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The Jaffna Catholic Guardian.

கத்தோலிக்கப் பாதுகாவலன்.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

"Hisi Omnis custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

கையொப்பவிகிதம் . ரூ.ச	
ஸ்ரீம் க-க்கு முற்பணம்.....	4-00
சு-மாசத்துக்கு . முற்பணம்.....	2-00
ஸ்ரீம்-ம், க-க்கு பிற்பணம்.....	6-00
சு-மாசத்துக்குப் பிற்பணம்.....	3-00
தபால்சிலவு { இலங்கைக்கு.....	1-00
{ இந்தியாவுக்கு.....	1-00
விளம்பர விகிதம்	
12 வரிக்குள் வரி-க-க்கு.....	16
12-க்குமேற்படில் வரி-க-க்கு.....	10
கால் கொலத்துக்கு (28 வரி.)	300
அரைக்கொலத்துக்கு.....	5-00
முக்காற் கொலத்துக்கு.....	7-00
ஒருகலத்துக்கு.....	9-00

VOL. XVIII.

JAFFNA, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH 1893

NO 37

NOTICE

CEYLON SAVINGS BANK.

(Established 1832.)

President.—The Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, *Ex Officio*.

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CAN be made through every Kachcheri, or by Cheques, Drafts, Inland Money Orders and Postal Orders payable in Colombo to order of the Secretary. Attention of Depositors is particularly invited to Rule No 8 regarding attestations of Signatures on withdrawals.

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(Signed) W. J. GORMAN, Secretary, C. S. Bank

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Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Oil	2-00
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Kepler's Malt Extract	1-62½
Ghonorhea drops (The best and sure)	5-00
Iodised Sarsaparilla	3-50
Alofas Specific for Asthma	1-50
Lalors Phosphodyne	2-75
Painkiller	1-00
Corn flour, for infants	—50
Leibig's Extract of Meat	1-25
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Edward's Harlene (for the hair)	1-25
Heury's Thilum (for sprains, swelling)	—50

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The cheapest in Jaffna.

Liquors of the most approved Brands A variety of goods consisting of Oilman stores, Glasswares, Cutlery, tationary. Confectionary, Toys, Lamps, Perfumes.

All of the best quality can be had at moderate charges from the undersigned

A. M. Bastiampillai Main Street, Jaffna

August 1893.

N. B. A trial order is earnestly solicited. A. M. B.

The Medical Mission Dispensary at Manepay will be closed after Monday October 2nd, for three weeks T. B. Scott. M.D

CHURCH NOTICE.

Sunday 1st October 1893. Feast of the Holy Rosary

AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mass	5. 15 A. M
High "	6. 30 A. M
	8. 30 A. M
Vespers, Procession and Benediction.	5 00 P. M

AT ST. JAMES,

Mass	5. 15 A. M
Benediction	4. 30 P. M.

Friday 6th October 1893

First Friday of the Month

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Intention for October—The Churches of Belgium and Holland.

Telegraphic Summary

The Imperial Institute.

London, September 20th. Mr. Jehangier Ready money, on the eve of his returning to Bombay, has made a princely donation of two lakhs of rupees to the Imperial Institute. This munificent gift is highly appreciated here.

The Indian Viceroyship.

London, September 20th. Sir Henry Norman has withdrawn his acceptance of the post of Viceroy on the strength of not being equal to the task.

London, September 21st. The comments of the press on Sir Henry Norman's withdrawal of his acceptance of the post of Viceroy vary. The *Times* regrets he did not decline the post originally, but says that the prudence and moral courage of his decision commands general respect. The *Daily News* remarks that the telegraph has materially restricted the independence of the Viceroy, and that there is no longer the same necessity for men of original mind. Bombay, September 22nd—7-6 p. m. Mr. Russell, Under-Secretary for India, regretted the withdrawal by Sir Henry Norman of his acceptance of the Viceroyalty of India, which was purely on personal grounds. The Government, he said, favored the separation of civil and judicial functions; and the Council of the Secretary of State constituted an absolute check upon any lavish tendencies of the Secretary of State.

The Indian budget.

London, September 20th. A midnight tonight the Indian budget statement was again prevented in the House of Commons by preliminary discussions on certain motions which were brought forward. The House of Commons rejected without division the motion of Mr. Alpheus Morton, that Indian officials should be allowed a right of appeal to the Home Government regardless of the amount of their salaries. Mr. Bayley then brought forward a motion for appointing a Royal Commission to enquire into the economic condition of the people of India, and the financial relations existing between India and Great Britain. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, in seconding the motion, said that British Rule had been the salvation of India, but that reforms were necessary, and the financial situation of the country demanded an enquiry. He attacked the costliness and injustice of the Civil Service system, and urged the employment of the best and most intelligent natives to govern India. He quoted the opinion expressed in the House of Lords that India was unjustly treated regarding Home charges, and concluded his speech by saying that the present administration of India was based upon false and unnatural principles. Sir George Chesney spoke in opposition to the motion, and the debate was eventually adjourned.

Sir William Wedderburn supported the motion, and ascribed the present situation in India to the exclusion of natives from all share in the Government of the country.

Sir Charles Dilke said that the Royal Commission asked for would tend to weaken the Indian Government. He favored the abolition of the Legislative Council.

Sir Andrew Scoble opposed the appointment of the Royal Commission.

Sir W. V. Harcourt promised that any of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's specific grievances should be examined into.

The subject then dropped, and the Indian budget was adopted.

Renewed rioting at Home.

London, September 22nd. Rioting has been renewed at the Staffordshire mines.

A rising in Argentina.

London, September 22nd. Latest advices from South America state that the Radicals have risen in several of the Argentine provinces, and that the troops are joining the movement. A rising is imminent at Buenos Ayres, and thirty leaders have been arrested. Martial Law has been proclaimed and the press muzzled.

London, September 26th. The Argentine insurgents have captured Rosario.

Adjournment of Parliament.

London, September 23rd. Parliament has been adjourned until November 2nd.

The Duke of Connaught.

Vienna, September 23rd. Emperor Francis Joseph has appointed the Duke of Connaught to a Colonelcy in the Austrian Hussars.

An Anarchist Depot in Vienna.

Vienna, September 23rd.—An Anarchist depot has been unearthed here in which a quantity of bombs and other explosives, besides appliances for a printing press, were seized, and a number of arrests made.

The American President.

Washington, September 24th.—Senator Stewart will to-morrow bring forward a motion in the Senate to impeach President Cleveland for a violation of the constitution in seeking to coerce Congress into passing the repeal of the Sherman Act. It is believed that the silver party thus intends to divert attention from the Repeal Bill.

The Sultan of Johore.

London, September 25th.—The Sultan of Johore has left England for Singapore. A lady at Brighton is bringing an action for breach of promise of marriage against His Highness, damages being laid at £10,000.

A Russian Ironclad Lost.

London, September 25th.—The Russian ironclad "Roosalka," with twelve officers and one hundred and sixty-six men, is believed to have been lost in a storm in the Baltic sea.

London, September 26th. There are hopes that those on board the Russian ironclad "Roosalka" were not lost but that the ship was abandoned by them.

A Bomb outrage in Spain.

Barcelona, September 24th.—At a review of the troops held here to-day a man threw two petards amidst the staff of officers, and shattered the horse of General Martinez Campos, who was wounded in the thigh. His chief of staff, an aide-de-camp, and four others were also wounded. The man who threw the explosive has been arrested.

Barcelona, September 25th. Two other Generals and numerous spectators were also wounded yesterday by the explosives at the review. General Martinez Campos' wounds are only slight.

Local &c

Devotions for October.—We have to remind our readers that to-morrow, Sunday, the 1st of October is the Feast of the Holy Rosary. High Mass will be sung at the Cathedral in the morning at 6. 30 and there will be Vespers, Procession and Benediction, commencing at 5. P. M. Every Thursday throughout the month of October, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be given after the recitation of the Rosary at 6. P. M. The Faithful are exhorted to read and follow carefully the Directions of the Very Revd. the Administrator Apostolic published in English and Tamil in the *Guardian* of the 15th September. By so doing, they will reap a rich harvest of graces and blessings during the approaching holy season of prayer and penance consecrated by His Holiness the Pope to Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Kandy Seminary.—A party of four Belgian Jesuits, says the *I. E. Correspondence* is to proceed to Ceylon and help Father Grosjean in manning the new Seminary erected near Kandy for the training of an Indian native clergy. Fr. Grosjean, the Superior of the Kandy Seminary, according to the same paper, writes to a member of the Jesuit Mission in Calcutta that pupils are pouring in as fast as accommodation can be provided.

Arrival of Nuns.—By the *Sydney* news arrived here last Wednesday night, as passengers for Colombo, five nuns of the order of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and two Little Sisters of the Poor.—*C. C. Messenger*, 22nd Sept.

The Weather. The heat at present is very great. We have had no rain for a long time. The local farmers, after anxious waiting, have sown their paddy "in the dust"; and the seeds are so damaged by the heat that it is feared that a large proportion of them may not sprout when the rain comes. For several weeks "the heavens have been as brass and the earth as iron"; and all nature droops under the effects of the prolonged drought.

The price of tobacco is locally rising, but is reported to have fallen in Travancore to which place a large quantity of Jaffna tobacco is exported.—*Cor.*

Acknowledged with thanks the receipt from Government of the Reports on Registration and Vital Statistics for the year 1892 by Mr. P. Arunachalam, the acting Registrar General.

Clerical Appointments. Mr. J. Nicholas, Interpreter of the Vavuniya Kachcheri is appointed Head Clerk of the District Court of Jaffna in the room of Mr. Koek resigned, Mr. G. Muttukisara from Galle taking Mr. Nicholas' place at Vavuniya. Consequent on the death of Mr. Visvanathapillai, Mr. Vitiander is promoted to the Chief Clerkship of the Minor Courts of Kait's, Mr. M. J. Pooveyasingha to the Chief Clerkship of the Minor Courts of Chavagachcherri, Mr. B. S. Bryant to the 2nd Clerkship of the Fiscal's Office, Jaffna and Mr. DeRooy from Chilaw to the 3rd Clerkship of the Fiscal's Office, Jaffna. Mr. Seenivasagam, Native Writer of the District Court of Jaffna is transferred to Mullativu.—*Cor.*

Young Jaffna.—A contemporary learns that Mr. H. A. P. Sandrasagra, a student of St. Patrick's College and the eldest son of Mr. J. N. Sandrasagra of Jaffna has passed the Advocate's Preliminary Examination.

The S. S. Lady Havelock called at Kankasanturai on Tuesday last and after discharging two boat loads of cargo and taking in three steamed off to Colombo on the evening of the same day. Miss Martensz and Miss Howland were cabin passengers by her to Colombo.

The nuptials of the Revd Mr. Reginald Yates, Colonial Chaplain of Jaffna with the 2nd daughter of the late Mr. Geddes was solemnized on Monday last at Christ Church by the Revd Mr. Pickford. The elite of Jaffna society was present on the occasion. The road leading from the bride's residence to the Church was decorated on either side with plantains, coconut leaves and flags. *Cor.*

Money Order Business has greatly increased in the post offices in the Jaffna peninsula since the stoppage of banking facilities from July 1892, consequent on the failure of the O. B. C. Orders are received by the local merchants for large sums; but they find great difficulty in getting these orders cashed, and they complain of frequent and vexatious delays on the part of the Post Masters in making payments. It is not the Post Masters that are to blame in the matter; but the Post Master General who should see to his subordinates being provided with the necessary funds to cash Money Orders immediately on their presentation.

It is a standing rule, I believe, that Post Masters in the outstations should remit to the Head Office weekly or perhaps oftener, any amounts in their safes in excess of Rs. 200. The operation of such a rule must needs interfere with ready payments being made for large Orders presented.

The great increase of Money Order business in the peninsula and the importance of affording facilities especially to the trading public in the transmission of money, call for and justify either a relaxation or a modification of the rule in question. The Post Master General should therefore allow his subordinates in charge of Money Order Offices in trading centres to retain more money than they do at present. If there is danger to be apprehended by allowing large sums to remain indefinitely in the possession of the outstation Postmasters in the peninsula, the Post Master General can very easily make all orders received by residents in the peninsula for sums exceeding Rs. 200, payable at the Head Office in Jaffna and see that the officer in charge is put in possession of sufficient funds to make ready payments on all orders presented to him.

The Cutting down of a tree.—His Lordship Dr. Pagnani of Kandy, says a Colombo paper, has filed a plaint in the District Court there against Mr. A. L. French of Attabage near Pussellawa and Mr. T. C. Swinburne of Annfield Estate, Dickoya, to recover a sum Rs. 800 and costs for damage done to St. Anna's Church situate at Delipitya on the road to Pussellawa, by the cutting down of a mango tree which fell on the roof of the Church and damaged it.

நகைப் பிறழ்வு

சென்றபோனை ஞாபிற்றுக்கிழமை
வகைசகப்பயில் வந்த பிரயாணிக் கணம்
ருபிராமனனும் பிராமணத்தியும் வந்த
இவர்களிடம் நிலைவகடுத்த நகை
குடுத்தேற்ற அகசெய்தித்த கேட்கில்
ந்வேயிற்றார் தம்பையா வெண்பவர் கே
த்த பிராமணத்தியின் மடியில் ஐந்தகை
கல்வியைத் காசோலில் யிருக்கத்தெ
பிறழ்தலாக்கினார். அகசக்தியை அவ
சகப்பலவாடலெய்ப்பிரணிக் கலக்க
குறிப்போடெய் பண்ணிக்க்கினார். ப
ணனிடத்திலும் பிராமணத்தியிடத்திலும்
யப்பிரிப்பு கேட்கவிடத்திலவாசக
ணத்தில்தரையப்பாசெட்டியார் ஏன்
ருவரிக்கே அவர் தம்பி காகலிக்கசெ
யாரிடம் கொடுத்தலெய்கூற. தத்த
யார்க் என்ற சென்றகூறகூற.

THE
Jaffna Catholic Guardian
SEPTEMBER 30TH

AN UNFAIR VERDICT.

A section of the Colombo Press seems to view the question of Railway extension Northwards agitated for the last seven years, as satisfactorily set at rest by the ill-considered verdict of a small minority of the Commission appointed to make a thorough inquiry into the matter. The Editors of the leading Dailies had in the past warmly advocated the extension of the Railway to Jaffna, making light of the "Will it pay?" test, which they censured the Government for applying too rigidly, and giving due weight to paramount considerations such as the development of North Ceylon, the resuscitation of the Vanni, and the influx of population and capital into the wild region of the tanks restored at immense cost by Sir William Gregory and his successors, which the railway will assuredly bring about with the result of its being eventually a splendid success financially and otherwise. But all the warmth of our contemporaries has now apparently vanished and they are content to accept as decisive the hasty conclusion of Messrs. Williams and Christie arrived at before the results could be obtained of the professional survey and estimate of the proposed line—results which they so strongly insisted on in their previous report as absolutely necessary to enable them to pass their final judgment.

But the people of Jaffna and others specially interested, have reason to regard the verdict of two out of the six Commissioners appointed, as premature and unfair. Smarting, as they now do, under a feeling of profound dissatisfaction and disappointment, they demand a fair and full consideration of what is a question of vital importance to them. His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, who has just returned to the Island and resumed the duties of administration will, it is confidently expected, see the justice and expediency of getting the verdict of Messrs. Williams and Christie duly quashed. The Jaffna Railway Commission and the Jaffna Railway Survey have already entailed so large an expenditure of public money and the question submitted for determination is one of such supreme importance that, if we are not very much mistaken, Sir Arthur Havelock who has favoured, instead of opposing, as his predecessor did, a free discussion of the subject, will value the handiwork of Messrs. Williams and Christie at what it is worth and no more. We are indeed shocked at the careless, slipshod manner in which some of our Colombo contemporaries have commented on the choking of this momentous inquiry.

PRIZE ESSAYS.

The proper aim of the Department of Public Instruction is certainly not so much to afford an advanced education to a favoured few, as is now done, by the maintenance of that costly establishment, the Royal College, as to reach the masses and enable them to avail themselves of the advantages to be derived from a practical knowledge of Western civilization and Western science. It would be most difficult, if not hopeless, to communicate to the Ceylonese at large the results of European civilization and the products of European thought, through the medium of the English language. The knowledge imparted in English will for a long time yet to some be so absorbed

by the upper strata of the community as to leave the lower entirely untouched. It seems improbable that the natives of Ceylon, as a whole, will ever be taught English so fully and successfully as to be able to obtain a mastery of it to the extent of acquiring new ideas and new modes of thought by its means. The knowledge therefore which is to enlighten, improve and elevate them and awaken in them new and better thoughts than those to which their ancestors have been accustomed, should be imparted to them through their own languages, the Tamil and the Sinhalese. What little has been already done in this direction has been done for the most part by Europeans; but the books or translations made by them for the benefit of the natives cannot be expected to lay that hold on the mind of the people which one written in the mother-tongue of the translator is sure to command. There are happily at present a sufficient number of Ceylonese who have the requisite qualifications to be the instructors of their countrymen—a competent knowledge of the West and a competent knowledge of the vernacular to convey it by. But their energies should be roused and stimulated by inducements and rewards.

We have been led to make the above remarks, in order to suggest the desirability of the Government offering prizes for the best essays in Tamil and Sinhalese on social, political, scientific, and other instructive subjects. Such prizes will create a healthy activity and rivalry among the educated natives, who will cultivate their own languages and present Western knowledge to the Eastern mind in a popular form through their medium. Last year a sum of very nearly Rs. 43,000 was expended for the promotion of special instruction, as imparted in the Agricultural, Veterinary, Training, Industrial and Reformatory schools. If the knowledge which it is the object of these schools to impart, is to be widely diffused, the channel of communication should be the vernacular; and the prizes proposed would be a capital means of getting this knowledge successfully communicated to the people of Ceylon at large. We trust the Director of Public Instruction will see his way to setting apart a sum of say Rs. 10,000 annually for prizes for the best essays in Tamil and Sinhalese. The suggestion we have made is not a new one; but it is not on this account the less worthy of being taken up. On this subject the late Dr. Bonjean wrote as follows 32 years ago in his pamphlet on "The Catholic Church and Civilization"

"Much as I approve of the spread of the English language, I fear it will never become so universally adopted, as to form a convenient channel for the enlightenment of the masses. Were it not then desirable, that the Vernacular languages were so far cultivated as to become a useful medium of European ideas. As the case now is, those languages remain stationary, the improvements carried on in society leaving no trace on them; and they are but imperfect and unwieldy organs for refined sentiments or elevated thoughts. I know that individual efforts have been, and are still being made to assert, for native Literature, the place it ought to have but, unless Government encourages those efforts by holding out some advantages and preferment as the reward of proficiency in native Literature, little good, I apprehend, can be effected. Why should not prizes be founded for the best essays in the Vernaculars on moral, political or scientific subjects? It is also to be regretted that the Vernacular should be almost exclusively cultivated by foreigners; for, the genius of the language cannot but be thus interfered with and its idiomatic purity become altered.

The Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society.
A copy of the eighteenth Report of this Society reached us last week. It consists of two Reports, one, by Mr. Van Houten, the Honorary Secretary and the other by Dr. Paul, the Resident Surgeon of the Society's Hospital.

Mr. Van Houten's report gives an account of the proceedings of the General Meeting of the Subscribers held at Queen's House, Jaffna, under the presidency of Mr. Twynam, on the 26th. January 1892. The annual grant of Rs. 4,000 made to the Society was increased to Rs. 6,000 by the Government in 1892, on the distinct understanding that the Society would treat all judicial cases free of charge and provide a qualified Surgeon for the supervision of its Hospital. The Society was in hopes that the local American Mission would secure a Surgeon possessed of the necessary qualifications; but the American Mission failing, the Government appointed Dr. Grenier M. B. C. M. (Edin) on a yearly salary of Rs. 2,000. Since Dr. Grenier's appointment, an American medical man in the person of Dr. Scott has arrived; and it remains to be seen whether the Society, as is currently reported, has it in contemplation to employ Dr. Scott in the event of a place being found for Dr. Grenier in the Civil Medical Department. We have nothing to say against Dr. Scott personally; but his appointment as Visiting Surgeon of the F. N. S. Hospital is undesirable; seeing that there is no guarantee of stability in the medical arrangements of the American Mission. Between the late Dr. Green's departure from and Dr. Marston's advent to Jaffna several years intervened of fruitless efforts on the part of the American to secure a medical man. Dr. Marston did not remain long in our midst; and it was more than a year after Dr. Marston left that Dr. Scott arrived. When Dr. Scott leaves, it may be as difficult as hitherto, for the American Mission to find a successor; and it is, we repeat, unsafe for a public Institution like the F. N. S. Hospital receiving a large grant from the Government to depend on the American Mission for a Visiting Surgeon. The Government has done well and wisely in taking upon itself the appointment of a qualified medical officer to superintend the Jaffna F. N. S. Hospital and it is to be hoped that in the interests of the public, the Government will reserve this responsibility as well as right.

From Dr. Paul's report we learn that 1380 in-door and 13,109 out-door patients were treated in the Hospital during the past year, that the fees paid by the patients amounted to Rs. 1106.25 and that the sum of Rs. 3,775.60 was realised by the sale of medicines.

Liberal contributions have been received from natives of Jaffna resident in India, in aid of the Victoria Lying-in-wad intended to commemorate Her Majesty's Jubilee and it is expected that this building will be completed and ready for use early in the year 1894.

The Society paid the Visiting Surgeon Rs. 2,000, the Resident Surgeon Rs. 1,500, the Dresser Rs. 480, the Compounder Rs. 360, the Treasurer's Clerk Rs. 360, the Storekeeper Rs. 270 and 8 Servants including Orderlies salaries varying from 120 to 72 Rupees per annum. The total amount expended in salaries was Rs. 5,714.

Pecuniary relief amounting to Rs. 165.89 was afforded to 23 paupers during the year. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 15,785.40, the total expenditure to Rs. 12,837.52, leaving a balance in favour of the Society of Rs. 2,947.88.

Occasional.

Udaiyar's Schedules.—The following remarks by Mr. Arunachalam will be of interest to local readers:—

The schedule has been regarded in Jaffna as far more important than registration, and as rendering registration unnecessary. The percentage of registered to executed deeds did not exceed 5 per cent. in the first eight years after the Ordinance No. 8 of 1863 came into operation, and then remained at about 1 per cent till 1879, when, in consequence of a judgment of the Supreme Court giving priority to a subsequent deed, because registered, the percentage at once rose to 8.7 per cent. The subsequent conflict of Supreme Court decisions reduced the percentage to 6.9 per cent in 1887, from which it rose to a little over 8 per cent, at which it now remains.

In 1859 Chief Justice Ophiant asked (*Toussaint v. Virapattan Ramanathan*, 1843-55, 168), "Is the schedule of any use to any human being except the Udaiyar?" The question may now be repeated with greater force, seeing that the registration of deeds has been

since established and been in force for a quarter of a century. Udaiyar's schedules seem to be quite an unnecessary burden on the people, and to furnish endless opportunities of extortion and fraud to the headmen.

The Ordinance No. 1 of 1842 was passed at the instance of the late Government Agent, Mr. Dyke, to compel the Udaiyars to give schedules without unnecessary and vexatious delays and to prescribe the fees payable to the Udaiyars. However, there are incessant complaints of schedules being irregularly granted or withheld. Cases have arisen of the Udaiyars giving schedules without publication, or schedules of the same land to more than one person, and colluding with parties to support a false schedule or defeat a true one. Even the interests of the Crown have been prejudiced by Udaiyars giving false schedules to private parties for Crown lands.

The Thomboes themselves, having been neglected, have become almost worthless as records. All are defective or mutilated, some have been made away with by headmen, and of others copies have been retained by dismissed headmen, who issue false schedules from them when required. In the discussion raised in the Legislative Council by Sir, M. Coomaraswamy in 1873, the Queen's Advocate fully admitted the evils of the system. The present Government Agent of the Northern Province, too, has recommended its abolition. The only difficulty in the way of its abolition appears to be financial. If the headmen are deprived of the schedule fees, Government will have to compensate them otherwise. If the schedules were abolished and registration was resorted to in Jaffna, at the average rate for Ceylon, the revenue of the Jaffna Land Register Office would probably increase by about Rs. 8,000 a year.

WAS JACOB GROSS A FOOL?

"I CAN'T make one of a party of thirteen," he exclaimed; "some of us will be sure to die within a week."

Thus spoke barber Jacob Gross, of Batavia, on the 12th of November last. The occasion was a dinner party. When the guests were all seated Gross noticed that there were thirteen at table.

The others tried to laugh him out of his superstition, but he insisted that he would not eat as one of the company of thirteen. A fourteenth guest was therefore added to the number.

"Now we're safe," said Gross, and the festivities proceeded.

Gross boarded at a hotel in Batavia. Ten days later the hotel was burned to the ground. The next morning the body of a man was found in the ruins. It was the body of barber Gross.

Now, this is a curious thing to happen, certainly; but is it more than that? Do you believe there is anything in the common notion that thirteen is an unlucky number? or that Friday is an unlucky day of the week? As much business is done on the 13th of the month as on any other date, and on Friday as on any other week day. You wouldn't refuse to take thirteen eggs for a dozen if your grocer insisted on it, neither do you have more bad luck on Fridays than on any other day of the seven. No, no, it's all humbug and nonsense. Barber Gross's superstition had nothing under the sun to do with his death. Besides, he dined as one of fourteen persons, not thirteen. Don't be silly.

Understand this: Nature indulges in no senseless tricks. She kills men without hesitation for violating the laws of life, but not for assembling in groups of thirteen at dinner. If we have a man who says he was afraid to eat. Why, in Mercy's name, was he afraid to eat? Had he, too, some idle and foolish stuff in his head about bad luck? Not a bit. He'd been glad enough to have eaten in a thirteen party on Friday if the dinner would only have stayed on his stomach and digested after he got it down. But it wouldn't, and his fear grew out of that.

He says, "I had a fullness and tightness at the chest after meals, and such a dizziness would seize me that I could scarcely see. This was in the spring of 1887, I felt tired, dull, and heavy, with a sinking sensation at the stomach. My appetite was variable, and I didn't know what to eat. In fact nothing seemed to suit me. There was a feeling of weight and pain over the eyes and at the back of my head. I became very weak, and it was with difficulty that I kept on with my work. In this way I continued for twelve months, during which time I saw a doctor, and took various medicines; but none of them did me any good, and I grew worse. In June, 1888, I read in the *Darlington Times* about a person who had been handed just as I was, and had been cured by a medicine called Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. On the strength of this I got a bottle from my brother, William Teasdale, grocer, Copley Lane, and began taking it. In a short time all pain left me, and I was able to eat and digest my food, and have since been well and strong. I still take the Syrup occasionally and if I feel any signs of my old complaint, a dose or two sets me right. I am a collier, and have worked at Woodland Colliery for over ten years. If you think the publication of this letter might be of use to others, you are at liberty to make that use of it.

"Yours truly,
(Signed),
"JOSEPH TEASDALE.
"Copley, Butterknows, Durham,
"November 5th, 1891"

Now that Mr. Teasdale is cured of his ailment, indigestion and dyspepsia, he would probably not refuse an invitation to dine with twelve other nice people any day. And in such case we stand ready to guarantee that none of the party will die within a week, especially if they all take a dose of Seigel's Syrup immediately on rising from the table.