan
1975	A. Jacob	1987	
1976	T. Robert	1988	
1978	T. Sriskandarajah	1989	
1979	A. Charles Thavaratnam	1990	
1980	Anithijananthan	1991	N. Vijayakumar
1981	K. Thomas	1992	S. Manivathanan
1982	V. Paul Pirahalathan	1993	K. Suresh
1983		1994	S. Dixon Vijendran
1984	G. Piratheepan	1995	J. Clement
1985			

(The assistance of Old Boys is kindly sought for bringing the Captains lists up-to-date)

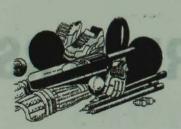
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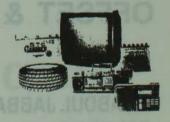
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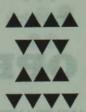
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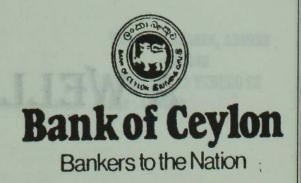
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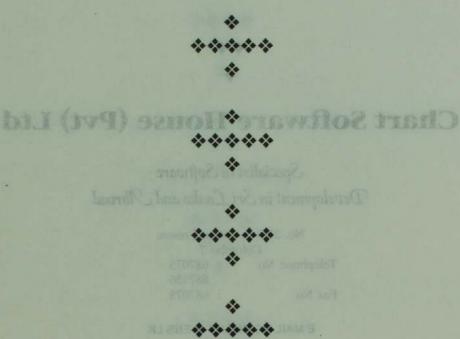
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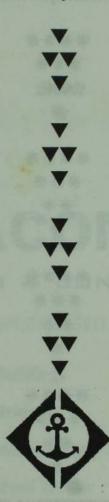
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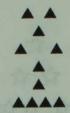
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