

# **COLLEGE HISTORY BY W.T.KEBLE**

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# COLLEGE HISTORY

## CHAPTER 1

### **The Founder Warden Wood Warden Baly**

In November 1799, just three years after the Dutch surrendered the city of Colombo, James Chapman was born at Wandsworth, the second son of Mr. J. Chapman, a London schoolmaster. At the very early age that was then customary, he went to Eton as a Foundationer and took his share in the rough and boisterous life of the school. He seems to have been a thoroughly healthy and precocious boy, keen on games, and full of youthful aspirations after learning. A story is told of James Chapman standing on the crest of a bridge at the head of a party of boys, helping to defend two of his school fellows from a gang of Thames bargees. The two boys had tried a new penknife on a towing rope, or some such foolish prank, and were only with difficulty rescued from the consequences by the personality of Chapman and contributions from their friends' pocket money.

He was one of the founders of the "Etonian," and in a letter written at school he describes with great zest the trials of an editor making his selection from a mass of youthful essays, poems, love songs and political writings.

At the end of the same Eton letter he talks of his delight in cricket, and he played for the school at least one year before he left.

At Eton, while still a young boy, he had already formed those deep and serious religious convictions which were to be the guide of his whole life.

In 1819 he became a scholar of King's College, Cambridge, and in 1821, before he had taken his degree, he was appointed a master at Eton. While at Eton he was admitted to Deacon's Order by the Bishop of Ely, on his Cambridge Fellowship.

Among his pupils were Edward Thring afterwards the celebrated headmaster of Uppingham, and George Selwyn with whom Chapman offered to go out to New Zealand, when Selwyn was appointed Bishop of those islands. In 1844 Chapman was asked to become a candidate for the Headmastership of Harrow, and ten days later, another letter announced the offer of the Bishopric of Colombo. 'You know my principles on such subjects,' he wrote to a friend. 'I need not therefore tell you that God gave me strength yesterday to renew my dedication of myself to Him, all unworthy as I am, kneeling at His own holy table.'

He immediately set to work to find men and funds for his new diocese. 'My first object,' he wrote, 'would be a Cathedral Church and a school connected with it, so planned as to admit of extension and enlargement at any future period, by myself or my successors; the one to be a real Cathedral, and the other to be a College, worthy of a prospering Colony.'

The journey to Ceylon took over three months, and on the 1st of November, 1845, the first Bishop and future founder of St. Thomas' College landed at Colombo.

At the time of the Bishop's arrival. Sir Colin Campbell was Governor of Ceylon. The coffee industry was prospering and the road from Kandy to Colombo had been in use for over twenty years. Mail coaches ran to Kandy, Galle and Negombo. The schools already in existence were governed by a Board of Education which administered government grants, and of this Board the Bishop was elected President soon after his arrival. But it was nevertheless a troublous time and there had been some public disorder the year before, and more was to follow.

Under such conditions the Bishop entered his new diocese where he was everywhere met with the readiest hospitality and kindness. One of his earliest acts was to call a public meeting to discuss the possibility of building a Cathedral in Colombo and the idea of founding a school was constantly in his mind. In a letter written soon after his arrival he says:

'Education must be the great work for me to look to, to lay the foundation if I can, and leave others to build hereafter.'

In the light of after years it is interesting to find him going on to say, 'For this purpose I have set my heart on Mount Lavinia, about seven miles away, on the point of the only headland on the coast. It [the house built there some time before the Governor, later part of the Mount Lavinia Hotel], is a massive and noble, but deserted building, and is now in private hands. For £2,500 I might secure it for a College already built, and £500 more would adapt it for all our needs'.

This project unfortunately never came to anything and the whole plan of the school had to be set aside for a time, while the Bishop turned his attention to the great task of visiting and organizing the new diocese. The story of his journeys gives a vivid picture of Ceylon in the first part of the last century. In one of his letters he writes: 'Soon after I had swum my horse over the river a few miles north of Negombo, I was met by your earnest missionary, Mr. Nicholas, and we passed the night in a solitary resthouse in the jungle. We went on early to Chilaw, where I held a Confirmation and administered Holy Communion. From Chilaw I came to this place [Puttalam]. We started at four o'clock to avoid the sun and by torch light to scare the elephants, whose tracks we saw repeatedly when dawn broke upon us.' Twice he crossed the Bintenne jungles from Badulla to Batticaloa with the purpose of studying the Veddas and founding a mission to them. He also journeyed to Ratnapura and went from there on foot to Nuwara Eliya. When cholera broke out in Kandy towards the end of 1846, the Bishop with a courage very typical of his character hastened thither to tend the sick and dying.

Of Ceylon he wrote to his sister in 1846 : 'Since I last wrote to you. I have been a wanderer through an Eden of picturesque beauty and lovelines, far surpassing any power of mine to describe.' His wanderings across the length and breadth of the Island convinced him more than ever that a school was essential to the success of his work. He had already acquired the property at Mutwal which was to be the site of the Cathedral and the College, and in 1848 he began to take serious steps towards the founding of the latter. He applied to the Governor, Lord Torrington for assistance from Government. But the Colony was going through troublous times :what was the last Kandyan rebellion took place in 1848, and wild speculation had brought the coffee industry to a very low ebb of depression: Government could give no help.

Nothing daunted, the Bishop turned to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, who for many years afterwards were good friends to the College, and to the S.P.C.K, and to his own personal friends. With their help he got together the funds he needed and in 1849 the foundations of the school buildings began to be laid upon the hill at Mutwal. A writer (W.H .Solmons) in the first number of the College Magazine, published in 1875, says of the school: 'It faintly exhibits in the disposition of its buildings, the desire on the founder's part to model it upon Eton, the famous sanctuary of his boyhood.'

That the Bishop's heart was wholly given for the venture is shown very clearly in all his letters written to the Secretary of the S.P.G. at this time, and in his personal generosity to the new foundation. He gave the nine acres of land upon which the school was to stand, and two hundred pounds a year from his own income towards its support. In addition he gave two exhibitions of £10 a year each, and his library. The S.P.C.K. gave £2,000 and the S.P.G. made a grant of £200 a year.

By St. Thomas' Day, 1849, the work was sufficiently advanced for the solemn laying of the foundation stone to take place. In his sermon preached on that day the Bishop says:

'May it be our care to provide, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, that all that is here taught may rest upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone. In building for God, in working in spending for God, we run no venture, we hazard no loss, we cherish no vague or uncertain hopes. Though unseen, when founded on true faith, hope is never unreal. Enduring works are often of humble beginning. The few fishermen of Galilee were the evangelizers of the world, the noblest cathedral was once but unhewn masses of stone. England, whose missions now encircle the globe, was once a nation of idolaters; the greatest university was at first no more than an Alphabetical School; the Son of God Himself had but a manger cradle.'

So the foundation stone was laid in December of 1849 and during the following year the walls of the new buildings slowly rose around the Bishop's house amidst the gardens and horse paddocks of the former owner of the hill.

## **COLLEGE HISTORY CHAPTER 2**

## **The Days of Warden Bennett**

The Rt. Rev. Piers Calverly Claughton, Bishop and successor to the Founder, became Visitor to the College in 1862. The Rev. J. Dart was in charge of the school and he has left a report of the work, dated November 24th, 1863.

"The number in the school has increased during the year," he writes. "There were 40 resident pupils of whom eight were boarded and taught free of all expense, and eight others largely assisted from the College funds. Most of these sixteen are the sons of poor clergy and catechists. The average daily attendance is 115. The residents are of all ages, from boys of 9 to young men of 21. But the Seniors and Juniors occupy separate dormitories, each pupil, as a rule, having a room to himself, and each dormitory being in charge of a resident master. We should not be able to take in boys at so early an age had we not an excellent Matron to superintend domestic matters.

The College is now affiliated to the University (of Calcutta) so that its students may pursue the course required by the University for degrees.

The Orphanage Asylum is now full and has been so throughout the year. Its expenditure still exceeds its income, so that I have suggested that the experiment be tried next year of dispensing with the services of the master and employing the Divinity students or senior free scholars as his substitutes. Each one might take the asylum in his turn, either for a week or for a month. This arrangement would not only lessen the expense but would also serve in some measure to train the teachers practically for their future work.

Some of the masters in the Collegiate School at this time were the Rev. G.H.Gomes, Messrs Bluett, E. Crampton and C. Perera.

Mr. Dart was succeeded by the Rev. W. Ellis who had been previously connected with the College.

There is a very interesting account of the school and its daily round in the year 1863.

"As we enter the great gate, the little room is the book depository, and that is succeeded by a long hall, which is the Collegiate school, where at present there are, we think, about 150 boys, in six classes. As we go up the winding road, we meet the Orphan Asylum, where native boys are taught to read and write, and are educated to be honest servants in after life. In the same enclosure is the Printing Press, where often the books used in the Collegiate School are printed. Then there are three ranges of buildings, the middle is the College Hall and Library, filled with valuable books; some of them seem to be so voluminous that they appear as if the Fathers are watching to see what intrusive visitants are coming to disturb their massive lore; on either side stand dormitories, each building under the care of one of the teachers. They can accommodate forty or fifty boys. Like all other institutions St. Thomas' College has known prosperity and adversity; but it is pleasing to know that it is none the worse. The buildings are now again being filled and we hope always to hear of the continued prosperity of the institution.

The daily round is as follows: First you have your bathing turns, either morning or evening, as the board directs, when bathing is compulsory, the only cold tyranny perhaps, that little boys experience in the morning of life. But as soon as the bell strikes six, every student must be dressed to go to the Hall for Coffee, where they take their early breakfast with one of the teachers. At seven o'clock you have morning prayers in the Cathedral, and at eight the boys go down to school. At ten o'clock they have their breakfast and at 11 again school commences. At 2 o'clock the residents are again in their dormitories, where some either play or read or talk till three o'clock, when the dinner bell rings.

After dinner the boys are their own masters till 4, when everyone is to remain himself in his own room and study till five. It is indeed gratifying to observe how even the little ones leave their ball and bat and run to their rooms as soon as the bell is heard. There is perfect silence in the dormitory. Only now and then you hear a door creaking, and see a boy creeping out on the pretence of borrowing either a pencil or a pen. But when the bell rings at five o'clock, then there is a simultaneous opening of doors, and talking and laughing, as they are called out to the playground. Here play is made compulsory, unless special leave has been obtained from the master. They have a very good playground and all things considered, under the care of one of the masters, the boys play cricket excellently. This continues till nearly half past six, when they all run to their rooms and prepare for tea at 7 o'clock. After tea till half past eight they study in the Hall, when after prayers, they all return to their rooms, and are required to be in bed by 10 o'clock."

The boys of this time wore white coats buttoning up at the neck, and shorts falling below the knee over black stockings, with heavy black boots such as were thought suitable for school wear. Some of them were brought to school in their fathers' carriages. There is a story of a very respectable and elderly bay horse, that knew the traditions of the College off by heart, and used to graze untethered all over the cricket pitch and round the school-rooms. One day, finding that his young master was late coming out of school, he got on to the back verandah of the Upper School, marched sedately as a Warden might have done, to the top room, and craning his neck through the window, sniffed at the nearest boys. The master who was taking the class at the time was quite equal to the occasion. "It is extraordinary" he said, "the desire for learning that some animals show."

On the 17th of December 1863, the Rev. George Bennett arrived as Warden of the College. Of him the record says that "his stay in the College was brief. He was not connected with anything of Thomian interest as organiser or reformer, nor is the period of his administration associated with any event deserving of special historical comment, excepting perhaps, the report of the select Committee appointed by the Synod to inquire into the College endowments."

These were the wild dark days of Warden Bennett an account of which is given in a Magazine of long afterwards. This is the story taken straight from its source.

"Mr. Bennett was a man of herculean mould, who delighted in nothing so much as downright hard manual work. Shifting the tiles on the Cathedral roof was a regular pastime of his, and so was sweeping the College grounds with a ponderous ekel broom. He might often have been seen cleaning the Bishop's pigeon cots, or walking

back to College from the Pettah, carrying in his hand a pillow case well stocked with his bargains at the vegetable market! Yet he was intensely revered both by masters and boys. It was in his days that another school close by suffered from a revolt of its pupils. The rebels were expelled, and notice of the expulsion came to St. Thomas' and not many days after the rebels themselves came, a set of big-bodied young Sinhalese fellows. Mr. Bennett came to see the new applicants for admission. "The rebels are come," said Mr. Bennett half meditatively, nodding his head. And then suddenly a brilliant idea striking him, he bared his arm up to the elbow, took it very near the noses of the rebels with, "See this? Mr. Bennett's arm!" Then turning to the Headmaster he said, "Admit these boys, Mr. Bacon," That arm was never forgotten and, it must be added the rebels were some of the best behaved boys in school.

Mr. Bennett's days were very troublesome, his unswerving determination being responsible for them to a very large extent. But at heart he was a very kind man and very obliging. There was in school in his time, a young man "Mr. Dunbar," now an archdeacon, if I mistake not, somewhere in the United Kingdom. He was the son of Sir Archibald Dunbar, Bart. The young aristocrat lived in regal state in his College rooms, which were furnished with the costliest furniture then procurable. He had two horses at his service and these had enough to do as young Dunbar was away every evening dining out, at a ball, or something of the sort, for he was a general favourite of Colombo society. In school too he was immensely popular. He was kept well supplied with money the greater part of which he spent on the schoolboys. He often took the school-boys – whoever were willing to go – on rather protracted excursions. Usually he had three or four padda boats, furnished with sofas, carpets and occasionally on a six weeks' trip! Yet he was of a very religious turn of mind. Even on these excursions he used to hold service on board every day. He was a master then, but gave his services free, and paid for his board in College beside. He entered the College with a view to taking holy orders. There was one boy, a respected citizen of Colombo just now, who was responsible, perhaps all unwittingly, for the great Dunbar Episode. He contrived to get turned out of class at a particular hour, and Mr. Bennett who happened to pass that way, sent him into his class again. The absence being reported to the Warden, Dunbar was called upon for an explanation. Dunbar refused to submit an explanation to anyone but the Bishop. He was thereupon forbidden to come to school or Hall or Chapel. Dunbar, regardless of all orders, appeared in Hall for breakfast the next morning. An altercation took place.

"Mr. Dunbar, I have forbidden you this place. Please do leave it. Your meals will be served in your room."

Mr. Dunbar, held his peace.

"Mr. Dunbar, you will leave the room or I shall have to put you out."

Mr. Dunbar made no reply.

Mr. Bennett then came and carried Mr. Dunbar out of the building, and set him down on the Bishop's outer verandah. The Bishop then occupied one half of the Warden's bungalow. The matter got into the courts and into the papers. The Observer commented editorially starting off with:

"What a fine sight it would have been for us had we been present this morning at St. Thomas' College to see the priest Bennett carrying his theological student Dunbar, tenderly and lovingly, as a nurse carries her baby."

But the matter was not allowed to be pressed in court. An amicable settlement was come to, Bennett and Dunbar both apologising to each other."

It is hardly surprising that the school suffered in the midst of such disorders and fell upon bad times. It found, however, good friends who helped it to win through, and a Committee of Synod was working for its benefit under Archdeacon Mooyaart. This committee after making various suggestions with regard to the College endowments considered the following letter from the Bishop: -

Gentlemen,

You have before you a scheme I proposed, by which I hoped it might be possible to raise a sum of £ 5,000 for the endowment of a Warden (or Principal) and two (ordained) Fellows of Saint Thomas' College – the two latter to act as masters of the College under the Warden or Principal, and also to take some clerical duty in or near Colombo, the salary of which might add to their income. I am of opinion that this scheme could be carried out, though it would, doubtless, require time. To this I now beg to add another suggestion. It appears to me that it would be well to extend the interest felt by many in the success of St. Thomas' College by increasing the number of Fellows. I would suggest the election of two or four additional Honorary Fellows, who might be laymen, one of the conditions of election being the fact of some actual benefit conferred on the College, by additional endowments or otherwise. The privileges conferred would not, it must be admitted, be considerable, but a right to a seat in the Cathedral stall, and to dine at the head table in the hall, would at first mark their admission to the Society; and I should hope, in time, any connection with the institution would be held to be an honour. I will add that any step of this kind should have the approval of the trustees before it was taken.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,  
Your very faithful servant,  
Piers, Colombo.

The Committee accepted all the suggestions offered in this letter, but for some reason they were never carried out. The idea of fellowships for the College reminds us that it was still doing University work in the Island. Its College Form boys were undergraduates and the Bishop is clearly thinking of them and of the College as of university standing.

The record then goes on to deal gracefully with the unfortunate resignation of the Warden and his departure in 1866.

"It is with feelings of kind sympathy that we read in the number of the Missionary Gleaner of the departure of Warden Bennett from Ceylon, and we feel sure that readers for whose benefit the passage is reproduced here, will view this account with kindlier feelings than mere curiosity: The Warden of St. Thomas' College has left Ceylon for the scene of his former labours, St. Helena. His departure has not only



occurred unexpectedly, but has been attended by some circumstances painful to his friends, and especially to his Diocesan, who little thought when uttering in September last his eulogy on Mr. Bennett, in the presence of the members of the Synod, that his words would so soon have a fulfilment, but of so opposite a kind to what was in his mind whilst speaking. Mr. Bennett seems to have suffered from an irritable excitement, which at last led to acts of violence and a state of mental derangement which caused the deepest anxiety to his friends. It need scarcely be stated that the best medical advice was taken, and such measures resorted to as were recommended.

On his friend the Bishop rested the painful responsibility of carrying them out, as far as practicable, and His Lordship became in consequence, as in such cases frequently occurs, the chief object of Mr. Bennet's irritation, which rather increased than lessened at the time of his departure. It is hoped that the voyage may render his recovery complete, and that the welcome he may anticipate from his former friends may obliterate any painful reminiscences of his short, but useful sojourn in Ceylon."

### **The Days of Warden Bacon**

After the troubles that he had to face, Bishop Cloughton determined to hold the title of Warden himself, which he accordingly did until his departure from Ceylon in 1871. He recalled Mr. Bacon, who had been acting Chaplain at Ratnapura for a time, and made him Sub- Warden. It was not till the arrival of Bishop Jermyn in 1871, that Mr. Bacon was officially appointed Warden. The new Warden described by one of his pupils as restlessly energetic, severe, kind, exacting, and awe-inspiring, a man who carried every thing before him. And St. Thomas' needed such a man, for it was at that time at the very low est ebb of its fortunes. Not that the school was ever in danger of colla pse, but that it needed just that stimulus which Warden Bacon was to give and his successor to carry to the highest achievement.

Meanwhile the school continued on its way. Mr. John Woodhose and the Rev. F.J. Bateman and Mr. Seneviratne joined the staff, and the College form was revived and had eight boys in it. Mr. Bacon divided the Collegiate School into Upper and Lower Schools and appointed Mr. F.H. Pereira Headmaster of the Lower School. This change led to an increase in the number of the boarders and day boys.

In 1869, Bishop Cloughton wrote about the College:

"We have had the largest number of boarders ever yet admitted; and although greatly hampered by the want of a tuition fund, and the consequent impossibility of securing the services of a sufficient number of tutors from the English Universities, we have competed, not unsuccessfully, with the Government College and its staff of able teachers, and our pupils have passed the Calcutta Examination in such a proportion as to reflect great credit on their instructors. The number of day pupils is very large, and their fees go very far to meet the want of endowment as far as tuition is concerned.

I am interested in watching the effects of the games in the playground of this institution in a degree only second to those of the actual instruction imparted. Indeed, so important is it to encourage manly exercises in the young men of this country (as

improving their moral tone, as well as developing their bodily strength and activity), that I consider cricket and football to be of the highest services as parts of our education. The boys whom we receive as boarders are required to attend the daily services in the Cathedral, and a certain number of them constitute the choir, which is by no means an inefficient one. I may mention that, as we receive in our number of students, heathens as well as Christians, we merely stipulate with the parents of the former that it shall be left to our judgement to decide what instruction they receive, we on our part promising that they shall not be baptized, until of age, without the consent of their parents. I need scarcely add that such consent is rarely refused, and that the sons of native land-holders in some of the villages of Ceylon are now many of them Christians, carrying with them the influence of their example and the education they have received."

In 1870, every candidate entered from the College for the Calcutta University Entrance Examination passed, with one, C.P.Marcus, in the first class.

In January, 1871 the first examination for the Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship was held at the College. It was an open exhibition, and of the value of Rs. 480 a year, tenable for three years. It was won by C.N.Edwards. The mention of this Scholarship should bring to the mind of every Thomian the name of Mr. Sampson Rajapakse who endowed the Scholarship and was one of the greatest benefactors of the College.

This time saw the final extinction of the School Commission which had for many years supervised the education of the Island. A Director of Education was appointed to replace it . As yet the school received practically no assistance from the State in the way of a grant. St. Thomas' and the other English schools, although for the most part of missionary foundation, had grown up quite spontaneously in response to the wishes of the leading classes in the island, and they owed very little to official Government aid at the outset.

In the schools at large payment by results, generally the results of a test by the inspectors, was still the orders for Government grants in Ceylon as it was in England. English education in Ceylon was in ill repute amongst Government officials, who wished to promote vernacular education in the villages first. But there was a powerful English-speaking element in the population, and the desire for English education was very widespread and continually growing. The strong prejudice in pupils, parent and teachers in favour of whatever was purely English tended to lower the standard of vernacular teaching throughout the country. Very few schools taught the vernaculars at all. In St. Thomas', although the teaching of Sinhalese and Tamil formed a very definite part of Bishop Chapman's plan, for which he chose the best teachers he could find, yet by 1871 there is no record of any vernacular teaching in the school, and it was not until 1918 that Sinhalese and Tamil were once more systematically taught.

The Boarding establishment at the Academy, so says the record of this time, had collapsed after Dr. Boake's departure, but that at St. Thomas' College was in full swing, Mr.Seneviratne was a resident master, and so was Mr. Woodhouse. The arrival of a new boarder is thus described by an old boy:

"I arrived by the morning train and drove up to the College and found the Warden and Sub-Warden awaiting my arrival. They gave me a most cordial welcome and a hearty hand shake; the squeeze of the Sub-Warden almost drew blood from my tiny fingers, at which I winced. Breakfast was ordered to be sent to my room, which was in what used to be known as the "Big Dormitory". Mr. Cull who was then an assistant master of the Colombo Academy, was a neighbour of mine. He used to say "Good morning" to us as he passed down the passage in his sleeping suit with a huge towel in his hand on his way to the bathroom. "What a kind man he is", the boys used to say, "He always says 'Good morning' to boys in the passage, whereas our masters would give us fifty lines from Virgil for congregating in the passage."

This time was the early heyday of the College choir, Warden Bacon himself was an enthusiastic musician and singer, and he was Precentor in the Cathedral . The choir had the support of many prominent people in Colombo who attended practices and Church Services to help the school choir.

"For the five years I was in College" writes an enthusiastic chorister. "I was during term, never one Sunday out of the choir, and am most grateful for the advantages I obtained thereby..... Austin Edwards was our leading treble, and possessed a voice as I thought, of unearthly sweetness. In 1874, there came to us another like him, whose voice, alas, is now stilled in death, dear Reginald Siebel. The choir boys had an extra on Sunday mornings, "bulls eyes" served at early tea and they escaped Hall on Fridays. The opportunities they had for cultivating their voices and becoming acquainted with good music were none of the least of the advantages obtainable at St. Thomas'. The organist was Mr. Sidney Edwards, who had grown up in the school, and was trained by Mr. Bacon and Mr. Hancock."

In 1871, there was an epidemic of Small Pox in Colombo from January to April. The school therefore broke up in March and did not reassemble till May.

The departure of Bishop Claughton at the end of 1871 removed a firm friend and strong ruler from the intimate life of the college. The Bishop's interest in the work of the College was very real, and he found time in the midst of his many duties to take various periods of teaching. He was a man of great power, dignity and inspiring piety. He became Metropolitan of India immediately after leaving Ceylon.

In 1872, there came to the College for a short time the Rev. Abbay, M.A., Fellow of Wadham College. Oxford. He had been to Singapore to make observations upon a total eclipse of the sun that took place on the 12th of December of the previous year, and on his way back he was so delighted with Ceylon that he decided to stay there, and he became a master in the College for a time. He occupied Winchester and says his pupil, "the ease with which he solved a question after question in Algebra, Trigonometry, Mechanics and Euclid simply took our breath away."

Mr. Bacon proceeded to England on leave in June, 1872, and left the College in the charge of Mr. Woodhouse. He was sped on his way by what seems to have been the first effort of the College Dramatic Society, scenes from George Coleman's "Heir at Law," acted in the Dining Hall. While he was on leave the degree of B.D. was conferred upon him by the Archbishop of Canterbury. In England the Warden enlisted the services of the Rev. T.F. Falkner, B.A., F.S.A. of Christ's College, Cambridge, as Sub-Warden, and sent him out before he himself returned.

"We cheered him hoarse" says a boy of the time, "as he drove into the College, and I got the Church Appoo to ring the Cathedral bells as a welcome, for which I was soundly rated by the Church warden."

"Mr. Falkner gave great impetus to cricket, but though a Cambridge man, and one who had taken his degree in Mathematics, he candidly confessed that he hated Mathematics like poison. He was a nice, pleasant, sociable man. He had a keen sense of humour, and much enjoyed "Horace at the University of Athens," Dickens, and such like books.

At the end of this year Mr. Woodhouse retired and early in 1874 Warden Bacon returned bringing with him the Rev. H.D.Meyrick as Divinity Lecturer. Mr. T. Maffett of Trinity College, Dublin also joined the staff in this year, a splendid Mathematician and a great lover of music. Music was a great feature at this time. Mr. Meyrick had a beautiful tenor voice and intoned beautifully. School concerts became frequent."

"Now for the first time" says the records, "Masters and boys fraternised with each other."

This is a significant remark which shows the new direction that education was taking. The idea that boys should be seen and not heard, and that masters should maintain a dignified aloofness, was giving place to mutual sympathy and understanding. School games were among the first means of bringing masters off their pedestals. Bishop Claughton's appreciation of the Collage games has already been recorded. But the value of games was becoming universally recognised. In England, Butler of Shrewsbury (1798) punished boys for not playing football; Arnold of Rugby (1827) "stood on the touch line and looked pleased;" Thring of Uppingham (1853) played football and cricket and fives with his boys.

In this year the Dramatic Society performed scenes from the Merchant of Venice and a farce called "Ticklish Times."

In 1875, a very important step was taken for which the credit was chiefly due to Mr. Falkner: that was the starting of the College Magazine. At first the little publication was not strictly a school magazine, the majority of the contributions coming from outside the College. Mr. Falkner himself was the first editor, and he was followed by A.W.de Mel, then still a school boy. The first number contained " 'Walter Lee,' that first rate novel" by Mr. H.W.Green; The Calendar for the month of January 1875; an introduction by the Editor, an article on Public School by Mr. W.H.Solomons; The Old Captain's Ghost Story by Mr. H.Drew, and two terse school notices by the Warden A local writer, noting Mr. Greens's contribution, produced the following happy little satire upon the new magazine\*:-

Esto Perpetua ! Flourish for ever!

Green was the cover, and green the endeavour,

Green was the scribbler who set it agoing,

And green as the Cam, where the willows are growing,

Were the wretched subscribers who paid without knowing

The magazine started in this way has gone on without a break, save for the single year 1876, upto the present time.

Warden Bacon retired in 1877, "A clever teacher, a man of iron will and constitution though he was, yet energy, executive ability, sternness, and severity carried to excess must end in a premature breakdown." Such is the estimate of his character by one who was a small boy in the school at the time of his departure. The writer continues, "his health soon giving way, he was ordered home, but he never reached it, having died at sea near Aden. Thus ended a memorable career of a remarkable man, struck down in the prime of life, and in the midst of a growing family."

In a letter dated 28th September, 1877, Bishop R.S. Copleston who had succeeded Bishop Jermyn in 1875 alluded in high terms to the work and character of Warden Bacon: "He (Mr. Bacon) returned to us, from a six months stay in England only last Easter. During the time that elapsed between his return and the fatal increase of his malady he was able to complete the arrangements by which the discipline and financial system of the College are now on a firm and orderly footing, and to inspire all his subordinates with a large increase of energy and diligence. We cannot, therefore, feel that he returned to no purpose. Had he not returned, it would have been most difficult for a successor to enter into his work; now it will be comparatively easy. The disease (dropsy), which had appeared to be overcome, returned with rapidity in July and August. With only ten days' notice, Mr. Bacon started for England on the 5th of September, and on the 11th died at sea."

The school owes a great deal to Warden Bacon for he guided it through a most difficult time and though he never saw it brought to its full strength his work helped to make possible the great days that were to follow.

The College having thus lost the strong arm that guided its destinies, the onerous duties of Warden devolved on Mr. Falkner. The post was offered to him by the Bishop, but he was such a diffident man that he did not feel able to accept the offer.

Perhaps it was just as well for a greater man was at hand.

## **COLLEGE HISTORY CHAPTER 3**

## The Days of Warden Miller

On the 18th of February 1878 the Rev. Edward Miller arrived in Ceylon. Bishop Chapman had taught Thring at Eton; Miller was the pupil of Thring at Uppingham and he brought with him much of the originality and determination of his celebrated teacher. He had been fifteenth senior optime at St. John's College, Cambridge, ordained Deacon in 1872, ordained priest by the Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1873. He had been assistant master of Gloucester School in 1872, and latterly assistant master of Highgate School.

The new Warden found the College in the lowest depths of adversity. There were not more than thirty boarders in all, and less than a hundred boys were regularly present in School. The Staff was undermanned and since the departure of Warden Bacon the College finances were again in a desperate way.

Warden Miller set to work and tried to put things right. Tradition says that during the early part of his career as Warden he forewent the whole of his salary, and it is evident from the records and from Mrs. Miller's confirmation of the fact long afterwards that something of the kind took place, though he was not the man to reveal how far his generosity went.\* But this was not enough, and he was forced to make public appeals for help. Accordingly in the Magazine for May, 1879 we find a request to the public for assistance to remove a debt of over Rs.500.00 upon the Orphanage. Anything less congenial to the nature of a man who, as one of his boys said, had a horror of selling tickets for School entertainments even in the hardest times, can easily be read in the apologetic wording of the appeal. It was easier for him to give up his salary' than thus to beg for help for the College.

Every record of the time shows how low the fortunes of the School had sunk. Meeting an old boy one day, and in response to his interrogation, the Warden pathetically remarked, 'I have no buttons on my coat, but we are getting on as well as we can.' 'I only wish I still had that coat,' Mrs. Miller writes. 'He wore it till it was green.'

But he was not to be daunted by the obstacles which were now staring him in the face. The record goes on to tell how he tried to put things right:

"A complete reformation or a complete destruction of the whole system seemed to the Warden sooner or later to be inevitable. He was very much dissatisfied with the Calcutta Examinations, and he desired to see them replaced by the Oxford and Cambridge Locals. As a first step in this direction he discouraged boys preparing for the Calcutta Examinations and amalgamated the Sixth form with the College, irrespective of examination disabilities. But this sudden departure from the beaten track did not commend itself either to his assistants, or to the parents of the boys, who were wont to view the passing of examinations as synonymous with earning a livelihood. In consequence the new Warden suffered considerable unpopularity, the numbers began to fall off, and it was generally hinted that the college was about to be closed. If ever there was a man who completely realised what mental depression was, it was Warden Miller at this time. Almost on the verge of despair, he was offered a chaplaincy by the Bishop. But he refused to accept it. He felt that his call was for educational work and no other. His love of tuition, which had now grown so strongly

upon him that he felt he could not exist without it; his mental and physical vigor, which fitted him rather to deal with the young than with the old; his desire to carry out his favorite schemes in regard to education, were all against his relinquishing his charge. He would not give way, but he was forced to temporize by at once advertising special classes for the Calcutta examinations."

Warden Miller has himself left a record of his early days at the College, written with all the modesty of his character.

He writes:

"Monday, February 8th, 1878 was a day which will ever remain in my memory. In the early morning of that day the Merkara which brought me to Ceylon was nearing Colombo after a voyage of 30 days. The circumstances of my arrival are quite fresh after 27 years. The Rev. T.F.Falkner and the Rev. H.D.Meyrick came on board, and the Bishop who was at the landing-place drove me to the College thorough a scene which, strange and picturesque as it was to one from the West, never lost its interest and picturesqueness for me. By the time I had reached the College, some words from the Bishop made me suspect that I was in for a reception. Such a thing had never entered my mind. What was my bewilderment when the carriage turned into the compound under a triumphal arch, and passed under another and yet another, while on each side was a concourse of boys and former students cheering in hearty English fashion. One of the mottoes touched me inexpressibly. Hic ames dici pater atque princeps. Immediately on my arrival we went to Mattins at the Cathedral, and the general Thanksgiving, with the special clause, went to my heart. The appropriateness of the 91st Psalm was very striking and never does the 18th morning come round but my thoughts travel back to that first service in Colombo Cathedral. From the Cathedral we went to the School-room where the Bishop introduced me with a few simple words. Mr.Falkner followed, and the Senior College student, A.W.de Mel read an address. Then came what was for me a more trying ordeal that I had ever encountered before. I had never spoken more than half a dozen words in public except in the pulpit. I was, and always remained, singularly unready in this respect. It was not that I had nothing to say to those before me. My heart was only too full, but words would not come. At last I managed, not without an awkward pause, to stammer a few words of acknowledgement, and to announce, in obedience to a hint from the Bishop, that the day would be a holiday. My admission to office took place on the 20th and on the evening of that day I met at dinner Mr.George Wall and Mr. Morphew, Trustees of the College funds; and on the 21st my actual work began.

And there I may mention the names of the masters whom I found on my arrival: The Rev. T.F.Falkner the Sub-Warden, the Rev. H.D. Meyrick the Head-Master, Mr. A.Seneviratne, Mr.J.S.Ainley acting organist for Mr. Drew, Mr. F.H.Pereira, and Messrs. J.H.Peiris, E.F..Pereira, Nicholas and Fretz.

I cannot say that my first few days at St. Thomas' College were very happy ones. As a boy I had suffered acutely from home-sickness, and I had now a violent fit of this malady, and a proper specific was wanting, for I found that I had little or nothing to do. The work seemed well mapped out and distributed among a sufficient Staff. The examinations in prospect were those of the Calcutta University, of which I had no

experience, and I shrank from upsetting the scheme of work. There was one subject of which no one seemed to know anything, and the College Staff was unanimous in thinking that I ought to take it. This was Logic, of which I knew enough to loathe it. I was permitted to teach this subject and some parts of the higher Mathematics required by the F.A. and B.A. students.

These subjects took up two hours a day, or sometimes three hours. I also occasionally took a form in school, but my presence there was rather tolerated than desired, and I was received with a good deal of formality, boys rising as I entered. The lack of work, for which I was thirsting, tried me severely, and the result showed that a fairer division of labor might have been better for the interests of the College.

One day early in December of my first year, on going down to school, I found all the members of the Sixth Form, with their master, awaiting me at the entrance with an expectant smile on their faces. The master explained that it was usual for the Sixth Form to absent themselves for a fortnight before the Entrance examination in order that they might read up for the examination. This seemed to me very strange, but following the principle I had laid down for myself of disturbing existing things as little as possible, I acquiesced. It was no surprise to hear later on that of the fourteen candidates only four had passed.

Though I had not enough work, I soon began to have anxiety. Before my appointment the College expenditure exceeded the receipts: and on my taking the reins of government, the Bishop, (R.S. Copleston), with characteristic liberality, placed 5,000 rupees to the credit of the institution, in order that I might start with a balance on the right side. But the rate of expenditure continued, and I soon began to form an over-draft, which steadily increased. At the time I had no financial experience, but this state of things could not fail to disturb me. Once I went to take counsel with the Manager of the Bank, who as a friend of the College and Trustee of its funds, was presumably the best person to give advice. But he pooh – poohed my anxieties, and said that the College accounts had always been overdrawn and always would be. This did not help me much; and I am afraid that I let things drift, hoping that something would turn up: as indeed it did. But of that later. The most obvious step to take was to reduce the Staff., which was unnecessarily large for the work done. I had strong suspicions that our living cost us too much; but here again my inexperience of Eastern ways prevented me from taking immediate action. The direct control of the servants and domestic matters was in the hands of a young man who had grown up in the College – one who had many amiable qualities and who could turn his hand to anything; but who lacked all the qualities requisite for his proper work. In matters domestic I always received valuable advice from Mr. Seneviratne; and I should have been wise if I had followed it more completely.

Looking back at those early days I think nothing tried my patience more than the casual way in which boys absented themselves from school. The most trivial excuse was regarded as sufficient. Time after time I harangued the school on the subject. I issued a circular in English, Sinhalese and Tamil and sent it to all the parents. Let us hope some good was done, though I never could perceive any.

On November 12th I had my first experience of a Government Inspection. Though from the very first I conceived a strong dislike of the system of payment by results,



my recollections of the inspectors and the courtesy we received at their hands are of the pleasantest. No one could have been kinder to a little boy than Mr. Blair. No one could have been fairer than Mr. W.H.de Alwis, a gentleman for whom I always had the greatest esteem.

My reader may smile, but an important event to me was the purchase of a horse and vehicle. O that horse, what anxiety it cost me! It was a big strong grey, as fast a trotter as one could expect to find, with a beautiful action, but unpleasantly nervous. On this animal, and in the crowded Pettah. I first exercised my prentice hand. I shudder still when I think of the escapes I had. A year later it proved to be a hopelessly rheumatic subject, and I sold it for ten rupees.

On the night of Christmas Day (1878) I left for England in order to get married. The rail-road to Kalutara was not yet open, and I had to coach the whole way to Galle, there to take then French Mail.

Shortly after my arrival in England the bolt fell. A telegram was received from the Sub-Warden informing me that the Bank had refused to allow the overdraft to be increased and had demanded security for the existing overdraft. This was all the more startling as one of my last acts before leaving the Island had been to confer with the Manager of the Bank on the situation. I did not know that a new manager had been appointed with stringent instructions to put an end to the easy-going state of things that had existed between the Bank and its clients. Of course I was powerless to do anything except to find security for the debt. My mother provided the security and for several years she continued thus to be of service to the College. The only property I possessed was the above-mentioned turn-out, and I cabled assurances as to the required security and instructions to sell my property. My Falkner refused however to act upon the latter part of my message."

The apparently strange action of the Bank which Mr. Miller mentions is not difficult to account for.

The year 1879 was to see new misfortunes fall not only upon the College but upon many other people in Ceylon. Disease had been steadily spreading its devastation among the coffee estates, and crops had grown smaller and smaller. It began to be realised that coffee was doomed in Ceylon. Estates which had been worth thousands a year or two back were suddenly found valueless, and many who had been wealthy were ruined.

But the Warden must take up the tale where he left off "In March 1879, I returned to Ceylon and resumed duties. The College gave wife a warm welcome as they had given me a year before, and the photographs of the pandals are among our most prized possessions. The first duty that claimed my attention was a reduction in the cost of living, and the cook retired to his estate. The Rev. T.F. Falkner went on leave at Easter and ultimately resigned. His loss to the College was vary serious. Seldom have had a more genial Colleague. He was always ready to do anything asked of him, and he had the knack of persuading others to do uncongenial tasks to them the humorous side of the duty. His departure, much as I regretted it, was the cause of a considerable saving .

So far that had happened had strengthened our financial position. The practice of overdrawing was at an end. The overdraft had begun to be reduced. Certain economies had begun to be introduced though these did not go far enough. But now a series blow fell on the College from which it did not recover for some time.

I have arrived at the critical time in the history of the College when the income from the endowments was suddenly suspended. These endowments were; Bishop Chapman's original endowment, the College General Fund. The Divinity School Fund. The Orphanage and Cathedral Repair Fund. Mr.Charles de Soysa's Endowment of a Divinity Professorship and Science teaching and Mudaliyar Sampson Rajapakse's Endowments of the Gregory Scholarship, the Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship, and the prince of Wales' Exhibition. The total amount of all these was nearly Rs. 100,000. A year or so before came out an opportunity presented itself of investing this sum in what was supposed to be a favourable manner. Messrs. Rudd Brothers were anxious to borrow money, and the College endowments were lent on mortgage at 8 per cent., the security being the coffee mills and two dwelling houses in Darley Road. It should be noted that in order to complete the necessary sum for the mortgage, the Bishop of Colombo lent Rs. 5,000.

But Messrs. Rudd Brothers become bankrupt, and the payment of the interest ceased; that is, the College was suddenly deprived of an annual income of Rs. 8,000. In ordinary cases of this sort the matter is very simple. The mortgages foreclose and realise their security. But there was one thing which the College trustees had not foreseen. The falling off of the price of coffee which had brought about the failure of Messrs. Rudd was operative in reducing the value of the security, and coffee mills were a drug on the market.

It is unnecessary to say that the diminution of income was the cause of extreme inconvenience, and 1880 found me unable to meet expenses. There was a serious falling off in school fees. The College was known to be in difficulties and boys left and fever new boys came. Some relief was found through the action of the College Trustees. Their meeting early in the year authorised me to raise a loan of, I think, Rs.2,000 by borrowing small sums from friends of the College, such sums to bear no interest, and I was thus enabled to meet the most pressing claims"

The new year fell with profound gloom upon the College. Never had it been in greater need of firm friends and wise and strong guidance.

### **The Turn of the Tide**

The friends of the College did not fail it at this crisis, and first among them was the Warden himself. He faced the situation with unflinching courage and supplied the inspiration that the school needed. His classes for the Calcutta Examination were exceedingly successful. Within a few months he was able to present twelve boys for the Entrance and four for the First in Arts, with the result that all passed, and as many as six in the Entrance taking a First Class.

This achievement was crowned when the news came that A.W.de Mel and G.A.H.Arndt, who had gone from the College to Calcutta to take their final

examination, had passed the Calcutta B.A. University degrees were not familiar objects then, and the success of these two cast a new glamour over St. Thomas'.

The effect was magical and helped to restore lost confidence; and with the influx of new boys, especially boarders, the return of prosperity began to be visible in every direction.

The college magazine records the name of another who stood by the College and the Warden at this trying time, and that was Mr. Sampson Rajapakse, Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate, and Justice of the Peace.

"Old Thomians will remember the small, shrunk figure the dwarf Sampson – walking up the school room, with the hearty "Good morning" to some of the older masters, sung out in an intensely high – pitched voice, and at times, varying the usual solution with a homily to some ill-starred youth of his acquaintance, who might happen to grace the honoured place at the wrong end of the form. It was a wet day, and he had ridden over to school with his son, Tudor. The roof of the school was not all that could be desired and perhaps was a shade too suspicious looking for a little Rajapakse to sit under. It had to be altered. The Warden was apprised of it, and in a few days the roof was thoroughly overhauled, and -at the expense of the liberal old Sampson. On another morning – it was Monday and the masters were at their weekly meeting, known to the undignified name of "Mad Parliament," - Sir Old Liberal walked up, more suo, and at the top of the room sand out "Good morning, Mr. Miller," in a voice that sounded throughout the whole school. It was a little time after the failure of the Rudd Bros. to whom were lent all the trust funds of the College much against the wishes of Mr. Rajapakse himself. He then delivered the longest speech he is reported to have made in College. It was to this effect. "I had endowed two scholarships and an exhibition. Where's Gregory Scholarship, Rs. 8,000? Non est inventus! Where's the Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship Rs.8000? Non est inventus! Where's the Prince of Wales' exhibition Rs. 10,000? Non est inventus! " On paper, devoid of that loud voice of his, his frequent shakes of the head, and his pounding of the pigeon holes before him, the speech loses much of its tellingness. But it was a speech to be remembered. But finding fault was not in Mr. Rajapakse's line, nor was it to his purpose. All those interrogations were just by way of a prelude to what he came to say. "I will now offer another Prize!" he said, and the relief on the Warden's face, put as he was in a corner and before his subordinates, might be better imagined than described. "I will offer yet another prize." That other prize came, and till the old Mudaliyar's death it was offered, year after year, and called the Weerasinghe Prize, in memory of his nephew, and was Rs. 100 a year."

With the name of Mr. Rajapakse are associated two others who came to the help of the College, Mr. C.H.de Soysa and Mr. S.T.Muttiah.

With regard to the lost endowments the Warden writes : "The two dwelling houses were rented, and brought in about Rs. 2,100 a year. The rent was paid to me and deposited in the Savings Bank. In a few years' time the accumulations had formed a respectable sum, and it was Mr. T.S.Grignon's brilliant idea that the money might be applied in turning the useless coffee mills into dwelling houses. The idea was carried out and provided a great success. About Rs. 4,000 came annually to the College as interest on its endowments. For the restoration of the College endowments to their

full value St. Thomas' is indebted to Mr. Grigson, and his name should be remembered with gratitude."

But the College found another source of strength beside its friends outside. It was sustained in its evil hour by its own innate vigour and by the natural vitality of its boys.

There is in Jubilee Number of the Magazine of 1901 an interesting account of the year 1880 written by one who was in the school at this time. The writer says: "About the time I joined, the Staff consisted of Messrs. Meyrick, Seneviratne, Drew and F.H. Pereira the senior masters, while de Vos and Vethecan were in temporary charge of some of the lower forms. The dormitories were much the same as now, only frightfully empty. The long dormitory, popularly known as House A was in charge, of Mr. Seneviratne, and the other one parallel to it on the side of the Library was presided over by Mr. Meyrick. In place of the present two-storied building there stood what was known among the boys as the Divinity Students' Dormitory. The latter was in charge of Junior master, better known by his nickname, a fact which nearly landed me in a terrible scrape. For I remember one evening having addressed him in blissful ignorance by this name, to the great merriment of knowing ones, and with a result on myself better imagined than described.

Hall duty was then entrusted to College students, an arrangement which did not survive my first term, A Sunday school too was started, but did not survive even my first term, and is best remembered for the fun the boys had at the expense of the Junior master above referred to. For the VIth Form boys and the College students, who were his scholars, could easily say sus Minervam to him.

Notwithstanding the evil days upon which the College has been cast, there was still plenty of life in the place. Its traditions were treasured and fought for. The doings of past generations were freely discussed and often gave inspiration to the present. The memory of Edwards, Byers, Goonatillekes (boys of Bishop Chapman's time) still lived: and even Bacon's ghost used to be conjured up to frighten young green horns with. Over inevitable curtailment of the rights and privileges of the College students especially, there was much display of feeling, and Junior masters seldom found their posts mere beds of roses.

Cricket and football were regularly played on the same ground as now, though not under such improved conditions. Many of the old boys living in the neighbourhood, the de Sarams of Mutwal in particular, regularly joined in the games.

But one piece of good news stirred the little community during my first term. This was the success of Messrs. De Mel and Arndt in Calcutta, both of whom were destined to play important parts in the school later on. This term closed with Mr. Meyrick's departure from, and Mr. De Mel's arrival in the Island.

The second term of 1880 saw a readjustment of the staff. Messrs de Mel and Seneviratne were now in charge of the Upper VI, mainly consisting of Calcutta Entrance boys and other who had reached a Patriarchal standing. Mr. Drew was in charge of the lower VI which contained the budding talent of the school. The Warden used to take the two divisions together in Divinity, at which hour the superior

intelligence of the lower division very often saved the Upper VI from entire confusion. On one occasion the Warden asked an Upper VI boy what David did when he came to the camp of the Philistines. The nonplussed victim looked towards a Lower VI boy (now a well known public man) who was seated at the opposite desk. The latter stretched out his left hand, and moved the other across it with a wavy motion of the fingers. Up jumped the VIth from boy, having received, as he thought, the necessary information, and said, "Fiddled, sir."

"What," roared the Warden, "fiddlesticks! X, why don't you know your work?"

The discomfited boy excused himself saying that Y would not let him work the previous night, and the Warden seemed quite satisfied to X's great relief. That night in Hall the warden came up to Y and enquired if he knew X. On being replied to in the affirmative, he said, "Well then, I want you to take care of him. He did not know his work today. Will you be responsible for his preparation in the future?" This little incident not only raised very different feelings in X and Y's minds towards each other, but also afforded much amusement to those who watched their future relations for some time after.

During this term, what we considered a great calamity overtook us, the first experience of that iron discipline which soon became established. Someone had thoughtlessly torn down the Lower School time-table from the door on which it was posted. As a punishment the half-holidays, for such were the Saints' Days then, were cancelled for the rest of that term. No more time-table were posted up.

Talking of Saints' Days, service in Chapel than was held at ten, so that there were only two hours school for the day. After service one of the senior masters, usually from the Church steps took a census of the boys who had absented themselves, and dismissed the boys for the day."

During this term the Warden was well-nigh omnipresent. At school, in hall, in the dormitories his appearance was as sudden as it was dreaded. Frequently he used to go his rounds at night after lock-up, and his stentorian accent, "Light out there," used to thunder forth now and again in the ears of a stray culprit.

The third term saw another importation, the very incarnation of discipline. So simple and unpretentious was he, that few people perhaps then guessed what an enormous power for good he was destined to prove. In the middle of the North-East Monsoon, one wet Sunday evening, while we were in Church, a carriage drove up College Hill and landed Mr. Stephens in House A where he remained the presiding genius, till he was removed to more comfortable quarters in Meyrick's dormitory.

The programme for the day in Warden Miller's time was:

7.00 a.m. Early Tea

7.30 a.m. Sung Mattins in the Cathedral with Litany on Wednesday and Friday

8-10 a.m. School

10.00 a.m. Breakfast

11.00 - 2 p.m. School

2.00 p.m. Choir Practice

3.00 p.m. Dinner

4.00 p.m. Evensong in cathedral

4.30 p.m. Games

6.00 p.m. Supper. When the evenings were longer Sup per was at 6.30

7.00 - 9 p.m. Preparation

9.00 p.m. Bed

It was not until 1896 that school hours were changed to 8 to 11 a.m. and 12 noon to 2 p.m. Breakfast then moved to 11 a.m. and dinner to 6.30 p.m.

CRICKET

### **First Royal –Thomian Match**

Mr. Stephens, whose memorial portrait may now be seen hanging in the cricket pavilion, very appropriately became a master in the school in the same year that the first Royal – Thomian boys cricket match was played. He will always be remembered as one of the finest cricket coaches the College has had. For some years after he had given up his work in school and joined a business firm, he continued to live in the College and supervise his house and the school cricket.

The game had long been played in the school, but it received a great stimulus from Mr. Falkner, and it was in his days that Mr. Ashley Walker of the Colombo Academy arranged a march with St. Thomas' College. Both men had played for Cambridge before they came to Ceylon.

In the History of the Royal College (1931) is found the following account of the matches before 1880.

"For some years before there were annual encounters between representative teams chosen from the two schools. But in the early matches, the masters of two colleges were included; for if we look into the old scores of the matches played prior to 1880, We find that Messrs Walker and Campbell played for Royal, while the Rev. T.Falkner and the Rev.H.Meyrick were included in St. Thomas' team. The first match was fought out on Slave Island Green, and the players went across the lake in canoes, taking their own materials and luncheon baskets with them. The two innings match was over in one afternoon, but the result is not known. In 1879 the match was played on the C.C.C. grounds, which were then at the Galle Face, where the sports club is now. The Members of the teams arrived either on foot or by hackery, or were ferried

across the Beira Lake. The school was not given even a period off, to see the match. There were no school colours prominently displayed, no flags were waved, and there were no lower school boys shrieking with delight, and lastly, no old boys making the queerest antics in appreciation of the play, and recalling the old incidents and relating their thrills to their admiring sons, nephews and grand children.

The scoring on both sides was slow and low : every hit had to be run for to the full, as boundaries were not in vogue then. The Academy team eventually won as a result chiefly of good fielding. Ashley Walker's underhand lobs, backed by good wicket keeping, were very effective; the bulk of the Thomians (fourteen out of the eighteen wickets which fell), being caught or stumped in stepping out to 'swipe' the lobs."

In 1880, the first Royal – Thomian match in which only boys took part was played on the Fort Cricket club ground. The Academy made 110 in the first inning and St. Thomas' 59. In the second innings the Academy made 35 and St. Thomas' 24. J.W.de Silva was the Academy captain and F.W.Mc Donnell the Thomian captain.

The members of the teams and their scores were as follows

Royal College

1st Innings 2nd Innings

B. W.Bawa 3 .. 1

P. de Silva 7 .. 3

C. Vello Pulley 23 .. 8

W.de Kretser 8 .. 3

J. W.de Silva 10 .. 2

A. Weinman 2 .. 2

P. P.Jansz 17 .. 2

W. M.de Kretse 22 .. 2

A. Jansz 4 .. 4

O. Vanhoff 0 .. 2

C. de Silva 2 .. 2

Extras 12 .. 4

Total 110 35

St. Thomas' College

1st Innings 2nd Innngs

E. R.Mc.Donnel 1 .. 4

F. T.E.Ellawella 0 .. 0

C. de Saram 23 .. 7

D. Wendt 2 .. 3

J. Lourensz 5 .. 5

C. H.de Saram 0 .. 0

W. B.de Saram 8 .. 3

F. R.Mc Donnell 0 .. 0

C. Wilking 0 .. 0

C.O. Siebel 3 .. 0

W,E,Grenier 0 .. 1

Extras 17 .. 1

Total 59 24

The next Royal-Thomian Match showed the narrowest margin of victory in the series when the Academy again won by eight runs. St. Thomas' won the third encounter by eight wickets when F.W.Mc Donnell captained the team for the third consecutive year.

The Library

In this year, 1880, the Warden started the College Library "of light and wholesome literature for the use of the students and boys". The ponderous theological tomes of Bishop Chapman's time were still in the library, but this new venture, was intended for a Boys' Library, as opposed to the old Divinity Students' Library. Upon this new library, in the following year, the Librarian writes :

"The absence of library of entertaining literature has, we think, been a serious defect in the College machinery. The boys of the College have a great deal of time to themselves, on half-days, on Saturdays and during the shorter holidays when many remain behind. They cannot always be working even during 'room-time,' and so we fear they waste a great deal of time in idling and dozing, employments worse than profitless, as they engender a lazy habit of body and mind. During the spare times a good selection of light books will prove a great boon. Thus too, the boys will have oppor tunites for acquiring a better and easier style of English than they are likely to



acquire from the Calcutta text books, or even from the College Magazine. They will, we hope, make friends which will last them for life. Their imaginations will be quickened, their world of thought widened. More might be said of the advantages of a school library. Those who have had the use of one in their youth will recall what a source of happiness it was to them.

It will be necessary to have very strict rules regarding the use of the library, and to enforce them with relentless and impartial severity. It is strange that even in the most civilized society, books (equally with umbrellas) seem to be out of the range of the ordinary laws of morality. Every body seems to lose books : nobody finds them. Most of us too have had sad experience in the matter of lending books. (who by the way has a Freeman's old English History which does not belong to him) And if the rights of private property are not respected, still less consideration do libraries receive. Where are the Sidath Sangarawas of the College Library? Where are the twelve copies of Paley's Evidences, the thirteen volumes of Shakespeare, the other two copies of Shakespeare, the eight volumes of Scott's Tales of a Traveller, the eleven copies of Pott's Euclid ? We fear that they have fallen a prey to a book-worm more rapacious even than the insect which ravages the Library shelves. Perhaps these remarks may awaken someone's slumbering conscience. If, reader, remorse prompts you make restitution, delay not to send the volumes, carriage paid, and they will be gratefully received, and 'no a questions asked."

With the new library went the Reading Room started this year by Mr. A.W.de Mel who obtained Ceylon and English papers for its tables. Two years previously (1878), while he was a College Form student working for the Calcutta B.A. examination, Mr. De Mel had taken the important step of founding the College Debating Society, which held its first annual dinner in 1879. The Debating Society was a vigorous institution from the first, and was always strongly supported by the staff in Warden Miller's time. The Warden was President of the Society, and the Rev. G.A.H. Arndt and Messrs. F. H. Pereira and A.W.de Mel were Vice –Presidents. Nearly and all old Thomians who have reached any degree of proficiency as public speakers owe a debt of gratitude to this institution.

An old boy has left a record of the steadily growing efficiency and activity of the school. He writes : "In January 1881, there was a loyal and efficient band of masters who helped the Warden to row the College from the shoals of adversity to the flood of prosperity. Mr. de Mel as philosopher and friend, Mr. Arndt as disciplinarian and Mr. Stephens as cricketer and athelete, formed an extra strong combination, all young and strong and eager to respond to the stroke of the plucky Warden. With such able colleagues the Warden's hands were left free to extend in new directions.

It was at this time that the cricket pitch was levelled. A temporary cricket pitch had been tried at Duncan's Gardens(the present Dock Yard), the experiment had to be given up in consequence of some annoyance caused by the boys to a neighbouring cannon, which ended in a tremendous explosion. I remember the bitter reproaches which the Warden, in his own inimitable way, hurled that night in hall on the heads of the penitent culprits.

A drawing class was started on Saturday afternoons by Mr. Stephens, while the Warden conducted classes in Physics during school hours.

On October 27th of this year, Mr. Drew and the boys stole a march over the Warden and surprised him with birthday congratulations and a present. The boys of course got the holiday they wanted, but with a firm though courteous appeal as well, not to repeat the experiment.

In December 1881, the first swimming races were held at Hendala.

"Quite a feature of the College in those days was the Calcutta Examination held in the library. The results in 1881, so far as the College was concerned, were phenomenal. Honest work had told, and all the ten candidates passed. The Sixth Form of that year will most gracefully remember the earnest and painstaking efforts of Messrs Arndt and de Mel."

### Examinations

In 1882, the Cambridge Local Examinations were revived and as the Warden was able to leave the other work in safe hands, he devoted most of his attention to the Senior Local boys, who began gradually to replace F.A. students\* in the College. As has already been recorded the Warden wished for this change from the very beginning. The final introduction of the Cambridge Examinations was brought about as follows : St. Thomas' College Form and Queens's College had attempted to supply the need for University education and they had both come to be affiliated with the Calcutta University so that their students might take recognized degrees.

In 1865, a Committee of the Legislative Council abolished Queen's College and established a University Scholarship to enable students of the Academy to go to an English University. The same Committee in 1868 abolished the old School commission of which Bishop Chapman had been chairman and replaced it by an Education Department with a Director at its head. Other schools soon claimed the right for their boys to sit for the English Scholarship and in 1880 it was thrown open to the whole Island on the results of the Cambridge Local examinations. With such a valuable prize set upon them, the Cambridge examination very soon took, for good or ill, a lasting grip upon the education system of the country.

One consequence in the College of the introduction of the University Scholarship and the Cambridge Examination was the gradual disappearance of the undergraduate, and the curtailment of the privileges of the College Form already referred to. Boys no longer worked for Calcutta degrees in the College Form.

The examination results of 1883, very modestly described by the Warden in his report at the Prizegiving the following year, were very creditable. Four candidates were entered for the Calcutta First in Arts Examination, of whom three passed, two in the Second Division. Ten candidates sat for the Calcutta Entrance Examination, and nine passed, six in the First and three in the Second Division. In the Cambridge Senior A.E. Bultjens came first and J.C. Mendis second in the Island, the former gaining distinctions in Geography and winning the English University Scholarship of \$150 a year for four years. In the Junior Cambridge, F.C.H. Grenier won distinction in Latin and Mathematics, and was awarded a Government Exhibition of Rs.240 a year for three years.

## **Warden on Leave**

In December 1883, Warden Miller was able to take a holiday in the full assurance that the College was floating on the tide of success. The finances had now improved though he speaks of a debt of Rs.6,000 which he was still striving to pay off. The work had reached a high standard of efficiency and the life of the place had become healthy and vigorous. Four years of sheer hard work had been crowned with the meed of success. The Warden's faith in honest work was great. A favourite motto of his used to be *merces profundo, pulchrior exiet*. He expressed a wish several times to see it included among designs used for College decorations. As a send-off to the Warden the boys acted "Vice Versa," which had been published the year before.

In 1884 is found the first record of the Natural History Society so frequently mentioned in the Magazine in subsequent years. It's founder and first secretary was a boy named Armitage.

In this year we first hear of Mr. G.B.Ekanayake, and Mr.G.S.Schneider as members of the staff.

## **College Colours**

The Warden returned to the College on the 7th of August. He had been considering the institution of Colours for the school and the Magazine announces this year that "the College Colours were begun to be used on the 15th of January. The Eleven and College Class wearing broad, and the Collegiate School, narrow ribbons. The eleven too have received their cricketing caps, black and blue stripes". In a letter to his wife in England the Warden says, "I am anxious to introduce without delay College Colours. The general opinion is that the best combination would be one of the dark blue and black, black in middle with blue outside. We shall want ultimately two widths of the ribbon: one of such width as can be worn on the black hat commonly called a 'billycock hat' : one wider for a straw hat for the first eleven. Further it would be expedient, I think to let the eleven wear a cap; with the School Colours. I would suggest the cap being black with the blue ribbons at the seams. If one could be made as a pattern and sent out, we could form an opinion for ourselves."

The Warden's Prize-giving speech of 1885 gives a good idea of the state of the school in that year. He says, "I have taken the rather important step of discontinuing to prepare candidates for the Calcutta Examinations. After a long trial I have come to the conclusion that good honest teaching is absolutely incompatible with two examinations in view so radically different as the Cambridge Local and the Calcutta Examinations. One result is and immediate improvement in our work, as evidenced by our success in the Mathematical Examination in, which we not only secured the prize open to all in the island under 20, (won by W.G.Woodhouse), but also secured second place and divided the honours for the third place, with out friendly rivals (Royal College)

Our numbers have been pretty constant. We have, I think, about 225 on the books, with an average attendance of above 207. We live too far from the Centre of the town to expect any large increase in the number of our day-boys. Our boarders on

the other hand are gradually increasing in number, and it will be my care to develop this side of our work as much as possible."

He goes on to say that there are 60 boarders and insufficient room for more, and to point out the urgent need for a sick- room.

"Our Cricket club is as flourishing as ever and with the exception of a few wet evenings, there has not been, I think a single evening on which there have not been games going on, in which 30 to 50 boys take part. We have started a workshop with a forge and lathes, and the boys are learning to use their hands. Our Magazine is flourishing. As regards our Natural History Society, we should be glad if any ladies would pay a visit to our incipient museum. The Lending Library, the Debating Society and, the Reading Room, are all showing signs of healthy vitality, and I think they testify to our endeavours to make our boys' lives happy and many sided."

### **The Nine Runs Match**

It may be worth mentioning, as it is a perennial topic, that this was the year of the "Nine runs match". The Royal College History records the event as follows:

"A strictly correct version of this much discussed match has been obtained from two Thomians and the only Royalist living, who played in the match. Although the circumstances were quite ordinary, Royal were dismissed for 9 runs and St. Thomas' piled up the huge score of 170 for 6 wickets. Then rain interfered, but the umpires, one whom was Mr. Ashley Walker, decided that the ground was fit for play when the play ceased. But though Mr. Walter and the Principal were for continuing the match, the team, urged by a few unsporting boys, refused to play. The disagreement which resulted between the two teams was settled by Royal apologizing, and the Thomians were sorting enough to bury the hatchet, in which condition we hope it will always be, for Royal and St. Thomas' have built up the present friendly rivalry, in spite of this.

The scores of the match are as follows:

Royal College

G.H.de Saram b .Orr .. 0

V.de Silva b. Wilkins .. 1

C.T.Van Geyzel c. Wilkins, b.Orr .. 0

E.de Kretser b. Orr .. 0

E.H.Ohlmus b. Wilkins .. 1

W.Schokman b. Wilkins .. 2

L.Thomas b. Wilkins .. 2

E.Weinman (not out) .. 1

C.E.Corea b. Wilkins .. 0

S.Vanhoff b. Wilkins .. 0

A.Beven (run out) .. 0

Extras .. 2

Total .. 9

St. Thomas' College

W.B.de Saram b. Schokman .. 0

C.Orr c. Weinman, b. Schokman .. 9

G.H.de Saram b. Schokman .. 6

F.Thomas c. Van Geyzel, b.Weinman .. 69

C.Wilkins .. 49

F.V.Foenander b. Weinman .. 19

W.Erskine (not out) .. 7

Extras .. 11

Total .. 170

To bat J.de Vos, O.Fernando, G.Byers and Elapata

Bowling Analysis

Royal 1st Innings

O M R W

C.Orr .... 5 2 3 3

C.Wilkins .... 5 3 4 6

St. Thomas' 1st Innings

O M R W

W.Schokman .... 21 4 64 3

E.Weinman .... 14.2 3 41 2

C.T.Van Geysel .... 3 0 11 0

C.E.Corea .... 8 0 20 1

A.Beven .... 4 0 23 0

This is the Royalist version of the affair, and what could be more generous?

Another version may be seen on page 71 of the Souvenir of the Royal-Thomian Cricket Match published in 1932.

### **The Old Boy's Association**

By far the most important development in 1886 was the starting of the Old Boys' Association. The first intimation of it in the Magazine is a letter signed by some fifty prominent Old Boys asking the Warden to call a meeting to consider the project. But twenty-six years later there was published in the Magazine a letter from the Warden to an old boy of the school, which would seem to show that the idea originated with him. The letter published in June, 1932 is well worth reproducing.

St. Thomas' College,

19-4-86

My Dear .....

For some years past I have been possessed with the desire which has lately become very strong, to see some sort of society or guild formed of the old boys of St. Thomas' College. The idea is not an original one, as it has been developed most successfully in England, primarily with a view to the strengthening of the ties which should bind a man to the place where it is to be hoped, he has learned some of the most valuable lessons of life. Such society in connection with St. Thomas' College would I think promote this desirable result, but it would have a further very beneficial effect. It would be a means of giving lads who find work in Colombo a sort of rallying point. They would be more likely to come under good influence. They would be less likely to get lost sight of, as is the case frequently at present.

Do you think such a plan a feasible one? If so, will you lend your name and assistance to its development, and suggest the names of others who would be likely to enter warmly into the scheme?

The constitution of the Society, the form which the general meeting should take, etc., are of course details to be elaborated by those who may concern themselves in the initiation of the Society. I do not think it would be hard to provide a monthly concert, conversazione or lecture in the College Library. I should, however, deprecate the payment of any subscription, except a merely nominal one, and I think a badge would be desirable.

You are the first person to whom I have communicated my idea in anything like a formal shape, and I will wait your answer before taking further steps. You, I consider as the most representative Old Boy we can boast of.

Yours very Sincerely,

E.F.Miller.

On Saturday the 4th, 1886, the Warden took the chair at a meeting of Old Boys, and a resolution was passed that "in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a Society be founded, consisting of Old Boys of St. Thomas' College, and past and present masters." It was also proposed that "The objects of the Society be-

To increase the sense of fellowship in Old Boys both with one another and with the College

To promote good works among them, and

To afford guidance and encouragement to the younger genera- tion."

The first Committee consisted of: the Rev. the Warden. Rev.G.Arndt. Messrs S.C.Obeyskera, J.S.Driberg A. Seneviratne, H.Wendt and W.Hallock.

The first meeting was appointed for St.Thomas' day two weeks later, when rules for the society were drawn up, some seventy-eight members elected, and the first Tuesday in February settled upon for the day of Society's annual meetings.

In this manner was started one of the most valuable institution the College possesses.

Accordingly the 1st of February, 1887, saw the first Old Boys' Day when the college, past and present, gathered at a garden party under the banyan tree, whence they went to chapel to here the Bishop preach and the choir render the anthem "Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, Brethren to dwell together in unity."

At the general meeting which followed, the Secretary read his report announcing that there were 8 honorary members and 102 regular members of the Association. The new committee and 38 new members were then elected.

The meeting closed with the Warden expressing his hopes for the future of the Association.

### **Developments in the college**

The same day which was the first general meeting of the Old Boys' Association was marked by the solemn opening of a new block of buildings. Old Winchester, the name given to the small boys' dormitory, had been Pulled down, and a new building consisting of the sick-room, Matrons' rooms, and the "Nursery" had been erected in its place. Visitors to the library on that day could see the new Honors Panels bearing at that date the following names :-

English University Scholarship

1883 A.E. Buultjens

1885 W.G. Woodhouse

Ceylon Mathematical Prize

1885 W.G. Woodhouse

Duke Edinburgh Scholarship

1870 C. Edwards

1872 W.H. Solomons

1875 A.C.C. Evarts

1878 C.O. Siebel

Gregory Scholarship

1874 D.A. Tilakaratna

1875 W.S.J. Goonewardene

1876 H.L. Wendt

1877 R. Weerasekera

Early the previous year had come the news that W.G. Woodhouse had won the University Scholarship in the Cambridge Senior with first class honours and distinctions in English, Mathematics and Geography. This was a brilliant success, and to it were added two lesser ones in Exhibitions won by E.O. Mortimer and Rasanayagam in the Cambridge junior. And now there was yet another name to be inscribed on the first panel, for this year it was announced that F.C.H. Grenier had been placed first class in the Cambridge Senior, and had won the English University Scholarship, while J.P. Salgadoe and E.H. Vanderwall had won Exhibitions in the Junior.

This year was marked by the completion of the cricket pitch on the upper cricket ground for the Small Club; the starting of Drill Classes under Sergeant Duff; the founding of the Rev. F.H. de Winton's Liturgy Prize; the first award of the Victoria Gold Medal founded by Mrs. Muttiah for the best all round boy, to F.C.H. Grenier; the acting of Euripides Alcestis in November; and the arrival of the town water supply at the College.



Two Greek plays were performed in Warden Miller's time. The first was the Cyclops acted in October 1885, in which the part of Odysseus was taken by E.F.Cahusae, Cyclops by F.C.H.Grenier, and Silenus by G.B.Ekanayake. The coast scene was painted locally and the costumes were made under the care of Mrs.Miller. The Warden produced the play. It was acted in the Collegiate Schools at the foot of the hill. The novelty of the performance brought a large audience together, and English translation of the play were handed to those who wished for them. The performance was very well received and the preparation and the acting of the play did a great deal to stimulate the study of Greek in the School.

The Alcestis, acted in 1887, was produced in the same way. A.Drieberg took the part of Alcestis, E.H.Vanderwall was Admetus, G.B.Ekanayaka Pheres, W.P.D.Vanderstraaten Heracles, A.B.Gomes Thanatos, K.Prins Apollo and O.E.Martinus Leader of the Chorus.

Of the new water supply and Old Boy writes: "The present generation may will be reminded that the suffering and sweat of the past generation was the precursor of modern luxuries. In my days there were only two wells, and when these dried up in hot weather, the run for a tub of water ended in many a squabble. There were two sets of bathrooms, one behind the kitchen, and the other down the garden near House C. To prevent the general scramble, a tub-master had to be appointed, whose duty it was to apportion the existing tubs (all too few among so many boys), to allay disputes, and detect and prevent the raids of the lawless; a delicate task well performed by our philosopher and friend (Mr.de Mel)."

The writer adds, "In those days of strict economy it was by dint of severe countenance and tongue that the Hall Appu (Napoleon) dispensed justice over a meagre plate of dry curry. That worthy servant of the college had learned the art of cheese-paring so well that he was only second to the Warden himself in the practice of sagacious retrenchment. The kitchen passed through several hands from Wallace to Mrs. Greason, but behind them all, up to a very late date, was Warden himself, whose success as an administrator greatly depended on the fact that he was his own steward."

Of Napoleon there is another story. "He was most resourceful, and no unforeseen emergency found him unprepared. Once the curry came round mixed with bits of broken plate. The boys who made the discovery called up Napoleon for immediate explanation. Napoleon looked quite reproachful as he said : 'gentlemen complaining same curry every day. Today I give Rangoon curry. Must put bits of plate in Rangoon curry. If gentlemen don't like Rangoon curry, I won't give again.' "

On certain days "dry curry" was supplied; and as this was in the nature of a luxury, each boy was expected to take only two spoonfuls. There were plenty of balancing feats which taxed Hall Appu's patience, till one day a boy, who was later a well-known cricketer and doctor, tilted the dry curry dish on to his plate with alarming results. The Hall Appu snatched up the plate, walked up to the Warden put the plate before him, and in a voice quivering with emotion exclaimed: "See, sir, what Mr.....has done." The warden's remarks on the occasion were long remembered.

The same writer goes on to say of the school swimming. "Sea bathes were a popular institution, and one had to stir betimes for these. By the dim, uncertain light of a chilly dawn the braver spirits would often take a short cut to the bathing place by leaping over the walls of 'Summer Hill,' where the Rev. Mr. Ondaatjie lived. The reverend gentlemen objected to these intrusions, and sometimes lay in wait to capture one of the delinquents. Tradition states that on one occasion he seized the leg of a boy who was in the act of leaping over his wall. There was a tug-of-war, the parson pulling at one end the boys at the other, but numbers and youth prevailed in the end."

The College swimming races, which were first held in 1881, were repeated this year. The boys went across the Kelani River in boats and the races took place in the canal.

They were :

250 yards open

100 yards under 16

150 yards open

60 yards under 16

Long dive open

Long dive under 16

30 yards swimming on back, under 16

40 yards swimming in clothes, open

40 yards under 13

150 yards consolation race, Open

80 yards consolation race, under 16

250 yards Old Boys' Race

The Magazine did much good work at this time by galvanizing the workshop, the Natural History Society and the Debating Society into activity when they showed signs of falling off. After one such stirring up, the Natural History Society announces in the next number of the Magazine the acquisition of the following contributions to the museum:-

About thirty snakes

Two elephant's teeth

Two bird's eggs and nests

In the library copy of the Magazine, in which this announcement occurs, a boy has written in a bold round hand under this list.

"Food for Boarders' "

though whether in protest or derision it is impossible to say.

Two books give an account of the School at this period. The first is "Two Happy Years in Ceylon" by C.F.Gorden Cumming (Vol.I.CH.II.) and the second is Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranayake's "Remembered Yesterdays." The latter refers among other things to the school-boy fights that arose. They were not by any means the dignified premeditated fights of school stories, but hot-blooded affairs which would flame up suddenly. There was little forgiveness and often much ill feeling so that matters would come to a crisis. Sometimes the Warden would have to intervene, and perhaps some boys would have to leave before peace was restored.

The year 1888 saw the warden busily engaged upon the enlargement of the Cathedral Choir and the course of the work the original foundation stone was discovered bearing the date June 15th, and under it were a document rendered illegible by its long sojourn underground, a gold sovereign of 1846, a rupee of 1840, a half rupee of 1840, a quarter rupee piece of 1840, and two -anna piece of 1840. The building was extended 28 feet in this enlargement.

It may be added that among the treasures of the Cathedral still to be seen and still in use, are Bishop Chapman's prayer book, and the Bishop's throne given by his daughters in his memory in this year 1888. The latter was executed by Ceylon workmen from drawings by Mr. W.J.Japper.

The new and growing prosperity of the school was marked not only by this extension of its chapel but by the arrival of a new Sub-Warden, the first for nine years, in the person the Rev. Percy Gethen, M.A.

In his prize-day report the warden says, "As regards the results of our work in the public examinations, I have every reason to be satisfied. We did not gain the scholarship, but the general results were much better than they have been in years past, when we carried away the principal distinctions. Out of 9 candidates for the Senior Cambridge Local Examination 5 passed, and out of 22 candidates for the Junior Local examination 20 passed

At the Old Boys' Association Meeting of 1888, eighty new members were added to the strength of the Association. At this meeting too, Mr. George Wall, a man distinguished in the politics of the time, and an old friend of the College, was elected an Honorary member.

As regards out -of-school activities a letter in the Magazine calls attention to various "manias" which prevailed at this time.

The first was the "cycle-mania," "When some who could afford to do so bought bicycles, and the many who could not, were content to talk of nothing else but bicycles and to evince the greatest interest in the movements of the lucky

possessors of them." Then there was the stamp mania, "which was not a particularly happy time for the masters, as they were continually called upon to perform their Police Magisterial duties in the adjudication of contested property." Then there was the squirrel mania, and with it the butterfly mania, which last calls forth some scathing comments on the curator of the museum who has allowed his specimens to be devoured by insects, and his cabinets to rot and decay.

The two following years were years of steady progress and consolidation when the school built up the strength and reputation which were to carry it through the uncertain times that were to follow, to a new era of successful achievement. They were not marked by any event of individual importance. For the greater part of 1889 Warden Miller was on leave and the school was in charge of the Sub-Warden.

The Old Boys' Association busied itself on behalf of the College in making plans for obtaining a portrait of Warden Wood, and added to the celebrations of its "Day" a cricket match between Past Present which the Present won very handsomely.

The number of boys in the school had now risen to 313. The Boarding House was quite full, "every available place being occupied, owing to the increase of our boarders to ninety."

During his absence this year, the Warden was appointed Archdeacon of Colombo. In November he returned to the College.

In 1890 a new dormitory having nine rooms on the ground floor and 10 rooms on the upper floor was added to the building.

When the new year dawned in 1891, there was, no foreshadowing, as the school went through a scare of small-pox and celebrated its Old Boys' Day with dinner party and cricket match, that within eight months the Warden would have resigned and left the College. If any such idea was in his mind at the time, he did not make it known until three months later. Meanwhile Old Boys' Day proceeded as usual. The Secretary was able to report a membership of 391, and the school entertained its visitors with a performance of Julius Caesar in the Big School acted by boys and masters.

In February the Cadet Corps is mentioned for the first time, as being armed with rifles, but so far beltless, so that it was unable to use its bayonets. As yet the Cadets had no uniforms.

The College Tennis Club was founded this year and soon came into popularity.

In March is recorded the beginning of Detention, "a new attempt to force work out of culpably idle boys," from 7 to 9.15 p.m. for boarders and from 11 to 1 for day boys, both on Saturdays.

A writer in the Magazine records this "howler". A boy was asked to give the meaning of the passage from Shakespeare,

"We will starve our eyes from lovers' food."

After due consideration, he explained "lovers' food" as wedding cake.

In May came the news that P.J.Sproule had won the Senior Scholarship and that the College had gained an unprecedented number of distinctions. The list of distinction winners was :

Senior P.J.Sproule a. l. g. M.am.

P.E.Pieris r. e. 1. am

J.P.Salgadoe am. a. M

Junior L.A.E.de Zilva e. l. M.\*

The last named won the first of the Junior Exhibitions.

The news of the Warden's approaching departure must have been known by this time, for it is recorded that with the announcement of the examination results came the thrice welcome words of the Warden, "I am glad to be able to announce that the Bishop has kindly consented to allow me to withdraw my resignation."

### **The Departure of Warden Miller**

But this seems to have been only a temporary idea, for in August his departure is settled, and the editor of the Magazine writes, "We cannot sufficiently express our regret at the loss the College sustains by the departure of the Warden. He has raised the College to the status of a Public School, and its position is unquestionably a very high one. To him she owes her renewed existence, her stability, her strong foothold in the Island as one of the leading Scholastic Centres of Ceylon. He has breathed into her a strength and newness and a spirit, that it may be said there is in the Colony a Public School with the esprit decorps of the ones in England."

The time of the Warden's departure rapidly drew on. In the early part of September in his Prize Day speech he gives a shout record of his work and makes some interesting references to his colleagues.

"It has been suggested to me that I should today give a resume of my work in the College during the 13 years that I have been connected with it as Warden, and, although I do not wish to undertake that task, yet, what I have to say will bear greatly upon the past. Speaking of that which is uppermost in my mind, I wish to record my sense of deep thankfulness to Almighty God for many and great blessings. We have had the blessing of health, as there were singularly few cases of sickness and we were scarcely troubled with any epidemic except in 1889, when there was an outbreak of measles and the burden fell on Mr. Gethen during my absence in England. This health record speaks volumes for the sanitary condition of the place and the unremitting care of our able Medical Attendant, Dr. Garvin, and the attention to the domestic arrangements paid by Mrs. Greason. What is of greater importance still, the moral health was good, and I have reason to believe that there were only a very few cases of evil doing, and I can bear most emphatic testimony to the fact that being a day scholar is no safeguard against moral evil. The internal discipline of the

College as carried out was excellent, and creditable alike to masters and boys. Mr. Arndt has been my trusted colleague for nearly the whole time of my tenure of office. He is, as you know, the Head Master of the school, and for my part, I can only say that he is more than my right hand; but it is not that alone which endears him to me, and all of us. I have never heard a harsh, irritable, or impatient word fall from his lips. Circumstances have occurred at one time and another which have made it seem as though he had been passed over, but he has given way with a humility which is as praiseworthy as it is rare. It is impossible to be in the company of Mr. Arndt without learning the beauty of the most difficult of Christian graces.

Mr. Pereira, I found when I came and am now leaving here, and though perhaps he is not so young now as when I first made his acquaintance, yet he is just as energetic in the discharge of his duties, and in any labour of love.

Those who know Mr. Stephens know what he is to me and the College and that to him a great deal of what is known of cricket by the boys is due.

Messrs de Mel and Mendis we have had, the former for a long period, and the latter for a short period, and I have to thank them for the most efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties; and so has Mr. Schneider of whom I make special mention for helping me to a great extent during the last 9 or 10 years; and I am also indebted to Messrs Wilkins, Pieris, de Mel and Meurling. The masters of St. Thomas' College are poorly paid, and they have hard work to do; they expect no promotion from Government or else where, and they work for the love of the College, and I believe, for the love of God, and I trust that such men will always be found to serve the College.

I must also acknowledge my debt of gratitude to the parents of the boys, and especially those who send their sons here as boarders. They have shown me much confidence and great kindness; and I feel very grateful indeed for the support they have given me, and their readiness to help at all times."

A few lines from the Warden's farewell speech to his boys may not be out of place, to help to show what manner of man Mr. Miller was, and what kind of affection the College inspired in him.

"I cannot describe what this wrench is to me," he says "For the few days past I experienced minor wrenches when. I closed the Trigonometry or the Algebra or the Xenophon for the last time, and this wrench I dreaded. If I do not adequately express myself, my dear boys, its is because I cannot expres myself. I have one request to make ; let each boy endeavour to the best of his ability to make this place more and more what it was meant for: and I hope you will not say, as others have said, that the place will now go to dogs. I know the boys of St. Thomas' College better, and on that account I know it is needless to warn you. The future prosperity of the College is assured in the hands of a far abler Warden than I have been, and its efficiency will increase."

**Mrs. Miller**

A record of Warden Miller's time would be incomplete without mention of Mrs. Miller who was always a good friend to the College and a staunch helper of her husband. Her father gave a new bathrooms which were put in when the city water supply came to the College. She mentions in a letter the building of the new schoolroom close to the gate at the bottom of the compound; and how there were some fine fruit trees outside it which the street urchins spoiled by throwing stones at the fruit; her husband, who had a very big voice, when he chose to use it, would shout at them from the top of the hill and scare the boys nearly to death with his roars.

"Once," she writes, "he was summoned to Court for having whipped a boy till blood came. It was in the papers afterwards that the blood was really red braces hanging down. That boy visited the Warden in England afterwards and was most friendly and nice."

"I shall never forget," she adds, "the Vethecan riots. I remember telling my husband that the poor fellow was mad. He turned on me so violently that I thought my married life was at an end. He could not and would not believe anything against any of his boys."

What Mrs. Miller calls the "Vethecan riots" was a foolish affair of anonymous letter-writing which caused a deal of trouble especially to its author, and is best forgotten.

#### Character of Warden Miller

It only remains to give the character of Warden Miller as it impressed itself upon his boys.

The Warden believed in the efficacy of quite unostentatious work; and his powers of work were enormous. He prepared his class work early in the morning, and after the morning service in Chapel. He taught five hours in school, and then for an hour he read with pupils taking special subjects. He dined with boys at 3 p.m. and took choral Evensong in the Cathedral at 4 p.m. Immediately after he used to go down to the field to watch the cricket. After dinner in the evening he used to be in his study and any boy, from the smallest to the oldest, could go to him and tell him of his wants or his troubles. On certain evenings he found time to read Greek plays with his pupils. After evening prayers in Hall, which he invariably took himself, he used to go about twice a week into the dormitories, and talk to boys on whatever was of interest to them. In addition to this he was his own book-keeper, bursar and clerk. At the end of each term he made his own comments upon each boy's report, and consigned each to its proper envelope himself, so that his remarks upon each boy's progress might be a confidential communication between himself and the boy's parents.

When it is remembered that in addition to being Warden of the College he was Archdeacon of Colombo and Vicar of the parish of Mutwal, the amount of work that he got through in the day was truly wonderful.

Warden Miller was stern in discipline, and upheld it with a strong hand. When there was a general disaffection among the boys against a Junior master, he put all the boarders under "French Discipline." They were marched in silence from the

dormitories to Hall and from Hall to school. This arrangement was not given up until the ringleaders were detected and punished.

The boy who told lies was hateful to him. "If you climb on the Cathedral roof and break the tiles" he would say, "I shall cane you as hard as I can, if I catch you. But if a boy tells me a lie, I cannot cane that boy, but I shall not like that boy."

Pride and Party spirit he could not stand. An Old Boy recalls how two Sixth Form boys were soundly scolded for refusing "a dirty little chorister boy" a seat at their table in Hall. Once, on hearing that a large gang of rowdies had waylaid certain boys, the Warden himself escorted them home at the close of the school.

But in his intercourse with his pupils in the study or in the dormitories, or in his bungalow, the Warden was the tenderest of fathers, and the most genial of hosts. To his pupils the pleasure, which any success of theirs brought to him, was in itself a reward for many hours of patient practice on the cricket field, or much weariness of study.

One result of the Warden's work was a knowledge of the boys that was almost uncanny. He knew the name of every boy in the school, knew also his initials, what his capabilities were, who his father was, and what was his father's position in life. And he knew the Island's nomenclature so well that he could say which boy spelt his name "Perera" and which "Pereira, " which " Pieris" and which "Peiris" or "Peris."

The Warden had the strongest dislike for anything savouring of insincerity or ostentation. Paragraphs in the newspapers about the College doings were his special aversion. All that was allowed to appear in print between Prize-givings was the meagre, but well considered College and School Notices written in the Magazine by himself. Undue praise at Prize-givings was not palatable to him. An Old Boy remembers how after all the buttering up upon one of these occasions, the Warden addressed the boys in Chapel, and wondered whether all the praise bestowed had been well earned. Warden Miller had a horror of having to meet a boy who would uncover his head perhaps half a dozen times during the day. He considered touching the hat the first time a boy met him in the compound during the day quite sufficient, and the way in which he always continued to hide his face behind his little paper umbrella to avoid boys obsequiously inclined, was amusing and well known.

Mr. Miller was a man of few words, but when necessary he spoke with great fire. One learned to detect as if by instinct when his vials of wrath were about to overflow. He used to come in, pace up and down the Hall in contemplation, with a shake of the head and a twitch of the face, and he suddenly stopped when the storm was ready to break. Many of his little speeches were perfect masterpieces of magisterial eloquence. His private talks on the deeper things of life, and on the temptations of school life showed insight and sympathy, and were often the turning point in a boy's life, Warden Miller's sermons in the Cathedral were thoughtful and clothed in diction which was dignified, elegant and scholarly. They were always brief and to the point.

One important principle of the Warden's policy must not be forgotten even though it was only a small thing, a seed which has never been ripened. The large schools in Colombo have often been accused of being out of touch with the great mass of the



people of Ceylon, and the accusation is to a large extent just. There was nothing in the nature of an educational ladder, no means by which a boy of promising talents, who happened to be born of poor parents or in an out-of-the-way part of the country, could get help in his education, and work his way up to the highest positions if he was capable of doing so. By the generosity and forethought of Mr. Rajapakse and others the Warden had at his disposal a number of scholarships which were sufficient to keep a boy at school. He used these scholarships with great effect. In the midst of the endless business of a Headmaster's life he found time to watch for promising boys in the smaller schools of the island, and he made choice of his scholars with wonderful skill and insight. How he found them is a mystery, but that he did find them, and that they more than justified this choice in the majority of instances, many public men have lived to testify.

His system did not at once gain full maturity, he was a long time feeling his way amongst the various institutions he found, of invented, for he was a man of original ideas. He was constantly striving after an ideal standard of perfection which he was constantly aware he had never reached.

He made use of the perfect system in each dormitory in the Boarding House. A prefect's position depended rather on his own individual personality than upon any organization and his duties were generally confined to the dormitories. School prefects had not yet been instituted. Dormitory prefects took their part in the leadership and the maintenance of discipline in each House, and they received the full backing of the Warden's and Dormitory Master's authority when necessary.

While the Warden's own mind was continually devising new measures for carrying out his several views, he used to receive, with marked deference, suggestions from persons very much his inferiors, not infrequently from his former pupils, and those who became his colleagues afterwards.

Extremely conscious of his own integrity, and having a supreme contempt for worldly advantage, he very often was too exacting in his demands from others. For young men who looked upon Junior Masterships as a sort of stepping stone to something higher outside their immediate sphere of work, he had the greatest contempt.

His judicious combination of the suaviter in modo with the fortiter in re, his explanations of his policy when ever he had a suitable opportunity; his friendly advice and admonition in his sermons to the whole school on Saints' Days; his humility of bearing and respect for his inferiors, these had the effect of healing breaches, and restoring prefect confidence between himself and all those with whom he had to deal officially.

Of his work and worth as a great school master it is impossible to form a proper estimate without remembering how at the close of his thirteen year's administration he rallied round him the public feeling which in its beginning had been, in a measure, estranged from him.

It was his set purpose and constant delight to inspire all those whom he had in his charge with general ideals of education, and of life, ideals by which he himself was so fully possessed.

On September 8th, 1891, Warden Miller left Ceylon. The following lines were written by one of his boys:-

How blessed the spot where Chapman's zeal

Lies crystallised in stone!

Oft has my memory longed to steal

And wander here alone,

In grateful retrospect to view

The scenes my vanished youth renew;

The stately trees that crown the hill,

Their giant shade our vantage ground,

To watch the ball that flew around

The cockpit of our skill.

O happy I, to look again

Across the gulf of time,

To link awhile the broken chain

That binds me to my prime!

And feel again the eagle eye

That all obeyed yet knew not why.

These halls are treasure-troves of thought,

Where stored on every hand I find

Memorials that call to mind

The days when Miller taught.

We hail him Emperor of boys

Who knew the secret art

To hold the golden equipoise

'Twixt law and kindly heart.

He loved the school he made his own,  
No monarch prouder of his throne,  
For by that will no force could bow  
He ruled it well, and with his arm  
His kingdom hedged from every harm,  
King of the ample brow.  
Ah me! The transient light depart,  
The phantom faces flee:  
A later race and younger hearts  
Disturb my reverie;  
Amid the swarm I stand alone  
And watch the sports with thoughts my own:  
The sunset o'er the sea afar  
Unrolls the splendours of its store,  
And hushed winds murmur as of yore  
Esto Perpetua.

## **COLLEGE HISTORY CHAPTER 4**

## **The Days of Warden Read**

The Rev. Phillip Read arrived in Ceylon on November 2nd, 1891, and took over the charge of the School in the first term of 1892.

Mr. Read was one the most distinguished men who ever held the office of Warden in the College. He was a brilliant scholar and a great preacher. "His grand eloquence attracted huge congregations; men and women wept to hear the pathos of his sweet words." He was educated at Manchester Grammar School, Whence he won a scholarship at Lincoln College, Oxford, and obtained first class honours in Moderations and second class honours in Lit. Hum. After taking his degree he became a master at Marlborough for a year, was ordained deacon in 1873, and priest in the following year. In 1877 he was appointed Rector of Bishop's College Lennoxville, and became Professor in Classics and Moral Philosophy at Lennoxville in 1882. In 1888 he was appointed Examiner to the Royal Board of Physicians and Surgeons. He was a man of a kind-hearted and friendly disposition with a keen and refined sense of humour; extremely well read, with a talent for conversation, and far above the average as an organist and pianist. Among a host of other studies and arts he was well versed in Law and Medicine and was no ordinary naturalist.

But in spite of his talents, he was not well suited to the office that he was to hold for the next four year, and this, added to private sorrows which fell upon him, made his stay an unhappy one for himself, and ultimately deprived the College of his service. Meanwhile the impetus given by his predecessor and the strength of the Staff and the School behind him made his period of office as brilliant as any that had gone before.

In June the news came that P.E.Pieris had obtained honours with distinctions in Arithmetic, English, Latin, Mathematics and Drawing in the Cambridge Senior of the previous year, and had thereby won the English University Scholarship. This success was repeated this year, 1892, when L.A.E.de Zilwa obtained first class honours and no fewer than seven distinctions.

L.A.E.de Zilwa's career in the school is worth recording as it was in many ways uniaque. He came in 1889, passed the Junior with honours in the first class, and shared with P.E.Pieris, Dr. Ebell's prize given to the Sixth Form. In 1890 he again passed the Junior with still greater success in the first class, with three distinction, carrying off the first of the three Government Exhibitions. The same year, having obtained the Prince of Wales' Scholarship, he began his life as a boarder in College, and for the second time won Dr.Ebell's prize. In 1891 he took a first class with one distinction in the Cambridge Senior, and also carried off in the same year the College Divinity Prize, the Old Boys' Prize and the Victoria Gold Medal. In 1892 he won the Gregory Scholarship, the Hon. Mr. William's Prize, Mr.Weerasinghe's Prize, the Miller Mathematical price, and, to crown all, the University Scholarship. He was secretary of the Debating Society and Editor of the Magazine in the year 1892.

The record of the University Scholarship at that time stood thus:-

Year Scholar College Class Distinctions

- 1881 C.W.Vanderwall Royal II e.l.g.
- 1882 H.M.Fernando Royal I e.l.d.
- 1883 A.E.Buultjens St.Thomas I ge.
- 1884 C.M.Fernando Royal II I.
- 1885 W.G.Woodhouse St.Thomas I e.m.ge.
- 1886 F.Grenier St.Thomas I nil
- 1887 E.C.Stork Royal II nil
- 1888 C.E.de Vos Royal II e.
- 1889 W.C.de Silva Royal I a.am.
- 1890 P.J.Sroule St.Thomas I a.l.g.m.am.
- 1891 P.E.Pieris St.Thomas I a.l.m.e.d.
- 1892 L.A.E.de Zilwa St.Thomas I a.e.l.g.m.r.am

It will be noticed in the record how Royal College and St. Thomas' had so far had the field to themselves, but this state of things was not long to continue, for education in Ceylon was soon to make a great expansion, and many new schools came into being. The prosperity of trade, especially the Coffee trade had much to do with this expansion, in that it brought wealth to the island. The progress of the Coffee trade led to the development of the Ceylon Railway between 1867 and 1895, and Railway made it easier for boys to go to school in the great cities of the Island. When Coffee failed there was an inevitable set-back for a time, but first Cinchona, and later Tea and Rubber began to replace Coffee and traffic on the railway became as heavy as before.

The Coach continued to hold the road for some years after the Railway was started, and many a boy came to school at the beginning of the term on the box seat beside the driver. Some boys came to school by sea on the boat that sailed round coast from Batticaloa, by Matara and Galle. Some who lived at a distance, were lodged in houses near the School. The coming of the bicycle too, made it easier for boys to go to school. A few penny farthing bicycle were to be seen on the compound in Warden Bacon's time and in Waden Miller's time, boys began to use ordinary bicycles. Most boys walked to school, and thought little of covering five of six miles a day in addition to their games. People of the time took a pride in walking long distances, and boys had several examples of very energetic walkers on the staff : Mr. F.H.Pereira and Mr. A.W.de Mel thought nothing of doing twenty miles a day by way of exercise.

Perhaps the most interesting event of 1894 was the publication of the first History of the College by Mr. C.H.Christian David, a member of the Staff. It is a useful little

book, and the author added to it thirty-two years later when he published a series of newspaper articles called "The Story of S.T.C."

The staff underwent various changes in these four years. On December 13th, 1892, the Rev. P.Gethen, who had been Sub-Warden for the last seven years, left the College to return to England. He had been of great service to the School, and was a very energetic church worker, and always showed a very earnest interest in Sunday School work.

In February, 1895, Mr. G.S.Schneider resigned his mastership. The thoroughness and care with which he taught has become almost proverbial, and his portfolio of notes of lessons was remembered long afterwards. He gave the same care and attention to the boys' games that he gave to their work in school, and he was a constant and active supporter of the Debating Society, and the Magazine. He served the College for thirteen years before he took to the study of Law.

In May 1896, C.V.Pereira of Trinity College, Kandy, and Calcutta University, joined the Staff.

There is at this time a reference in the Magazine to some of those servants who have most faithfully served the School in the long years of its history. "The Hall Appoo (Napoleon), Rama and Francis were three of our oldest acquaintances in College. Though the last is now no more, (he had been the School Barber for many years, and had recently died), the other two are still with us, and vigorous as ever. The former still thinks, as he always did, that the College is not what it was in former days, and still flares up at the little brats, when they wish to turn the Hall into a fish-market. The latter is still to be seen perched on the floor applying Nubian blacking to leather of all sorts, and salaaming every one passing by."

The early part of 1892 is marked by the activity of the new Tennis's Club, which seems to have been a rival even to cricket for a time.

Among the "crazes" which prevailed at this time are mentioned, an Australian howl introduced by a lecturer who had visited the College, marbles, thattu and kites. "A Greek-quoting mania has just seized the Debating Society," says the Magazine, "and at the present time the favourite pastime with almost everyone is consulting the mysterious tripod, which answers questions relating to the past, the present, or the future."

In 1893, The College acted Aristophanes' Wasps in Greek. It was a successful performance, in which the Warden took great interest, L.de Zilwa and A.Dias gave much care and time to the production of the play.

The year 1894 was marked by the visit of the Metropolitan of India; by acting of Addison's Cato; and by the development of one of the periodicals which were constantly appearing and disappearing in the School. It was called the Dormitory Manuscript. This school-boy paper has fortunately been preserved. It is a lively production of short stories, historical sketches, riddles, verses and jokes; but the choicest part is the illustrations which show a lively humour, with a strong taste for gruesome details, and superb disregard for perspective. It has been said, the

magazines a generation of school boys produces are a good test of its intellectual promise. The Dormitory Manuscript, produced by boys of sixteen or under, is full of life and originality. It was started in July, 1893, and produced three full numbers in the year.

Warden Read (who, largely through no fault of his own, had not been successful in his work), left the College in 1895 and for the time being, the Rt.Rev. R.S.Copleston took over the Warden's work until the arrival of the Rev. W.A.Buck in September, 1896.

Warden Read won the deepest affection from many in Ceylon. His character is well summarized in words which the Bishop of Ripon once spoke of him, "The generous and loving man if held in higher esteem than he whose life is coldly correct; with all its blunders and mistakes, the soul that moves under the impulse of high and generous love is pardoned and received."

The Prize-Giving of May, 1896 is of interest in the history of the Colleges of Colombo, as there were assembled on the platform the very Rev. Father Collin, Rector of the newly founded St.Joseph's College, the Rev. H.Highfield, the distinguished Principal of Wesley College, which had just won the University Scholarship for the first time; Mr. J.Harward one of the Royal College's greatest Principals; and the Rev. G.A.H.Arndt the new Sub-Warden of St. Thomas' College.

Bishop Copleston, the acting Warden, was in the Chair. The number on the roll was reported to be 339 of whom 276 were Christians. In the Cambridge Junior and Senior the School had obtained 75 per cent, of passes. T.Joseph had won the Ceylon Mathematical Prize, as well as the Miller Mathematical Prize, successes which were attributed to the good work of Mr. Jayatileke who during the next few years helped to win many other Mathematical honours for the College. The Cricket Club under Mr. Stephens and Mr. Schneider; the Debating Society under Mr.de Mel; the Magazine; the Old Boys' Association now 500 strong; the Choir; the Library; Reading Room and Tennis Club; were all announced to be in a flourishing condition. At the end of his speech the Bishop advocated the introduction of a week of six school days, with two half holidays instead of the Saturday whole holiday; and also put forward a plea for better salaries for Junior Masters. He also referred to the Education Association, which was a union of School Managers in Ceylon, in which Warden Read had been much interested and from which great things were hoped.

# COLLEGE HISTORY

## CHAPTER 5

### The Times of Warden Buck

On September 28th, 1896, Warden Buck landed in Colombo and was hauled up the College drive in his carriage by the boys, according to the custom of the time.

The Rev. W.A. Buck was educated at Merchant Taylors' and won a Classical Scholarship at Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he took second class Classical Honours, and read Theology in his fourth year. He was ordained by Bishop Temple to a curacy at Bethnal Green in 1887: in 1890 he was appointed the first missionary of his old School Mission, opened that year in the parish of West Hackney, and in 1895 he became Vicar of Leck in Lancashire. He had a fine athletic record having been captain of his School, College and county Rugby football teams, and having played cricket for the Gentlemen of Essex. He was also a good fives and tennis player, an oarsman, and an athlete. He was at this time a young man of thirty-two, full of energy and enthusiasm. Although his stay in Ceylon was to be even shorter than that of his predecessor, the College has seldom been through a more stirring period.

The new Warden set to work at once upon new schemes of improvement. Before the end of the year he had sent away a number of boys who were unfit for the standard of work of the College; had started a vigorous repairing of the building, to which the Old Boys contributed 10,000 rupee; and had raised the numbers in the Boarding Houses to 90, which was the highest point that had been reached for some years. It is also recorded that he desired the masters to appear school in cap and gown, "This step has been taken" says the Magazine, "to maintain the respect due to the masters, some of whom cannot readily be distinguished from the boys."

In his speech on Old Boys' Day, in February, 1897, the new Warden made a reference to a feature of the school life which was particularly noticeable in Warden Miller's time and which was largely of Warden Miller's creation; and that was the strong sense of comradeship and corporate life which pervaded every institution in the College. The numbers were comparatively small and there was real family feeling, so that no one could fail to sympathise with the triumphs and disasters of his fellows. He appealed to the Old Boys to send their sons to the College so that this tradition might be kept alive.

By the end of May a new dormitory had been built on the site of the old Orphanage to accommodate the ever-increasing number of boarders, and the cricket field had been planted with grass anew, and was ready for play in August.

In his Old Boys' Day speech the Warden suggested that in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria the School should build two fives courts, a suggestion which was carried out before the end of the year: the Warden had the courts in his old school, Merchant Taylors copied, and himself taught the boys to play. He made the bold promise that in two years time the University Scholarship should be won once more by the College. In the same speech he protested against the cowardly practice of writing anonymous letters to the papers.



The letters which the Warden complained were much to be regretted, but perhaps no man ever deserved them more. Speaking without notes, at his first prize-giving in the College, on October 15th, 1897, the new Warden had tried to stir up his boys to a sense of what he considered needed putting right in their affairs. The following sentences are found in the record of his speech :-

"He noted the great weakness of their Ceylon boys in Classics compared with Mathematics. He had, he said, never a good piece of Latin Prose in College. Then also, by their boys, there was as a rule great absence of hard work. They were easily satisfied with the standard to which they had attained, there was however, an exception to this in the Jaffna Tamils, a marvellous race, who worked prodigiously. He blamed the bad example and bad discipline of parents for this. He regretted to say there were other things weaker than those he had mentioned-things that were worse in their effect. He mentioned with pain, but from a sense of duty the tremendous untruthfulness there was in Ceylon. Another weak point of which he had to complain -and one so contrary to all traditions of public school life- was the great amount of tale-telling. There was too much readiness to give way to little pains and little ills: the boys lacked pluck, and when they came to him saying, 'Somebody hit me,' he often felt very inclined to say, 'Hit him again.' There was a distinct want of manliness. He recommended public school boarding houses for real manhood. It would be a good thing for St. Thomas' when it had 300 instead of 100 boarders."

Headmasters are doubtless allowed to make exaggerated statements to move the easy-going consciences of school boys, but it is a dangerous practice when there is a reporter recording every word in the front row of the listeners. The boys of the School took his words in the spirit in which they were meant, and falsified his criticism by supporting him manfully in the troubles which followed his wild utterance. All might have been well as it was, had not one newspaper taken up his words, and tried to use them for political ends. An immediate outcry followed. Another newspaper attacked it, and a third attacked the Warden. There was a regular harvest of leading articles and letters to the papers. After remaining silent as long as he could, Warden Buck burst forth in answer at last, when one paper announced that he intended to resign. He made another reply to his critics in the College Magazine, which was immediately set upon by the vultures of the press and torn to pieces in a long string of letters.

By the loyalty of his Staff and of his boys, the Warden survived two years of these attacks, and though he would never admit it, he must have regretted his first impetuosity with all his heart.

In 1899 he again came into public notice when he was accused before the Magistrate, like his predecessor Warden Miller, of exceeding the bounds of moderation in caning a boy. The culprit had written an objectionable anonymous letter, and the Warden had "caned his shoulders, and the hand that wrote the letter." Most of the public and the press had come round to the Warden's side by this time, and there was nothing but congratulations when the Police Magistrate said, "The accused is acquitted. I do not find that he has exceeded his authority as a schoolmaster in any way what-ever, or inflicted any unnecessarily severe beating on the boy."

In 1906, after the Warden's retirement, there is a quiet headline in a Ceylon paper, "A Chat with the Rev. W.A. Buck. "He was then vicar of Leamington in England. He does not seem to have lost his fire in after years, for his warm speeches at Leamington, on the subject of Sunday observance, brought upon him the notice of no less a man than Mr. Horatio Bottomley, who fired two letters at him in "John Bull."

The Chapel activities were considerably increased at this time. On Sundays there was the early service at 7.30, and Evensong at 6.00 p.m. A Bible Class for the Upper School at 3 p.m. was started, and the Sunday School and Children's Service at 3.30 p.m. were continued. From 12 to 1 the Warden read to the whole school, and had, says the Magazine, just finished the best of books. "Tom Brown's School Days." The newly founded Chess Club also gave an interesting occupation for Sunday evenings.

An old boy, who visited the College at this time, was much struck by the many alterations in the School, but he was glad to see amid the many changes on the Staff, that his old friends Mr. G.A.H.Arndt, Mr.A.W.de Mel, and Mr. F.H.Pereiras still continued their work, "The buildings themselves look brand new, "he says, "with their new paint and the thorough state of repair into which they have been put. We hope that the old desks with the carvings of the names of the boys of other days have been preserved. The cricket ground, we notice, was altered beyond recognition. We could remember when the ground sloped from the very top to the bottom, and when a young mango tree actually grew and flourished about the centre of the green. Cricket was certainly cultivated then, but not with anything of the devotion with which it is cultivated now, and a new pitch naturally became a necessity. Looking at the boys who were scattered about the grounds, there seemed to be a dearth of big boys. It seemed as though boys began to leave school earlier than before."

He paid visit to the Library, and was glad to see the new portrait of Warden Bacon upon the wall. He looked in vain for the picture of Mr.Sampson Rajapakse, who endowed the Gregory Scholarship, and the Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship, and the Prince of Wales' Exhibition. Going to Chapel in the evening with the boys, he was delighted to find the choir no less musical than in the days of old, and he seemed to hear again the voice of Warden Bacon who had been Precentor to the Cathedral in his day.

When picturing the College at the end of the last century, it is well to remember that life was very much simpler and conditions much rougher than they became thirty years later. The building were nearly all of one storey, covered by a wide tiles roof, and the boys' individual rooms were somewhat dark and dingy. Educationists still believed in hard fare and rough quarters for boys. Numbers too were very much smaller. The new cricket pitch which surprised the visitor of 1897 would look a small and sorry place to a boy of today. Educational grants were small, and it was not possible to give so much attention to good housing and good grounds. Mutwal was certainly a very beautiful place in Warden Buck's time with its white walled buildings and red tiled roofs, and its banyan trees and green turf running down the hill side towards the sea, but it had not the amenities in buildings and playing fields that the College has since possessed.

The observer was right in supposing the boys to be smaller, or rather younger, than they had been thirty years before. By 1900 the school was no longer a University in

miniature, and the College Form boys were no longer addressed as "Sir," The fact was that education in Ceylon was rapidly expanding. In 1882 only three schools, Royal, St. Thomas and Prince of Wales' entered candidates for the Senior, and only eight schools for the Junior. In 1900, 22 schools entered for the Senior, and 34 for the Junior. (English Schools in Ceylon 1870-1900 L.J.Gratiaen.) A regular scheme of secondary education had been evolved for the island, and the time was becoming ripe for the consideration of a separate scheme for University education.

"The root weakness of the English Schools" says Mr.L.J.Gratiaen, (English Schools in Ceylon, 1870 to 1900, pages 15 and 16) was poverty. Very few of them had any endowments. In the Colleges the salary of the principal usually came out of mission funds, but little other help was given. The schools relied mainly on fees and grants. The average grant per pupil for a year had varied from Rs.5.33 to Rs.6.82 before retrenchment. From 1885 it fell (owing to the failure of Coffee). It was as low as Rs.3.30 in 1892, and never reached Rs.5.00 again till the next century. In 1898 the highest salary of an assistant master at St.Thomas' was Rs.150.00. The lowest paid master got Rs.35.00."

### **School Work**

Early in 1898 the Cambridge results of the previous year arrived. J.R.Thuraisingham had won second class honours with distinctions in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, thereby securing the Gilchrist Scholarship. A.Mc G.C.Tampoe had obtained second class honours with distinction in Mathematics and Applied mathematics, and was awarded the Ceylon Mathematical prize; while E.W.Ekanayake, in the Junior, had gained first class honours with distinction in Mathematics and Geography, and so won the third of the Junior Exhibitions. V.I.V.Gomis had won distinction in Arithmetic and Mathematics.

In the Junior there were five distinctions in Mathematics, one in Geograhly and one in Latin. The great number of Mathematical distinctions won by the school in this and the following years was largely due to Mr.J.R.Jayatileke who has already been mentioned.

In 1898, the Warden took an important step in appointing Mr.A.Handel Smith, a trained Elementary School teacher of London, as Headmaster of the Lower School. Mr. Smith set to work at once to reorganize that part of the School, and to introduce new methods into its teaching, which led to excellent results.

In 1895 the standard of the University Scholarship had been raised and it was awarded on an examination of its own. This alteration called forth a good deal of complaint, because the new examination required specialized work and none but the winner of the scholarship had anything to show for his work. It was partly for this reason that Warden Buck wanted the College to have a University Scholarships of its own, and with characteristic energy he set to work to found one to celebrate the fiftieth year of the School which was now fast approaching, and to perpetuate the name of Bishop Chapman the founder.

In the examination for the Ceylon University Scholarship of 1898 A.Mc G.C.Tampoe came out first and so fulfilled the Warden's prophecy sooner than the prophet expected.

In the Cambridge Examinations for 1899 G.E.Abeysekere obtained first class honours with distinctions in English and Mathematics, and won the Ceylon Mathematical Prize. All the three Junior Exhibitions were won by the College in the persons of L.H.de Alwis and G.E.H.Arndt, who had each won distinctions in English, Latin and Mathematics, and V.Joseph, who had a distinction in Mathematics only.

When the Cambridge result for 1900 arrived, the best work was that of J.A.Sethukavaler who obtained distinctions in Arithmetic, Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. V.Joseph had won a distinction in Mathematics, and with it the Ceylon Mathematical Prize, which the College had now held for sixth year in succession.

### **Games**

With the extension of the Cricket field came the first "Inter-Dormitory" Cricket Matches. The Inter-house Cricket cup which still bears the name of Mr.W.B.de Saram who presented it, was given in 1897, and is the most venerably by thirty years of all the inter-house trophies. The Cricket competition was very keenly contested. Mr.Smith's Dormitory won it for the first two years, and in 1900 it fell to the Day Boys' A. Team, after some very exciting matches.

In 1898 the School won the Royal-Thomian Match for the third time in succession, with F.L.Goonewardene as captain of the team. In the same year the School played its first match with Trinity College, Kandy.

May, 1897 saw a Football Club started for the first time. It led a very precarious life for many months to come, before it became permanently established. Under the effort of Mr. Davies and Mr. Edirisinghe, it took on a new lease of life in 1899, and played and lost a match with the Technical College on July 31st. This is the first football match recorded in the history of the School. The team on this occasion consisted of the following:-

Mr. Davies, A.J.Scharenguivel (Capt.), J.C.de Hoedt, K.Cheliah, A.W.Dharmaratne, E.C.Edley, C.Thomas, S.R.Eliatamby, E.W.Ekanayake, Mylvaganam and J.A.Sethukavaler.

The Cadet Corps at this time was an entirely voluntary institution and had its periodical combined drills with the Cadets of the Royal College. It had its own enthusiasts, but they seem to have been few in number. It is noteworthy that the list of their names includes those who distinguished themselves in other school activities.

This same period saw the revival of the swimming races, this time in the harbour.

### **Coal Dust**

The boys of Bishop Chapman's days had looked out from the College grounds upon the open roadstead of Colombo, while the sailing ships took their way eastwards by Galle. But the difficulty of coaling at Galle, and the dangerous rocks in the harbour, led steamship to come to Colombo, and the great Southern Breakwater of the harbour was built to protect them from monsoon gales. Warden Buck's boys could see the men at work on the northern breakwater stretching out from Mutwal. The great increase of shipping in Colombo harbour was to have far reaching effects upon the College. Warden Buck writes : "In 1900 the news came that coal sheds were to be built on the harbour side, within a short distance of the College grounds, a disturbing fact that was sure to affect the future of S.T.C.

But these were matters which did not at all disturb the life of the School at the time, and it went on steadily upon its way.

In 1897, "Henry VIII" was performed twice in the College Hall by boys of the School, and another performance was given in Galle.

The last event of the year 1898 was a farewell to Mr.F.H.Pereira, who had been on the staff for a thirty-five years. He had reached a hale old age and still took the long walks with Mr.de Mel, for which he was renowned. "He bore the name of the Magister Magistrorum, because he had taught the fathers and grandfathers of the present boys, and had known many of the masters when they entered the school as small boys."He was presented with a cheque, and other gifts; and an English Essay Prize, call the Perera Prize, was started in his honour.

Warden Buck records that the College fees were increased in this year, and so far from numbers decreasing, as was prophesied, they increased : and masters' salaries were raised accordingly.

The year 1899 saw a large number of applicants for admission, and the numbers in the Boarding House rose to 113. Once again the College found it difficult to accommodate those who wished to enter it.

In January, Mr. Maverly, a trained master from England arrived to take charge of the Second Form. He was a Dormitory Master, and ran the Small Club Cricket sets. Ten months later he died of typhoid fever in the General Hospital. He seems to have been a man who made a deep impression on the masters and the boys of the School.

No less than three literary ventures appeared in the School at about this time. "Of the three" says the College Magazine, "the Dormitory Gazette shews more vigour and public spirit, and savours less of exclusiveness than either the Winchester Magazine, or the Sixth Form Budget. The two latter seem to have been got up for the glorification of one or two individuals, whose names figure conspicuously on the cover and in the pages of their respective magazines. The Winchester Magazine has very little literary merit to commend it, and is more a paper of comic sketches and caricatures, which, however, are very cleverly done and reflect great credit on the young artists." The Sixth Form Budget came out in all the dignity of print, and survived, it seems, only its first issue. Unfortunately none of these papers has been preserved.

In March, 1900 Mr J.W.St.A.Davies who had done a great deal to set the Football Club going, was given a very lively farewell by the boys, before his return to England.

In May of this year the numbers in the Boarding House had risen to 130. A meeting of the boarders called to discuss possible improvements in their lot, brought forth two suggestions, both of which were but coldly received by the authorities. The first was that a Fishing Club should be formed for non-cricketers, and the second "that the sambal with morning hoppers be supplemented with plantains"

Early in 1901 the Warden was on leave, and by May, the news arrived that, owing to the ill health of his wife, he had been compelled to resign. He had gone to England full of plans for the celebration of the College Jubilee, which he had hoped to return and carry out. One of his plans was to found and endow the scholarship in memory of Bishop Chapman, which has already been mentioned.

The Warden's farewell letter to his boys is of interest as showing something of his character, and the enthusiasm for which he was remarkable, It runs :

The Vicarage, Stoke Newington,

London, N.E.,

2nd May, 1901.

My dear Boys,

I little thought that, when I bade you all farewell in December, and heard your ringing cheers as you came to see me off, I should not be returning again to Colombo, but as you know, such is the case. The doctors quite forbid Mrs.Buck to return to the tropics, as it would have been too serious a risk after her collapse last year; and as the Bishop of London, Dr. Winnington-Ingram, offered me a large and important living in London some weeks ago, I thought it was the best and wisest thing to accept it. I did so, however, with great reluctance, and only after very anxious deliberation, as I could not bear the thought of not seeing the dear old College again, especially as I was eager to pioneer it through the Jubilee, and to see the scholarship fund well started, but this I must now leave to my successor and to all of you, and I do earnestly trust that you will, each and all, do your utmost to make the Jubilee a thorough success, and to raise for the scholarship a sum worthy of S.T.C. I have to thank you all very warmly for the kindness and affection you showed to Mrs. Buck and myself during our four years in Colombo, and for the generous way you backed up whatever I tried to do for the good of the College. I have had a very happy life for 36 years, but both Mrs. Buck and myself feel that our days at S.T.C have been the happiest we have ever spent, and it is a great wrench and a real sorrow to us have to say good-bye now. I shall never forget the College and the Cathedral, and shall always remember you and your welfare in my prayers; and whenever any of you come to England, as I hope many mean to do, I shall look forward to seeing you in our new home, and helping you in any way. I can.

Now I must give you a few words of parting advice \_You belong to one of the best school in the world, a schools with splendid traditions and a most honourable name,

and I charge you to try and hand down those traditions and that name to those who come after you, untarnished and unimpaired. Be proud of being Thomians, and make the College proud of numbering you among its sons. Remember that whatever you do and wherever you go, your life and your actions will reflect either credit or discredit on the College where you were trained, and to which you owe so much. You have learned the best lessons in the world at S.T.C., I trust, not only English and classics and Mathematics, but true manliness and truth, courage, purity, and all those things that make a man, and a gentleman. Try never to forget them, but be men and gentlemen always.

Be loyal to your new Warden, whoever he may be, and to all your masters who are working their best for you and the College: above all be loyal to God, and what you know is right. And now I must say good-bye. God bless you all and everything connected with St.Thomas', now and ever.

Yours gratefully and affectionately,

W.Armstrong Buck

Warden Buck may certainly claim a high place among the distinguished men who have guided the destinies of the College, and his untimely departure was greatly to be regretted. "We have only to look round the College premises" says the Editor of the Magazine, "to see the improvements effected on all sides -the Cathedral, Dormitories, the School Rooms, the Cricket pitch, the Fives courts, the Tennis court, and the Gymnasium, the eye cannot alight on any part of the compound without coming across some evidence of the ceaseless activity of the Warden." With his enthusiasm and outspoken criticism, and his energetic nature he achieved a great deal during his four years of office. He was a good preacher, and spoke with great humour and pith and at functions. He loved the School with a whole-hearted affection, and did everything in his power for its welfare.

The Rev. G.A.H.Arndt was Acting warden until nearly the end of 1901. He was born in Jaffna, and educated at Central College, and St. Thomas'. He graduated at Calcutta University, winning the Cobden Gold Medal for History. He was ordained Deacon in 1881, and became Headmaster of the Collegiate School. In 1896 he was appointed Sub-Warden. "He was a great teacher and a stern disciplinarian, but he trusted he trusted his boys. To his appear to their honour they responded, and they never lacked his sympathy and his ready help. While they sat as learners at his feet, he was their "guru," teaching, inspiring, sharing their fears and quickening their hopes, and in after life he was their understanding friend."

On Old Boys' Day which took place this year on the 6th of July, the new gymnasium, for which Mr.Buck had sent out the equipment, was formally opened by Mr. S.M.Burrows. On the same occasion a presentation was made to Mr.Stephens and Mr.Arndt announced that the subscriptions and promises towards the Scholarship fund had reached a total of Rs.11,000.

In the Open Tennis Competition this year, the winner of the Singles was H.Tringham, and the winners of the Doubles were A.F.Molamure and C.Jayatilleke.

The fives competition singles was won by A.S.Eliyatamby and the doubles by V.Joseph and H.Tringham.

On July, 23rd the first Soccer match against Royal College took place. "An exciting game ended in a draw, neither side scoring, and neither showing much signs of knowledge of the game or of practice."



# COLLEGE HISTORY

## CHAPTER 6

### The Days of Warden Stone

The new Warden took over the reins of office at the end of 1901.

Warden Stone was a man of wide scholarship, an autocrat of commanding personality, a great teacher, one who demanded respect, and when he had it, gave real kindness and friendship in return. An Old Boy who wrote in after years of his early days said :

"The first impression he gave his boys was that of a frigid conservative Englishman, who had come amongst them to rule; equipped at all points and fully capable of carrying out his purpose. His scholarship and learning awed them, and those dreadful hours set apart for Greek and Latin became more dreadful. They were conscious that a great controlling factor had entered into their lives and the life of the school.

But intimacy soon revealed not merely the scholar, but a man of generous impulses , kindly appreciative of those individual difficulties that surrounded each one, with a character that excited emulation, and a piety that wore no tawdry dress but which was woven into an equipment well fitted for a life of service."

### Jubilee

The new Warden had to turn his attention at once to the Jubilee Celebrations, in which he had the assistance of Bishop R.S.Copleston, who could claim that he had been Visitor to the College for more than half its life-time of fifty years. For twenty-seven years he was Bishop of Colombo, and had shown himself a faithful friend and adviser to the school through both dark and prosperous times. This was to be his last year before he became Metropolitan of India. He was succeeded by his brother, E.A.Copleston, who was Bishop, and Visitor to the College, for twenty-one years.

The first important fruit of the Celebrations was the publication of the Jubilee number of the Magazine, which was a kind of second history of the school, and in its articles and reminiscences preserved much information about the early days. It was edited by Mr. J.P.Salgadoe.

Fifty years had passed since Bishop Chapman founded the school in 1851, and it was right, as the Visitor said in his speech at the Prize Giving, that Bishop Chapman should be the hero of the day, and to his memory the scholarship was to be founded and endowed by the Old Boys of the College.

The festivities of the Jubilee lasted for a week, from December 16th to St.Thomas' Day, December 21st. A Fancy Bazaar "conducted by the lady friends of Old Boys and others interested in the College" was held on the first two days, and the College gave a performance of "Coriolanus" on the third. On Thursday, the Governor Sir

West Ridgeway, presided at the Prize giving, and Warden Stone made his first report. The following day there was a concert at the College.

On St. Thomas' Day a cricket match and tennis tournament, Past v. Present, were played, and in the evening the Jubilee Dinner, the first Old Boys' Dinner in the History of the College, was held at the Bristol Hotel. It was a grand affair, and two hundred and eleven guests are recorded by name in the Magazine, as sitting down to table. It followed the usual round of the dinners which became such a feature of Warden Stone's times. The Toast of His Majesty the King was drunk, followed by that of H. E. Governor. The healths of the College and of the sister Colleges were drunk, followed by those of the Guests and of the Chairman.

The celebrations were summed up in a special gathering of past and present boys at a Thanksgiving Service in the Cathedral. The Bishop preached a striking sermon on that occasion, and it was afterward printed in the Magazine. At the end of it he said :

"What we must pray for above all, as a condition of true efficiency within the College itself, is surely this: that it may please God always to raise up for us men full of His Spirit, men of Christlike character, men who shall teach more by what they are, than by what they know or even by what they do. Look back upon the past history of this place, or of any efficient institution, and what starts up at once into light-standing out the more clearly, the further back may be the period in history in which we look? Is it not men? The names of men start up, and stand out in sharp relief the memory of their character: the influence that flowed from them. What they said may be all forgotten, what they did may have been superseded-however wise it was it had its day, and has given way or will give way to other deeds; but the men, even if long dead, live; live in the force-the spiritual force-they have set going. It is for such men that we must pray."

So the Jubilee Celebrations came to an end, and the boys went home for the Christmas holidays, to return in 1902 to follow the old round in a new year, and under new leadership.

At the Prized Giving for 1902 at which Bishop R.S.Copleston presided for the last time, the Warden reported the number of boys in the school to be 343, of whom 125 were boarders. The attendance for the last term averaged 90%, the highest ever yet reached, an achievement attributed to the care of the Rev. A. Handel Smith.

This year it was announced that F.W.Hallock had won the First Exhibition in the Junior Examination for the previous year.

The end of 1902 saw the publication of "Elementary Latin Exercises" by the Rev. W.A.Stone and the Rev. A. Handel Smith, a book intended for the Upper and Lower Fourth forms. It was followed three years later by the "Intermedidate Latin Exercises" by the Rev. W.A.Stone, M.A. and Mr. C.V.Pereira, B.A. a book which has had a wide circulation in Ceylon, and which is still in use.

The new Warden was a keen supporter of the Debating Society, and on several occasions took the Chair at debates. But this year, and for many years to come, the moving spirit of the Society was Mr.E.Navaratnam. The Society voted that "Peace

with South Africa would not be lasting." "That the Assassination of Julius Caesar was not justifiable," "That dancing does more good than harm." Over the proposition "That the Jaffna Railway is a costly and useless project," discussion ran so high that the vote had to be postponed to the next meeting. On which side the decision fell is not recorded.

Another institution sprang up this year and enjoyed a short and vigorous life; this was the Upper IVth Debating Society, started by Mr. J.S.H.Edirisinghe in June. When the Senior Society had its twenty-fourth anniversary on the 24th of October, with refreshments and a concert, the Junior Society invited the Warden to its first anniversary celebration in the Upper Fourth Form Room, "where an exceedingly pleasant and harmonious evening was spent, refreshments were served, and several very original and funny turns gone through." The editor of the Magazine continues, "This little institution will beyond doubt be extremely useful, but we have seen very many, painfully many similar enterprises celebrate with quite as much enthusiasm their first and even their second anniversary: but where are the echoes of their entries into the world? Go ask the wind and waves!"

His words were prophetic. The Society survived two years, kept its second anniversary and than disappeared for many years until it was revived by Mr. E.S.D.Ohlmus.

### **Games**

1902 and the following ten years were among the best days of Thomian cricket. In this year the team under D.L.de Saram, captain for fourth consecutive year, won the Royal match by an innings and four runs, and beat Trinity College by an innings and 157 runs.

In December, there was played the first of those interesting friendly fixtures between the Royal College Staff and St. Thomas' Staff. Mr.C.Hartley, one of the greatest of Royal College Principals, was playing on one side and Warden stone on the other. There is no mention made of lunch followed by speeches, but it is not to be supposed that they were omitted.

In his early days the Warden was fond of playing cricket and fives with the boys and he followed the old custom of umpiring at the Royal-Thomian Match together with the Principal of the Royal College.

In July, the second Royal-Thomian football match was won by St. Thomas' by one goal to nil. Although football in the school had made great advances since it was officially started four years before, there was constant slackness about practising, and the game has never been taken as seriously as cricket. There is an old story that when the team returned from away matches it used to be greeted with shouts of "They, they," because that was the invariable answer to the question "Who won?" The principal match of the year soon became the match against St. Joseph's College, because they constantly proved the strongest opponents. School Soccer in Ceylon owes a great debt to St. Joseph's for the high standard they have kept up in the game.

## **Cadets**

Stories of the South African War, brought home by the presence of Boer prisoners in Ceylon at Diyatalawa, had helped to increase interest in the Cadets, and it was in this year that the Cadet Battalion of the Ceylon Light Infantry was formed by the efforts of Mr. S.M.Burrows who became its first Commanding Officer. The Captain of the College Company was Mr. A.J.R.Scharenguivel, and there were two Cadet Officers, A.S.Eliyatamby and F.W.de Hoedt. For some time the cadet uniform had been a white suit and a straw hat, and in such an array, armed with Martini Henry rifles, did the College Cadets turn out for the Coronation parade of King Edward VII. in 1902. But with the coming of the Cadet Battalion khaki uniforms were introduced and the long Lee-Enfield rifle.

On July 11th of the following year, the Cadets went to the first Cadet Camp at Diyatalawa, for a week.

The Old system of payment by results was replaced this year by a block grant based upon attendance and depending upon a satisfactory report by the inspectors. The change gave the school of the country greater freedom and greater scope for individual development.

In March, 1903, there died in Kandy a faithful servant of the College, Mrs. Greason, who for nineteen years had been Matron in the school and whom many hundreds of Old boys held in affectionate remembrance.

A tablet to her memory may yet be seen on the south wall of the Cathedral by the seats where the boys whom she had nursed used to sit.

In November, the portrait of Warden Miller which now hangs in the Big School was unveiled in the College Library by Bishop E.A.Copleston in the presence of the Governor, Sir Joseph West Ridgeway, and tributes to the Warden's memory were paid by both of these, and by several distinguished Old Boys. The Portrait was painted by G.P.Jacomb Hood.

When the examination results came this year they showed sixteen passes in the Senior and twenty-four in the Junior. F.W.Hallock had won the Ceylon Mathematical Prize, and L.A.Arndt the third Junior Exhibition. The English University Scholarship for the year, in Arts, was won by G.E.H.Arndt.

Warden Stone instituted a test examination for entrance for the Senior and Junior Cambridge, and followed it up by fixing an age limit for each from in school.

In 1904, the Ceylon Mathematical Prize was won by E.A.Lewis, and two years later by E.C.S.Storer.

## **Science**

It has already been told that Warden Miller gave lectures in Physics in 1881, and with the coming of Mr. Handel Smith in Warden Buck's time, Elementary Science had been introduced into the lower School, and the records show many signs of its

progress and success. There was in fact every indication that the imperative demands of Science, which were being heard all over the world as well as in Ceylon, could no longer be denied. It was for this reason that the Warden brought forward at the Old Boys' Meeting of 1905 an important suggestion with regard to the Chapman Memorial Scholarship Fund. The University Scholarship was first opened to the whole island in 1881, and was awarded on the results of Cambridge Senior Examination as a whole. But from 1897 it was awarded in alternate years for Classics and Mathematics, on a special examination. Consequently, in addition to fact that only the actual winner of the Scholarship gained any immediate benefit from the examination, it often happened that a promising boy lost his chance of winning the Scholarship, if it happened to fall outside his subject, when he was ready to attempt it. It was for these reasons that a new Scholarship had become necessary. At the Old Boys' Meeting the Warden pointed out that the Government were now proposing to offer two Scholarships annually, one for Arts, and one for Science, on the results of the London Intermediate Examination, so that the necessity for the College Scholarship was now passed. He therefore proposed to invite the subscribers to the fund to allow him to use the money that had been raised, for the purpose of building and equipping a Science Laboratory for the College.

The Meeting was adjourned to the following Saturday in order that due notice might be given to the subscribers, and it was then decided to carry out the Warden's suggestion. The fund subscribed amounted to Rs.15,000.

The list of the winners of University Scholarship up to 1904 is of interest. It runs thus :

- 1881 C.Vanderwall .... .. Royal College
- 1882 H.M.Fernando .... .. Royal College
- 1883 L.E.Buultjens .... .. St. Thomas' College
- 1884 C.M.Fernando .... .. Royal College
- 1885 G.Woodhouse .... .. St. Thomas' College
- 1886 F.C.H.Grenier .... .. St. Thomas' College
- 1887 E.Stork .... .. Royal College
- 1888 C.de Vos .... .. Royal College
- 1889 W.C.de Silva .... .. Royal College
- 1890 P.J.S.Sproule .... .. St.Thomas' College
- 1891 P.E.Pieris .... .. St. Thomas' College
- 1892 L.A.E.de Zilwa .... St.Thomas' College

1893 E.Cockburn .... Royal College  
1894 C.Hewavitarne .... Royal College  
1895 E.B.Redlich .... Wesley College  
1896 No Scholarship  
1897 R.F.Honter .... Wesley College  
1898 A.Mc G.C.Tampoe .... St. Thomas' College  
1899 C.Kumarakulesinghe.... Wesley College  
1900 M.Akbar .... Royal College  
1901 V.M.Fernando .... Royal College  
1902 E.G.Mack .... Royal College  
1903 G.E.H.Arndt .... St. Thomas' College  
1904 G.K.W.Perera .... Ananda College

The year 1905 was marked by the achievement of winning both the Government University Scholarships. The Mathematical Scholarship was won by E.A.Lewis, and the Classical Scholarship by LH.Arndt.

Now that the necessary funds were secured, the building and equipment of the Laboratory went forward at once. Mr. Handel Smith gave a great deal of time and care to the planning of the building. The wood work was executed at Moratuwa under his direction, and the apparatus came from Messrs Harris of Birmingham. The building was formally opened by the Bishop on November 21st 1905.

The boys entering for the Junior this took Chemistry among their other subjects, and the completion of the Laboratory made it possible for Science to the whole of the Upper school.

Later with the advent of Mr. C. W. B.Arnold to the Staff, the organisation of the Laboratory was completed, and the Gymnasium was fitted up as a Science lecture theatre.

The idea of Science was still so new, that it was found necessary to make excuses in the Magazine for its introduction and to promise, "that the Authorities of the College have no intention of introducing a "cram-shop" where a few candidates for the higher examinations may be hurried through a minimum course of practical work."

Four years later there was actually a proposal on foot to set aside the Classics altogether in favour of an education in Science and Modern Languages only. "Some materialistic Governor" says the record, "set out to revolutionize our system of

education, driving out Greek for Carpentry, and Latin for Masonry." So the old attack and defence of the Classics was fought out anew, and Warden Stone, who had been responsible for introducing Science to an equality with Classics in the school, found himself forced to defend the Classics against this new and obstreperous fledgling, that would have pushed its elder brother out of the nest altogether.

In spite of Archdeacon de Winton's plea for smaller numbers in schools at the College Prize Giving of 1902 the College had risen to 400 by March, 1904. This increase in the numbers made it necessary to add to the buildings, and a double classroom was built in 1904. At the same time a new residence for the Sub-Warden was added near the Small Club.

On the 17th of September, the Warden held a meeting of the boarders in the Library similar to that instituted by Warden Buck six years previously, when fishing expeditions and plantains for early tea were suggested. "Boys were allowed to speak through their representatives" says the Editor of the Magazine, "but it so happened at this particular meeting that when the Warden called upon them to speak, none had any remarks to offer. The Warden addressed the boys at some length upon the strict observance of existing rules, which alone could ensure the happiness of each individual."

On the 15th of September, Mr. J.S.H.Edirisinghe gave up his post on the Staff of the College. He was the leading spirit in the Dramatic Society, and under his guidance the school had produced "Julius Caesar" in 1900. "Coriolanus" in 1901, "Our Boys" in 1902, and "Othello" in 1903.

The Magazine continued to flourish and in 1905 it published a list of its Editors from its inception in 1875. It had run on without a break with the solitary exception of the year 1876. The editors were :

1875 Rev. T.F.Falkner

1877-1879 Cyril Jansz

1881 C.Anketell

1881-1883 J.R.Molligodde

1883-1884 A.E.Buultjens

1884-1885 J.G.C.Mendis

1885-1888 G.B.Ekanayake

1888-1891 I.Tambyah

1891-1892 P.E.Pieris

1892-1894 L.A.E.de Zylva

1894-1896 A.Dias

1896 W.A.Weerakoon

1896-1897 J.L.Obeysekera

1897-1898 E.L.de silva

1898 A.Mc.G.C.Tampoe

1898-1899 F.L.Goonewardena

E.W.Ekanayake

1899-1900 L.H.de Alwis

G.V.Grenier

1901 Jubilee Number Mr.J.P.Salgadoe

1900-1901 H.H.Bartholomeusz

1901-1903 St.Quentin Sproule

1903-1904 F.W.Hallock

1904 L.H.Arndt

Every-day school life had abundant interest and variety in work and games and companionship, but it is the little incidents that fall out of the ordinary run of things, that generally come to mind in after years. So it may be well to give a few stories of incidents belonging to this time, to help to give an idea of the life of boys and masters. Mr. C.W.B.Arnold, who has already been mentioned in connection with the organization of the Science Laboratory, was Housemaster of Long Dormitory. One last night of term he went round his dormitory at 2 a.m. and found certain of his boys missing. One of them turned up next term with propitiatory gift of deer horns.

"Thank you very much," said Mr. Arnold.

The next day he sent for the boy, and caned him soundly.

Mr. Arnold was very blind at night, and so was a member of the first eleven in his house.

It was again the last night of term, and the customary practice of "painting" sleeping boys with burnt cork was in full swing.

The member of the first eleven aforesaid came out into the passage.

He was very angry. Someone had dared to paint him.



He took the first person he bumped into vigorously by the throat.

"What's amiss now?" gasped Mr. Arnold.

But he received no answer beyond the sound of flying feet.

Breaking bounds was a hazardous undertaking, but it occasionally took place. One night, a party of masters returning from some entertainment at eleven o'clock met a party of boarders on the steps of an obscure and not very reputable eating house in the Pettah. The meeting caused mutual discomfort; for, if the boys had no right to be there, it was hardly seemly for masters to be there either. The matter was settled by private treaty, the boys being punished without any report being made to the Warden.

### **Games**

The Inter-Dormitory Cricket had been going steadily on year after year. An Old Boy had suggested to the Editor of the Magazine that the dormitories should be called "Buck," "Chapman" "Miller," etc. but they still continued to bear the names of their respective dormitory masters, so that considerable confusion arose whenever there was any change on the Staff. The dormitories which took part in the Cricket Competition of 1904 were Mr. Navaratnam's, Mr. Evans', Mr. Smith's, Mr. Edirisinghe's and the Day Boys.

The list of winning Dormitories at that date was as follows:

1897 Mr. Schneider's (Now Mr. Edirisinghe's ) J. Scharenguivel, Capt.

1898 Mr. Smith's .... F.L. Goonewardene

1899 Mr. Smith's .... J.A. Sethukavalar

1900 Mr. Anthonisz's (now

Mr. Evans') D.L. de Saram

1901 Mr. Navaratnam's .... A.F. Molamure

1902 Day Boys .... G.E.H. Arndt

1903 Mr. Smith's .... A.S. Eliatamby

1904 Mr. Edirisinghe's J. de Livera

The boys had an exciting over to watch in the match against the S.S.C. this year, when, in the course of making 137 runs for the school, P. Daniels scored twenty-seven runs off six consecutive balls, 6,6,4,6,4,1.

The Royal match of 1905 was won by the College by 14 runs.

The list of the Captains of the school eleven from 1873 as reported in the Magazine was as follow :

1873- 77 .... Rev. T.F.Falkner

1878-79 .... A.C.Edwards

1880-8 .... C.N.Wendt

1881-84 .... F.W.Mc Donell

1884-86 .... W.B.de Saram

1886-88 .... C.W.Wilkins

1888-90 .... E.A.Elapata

1890-92 .... D.Robertson

1892-94 .... J.C.Heyzer

1894-95 .... F.Dias

1895-96 .... E.S.Ediringhe

1896-98 .... O.G.de Alwis

1898-99 .... F.L.Goonewardene

1899-02 .... D.L.de Saram

1902-03 ..... A.F.Molamure

1903-04 .... A.S.Eliatamby

1904 .... J.de Livera

1904-05 .... T.Walloppillai

The College won the Football match against the Royal College in 1906 by one goal to nil. A little later the first Day Boys v Boarders Football match took place, and, after being twice replayed, ended in a draw, without a goal being scored by either side.

The list of the School Captains of Football stood thus :

1901 .... A.J.R.Scharenguivel

1902 .... E.R.Wiggin

1903 .... M.Walloppillai

1904 .... C.R.Wiggin

1905 .... C.Speldewinde

1906 .... A.H.E.Moulamure

Some interesting Athletic Records were preserved in the Magazine from the Sports of Old Boys' Day 1904. Unfortunately a stop-watch does not seem to have been used, but the measurements given are as follows:

High Jump (Old Boys) V. Potger, 5ft. 1in.

Long Jump (Old Boys) D.L.de Saram, 15 ft. 10 ins.

Long Jump (Present Boys) A.S.Eliatamby, 15 ft.11 ins.

Weight (Old Boys) D.L.de Saram, 35 ft. 5 ins.

Weight (Present Boys) J.Carry, 32 ft. 5 ins.

Kicking the Football, C.Speldewinde, 145 ft. 4 ins

Cricket Ball (Old Boys) D.L.de Saram, 103 yds. 2 ins

It is not to be supposed that these events were taken as seriously then as they are now, and few of these records survived long, not even the cricket ball throw, which D.L.de Saram beat himself later on with the magnificent throw of 113 yards.

The Chess Club was most vigorous at this time, and was strongly supported by the Staff as well as the boys.

### **Changes on the Staff.**

Two prominent names disappear from the Staff in 1906. The first is Mr.J.R.Jayatileke, and the second the Rev.G.A.H.Arndt.

"We remember" says the Editor of the Magazine, "When Warden Buck told the Old Boys that he would not exchange Mr.Jayatileke for a Senior Wrangler" Mr. Jayatileke came to St.Thomas' in 1893, from the Royal College, where he had won the highest honours in the Cambridge Locals. He entered into his work so enthusiastically that he raised and kept the Mathematics of the College at a level equal to that of a public school in England. His boys carried off the Ceylon Mathematical Prize year after year. Amongst other prizes he won for the school must be mentioned the Gilchrist Scholarship of 1897 (Thuraisingham) and the University Scholarships of 1898 (Tampoe), and of 1906(Lewis). Mr. Jayatileke was a member of the Staff for fifteen years. With his great ability as a teacher he combined a high personal character." He left to become Secretary to the Municipality of Kandy.

Warden Stone's tribute to Mr.G.A.H.Arndt is of interest. He says, "The departure of the Sub-Warden to take up parish work, is the loss of a landmark in the College. For

twenty-five years he has been in turn Master, Headmaster, Sub-Warden and twice acting Warden in 1901 and 1905. Through all the vicissitudes of the history of the College, and in a long succession of Wardens, he has borne the burden and heavy responsibility, and endured the strain of incessant work, with unflagging loyalty and courage. Few but teachers can understand what it is to live with boys in a College for 25 years, and to keep a fresh and vigorous the continued round of work, to sacrifice everything to duty, to be content with scanty leisure, and to be prepared for any emergency with unfailing cheerfulness. This difficult task the Sub-Warden has fulfilled, earning the gratitude and commanding the respect of boys and masters alike. I should like to add my personal tribute of admiration for his powers of discipline, and his intimate knowledge of everything concerning the working of the College, in which he has had no equal in the past, and will hardly be surpassed by any successor."

Mr.Arndt was a school boy at St.Thomas' in the days of Warden Bacon; he graduated at Calcutta University and joined Warden Miller's Staff in 1881.

"When he was compelled, owing to failing health, to retire, there was nobody but felt that he was a martyr to hard and unremitting work. He had never given himself, or asked for, the luxury of a holiday. His duties at the Cathedral, the daily services for which he was responsible, and the very heavy burdens as Sub-Warden, imposed too great a strain, and the inevitable break-down followed. But he ever held that the work was greater than the worker. How wholeheartedly he devoted his life and talents to the cause is writ large in the History of St.Thomas' College."

In his memory was founded the Arndt Memorial Prize for English Literature given by the Old Boy's Association.

The year 1907 is marked by the revival of the Divinity School within the walls of the College. The Rev. G.B.Ekanayake an old boy of the School had returned from Cambridge after a distinguished career at that University, and was put in charge of the Divinity School. For nine years it had been in abeyance, and the accumulation of its endowment enabled the Diocese to restart the work.

At the beginning of 1908 the Rev. J.Parkes, M.A. arrived as Sub-Warden and he held that office for two years.

In November of this year the school acted a very successful performance of "the Merchant of Venice". The principal parts were taken as follows:

Duke of Venice ..... Mr.A.T.Evarts

Bassanio ..... Mr.T.V.Saravanamuttu

Shylock ..... Mr.J.E.Perera

Portia ..... St. C.Swan

The Rev. A.Handel Smith retired this year after twelve years service. His first great work had been the organization of the Lower School, where his new methods were

commended as a model to other schools by Mr. J. Harward, Director of Public Instruction, in 1904. There was no department of the College in which he did not take some share, Church music, the Cathedral organ, the College Magazine, the Library, the Debating Society, Chess and Fives, were a few of the institutions which benefitted by his energy and enthusiasm. He was responsible for the lantern lectures which were a feature of this time. But his principal work was the initiation of the teaching of Physics in the school in 1903, and his planning, furnishing and organizing of the School Laboratory in 1906.

He became Chaplain of Guy's Hospital, London.

The Warden was on leave in 1909. He had taken but four months leave in eight years.

The departure of so many men out of the old strength of the Staff, and other changes within and without the College, marked the end of one era in its history, and the beginning of a new. New names appear; numbers in the school are doubled, science becomes more and more prominent; games receive closer attention; many other schools come to the front in the Island, and the demand for education becomes wider and wider; the Ceylon University College is projected; everywhere there are signs of a new regime. The change was of course, gradual and in many ways only superficial but it certainly touched some fundamentals. The account which follows, written by an Old Boy, gives a good picture of the College at this time, and helps to show how the new ideas blended themselves with the traditions of sixty years. He writes : "There were three outstanding members of the Staff in my day, Mr. C.V.Pereira, Rev. O.J.C.Bevan, Mr. E. Navara tnam. Mr. Handel Smith, the Rev. G. A. H. Arndt and Mr. R. W. Evans just lasted into my time and were shining lights, but I was too small to be aware of their shining.

The Warden was all in all. Everything was in his hands. He was an absolute autocrat and seldom if ever took anyone into his confidence, or delegated any of his authority. The staff were more apt to be afraid of him, and rather puzzled by him, than to have any intimate friendship with him. He loved to carry about an air of mystery, and to leave a man or a boy not quite sure where he stood.

Boys stood in considerable awe of him from the biggest to the smallest. It would be right to say that we had more respect for him than affection. That he had a gentler and more affectionate side only appeared when a boy had left school; and many old boys who think of him with affection only developed that affection when they left school and found him friendly and genial.

We admired his scholarship, his power of quick decision, and prompt and energetic action. We also felt that he was just; that he set no traps; never tried to catch anyone out; and never pursued anyone from personal animosity. But any feeling of affection was for most boys impossible. He always treated us in a lofty sort of way, and no boy could talk to him easily or without embarrassment. He rather maintained an attitude of unapproachability. Boys could only see him normally in the space of some twenty minutes in the day and that on perfectly definite business. At other times he was invisible and no servant came to ask you what you wanted if you waited on the verandah.

And yet in spite of his aloofness many boys, both at school and after they had left school, found him a true friend when any trouble came upon them, and he was always ready to use his strength to help anyone who was down.

On the religious side his attitude was definitely the discouragement of enthusiasm. The individual spiritual care of the boys was left to Rev. O.J.C. Beven the Sub-Warden.

Warden Stone was a brilliant teacher. He used to teach not only in the upper forms, but also in the Upper IV. and other middle, or lower forms. He had a genuine love of learning and a genuine taste in literature, and had the rare gift of being able to communicate it in vivid teaching. He had also the great teacher's gift of not saying too much, leaving the pupil to fill in the gaps.

There were housemasters in charge and there was one prefect (no more) in each house. The powers of the prefects were very undefined, nor had they the full backing of authority. Still, boys of outstanding personality, who were prefects, commanded a great deal of respect. Prefects operated only in their own dormitories, and at meals as heads of tables, where they might give lines for misbehavior. In other places they did not exercise authority nor were expected to do so.

A Dormitory master's duties were regarded as chiefly disciplinary and if he acted as a guide and friend to his boys it was rather on his own initiative than as part of the school organization. The Dormitories were long buildings, with a passage down the middle, separated into rooms with two boys in each. This was a great advantage of the old school – that boys living in separate rooms had a greater chance of privacy than they have in the new. The little rooms had each a very small window, and were lighted a night by a little oil lamp. They were somewhat dark and airless. Each room had two beds, \_ wooden frames strung with rattan and covered with mats or mattresses, \_ a table and chair, a wooden clotheshorse, a wash-hand-stand, a basin and jug.

The Dining Hall was a big open room where the crows flew in and out, sometimes with disgusting results. The table cloths after the wear and tear of the week, and later with the coal dust that filled the air, were not a pleasant sight to see. Yet, the new Psychology not having arrived, we were quite content, and would have cut in pieces anyone who dared suggest that St. Thomas' was not a specially blessed spot in a very good world. That was a most outstanding characteristic of the school as I knew it, the tremendous pride the boys took in it. We did not talk so much in those days about being the best school in Ceylon, but we implicitly believed it.

The daily routine was-

5.30 a.m. .... First Bell

6.30 a.m. .... Early Tea

7.00 a.m. .... Mattins

8.00 a.m. .... School, opening with Prayers

8-11a.m. .... Morning School

11 – 12 noon ..... Breakfast

12 – 2.30 p.m ..... Afternoon School, closed with Prayers

2.30 – 3.30 p.m. .... Drill on some days

3.30 p.m. .... Tea

4 – 6 p.m. .... Games

6.30 p.m. .... Dinner

7.15 – 8.30 p.m. .... Preparation

8.45 p.m. .... Lock up

9.30 p.m. .... Lights out

In those days the school was divided into Upper and Lower School only. The Lower School was up to the L.IV.

In the Upper IV. the choice faced us of Greek or Science. Warden Stone used to decide this for us in a very summary fashion, simply by appearing on the first day of the new school year and saying "So and so Greek, and so and so Science". Latin began in my day in the 2nd form. We proceeded in leisurely fashion learning about one declension a year till the L.IV. In the U.IV. we met Mr. Navaratnam and life became grim and earnest.

The Vernaculars were not taught at all at Mutwal. They were started after we moved to Mount Lavinia and Latin was then begun later.

There was no Kindergarten at Mutwal. Mr. E.O.Pereira used to teach the classes below the Second Form.

The College Form was a very exalted body in my day. They had the special privilege of leave off Prep. The Library was their classroom and nobody was allowed to enter it, but College Form boys. They used to read for the London Intermediate Examinations, and were credited by the boys in the lower forms with incredibly superior brain power.

Warden Stone began and organized a Commercial Form where boys could learn Type-writing, Shorthand and Book-keeping. The class continued till 1927 when it was abolished.

Many Saints' Days were half -holidays at the old school, but holidays were given rather at the Warden's whim and fancy. No one quite knew when a half-holiday might come off. On half-holidays school would close at 10.30, and we used all, Christians

and non-Christians alike, to march over to the Cathedral for Mattins and Sermon. Term opened and closed in similar fashion.

A delightful feature of the old school was the number of trees in the compound. Tree climbing was forbidden but often indulged in. The banyans were pleasant trees to climb and sit in, but most boys climbed for strictly utilitarian reasons. Many of the trees were fruit trees, mangoes, papaw, beli, jak. There was also a certain amount of uncleaned scrub behind the Laboratory and by the bathrooms, very good for "hide and seek" and the game of "war". I remember one Sunday morning we decided to have a battle. Ammunition consisted of horse fruits, and the fruits of the banyan tree. In a manner reminiscent of the palmy days of warfare, when no unfair advantage was sought, we divided off into armies of exactly equal size. The main battle took place behind the Science Laboratory, and after a little skirmishing it became very fierce. I am ashamed to say that I remember hitting a member of the opposing army, who was trying to capture one of ours, full in the face with horse fruit. Now a horse fruit weighs about the same as a cricket ball.

We must have made an appalling row, for Service which was in progress, was disturbed; and an angry message from the Warden brought the battle to a close – honours more or less even. The Warden hauled us all up that evening after prep., and sounded very angry, but there was a twinkle in his eye.

November 5th was much observed until 1912. Masters effaced themselves, and boys were given almost total license. There used to be a good deal of good humoured horseplay, mainly in the way of ducking. One boy was very thoroughly ducked one 5th of November, not only ducked, but held under water. He was very angry indeed, and presented himself on the Warden's verandah in his dripping condition. After this our Guy Fawkes celebrations were squashed.

The great event of the year was the Royal College match. Boys began to plan the expedition as soon as the first term began. Six boys or so would club together to hire a carriage. Fighting during the match between supporters of each side was quite common, and cracked heads were in evidence for some days after. Unfortunately these were not so much due to straight forward fighting as to stone throwing. Wild scenes used to mark our return after the match. Boys danced on the tables in hall, and much crockery was smashed. One year the Warden suddenly appeared in the midst of the riot, and ordered us all out of hall and into prep. He was never nearer a rebellion. However, to prep. we went very disgruntled and angry. For some time afterwards the Warden used to make scathing comments in the College Form about prefects and first eleven players who danced on tables.

A great advantage of the old site was the harbour just before us. Many boys knew a great deal about ships, and at least two boys of my time went to sea as cabin boys. Bathing was very much looked forward to. We used to bathe on Saturday mornings or evenings in the Fishery harbour, if we could get a master to take us. There was a rock about a hundred, yards out, and anyone who could reach this was considered a good swimmer.

Paper chases used to take place once a year or so. We used generally to run out somewhere beyond Kelaniya. Sometimes the hares would get to Victoria Bridge by



very devious routes, but the hounds making straight for the bridge would be upon them rather quicker than they expected."

The description of the College that has just been given refers to the years 1910 to 1914. They were prosperous years for the school and as often happens with prosperous times they are not marked by any events of particular note. The prosperity of the school in these years and the war years that were to follow reflected the prosperity of the whole island. In 1903 the export of tea had reached the value 58,000,000 rupees, and by 1910 the value of rubber exported was 28,000,000 rupees, and coconuts were a safe investment. This advance in the country's trade greatly added to the prosperity of the College, while it was entirely responsible for making possible the great expansion of education that took place in these years.

In 1910 the College football eleven under the captaincy of P.Saravanamuttu came through their season unbeaten. The results of the school matches were :-

S.T.C. v. Wesley College ... Won 3-0

S.T.C. v. Royal College ... Won 2-0

S.T.C. v. St. Joseph's College ... Won 1-0

In 1911 the Rev. O.J.C. Beven became Sub-Warden. In the Cambridge Examinations at the end of the year, the school obtained thirteen honours in the Senior with M.Saravanamuttu at their head.

The College won the Royal – Thomian match by 149 runs.

In 1912 the first debate with Trinity College took place in the Library after the cricket match between the two schools. It was upon the subject of the Waste Lands Ordinance. Trinity College, Kandy, had made great advances since the Rev. A.G.Fraser became principal in 1903, and he had made its name known far and wide. With Mr. Fraser's name are associated those of Rev. J.P.S.R.Gibson, Mr. J.Saunders and Mr. N.P.Campbell, all scholars and missionaries, who left their mark on Ceylon and were not without influence upon St. Thomas' College as will be seen later.

An Astronomical Club was started this year and a good telescope was bought with the help of subscriptions from the Staff.

In October the College received a visit on Prize Day from the Metropolitan, Bishop R.S.Copleston, a very old friend and once acting Warden of the school.

The Cadets won the Inter-School Sports this year as well as the Physical Training Cup. They were also reinforced by Scouts, who were afterwards called Junior Cadets.

It is pleasing to read that in October 345 subscribers sent a gift and a testimonial to Warden Miller for his birthday.

## **Project of the University College**

Outside the school, but of great importance to its welfare, was the project of the University College which was a matter of much public discussion this year. Government had appointed a Committee to enquire into the question of secondary and higher education in Ceylon. This Committee had recommended the establishment of a University College in Colombo, until such time as the Ceylon University should be founded.

Warden Stone pleaded the cause of the members of his staff who had been training boys for the London Intermediate, and asked that the missionary Colleges should not be made to sacrifice the higher branches of their work, and be pressed flat by the smoothing iron of the Cambridge Senior.

Some six years before this time the Calcutta University had disaffiliated all the Ceylon Colleges, so that parents had looked to the English University Scholarships, or to London that University for the completion of their boys' education.

Years were to pass before the University College was started. When it was started on the one hand it gave the chance of Higher Education to many who would otherwise have missed it, while on the other hand it left the school working on a lower standard than of old, and greatly crippled the College Form. Later too, the English University Scholarship was transferred to the University College for post-graduate work, while scholarships to the University College were instituted for the schools. But University College had one very important consequence for the schools for which they owe it a great debt. In 1902 the Government had started a Teacher's Training College, and this had been a great value in improving method of teaching. With the coming of the University College it was possible for a prospective school-master to take a London degree without leaving the Island, and then to complete his preparation at the Training College. The benefit to education of this important step forward was very obvious; indeed, without it, it would have been quite impossible to find enough men to cope with the sudden expansion of the curriculum which the introduction of the Sciences brought upon the schools.

At the Empire Day Sports for 1913 the College won the Championship. The record of the day were as follows:

100 Yards C.Jayatilleke S.T.C 11 secs.

Hurdles P.Pieris St.Benedict's 22 ½ secs.

Long Jump M.Saravanamuttu S.T.C. 17 ft. 9 ins.

High Jump S.W.D.Bandaranayake S.T.C. 5ft. 1 ½ ins.

Half Mile C.Jayatilleke S.T.C.

Quarter Mile C.Jayatilleke S.T.C.

Tug-of-War S.T.C.

The Junior Debating Society took on a new lease of life this year under Mr.E.S.D.Ohlmus and continued to flourish during the next year under Mr. Ohlmus and Mr. Schaffter.

### **Coal Dust**

The cloud of coal dust which had arisen on the horizon in Warden Buck's time as a possible menace to the school had now grown into a very real danger, that was to have far reaching consequences upon its future, consequences which must have come very much earlier but for the universal setback that was to come upon the world in the following year.

In his report upon the school for 1913, Mr. Strickland, the Inspector, said, "It is becoming next to impossible to carry on the work owing to the coaling jetties at the farther end of the harbour, and to the noise from the works. The dust from the former covers everything. I look forward to seeing one of the oldest schools in Ceylon transferred, at no distant date, to a site more adapted to its purposes." This matter had for some time been under the consideration of the Trustees of the College, though as yet no new site had been fixed upon, nor any definite plans settled. The only thing that was perfectly clear was that the old College of sixty-two years standing was to be choked and battered out of its ancient seat. The idea of moving was enough to stagger the boldest; for apart from any move being very naturally unpopular with the Old Boys, it meant the loss of the greater part of the buildings, which had been set up for their special purpose in the course of many long years, as well as the grave undertaking of making a new start in untried surroundings. Yet it must be admitted that it was a heaven-sent opportunity to take the school out of the city, more especially out of an ever-growing ever-changing city such as Colombo. It was well for the College that there was on the spot a strong personality, able and willing to carry out so great a task.

The Cambridge Results for 1914 were exceptionally good. There were 64 passes as against 58 in 1912 and 43 in 1911. The percentage of passes was eighty. The list of classes was as follows :-

Senior

M.Jayaratne .... I m.

A.E.Crowther .... I

M.Saravanamuttu .... I e.m.

V.E.Seneviratne .... II m.

A.F.Anthonisz .... II

N.Saravanapavan .... II

K.Somasundram .... II

G.E.Arndt .... II

Junior

R.S.de Saram .... I e.I.

A.G.Ranasinghe .... I r.e.I.gk

L.J.de Silva .... II e.I.

F.J.T.Foenander ..... II e.I.

S.Saravanamuttu .... II m.

C.A.Van Rooyen .... II I.

E.B.Wickremanaike .... III I.

B.E.T.Jansz .... III

The first Inter-School Boxing Competition took place in February, Trinity, St.Thomas', the Training College, Royal and Wesley competing for the Stubbs Shield which was offered this year by Hon. Mr.R.E.Stubbs. The Boxing Meet was very successful, and was won easily by Trinity College, St. Thomas' being second and the Training College third.

"The meet" says an Old Boy who took part in it, "was held at night in the open air, in the C.L.I.Headquarters near Rifle Green. No less than three of those who boxed that night later won blues at Oxford or Cambridge. C.J.de Saram was one – one of the best boxers that Ceylon had produced. He must have been about 12 years old and seemed to enjoy himself quite a lot. Another was Donald Rutnam, judged the best boxer of the meet. Both of them were at the Training College at the time. C.J.de Saram came on to us later and boxed many years for the College. The third was R.S.de Saram of St. Thomas'.

The Training College put in a fine team of boxers trained by L.Mc D.Robinson. For style and science they were far and away the best at the meet. Trinity, however, trained by a Sergeant-Major whose motto clearly was "Knock'em down and eat'em alive," swept the board. They were a good lot of lusty fighters, very strong, and trained to a hair.

I put in a modest and rather timid appearance for St. Thomas' and was matched in the finals with a ferocious little Burman from Trinity. I have a recollection that he behaved with extra violence, and kept bobbing up in all directions. I don't remember having done anything very much to him, but I must have tapped him once or twice, because after six minutes of intense activity, as I sat in my corner with a black eye and a singing head, I heard the M.C. say that I had won."

While on the subject of boxing, a word may be said about fights at the old school. There was no recognized place for unofficial encounters to take place, but they were commonly fought out behind the Laboratory.

"Not the least part of a boy's education at school, "writes an Old Boy," is that which is given him by his own school fellows. The finding of one's proper level is a salutary, if somewhat painful part of school life, and boys help each other in this matter. We once had a boy from Batticaloa. He had been cock-of-the-walk in his school, and on arriving at Mutwal was extremely bumptious. The monitor of his form going round collecting reports accidentally tripped over his foot. The newcomer demanded instant explanation.

"What do you mean by it, etc. etc.?"

The monitor, a large good-natured boy, gazed at him in astonishment for a moment, the said meaningly, "I'll explain after school if you like," and forgot all about it.

Not so young A! As soon as school was over, there he was demanding explanations again. The monitor put his books down and sat on A's head.

Later we were peacefully at breakfast when sounds of strife rent the air again. The following conversation was taking place:-

A: "Do you see this wound on my finger? Well after breakfast I'll mix its blood with yours."

Monitor: "Oh really! Well, I'll hit you so hard that you'll have to take Soothing Syrup."

After breakfast to it they went.

The monitor fulfilled his promise rather more faithfully than A, and A became henceforth a most agreeable member of society!"

In August 1914, it was believed that the moving of the school to new quarters was close at hand and the idea continued month after month, and years were to pass before it was realised. As in every other quarter, the real meaning of the war was not realized, and it was confidently expected that it would be over in a few months.

A boy, who was in school at the time writes, "I well remember the outbreak of the War. Quite a 100 boys in the Fifth Form and above, wanted to enlist at once, and two boys, (one at present the Editor of a leading Ceylon paper), ran away to India in order to enlist. Several Old Boys went. The general feeling was that there was a great and glorious adventure going on, and it was a pity we were too young to share in it. No idea of the tremendous issues involved entered our minds."

The first Thomians to enlist were Margenout, who joined the Navy, and G. Van Rooyen at this time still a boy in school, who enlisted in a battalion of the territorial. Within a year the latter had given his life.

Meanwhile the College went on its way in peace through some of the most prosperous days of its History.

The year 1915 had many events to make it peculiarly memorable.

The results of the Cambridge Locals were "the best on record." The Honours List stood thus:

Senior

R. S. de Saram .... I r.e.l.gk.

S. W. D. Bandaranaike .... I e.l.

F. J. T. Foenander .... I r.l.gk.

J. E. M. Obeysekere .... I l m.

A. G. Ranasinghe .... I r.h.l.gk.

F. L. Wickremasinghe .... I l.gk.m.

I. H. Wijesinghe .... I r.l.gk.

E. B. Wickremanaike .... I r.l.gk.m.

C. E. A. de Silva .... II d.

L. J. de Silva .... I l.

B. E. T. Jansz .... II r.

J. P. Manickansingam .... II

K. Somasundaram .... II m.

C. A. Van Rooyen .... II

R. S. S. Goonewardene .... II l.

S. Saravanamuttu .... III

S. J. Selvanayagam .... III

Junior

J. T. P. Handy ..... I e.l.m.

D. P. S. Goonewardene ..... II h.

E.M.Van Rooyen ..... II

C.R. Mutthumani .... III

D.T.Wijeratne .... III h.

C.V.Wickramanaikē .... III

These results were a unique achievement. Sixty boys passed, 17 with honours, with 22 distinctions in 8 subjects. Six members of the cricket eleven, it is recorded, gained honours in this examination. The first and second Government Exhibitions were won by the College. With such excellent results, bearing comparison with any school in the world, it is not surprising to find protests at the proposed abolition of the Cambridge Local Examinations in Ceylon. It was feared that with the passing of the Local Examinations the system of honours and distinctions would disappear. However, when the Cambridge School Certificate Examination took place of the Locals in 1917, the change was not very great, amounting mainly to a slight advance in the standard required for a pass in English. Honours were retained up to 1922 and distinctions up to 1932.

To add to these successes news came that Mr. Saravanamuttu had won the University Scholarship in Science for the previous year. He was the second example of the Captain of Cricket winning the scholarship, the first being L.H.Arndt, who afterwards joined the Indian Civil Service. Two years later the Arts Scholarship was won by A.G.Ranasinghe.

### **Games**

The Royal-Thomian match a hard battle this year, and very typical of those hard-fought friendly encounters which had now taken place regularly year after year for thirty five years. There was talk at this time of abolishing the Royal College, and it was thought that this might be the last match. Politicians were juggling with its buildings and with the proposed University College and the Training College, and it had been suggested that the Royal College should be closed. Fortunately such a disaster was averted by the Governor in December 1915, and the match continued annually without break ever since.

The Royalist went in first and made 235, R.G.de Silva, one of their first wicket batsmen, making 69, With such a score against them the Thomians batted cautiously and took, it is said, 90 minutes to score 35 runs. When stumps were drawn for the day the Thomians had made 56 for four wickets, R.Jayatilleke who went in first having batted for two hours, and made 18 runs. The next day Thomians finished their innings for 114 runs. They were 121 behind the Royal score and had to follow on with a difficult task before them. But their second innings was a much more lively affair than the first, and early in the afternoon they had put themselves into the position of a possible win, and worked all the spectators up to the highest pitch of excitement. At 5.20 they were all out for 199, A.E.A.Crowther having made 94, the highest score in the series of matches up to that time. The Royalists, with 79 runs to make, had put 25 minutes to bat. They hit out boldly and made 39 runs for three

wickets before stumps were drawn, R. Van Langenberg making 13 runs in as many minutes. So the match ended in a draw in favour of Royal College.

There is an account of the conditions under which the school games were played at Mutwal in 1915. The writer says:

"Our playing fields were wretched compared to the present ones. The Big Club was a triangular piece of ground one half of which was completely covered with gravel, and fielding a hotly driven ball was matter not so much of skill as of heroism. Further the ground sloped upwards on one side so that cover-point on one side would be standing some six feet above the batsman. The Big Club for most of my time was ruled by the captain of cricket. For the most part the captain did his job well, and ruled the club with a rod of iron. Later a games' master was appointed for cricket. There was friction at first between master and captain, but we soon got used to the change. It was not a luxurious age; there were no ground boys. A list used to be put up, and certain boys were on 'materials duty' on certain days, the first XI being exempt. They carried the matting to the wicket, put it down, nailed it, fixed the wickets, and brought down in a bag the necessary materials. Woe betide the boys who forgot. The captain too trained and selected this team, though in selecting a school team he would have to have his choice approved by the Warden.

We played football on the same ground. There was no games' master for soccer, and this game was entirely run by the captain. As the ground was small, only one game could be played at a time; so that games, time was divided into halves, the first set having part and the rest the other part.

The captains of games were appointed by the Warden.

In the Small Club, curiously, democracy reigned, and captains were appointed by election, the Warden silently presiding. It was comical to hear a very nervous little boy, say of twelve, get up and say 'I beg to propose the name of so and so for captain of the C Division (the smallest set).' In the Small Club too there were no ground boys. The boys laid their own wickets. We played three sets side by side on a smallish ground so that cover-point of one set would be standing very near mid-wicket of another. Miraculous were the escapes that took place daily. Only once, however, was anyone hit fair and square, when a left-hander slogging to leg in A. Division nearly wiped out of existence B. Division's cover-point.

They were frugal days. B. and C. Divisions never had a really new ball; only A. Division's balls recovered by the school shoemaker. Weird and wonderful were the shapes assumed by some of them after a few days, and they often swelled to about twice the size of a normal cricket ball.

Small Club Soccer was a curious game with rules of its own. The ground was divided up by various imaginary lines. One would run the length of the ground from goal to goal. No left wing player was supposed to pass the right of this line, and no right wing player to the left of it. Only centre forward and centre half had a roving commission. Further the ground was divided across down the centre. No back or half, or presumably goal-keeper, was allowed to pass forward of this line. The game



would accordingly be punctuated with yells of "off side", if these imaginary lines were crossed by those not supposed to do so.

The goal at one end was two coconut trees conveniently placed by nature, and at the other end, one coconut tree and a stone, hat, coat or other convenient object. There were no cross bars, and whenever a goal was scored above the ground, there would be a debate as to whether the ball had gone too high. There was never a referee, but we managed to get along amicably enough. Another curious rule was that three corners in succession equalled one goal.

Small and Big Clubs were kept very strictly apart."

The College came out unbeaten from the Inter-Collegiate Football season of this year. The matches were :

S.T.C. v. St. Benedict's .... Won 5-0

S.T.C. v. Royal College .... Won 2-0

S.T.C. v. Wesley College .... Won 5-1

S.T.C. v. St. Joseph's College .... Won 1-0

The team was as follows:

S.Ragunathan

Banajee

Hepponstall

Saravanamuttu

Manickasingam

Senanayake

R.S.de Saram

T.M.Maung (Capt.)

J.H.T. Foenander, and two others, whose names are not recorded.

At the Cadet Sports this year the Scouts won the Athletic Shield and the Physical Training Cup.

In the middle of October the Warden called for subscription to the Aeroplane Fund, and the College subscribed Rs. 1,054.75.

By the end of 1915, eighteen Old Boys had joined the forces in various part of the world, of whom Lt. Bell had died of gas poisoning in France, and Pte. G.Van Rooyen had died of illness while on service.

E.Keyt, a sergeant in the British Columbia Horse wrote in June, 1915, "The draft I came out with had hardly been in France a day, when we were in the most desperate fighting I have seen so far. The 24th of May will never be forgotten by me. You will have some idea of the intensity of the fighting when I tell you we lost over 359 out of 800. Men all round me were knocked to pieces by a terrific artillery bombardment."

The Riots this year, which affected so many in the island, left St. Thomas', upon its secluded hill comparatively free from disturbance. They are mentioned in a solitary paragraph in the Magazine. It says : "The event of the term has been the Riots, and the proclamation of Martial Law, which, as we go to press (in August), has now lasted six weeks. The first week of June was a time of considerable anxiety, but thanks to the comparative seclusion of Mutwal, and its consequent freedom from riotous mobs, the work of the College was not much disturbed. We believe we were the only school in Colombo found working every day of the trying week. Our Cadets contributed their share towards the maintenance of the order, and were proud to be called out on Town-Guard duty on Friday, June, 4th."

During the absence of the Sub-Warden, Mr. Beven, on leave, and the temporary suspension of the Divinity School this year, the Rev. G.B.Ekanayake acted as Sub-Warden.

By the end of 1915 the doom of the old College was sealed. The ground upon which it stood had been sold in order to purchase a new site, and the College was for the time being paying rent to the purchasers, until it should be possible to make the move. Mount Lavinia had been settled upon as the new home of the College, and a gap had been made in the lines of coconut trees running down to the sea, in which the foundations of what is now the main Class Room Block were beginning to appear.

In 1916, there is a description of the new buildings now much advanced, though held up by the difficulty of obtaining building materials in the troublous times of war. Under the masses of muddy planks and twisted bamboo scaffolding the outline of the building was becoming clear. "There was the big front entrance, high and imposing, flanked by four tall pillars. You enter and find yourself in a hall some twenty feet in breadth. At the back of the hall run two broad verandahs, to the left and right. Eight doors which give entrance to the classrooms open on these verandahs. Each classroom is absolutely separate from the others. At the end of each verandah there is a room, which, I was given to understand, was to be reserved for the masters. Coming back to the hall there are two flights of concrete steps, which meet on a landing and doubling back reach the upper floor. Here again there are two broad verandahs, on which the door of the classrooms open. There are the same number of rooms on the first as on the ground floor. The classrooms are splendid ones. The architect is evidently one who believes in fresh air and light. He has given each room three big windows and a door. In all there are twenty rooms in the building and of these, it seems, sixteen are to be used as classrooms. I was told that according to

some regulation each room was supposed to hold only thirty boys; but at least fifty could use one without discomfort. The upper floor is of concrete, and the roof will soon be in place. I am sure to blunder if I speak of the iron that is being used in the building, but there seem to be tons and tons of it. It gives one the impression that this building will stand for centuries."

So thought the old College of the first building of the new upon the sea shore of Mount Lavinia.

Old Boys' Day, 1916, took the form that still continues, and that had been evolved from the Garden Party of old days. The early morning swimming race had been started in 1913, and it was won this year by R.S.de Saram. Then followed the Early Service in the Cathedral taken by the Warden. The Old Boys Match was played in the morning, captained by Mr. G.S.Schneider and A.E.Crowther. The Old Boys made 192, and left the present boys time to make 101 for four wickets. Lunch followed at 12.30 and the Sports came after it, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Old Boys' Association. A large number of people assembled under the banyans to watch the Sports, and to listen to the band. Proceedings ended with choral Evensong in the Cathedral at 6.30 p.m.

Early in 1916 came the news of the loss of the Ville de la Ciotat, which was carrying boys from several schools in Ceylon, who were going to enlist in England. Seven of them were Thomians. The ship was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on Christmas Eve 1915. Carl Arndt, one of the survivors, who had been school boy few months before, thus describes what happened:-

"We sailed out of Port Said on the chilly afternoon of the 22nd. We were given strict orders not to come out on deck with cigarettes burning, and all lights were screened. Most of us slept on deck as was our habit, whilst those who slept in cabins, had their life belts either near them or around them. The first night passed off peacefully. We had look-out men on the mast night and day, and there were gunners too by their guns. The morning of the 24th saw us bright and jolly, Christmas was approaching, and we expected to be in Marseilles on the 26th morning. Most of us packed our boxes, and I put my passport, etc. into my shirt. At about half past eight we saw a huge rainbow covering exactly half the sky.

Half an hour later we saw an empty boat floating past us, and many planks, and floating wreckage. At ten we went down to breakfast. We had just finished our course, when a deafening noise just below, told us that we were torpedoed. Our fat steward dropped the plates, and was the first to run upstairs, but Tyler stood at the bottom, and stayed what would have been a panic \_\_, "Steady, boys, steady, keep your heads." We passed up quite orderly and calmly and got up to the deck to our boats. We had been drilled and knew where to go.

My boat was No. 1, but when I got up to it, I found it crowded with some of the Lascar crew. I put on my life belt and had just time to jump into the boat, as it was being lowered. But our boat was being badly launched, and since the ship was moving, it was being dashed against the side of the ship. I knew the end would come. Our boat not only went to matchwood, but it also upset No.3 boat, and that too got smashed. Three other of our boys went down with me, and never came up. When I came up, I

found a boat above me, but a dive down and up again sideways found me on top gasping for breath. I was dashed past No.5 boat, they could not save me, I was going so fast. I prayed and committed my soul to God. I then found a Lascar in straits, and by luck we picked up an oar, and both of us stuck to it. But he was pretty exhausted and drowned before me – I was too far gone to help him. I then swam up to a plank. Then you came before me. I saw you getting ready for carols. It was half past ten in that cold numbing water, and in Ceylon half past two. Two boats passed me, but could not pick me up. I was fearfully cold, and to add to it I was wearing my nine pounder boots. I knew I could stick on to the plank, but the cramp was getting me all over, my fingers were losing their grasp, and I had to call out for help. I fought myself for being a coward. I called out again but to no purpose. I then kept quite and finally gave up my soul to God. I forget everything then, I didn't know what happened, until I was picked up after being an hour in the water. It was a miracle. Thirty of us were saved, twenty of whom were picked up in the water. Fourteen of us lost their lives. Well, an English boat picked us up within four hours of these events, and we were soon made cosy and happy." The writer enlisted in the 24th Middlesex Regiment as soon as he arrived in England.

The following little reminiscence belongs to this time. It's writer says, "Climbing the Cathedral tower was a forbidden pastime. Boys used to be allowed to go up before my day, but as some of them used the top of the tower as a good spot to smoke unobserved, the tower was put out of bounds. The door of the staircase remained firmly closed with the Church Appu, Gomes, as guardian. We used to spend many hours trying to wheedle him into letting us in. I have a personal recollection of trying to bribe him with the offer of a diminutive pair of shorts! It was a pity, because the view from the top was very good.

The Bishop (E.A.Copleston) and Dr. Ekanayake had a nasty accident ascending the tower. The stair-case gave way under their weight. Dr. Ekanayake, as ever loyal to his superior, did his best. He came down first and received the Bishop upon his own person. The damage suffered was fortunately not serious!"

"Another forbidden pastime was "buying things over the wall" – a very wise precaution for reason of health, but disregarded as often as possible by the boys. Extraordinary devices were employed for getting past the rule. The stuff got in somehow, and Sunday morning hopper parties were a regular institution. At one such festival one hero (still alive and an occasional contributor to our magazine) ate no less than 88 hoppers for a wager.

Sambal was the usual savoury eaten with the hoppers, but on occasion depredations upon neighbouring poultry would result in a great enrichment of the repast. The misguided fowls used to stray into the compound early in the morning in search of food. Patrols used to go out in the grey dawn; a gradually diminishing circle would close upon the quarry, a few well directed stones, and the brutally slain bird, clutched to someone's bosom, would be borne away in haste."

The College Cadets won the Athletic Championship in the Cadet Sports this year.

A.Gomes, S.T.C. threw 88 yds. 1 ft.4 ins. in the Cricket Ball.

E.Kagwa won the Hurdles in 18 3/5 secs.

O.Van Geyzel of Royal beat the schools' High Jump record.

The practice of having a terminal route march for a distance of seven miles or so, generally to Victoria Bridge and back, was added to the activities of the Cadets.

In the following year the Hermann Loos Challenge Cup for "passed" cadets was offered for the first time. It was won by Kingswood, Kandy.

The College won at the Inter-School Boxing Meet this year, the team being :-

E.J.Cooke ..... (Feather weight)

R.Jayatilleke ..... (Welter weight)

E.Van Rooyen ..... (Fly weight)

C.Tennant ..... (Middle weight)

R.Nayagem ..... (Light weight)

S.Saravanamuttu ..... (Heavy weight)

In the April number of the Magazine for 1916 appeared for the first time the Thomian song.

1.

Thomians young, and Thomians old,

Thomians staunch and true!

Rally round the College flag,

The blue, the black, and blue,

To your Alma Mater sing,

Thomians near and far;

Loudly let the echoes ring

For all we have and are,

Esto Perpetua,

Esto Perpetua,

Esto Perpetua,

The Blue, Black and Blue for ever!

2.

Like the serpent keen and wise,

Harmless as the dove,

By the Cross we're knit in one,

Holy bond of love.

Loyal to our Church and King

Both in peace and war,

To the College we will sing

For all we have and are,

Chorus.

3.

In the field of Intellect

Many a prize we've won;

And upon the field of sport

Thomians yield to none :

Be it work, or be it play,

We will do and dare.

To the College therefore sing,

For all we have and are,

Chorus.

4.

We rejoice in victory,

When our foes we beat;

We have learnt, when fortune frowns;

How to take defeat,

All unfriendly rivalry

From our lives we bar.

To the College therefore sing,

For all we have and are,

Chorus.

5.

When into the world we go

For our life's career,

As the call of duty sounds,

We will answer clear.

Onward to the star.

To the College therefore sing,

For all we have and are,

Chorus.

Few better gifts have ever been made to the school than this song by Mr. Edmund de Livera, and its air by Warden Stone. Whatever its defects in verse or music, it has certainly taken on and has become familiar now to many generations of Thomians. The first two verses sung by returning teams, or by five hundred boys at a prize giving, is an established and inspiring tradition.

In May the Warden and Mrs. Stone went on leave. They had completed fifteen years in Island, and the Warden's work during that time had been amazingly successful. When he returned at the end of the year, the task of founding the New College at Mount Lavinia in the midst of those dark war years, fell upon his shoulders, and upon the Bishop. The Warden had made spirited appeals to the Old Boys of the school for their assistance, and they answered with that generosity which they had ever shown to the school, and which it is truly wonderful to read about. The new site was ready, and sufficient buildings had been prepared. 1917 was to be the last year at the old school. It passed quietly enough. Under the captaincy of R.S. de Saram the school again came out top of the College Football matches. To help the building fund, 'Julius Ceasar' had been produced by the Rev. G.B. Ekanayake in 1916 and in 1917

'Henry V.' was produced by Messrs H.J.Wijesinghe and E.S.D. Ohlmus. Both were successful performances.

At the end of 1917, Rev. O.J.C.Beven left the school after being Sub-Warden for seven years. "His great contribution to St. Thomas' was on the religious side. He gave much care and time to visiting in the parish of Mutwal, and to the Cathedral Services, and to seeing boys personally, and giving them help and advice in religious matters. Old Boys recall his dark -clad figure going out after school with his umbrella, and his private rickshaw following behind. He used to teach Latin, Divinity, and History, and he was well known for elaborate puns, and for thoroughness and punctuality." His work for the College is held in grateful memory.

In the holidays at the end of the year the College was moved, and the old buildings stretching over the hill top were left deserted. In a few years only the Cathedral remained rising over the tops of the banyan trees, and part of the Laboratory that had been built to the memory of Bishop Chapman.

For sixty-six years had the College grown and flourished upon the hill of Mutwal. They had been wonderful years and had covered the school days of many distinguished men. They were marked by many successes in games and work, which have been recorded here : those who knew the College in those years, or in part of them, will recall many a stormy passage, many a dark incident, and many a failure, which are not written here. Those incidents are ancient history now, though many of those who saw them are happily still young and vigorous. To their grandchildren shall be left the recording of them.

An Old Boy wrote the following lines in the Magazine to the memory of the Old College:-

On all things still time rings a ruthless change,  
Bide we at home, or if abroad we range,  
Life's picture moves, new scenes spring into view,  
Old orders pass, and make what for the new....  
I realise the change is one of peace,  
Of Peace and place – yet Thomia, I'll ne'er cease  
To mourn the old, old spot, the dear familiar place-  
My Alma Mater ! I shall miss that face!  
Scenes of my youth, on memory's page alone  
Thy past enchantments now I fain must own-  
There, where so many thousands played and fought



In friendly rivalry at work and sport,  
And each his own associations brought.  
I admire the chapter new, the bright new page,  
The mighty monument to your stone age !  
Know your past great, your future void of fear,  
Yet change is sad – and this one brings a tear.  
No more I'll climb the gently sloping ground  
That teems with recollections all around:  
No more I'll view the Kôn tree at the gate,\*  
Calling to mind the forbidden fruit I ate,  
(The ensuing stripes – repentance always late!)  
Nor see again the classroom where I sat  
And cursed old Euclid's endless "quod erat,"  
And trembled at old Stephen's threatening jowl\*  
When he mistook me for "a silly owl!"  
Dear Stuffins, if severe he was in aught,  
The love he bore to "boxing" was in fault.  
No more I'll feel the gentle evening breeze,  
Rustling in whispers through the banian trees.  
Forgive these thoughts-this old, "old boy's" lament,  
Thomia! Thy corner stone is sentiment.  
I do not for a moment mourn thee dead,  
I am not mad to dream they glories fled,  
To loftier heights, I know thou'lt surely rise,  
And trumpet-toned thy fame will reach the skies,

Beyond all rivals thou will lead us far.

Thy banner held on high – Esto perpetua!

Yet – Alma Mater! Still I miss that face,

Still shall I mourn the old familiar place!

C.S.

22nd February, 1918.

# COLLEGE HISTORY

## CHAPTER 7

### Warden Stone at the New College

For the first term of the year 1918 the College reassembled at Mount Lavinia. The new site, which stretched from the Galle road down to the seashore, had been purchased from the proceeds of the sale of the old, so that the boys could still claim that they were setting their feet on the gift of the Founder, which he made to them sixty-seven years before. Those boys had a hard situation to face and rough quarters to lie down in, after the amenities of Mutwal. That they had any quarters at all was due to three men, who had given endless time and thought to examining planning out the new site. The first of these was the Warden, whose steady purpose helped to bring about the move, and whose indomitable spirit persevered though every discouragement in the determination that the new buildings should be on a large scale. On Bishop Copleston had fallen the chief responsibility for deciding whether the move should be made at all. He had taken the decision, and once it was taken, he set to work at once to carry it out. He found the site, chose it, and bought it, and then gave freely of his time and business talents to its preparation, and over a lakh of rupees towards the cost of the new buildings. The third was Mr. C.E.A.Dias who took in hand at his own expense the inauguration of the water supply for the new premises. He had the underground pipes from the old College which had been laid by Warden Miller, dug up and brought to the new site. From him too came the idea of the new dormitory, and temporary dining hall. Mr. Dias, himself a distinguished Old Boy of the school, gave over half a lakh to the building fund.

When the boys arrived at Mount Lavinia the only buildings of the new school were the main Class Room Block and the Laboratory. The land lying next to the seashore, now the Big Club, was covered with coconut trees in process of being felled, and in the middle of them stood a bungalow in which some of the boarders were housed. Next to it was large cadjan shed which served as a Dining Hall, and had in it a glass partition at one end, which separated the sanctuary of the temporary Chapel from the rest of the building. A covered way led from this to the kitchens and in front of them were the Matron's rooms, and Winchester house, where the small boys slept, running as far as the Suriya tree before the present five courts. All these buildings, have since been swept away. The present Winchester was built afterwards, and was at first called Miller House. Later it was used as the Dining Hall. Some boarders lived in a bungalow among the coconut trees to the South, and more in another house on the right of the military road some two hundred yards away to the North. The Warden lived in Bertram House. Thalassa was not built at this time. The boys bathed at wells on the compound, and walked through a scrubby wilderness to reach them. The Playing Fields, the Dormitories, the Chapel, the Big School, the Dining Hall were not yet in existence. The whole place was rough and untidy to a degree that seems hardly possible when one looks at the grounds as they are today. The boys adapted themselves readily enough to this state of things, and seem hardly to have been aware of its discomforts, while they made use upon occasion of the opportunities for freedom it gave them. But these rough conditions, with College thus camped out over the country side, were not conducive to good discipline. No wonder a writer of the time records that "moving was a great shock. Systems have a way of winding

themselves about buildings. New surroundings tended to break the old rule down. We carried on under the impulse of the old system for years, but there was an inevitable slackening."

The Warden had in fact a tremendous task before him, to graft the old on to the new, and to win the interest of those who loved the old College at Mutwal for the new one at Mount Lavinia.

The plan with regard to the extension of the buildings at this time, was to erect a large three-storied block opposite to the Class Rooms, which should contain the Chapel, the Warden's house, the Dining Hall and the Dormitories. It was to be of considerable height and would have required very substantial foundations, but the saving of space that such a building would achieve would have been of the utmost value. That the authorities obtained so large a site for the new school shows a forethought, for which those who inherit it should be truly grateful: yet the authorities soon found that their new site was not large enough.

The Building Fund was the principal object of the interest and anxiety to everybody during this and the following years, and the response to it was truly wonderful. The record states that by 1916 the Bishop had given Rs.4,500.00; Friends of the College Rs.2,575.00; through the Bishop had come Rs.13,396.00, and from the Old Boys 19,295.00; making a total of nearly 40,000 rupees.

The first event of 1918 was the benediction of new buildings, the Class Rooms and the Laboratory, on January 26th when as the Magazine says, the Bishop "restarted the Old College in its new quarters with an appropriate service."

On March the 15th and 16th, was played a cricket match against St. Anthony's which has become historical. It reads like a cricketer's dream St. Anthony's went in first and made the huge score of 431, J.Anderson of that school, making 291. St. Thomas' went in made 217, and had to follow on. "The second innings followed with a deficit of 200 runs. But how splendidly that deficit was almost wiped off, and in how short a time! Saravanamuttu joined Bulankulam, out of its normal order, and out to make history. In the first eight minutes he faced the bowling four times and scored a single each time, and then the fun began. Was ever a crowd brought to its feet like one man as that crowd was when Saravanamuttu started everyone with a tremendous 'sixer'. Then as six followed six, each hit bettering the one before, the crowd went wild, the roar never silent in their throats, as they found the game suddenly played to the tune of their desires; it swelled quickly to double its size; and soon the ten fieldsmen got merged in its company! For the fieldsmen were now no more than onlookers as the bowler put each ball down to have it returned to him by spectators on the furthest outskirts of the dense throng... sheer muscle did it, that and the habit of the born hitter. The rising ball, which for an ordinary lad would have meant an uppish stroke to point or mid-wicket, now went mounting up and up till it cleared the trees at the tennis court end. As each hit went up, "That is the hit of the day," we say. "But no, nothing can beat that." Till finally we gasp and hold our breath to see that perfect off hit which skims the trees, and lands on the further side of the upper road, that was indeed the hit of the day, and of many more days to come."

Saravanamuttu's score in some thirty-eight minutes showed thus:  
1,1,1,1,4,6,4,1,6,1,6,4,6,1,4,1,4,6,1,4,6,6,6,1,2,4,1,1,6,4,6,4,1,6,4. Total 121 not out.

When stumps were drawn the score stood at 177 for one wicket.

Early in this year came the news that Lieutenant W.E.Keyt had been awarded the M.C.for conspicuous bravery on hill 70 in Northern France.

Later on came the news of death of Lieutenant B.A. Horsfall, and of his having won the Victoria Cross.

The following particulars of Horsfall's life are taken from the Ceylon Roll of Honour, and from the college Magazine, with some details that his mother was kind enough to supply. He was born in Colombo on the 4th of October, 1887, educated at Sir William Bosler's Preparatory School, Great Malvern, and at St.Thomas College. He became S.D.on Mundamani Estate K.V.and was second financial adviser to the Director of the P.W.D. in 1912. In June, 1916, he went to England, and enlisted in August, being commissioned to the 3rd Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment. He was in the Battle of Arras in 1917, was wounded at Rouen and invalided to England. He returned to France, and was killed in action on March 27th, 1918.

Lieutenant Colonel Rickman wrote of the event thus :

"In the action fought on 26th and 27th March, 1918, the Battalion was holding the ridge between Ablainzeville and Moyeuneville. My left was on the road which runs from Courcelles le Compte at Alette. The enemy attacked very heavily. Your son was commanding the left platoon of my left company. The next battalion prolonged the line towards Moyeuneville, and were driven off the ridge, but your son continued to hold the position. I received a message from him saying that he had been driven back, but that he was counter-attacking; which he most successfully did, driving the enemy back, and gaining his objective, he being wounded severely at the time. Hearing that two other platoon commanders were both killed, and the other platoon commander wounded, he refused to leave his men. Throughout the day, very heavy fighting was continued : twice your son left his position, but each time he counter – attacked driving the enemy back. He held his ground though his company had lost 135 out of 180 engaged. In the evening, when both my flanks were driven in on my headquarters, I sent written instructions to your son to retire to the line Ayaette. He received the instructions, and carried them out himself remaining behind to supervise the retirement. During the retirement he was unfortunately killed close to the ridge which he had so gallantly held for two days. His body had to be left where he fell, and the ridge has been in the possession of the enemy ever since. But his splendid example and devotion to duty undoubtedly saved a very critical situation. The Division on my right had been driven in. The Bridge on my left had evacuated its position: and the troops under my command held two enemy divisions for two and a half days and nights; and then with both flanks in the air they only retired 1,000 yards which line is today held."

The story of Horsfall's death is a typical example of the terrible waste of splendid courage and manhood in war, and the whole world rejoiced when the peace bells rang out on November 11th, 1918, when the Armistice was signed.

Upon that day ever since, the school has read and remembered the names of those who died in the war. They were:

Lieut. Basil Horsfall, V.C. Killed in France

Lieut. W.Bell .. Gassed in Flanders

Lieut. Glennie .. Killed in France

S.O.L.Perera .. Drowned in the Mediterranean

F.Obeysekere .. " "

Hal de Saram .. " "

S.Ramanathan .. " "

Wm. Weerakoon .. " "

G.E.Van Rooyen .. Died while on Service

Lieut. H.G. Jan .. Killed in Action, Tangier Line

H.E.W.Staples .. Killed in France

Gunner F.Ludovici, R.G.A. " "

W.P.Bennett .. " "

H.Robert Hebenton .. " "

To the memory of these men the present Big club ground was made in 1922.

The following also served during the war :-

C.E.Arndt J.R.Ingleton

A.Abeysekera G.W.Jayaetileke

A.M.Andree L.V.S.Jayawardena

U.Arndt Capt. W.E.Keyt, M.C.

S.Alvis Shelton Koelmeyer

Geo. Bay S.H.S. Keyt

J.Burke E.M.Keyt

R.Burke Rupert Keane

Claud D'Silva W.Leembruggen  
Lt.W.C.de Zilva H.V.Leembruggen  
C.de Livera R.A.Leembruggen  
Capt. C.L.de Zilva E.C.F.Leembruggen  
R.S.de Saram B.Leembruggen  
F.G.de Zilva W.K.Martensz  
Capt. H.V.Diacono James Moir  
Dr.J.H.Ebert W.Margenout  
C.M.Green L.M.Mac Heyzer  
F.M.Gamble Lieut. E.H.Nicholas  
N.Glennie W.T.Nicol  
M.Grenier M.Nell  
W.Garvin J.S.Nicol  
G.Horsfall Howard Poulter  
N.E.Halliley S.W.Pereira  
H.H.Hunter Edmund Reimers  
W.Winter Q.M.S.and Hon.Lieut. F.Homer  
J.F.A.Hebenton R.Wickramasinghe  
W.Ronald F.C.Wiggin  
S.L.Silva D.C.Wijewardene  
Martin Smith O.L.Zanetti  
T.South A.C.Zanetti  
B.Storng B.G.Zanetti  
Lt.P.St.Quentin Sproule E.C.Richards  
Lt. H.V.Tringham B.Robertson

P.Tennekoon F.Welch

C.Tennant Lieut. E.C.Weinman

H.E.H.Todd Lieut. R.F.Wickramaratna

In 1918, the Rev. P.L.Jansz, M.A. of Royal College and Cambridge University, became Sub-Warden, and he was succeeded in two years by the Rev. G.M.Withers, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, who had worked for a time in a parish in the East End of London, and who had been for two years an army chaplain in France.

When the College moved to Mount Lavinia the practice of calling Dormitories after their Dormitory Masters was replaced by the present system of Houses bearing names honoured in the history of the school. The Houses were:

Claughton House Chapman House

Read House Copleston House

Miller House

The boys who belonged to these houses continued to take part in the same activities that had filled their time in the Old College. The Chess Club continued to flourish and distinguished itself in 1919 by winning a match against the Ceylon Chess Club by 5 ½ games to 3 ½.

The Debating Society took very kindly to the new soil, and the Library, much thinned in transit, but still enclosed in its coal stained cupboards, was placed in one of the upstairs class-rooms.

The reputation of the Magazine was well upheld and in the March Number it pays a tribute to Mr.C.Hartley, Principal of the Royal College who retired this year.

The College won the Cadet Sports this year, beating Trinity by a single point. The Junior Cadets distinguished themselves by winning the Junior Athletic Cup two years running.

In football the team came first among the schools this year. The school matches were:

S.T.C. v. St. Benedict's ... Won 1-0

S.T.C. v. Royal College ... Draw 0-0

S.T.C. v. St. Joseph's College ... Won 2-0

'Twelfth Night' was acted this year under Mr.L.A.Arndt's direction. The part of Olivia was taken by Miss. L.R.Rode, Viola by C.K.Jonklaas, and Molvolio by Mr. L.A.Arndt. The stage for this performance was fixed at the bottom of the stairs of the mian



classroom block, and a shelter was built out into what is now the big quadrangle to accommodate the audience.

The Influenza epidemics which swept over the world in this and previous year did not fail to visit the College, but though they took their toll of life in the country, they passed through the school without any fatalities.

It had been found necessary to leave the Divinity School behind at Mutwal when the College moved, but in 1920 Dr. Ekanayake and his students came to Mount Lavinia and took up their residence in a bungalow behind the Warden's house.

Early in this year came the news that L.J.de S.Seneviratne had won the University Science Scholarship of the previous year.

The Cambridge results were good this year and showed no fewer than 32 distinctions, with four first class honours in the Junior. The honours list was as follows:

#### Seniors

Class I. D.T.Wijeratne ... e.l.gk.m.

C.Ponnambalam ... e.l.ch.

Class II. L.D.Smith ... m.

G.V.F.Wille ... e.

S.S.Richards ... ph.

C.G.Siriwardena ... e.l.ch.

Class III. R.C.I.Hepponstall

N.E.S.Kalenberg

E.C.Wijesekere

#### Juniors

Class I. E.F.N.Gratiaen ... e.h.l.m.

H.C.P.Gunawardene ... a.M.ch.ph.

F.de S.Jayaratne ... e.h.l.g.

O.S.E.Silva ... e.l.gk.

Class II. P.C.C.de Silva ... e.h.

D.E.A.de Livera ... e.

A.Hallock

J.A.Q.Mendis

Class III. R.St.L.Pieris

C.S.Seneviratne

These were the results of the first year's work in the new College. The satisfactory progress made at this time is a great tribute to the stability of the institution and the efficiency of the Warden and Staff. It was inevitable that a considerable number of boys should leave when the move was made, but the great majority stayed on. That parents appreciated the work of the school is shown by the fact that 170 boys joined the school in the first term at Mt. Lavinia.

This large number is partly accounted for by the starting of the Kindergarten under Miss. R.Rode. The work of the Kindergarten was subsequently carried on by Miss A.Bay.

At the end of 1920 the College lost the services of Mr. E.Navaratnam who had been on the Staff for 21 years, and had built up a great reputation as a teacher and disciplinarian. He is naturally associated with the Old College, and the following description of him relates to the days before 1918.

"The Boarding House at Mutwal would have gone to pieces without him. He was a little man, only about five feet in height, but full of spirit. He hardly ever left the compound in term time, but on any night that he was out, there was sure to be an uproar of sorts between preparation and lock-up.

He was a martinet : too precise perhaps, making too little allowance for erring human nature, possessing too little humour about boyish vagaries, but absolutely fearless, and absolutely unconcerned by unpopularity.

He was Small Club games' master, and as Bursar he worked untold hours in the office. With all this, his work as a teacher was always up-to-date. Piles and piles of exercise books were carried up daily to his room, to be punctually returned most accurately marked. He was the most conscientious of teachers. He would never let weak boys sink, but would hammer away at them till he knocked something into their heads. He taught everything, Mathematics, English, Latin, History, Geograhly. On Sunday he took Bible Class.

A most remarkable man. He was not popular with the boys though many had cause to bless him."

D.T.Wijeratne won the English University Arts Scholarship in 1921 bringing the list of Thomian winners upto fourteen.

The College Calendar was revived this year. School lists printed by the College Press, had been issued as early as 1855. The Calendar had been started by Warden Miller in 1879, and was published at intervals up to 1900. With the new Calendar is associated the name of Mr. C.V.Pereira who had completed 25 years' service on the Staff. He was appointed in May, 1896 by Bishop R.S.Copleston who was then acting Warden. The same year saw the completion of 25 years' service of Mr.E.O.Pereira.

On May 26th, 1921, the Warden and Mrs. Stone went on leave for 9 months. "The years that followed the removal of the College to its present site were crowded with worries and anxieties, building troubles, the Influenza epidemic, and last, but not least, the rice scarcity of 1919-20." The story is told that when the rice famine was going on the Warden himself would go down to the store, after a ship had come in, and would never rest until he could bring back a supply of rice in his car for the boys. This was his twentieth year of office.

The Rev. G.M.Withers was in charge of the College during the absence of the Warden. He set to work at once upon a campaign of raising money for the Building Fund, and many stories are told of his persistence as a collector. To his efforts, and to the generosity of Old Boys, the College is indebted for its Chapel which was to be dedicated within six years. He had great hopes too of seeing the Dormitory Block started, but that was work which was to prove too much even for his unflinching energy and keenness. The plans of the Chapel were prepared by Messrs Walker and Adams, Colombo. In December the Magazine records the subscriptions to the Building Fund from June to October, 1921 to have amounted to Rs.54,315.16.

An attempt, says the Magazine, "is being made to revive the College choir in connection with the Chapel services, and regular practices are being conducted by Mr.Jayasekera during the week." The Chapel referred to is that which was partitioned off with glass from the cadjan roofed Dining Hall.

The numbers in the school at this date were 750.

In camp at Diyatalawa in August, 1922, the Senior Cadets won the much coveted Hermann Loos Challenge Cup for squad drill under the leadership of Sergeant C.F.W.de Saram. The officers in command were Messrs. H.D.Jansz and C.B.Paulicpulle. The Junior Cadets were issued a new uniform this year, khaki shirts with shoulder straps of the battalion colours, black and gold, khaki shorts, belts, and hats with badges of the College colours. They won the Junior Cadet athletic trophy at the Cadet Sports in June.

Mr. V.P.Cooke started the College Cub Pack this year, which is still going strong after eleven years.

Mr.S.L.H.de Zylva also started the first Scout Troop in the College though it was not looked upon very favourably by the school authorities.

At the Old Boys' meeting in February, the War Memorial Committee, elected two years before, announced that subscriptions had been raised to the amount of Rs.45,596.36. With this sum a strip of land belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, actually to St.Johseph's College, and lying to the north of the College premises had

been bought. On this new strip was built this year the long dormitory and masters' rooms, which are now used as the Dining Hall and Office.

The present Cricket Field is the College's Memorial to those who gave their lives in the war.

The whole of the Big Club was levelled and covered with six inches of gravel and planted with grass. It was officially declared open by Col. Rowley in 1924. The field had been used before 1922, but it was "a sandy waste, dusty and uneven, and not fit for matches." The earliest match played at Mount Lavinia was the Old Boys' Match of 1919, and at football a second eleven match against St. Benedict's in May of the same year.

It is recorded that the Warden received from the Royalist cricket eleven a cheque for fifty rupees subscribed by them to the work upon the Thomian Cricket ground.

The work of building and paying for the College Chapel was the leading consideration in everybody's mind in 1923. The cost of the Chapel was estimated at 110,000.00 rupees. It was to be 130 ft. long, rising 39 ft. to the top of the walls, and was to be large enough to hold 500 people. The tower was to be 60 feet high. The architect was Mr. P.A. Adams, A.R.I.B.A., and the building contractors Messrs Jayasuriya & Co. At the east end of the Chapel to the right of the apse may be seen the foundation stone which was laid on October 13th, 1923 by Bishop E.A. Copleston.

This was to be one of the Bishop's last services to the school. In the following year he retired and in him the College lost an old and very faithful friend. For twenty-one years he had been a Visitor. Warden Stone frequently acknowledged the debt he owed to the Bishop's counsel and to the continued generosity which he showed in subscribing to the needs of the College. At the presentation to Bishop Copleston before he sailed to England on retirement the Warden said, "Only the Warden himself and one or two members of the Staff know how arduous are the duties of the Visitor; for it is characteristic of the Bishop that he does most of his work in the background. His task it is to find ways and means, to contrive on behalf of the Trust Funds, that unknown potentiality behind all our activities. For years the Bishop has had to decide what should we sell, and what should be kept. When we were driven from Mutwal, the Bishop had to sell the ground and find a new site. We owe our new site entirely and solely to the Bishop, he found it and bought it, and spent much thought on laying it out. It was a wilderness in 1914. The Bishop worked to put up the fine buildings we have, the noble classrooms, the Science Laboratory and Miller House Dormitory, for the building of the new Chapman Dormitory, and the laying out of the Cricket Grounds and the erection of the Chapel."

The College owes a great deal to Bishop E.A. Copleston. He was a faithful and hard worker, conscientious and devout, and a humble man who worked without caring for public credit.

The cadets won the Hermann Loos Challenge Cup in camp at Diyatalawa in 1924 for the second year in succession, and added to it the Shooting Cup. Mr. H.D. Jansz and Mr. C.B. Paulicpulle were the officers in command.

On October 26th a sham court trial took place in the Chemistry Lecture Hall under the auspices of the Debating Society. The extemporized court house was crowded with masters and boys. The trial was supposed to be held in England, and every one who took part bore an English name.

That a lower stratum of College Society was still carrying on its own vigorous existence is shown by the following note, which was picked up in the compound, carefully printed to prevent the writing being recognized :-

"We, the three owners of the cricket ball you broke this evening, challenge you and two others for a fight tomorrow at 5.30 a.m. Please don't disappoint us. Remember we will be on the Big Club grounds. The others must consist of the fellows who played. If the others don't come, meet me yourself, one to one.

Hercules, the Rib-Breaker.

Tarzan, the Jaw-Breaker.

Samson, the Lion-Killer.

In 1924 a Hockey Club was started in the school for the first time, and it had a spasmodic existence in this and the following years. "The team's game was based rather on primitive instincts than skill. Nevertheless they contrived to win both their first two matches. The Staff were constant supporters of the Hockey Club, and supplied the more law-abiding part of the game".

The Small Club played a cricket match with the Trinity College Juniors on Asgiriya on the 8th of March for the first time in the history of the college. The team consisted of H.Goonetilleke, M.Ondaatjie, P.Sproule, R.Hermon, J.Fairweather, S.Senanayake, I.Austin, G.Wanigasekera, H.Abeykoon, R. Rupesinghe and C.Abeywardene. Of this team of under-sixteen boys at least eight played in the first eleven in the fullness of time. They won their match by eight wickets.

A great feature of these times was the Old Boys' Annual Dinner held, this year, at the Grand Oriental Hotel. Warden Stone had a great reputation as an after-dinner speaker and his speech this year is a good example of his skill in this line. It is but fair, that the reader should take it as it was meant to be taken, that is, in reminiscent mood after dinner, with his port at his elbow and goodwill to his neighbours in his heart.

Mr. M.J.Cary proposed the health of the College, and the Warden replied. "I have," he said, "been looking forward to this day for many weeks past, and I am glad to hear from Mr. Cary, a very good friend of the Sinhalese, about the past history of the College. During the past six years I have been almost entirely engaged in transplanting the old place from Mutwal to Mount Lavinia. Any planter will tell you that the transplanting of a full grown tree to a place ten miles away will cause a severe shock to this system – (laughter). It was done not only at a period of domestic anxiety but also of international crisis. And I am sure that you will agree with me that we were lucky to escape with our lives – (laughter). I think the patient is doing wonderfully well.

The total number of boys in 1888 or so, was about 350, but now we have only 700 – (laughter), while the incubator has about 100 on the books – (laughter). Mr. Cary has laid emphasis on commercial education, and imagines that St. Thomas' teaches nothing but Latin and Greek, and prepares boys for those useful professions of Law and Medicine. When I look about and see on the one hand Mr. Senanayake and Mr. C.E.A. Dias, I see there only two representatives of commercial Ceylon and I know that Commerce is getting its share – (Hear, hear). I have been told by various people that the Fort simply swarms with Thomian brokers – (loud laughter). In order to carry out the traditions of the College we have managed to annex three Government Scholarships since 1917, and something more, and that is two Boxing Blues; and I do not think that any other school in the Island has done that – (Hear, hear). We have another two already in prospect. That is only a tribute to what I will call the fiery mettle of Dr. Paul Pieris who has a son who has won silver bowls at the University, the finest boxer Cambridge has seen, and he is already fast preparing another in his son Justin Pieris; and on my left I see that father of a very likely candidate who is going to Oxford. Those who know anything of boxing will know that he will be taken to their arms at once and put into the ring. I remember on one occasion some years ago when talking about horse-flesh to the Maha Mudaliyar – (laughter), the latter said that 'blood will out in man or beast' – (renewed laughter). A man like Dr. de Saram, though he seems like butter milk is not so. And not satisfied with what has been, we tried our best to get a Cricket Blue and just failed; and all that I can say is that Cambridge deserved all they got in the match against Oxford this year – (laughter). We are not content with this. We are sending one of our Staff, J.A. de Silva, late of Trinity, and if they do not take J.A. Silva, I hope Cambridge will never win another match – (laughter).

The College abounds not in the stereotyped pattern of boy, but we possess all the rare varieties of the human boy. There are two who left three years ago, the two shortest boys whose combined height was 9 ft. and their combined ages 46 – (laughter). We have also the tallest Old Boy, whom I met somewhere down at Matara five years ago. He was then 6 ft.5 ins and growing fast – (laughter). He spent most of his time in Plumbago mining and Coconut planting, and when he toppled into a Plumbago pit he would just step out – (loud laughter). And when he went round his Coconut estate, and felt thirsty, he would just reach up and take a king coconut and refresh himself – (laughter). If precedence has any value in Ceylon, I am going to recommend him as a strong candidate when the next vacancy falls for the General Manager ship of the Railway – (renewed laughter). We have also the fattest present boy in Ceylon. He is a very thoughtful boy. Such is the vast extent of unexplored territory in him, that when an idea sinks into his mind it is sometimes not found again for three months – (loud laughter). Last year I removed him from a boxing tournament on humanitarian principles for fear that I should be indicted by the Attorney-General as an accessory before the act – (laughter).

Also I have the pleasure on every Monday and Wednesday of the week of the owner of Orange William – (Hear, hear). I spend most of my time in imparting French to him, and at the end of every lesson I get a report on the state of that intriguing animal. That young gentleman last reported about a week ago that Orange William was as mild as a lamb, and as fast as a Fiscal's peon – (laughter). Now everybody will know just as much as I know of the destiny of the Governor's Cup. We have added this year a new one to the list of honours, and I am proud to see this evening

the winner of the Golf Championship of the Island, Mr. Timothy de Silva – (loud cheers).

The greatest pleasure which I have enjoyed during the last 23 years, and not 17, as Mr. Cary stated, has been to see him winning that Championship against very heavy odds. I am told that Mr. de Silva won it by taking nothing to eat and drink for 24 hours – (laughter). Now I think that a College that can turn out such rare personages as these, and is guilty of such varied activities is worthy of your continued support. Ceylon needs a school like St. Thomas' to exhilarate it, and I think that we can manage to provide that for them. One is training the Sub-Warden to go round and get everything he can out of you. I put it to you that in the matter of giving to the new building you have done well and even generously. Of course, some now and then feel the strain of giving. Well, if you consult the advertisements you will find that when you are suffering from a strain you should get somebody to rub the remedy well in – (laughter). And that is the part the Sub-Warden is eminently good at playing – (laughter). Because I regard the possession of wealth in the Island as a dropsical habit of the social system. You know the line of action indicated by medical men for that disease. They not only touch the sufferer, but tap him vigorously. For the moment it is very painful, but how blessed is the relief afterwards – (laughter). It gives a new lease of life, and also of money making, and in the course of a year or two they are fit to repeat the operation. There are those who have to be dealt with in a different way. Some suffer from suppressed inflammation of the surface, and some have rather deep seated difficulty, and in such cases it is necessary to apply some form of counter irritant, even if necessary, to blister the patient – (laughter). Other cases require much more delicate treatment and they have to call on the skilled hand of the practitioner, the man who feels to his finger tips and knows the art of scientific massage of the self-regarding emotion – (laughter). In that, we are only borrowing a lesson from the study of Natural History. You have all read of the ants that keep cows, known as 'Aphides,' and they milked them by gently stroking them on the appropriate part of their anatomy – (laughter), and the liquid gold exudes. This brings me to the point. We want Rs.25,000 and that too within the next three months – (laughter and applause). A good deal of it has already been promised, but if other people pay, it will be all to the good. I want the money in order to put up the Chapel, and of it is subscribed, that building can go forward, and we shall have that whole magnificent exterior of that Chapel appropriately built. I can then wait for you to subscribe for the rest. Some Old Boys object that we are building the place in far too magnificent a style, almost as good as the G.O.H., but the College has been growing, it has been built in a beautiful style, it has been shaping itself really like a beautiful work of art, and it ought to match the finest work of nature in this Island. Those who know jungle lore know that there is no more entrancing sight than the peacock stretching itself, and soaring into the heights of the air with all the pride and bravery of iridescent hue. We want to be like the peacock. The class-rooms are the body, the legs and hinder part are the Science Laboratories, the head will be provided by the Chapel. All I want you to do is to furnish the tail, which is to be the Dormitory block. Nothing is so fine as a peacock with a fine tail; and no sight is so ridiculous as a peacock without one – (laughter).

Mr. Cary very eloquently expressed to you the hope of the future. No one can forecast the future of the Island, but you know from the study of the last five years that it will be far greater than it has been, in the future. All kinds of activities are

stirring the mind of the young. Most of us are not young, or we are too young, but those who know the signs of the times do thoroughly believe that great opportunities lie before the young men of the Island. Now, you are the trustees of the future, and I ask you to put into the new age the best form of life insurance ever invented, and that is a fine school well endowed – (loud and continuous applause)."

It was known in 1924 that Warden Stone was about to retire from his work as Warden of the College and the story of the early months of 1925 is the story of his farewell, and of all the reminiscences of twenty-three years that it called up in the minds of all who were interested in the school.

The Warden had won his full share of reverence and affection in Ceylon. He had been so long at the helm, and had made his personality so essential to the College, that there was a genuine feeling of dismay at the thought of his departure. The director of education might well say "Boys of St. Thomas,' you are losing your best friend. If you get another Warden like Warden Stone, I think you will be one of the most fortunate Colleges in Ceylon." Gatherings of the masters, the boys, and the Old Boys, met to thank him for his work, and to wish him farewell. Many of the speakers consoled themselves with the thought that the Warden was returning to Ceylon to become Classical Lecturer at the University College.

At the General Meeting of the Old Boys' Association, which met in full strength to bid him good-bye, the Warden made a speech which must stand as an index to his character. He said:

"It is hard for me to rise for the last time and address you as Warden. Anyone would feel the difficulty in the same circumstances. I cannot relate all that has been done to me during the last twenty-three years. I look back to the beginning of my term of office, the memory of my experience, my absolute omniscience, my determination always to be right, and that everybody else should always share that opinion. But after eighteen months as Warden I discovered I had been wrong, and could not see any reason why I had been spared, instead of being guillotined. But in one thing of endeavoured to have my own way and that was the Classics. I would have my own way with St. Thomas' College, and was not prepared then, nor am I prepared now, to allow Latin and Greek to be derogated – Latin and Greek which are the finest instruments of instruction that have ever been put into the hands of civilized man.

Another thing in which I had my own way was my determination to make to distinction between the highest and the lowest. Certainly I never allowed the word "caste" to be spoken in the College compound. Of course, I listened to the many woes that were poured into my ears by the boys. In some cases they were related at such length as the lamentations of Jeremiah. I learnt the lesson early that if one wished to get at the truth in regard to any person in this Island in any trouble, he must remember that the preamble would take twenty-five minutes, and the rest another ten minutes, while the real truth would slip out accidentally at the end. I learnt a lesson not to make any Ceylonese think like an Englishman just because I was an Englishman. Living and letting live is the way in which I think everybody who comes within my scope.



It is true that I lost my temper at times like all decent people. I think losing one's temper is a mark of a person's sense of moral consciousness.

I have learnt to love Ceylon and St. Thomas' College. I have learnt to love the boys, and, even if I do beat them mercilessly, it is because I love them. Many of the boys have justified their ability, some of them have not. I never despair about a Thomian even if he had gone wrong for a year or two. Some of them have gone wrong, but I believe there is something in the College called the Thomian spirit that can never die. That is the spirit which has been created by Bishop Chapman, and brought to full growth by Warden Miller.

There are a thousand things which I ought to have done which I have not done. There are many letters I might have replied to, but on going through them later I found that there was always good reason why I did not reply to them. I only wish I had done more for you. If you will forgive me my omissions and commissions, I will readily do the same for you. I have feeling of my own, and abominable furious temper, and I can be stung into frenzy by the illconsidered words of boy and master.

I cannot say how much I loved the boys.

I have no intellectual giants as teachers, as the morning papers would call them. I do not believe in them. Giants are monstrosities. I believe in having masters who get the spirit of working hard and sticking by the school till they drop. The man who puts his heart into the work is the man I want, and the man who has the heart of a gentleman. I do not believe in the existence of stupidity.

In conclusion, I bid you farewell. I am, in a way glad to say so, because I have been able to carry on without breaking down, and been able to leave the College in better hands."

Warden Stone's times are still too close to us for any complete estimate of his work to be attempted here. His best memorial is the wonderful success of his boys after they left school, and the affectionate remembrance so many of them bear towards him.

He was an autocrat. His personality attracted men and boys alike, and helped to make the school great; while his autocracy made it run smoothly and efficiently. Nothing could be more difficult than to find a successor to Warden Stone. In many ways he belonged to the old school of headmasters, and a new school of educational thought had arisen which, rightly or wrongly, gave much greater freedom of judgement and development to the individual.

Warden Stone had a keen sense of humour which made him very human and understanding under a stern exterior, while it often left his fellows completely in the dark as to his purpose. "He often comes to see me with a very serious face" said the Director of Education, "and I listen to him seriously, but I really do not know whether he is serious or whether he is in fun." A member of his Staff said, "Like most of his countrymen Warden Stone does not wear his heart on his sleeve. We often wish he did, as it would have made it easier for us to understand him." But with all his

humour he never failed to maintain a stern uncompromising discipline. Stern discipline and ready humour side by side were largely the secret of his success.

Mention has already been made of his greatness as a teacher, and of his work in the rice famine, and to these must be added his services to the people of Ceylon the time of the Riots.

Of his domestic arrangements an Old Boy once said, "Who ever heard of running and office in which 1,400 parents and 700 boys were concerned, without a telephone, typist or correspondence clerk?" The same speaker talked of the anomaly of "a great Cambridge scholar giving orders for boys' boots and paying tailor's bills." But like his predecessor Warden Miller. Warden Stone knew how vital to the College were its finances and he passed through times when great care and economy were essential. At the end he was able to claim that in all his twenty-three years the College had never had a financial crisis.

Warden Stone sailed for England on the 4th of February 1925 Later in the year he returned to Ceylon as additional Lecturer in Classic at the University College.

With the departure of its great leader, and the drastic effects of the move from Mutwal still fresh upon it, the College was left with a difficult situation to face, and hard time before it.

The Rev. G.M.Withers was acting Warden this year, and Rev. R.S.de Saram was appointed Sub-Warden. One of the Acting Warden's first measures was to raise the school fees. This was made necessary by the alteration in the Government Grant Scheme. Instead of the grant being calculated on the difference between receipts and expenditure, it was to be given upon amount given by the College upon salaries; the School Managers paying 55% and the Government 45%. As a result of this alteration the fees were raised to the following figures:-

Boarders : First Table ... Rs. 55.00

Second Table ... Rs. 45.00

Day Boys: College, VI. & V. Forms Rs. 12.00

IV. ... Rs. 10.00

L.IV. & U.III ... Rs. 8.00

L.III, II, I ... Rs. 6.00

On the 1st of August the Memorial Tablets in the Classrooms which bore the names of Benefactors to the College were unveiled by the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. M. carpenter Garnier. The Tablets were as follows

College Form ... The tablet and portrait of Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, K.C.M.G.

Form VIA ... The tablet and portrait of late N.A.Wijeyasekera, Esq.

Form VIB ... The tablet and portrait of the late Hon.Mr.Arthur Alvis.

Form VB ... The tablet and portrait of the late Hon. Mr. G.S.Schneider.

Form L.IVA. ... Tablet in memory of the late Arnold Dias, Esq. Erected by C.E.A.Dias, Esq.

Form L.IVB ... Tablet in memory of the late C.Namasiwayam, Esq.

Form L.IIIA. ... A.Tablet erected by Hon. N.J.Martin

The Ven.F.H.de Winton who had been for many years Archdeacon of Colombo and a very old and very good friend to the College, retired this year.

"Last year" says the Magazine, "both the Engineering Scholarships to England were filled by Old Thomians, Mr. T.E.Tweed and Mr.R.H.Paul; and this year the Classical Scholarship has been awarded to Mr.O.S.E.Silva." All these scholarship were won by Old Boys, from the University College.

In February, the College won the Junior Athletic Championship, and the C.L.I.Cup offered this turn for the first time for the best all-round platoon.

The College won the Stubbs Shield in the Inter-Schools Boxing Meet. It could boast of no fewer than three Boxing Blues at Oxford and Cambridge in the last six years.

A Radio Club had a short and vigorous existence this year.

'Twelfth Night' was acted in October in the College Hall. The stage was again the foot of the steps leading up to the classrooms, and the audience were seated in a shelter built out in the main quadrangle. The part of Feste, the Clown, was taken by Mr.E.S.D.Ohlmus, Sir Toby Belch by Mr. C.B.Paulicpulle, Sir Andrew by Mr.C.F.C.Jayatileke, and Malvolio by Mr. C.H.Davidson. The part of Olivia was taken by Mrs.Anthonisz.

# COLLEGE HISTORY

## CHAPTER 8

### The Days of Warden McPherson

On May 4th, 1926, the Rev. Kenneth C. McPherson arrived as the new Warden of the College. Mr. McPherson was educated at Wellington College, and at Keble College, Oxford. He took his degree in 1908, obtaining Second Class Honours in Modern History. For six years he had been on the Staff of Trinity College, Kandy. While there, he went to Cuddesdon Theological College, and was ordained in 1915. For nine months he was Acting Principal of St. John's College, Jaffna. In 1919 he became Chaplain to the Bishop of Madras, and in 1921, Principal of St. Paul's School, Madras.

The Induction of the new Warden took place in the old thatched-roofed dining hall on the 6th of May, and on the 15th of May the Bishop gave an "At Home" in the quadrangle between the Science Laboratory and the new Chapel, to give Old Boys and friends of the School an opportunity of meeting the new Warden.

Mr. McPherson's position was not an enviable one. For a full quarter of a century his predecessor had been the life and soul of the College, and had held the threads of its destiny in his own hand. The Old Boys and the Staff had become accustomed to the methods of Warden Stone, and many generations of schoolboys had passed through the school, and gone out into the world looking to the great Warden for their ideals in education. It was certainly not an easy task to follow Warden Stone in office. The effects of the move from Mutwal, and the serious inadequacy of the buildings of the school, were becoming more and more apparent. Many Old Boys remember the elongated assemblies stretched out along the class-room verandah, the dark overcrowded habitations of the senior boarders in the bungalows scattered in or near the College grounds, the unfinished playing fields, the dingy little Sick Room tucked away at the end of the Junior Dormitories, and the tiny but beside the Big Club that did office for a Tuck Shop. The new Warden had to face debts on the existing buildings, and the imperative necessity of raising further buildings with the least possible delay. It can hardly be doubted that the School could not have continued to exist as a boarding school without further buildings. The new Warden set to work upon his task with all the energy of his character. Two things were in his favour. The first, and lesser one, was the high price of rubber. The second was the wonderful interest and generosity shown by the Old Boys.

Warden Mc Pherson's first year was marked by great activity. An important step was taken in dividing the Day Boys into five houses, Stone, Buck, Wood, Jermyn and Baly. Boys were allotted to houses according to the area in which they lived. Stone House consisted of boys of Mount Lavinia, whose names began with the letters A to M inclusive, and Buck House of boys of Mount Lavinia whose names began with the letters N to Z. Wood House had boys from Ratmalana and further south, and from Nugegoda and Borella. Baly House boys lived in Wellawatte and Bambalapitiya, and Jermyn House boys in Dehiwala, Slave Island, the Fort and Pettah. Efforts were made to encourage day boys to take a greater part in school games, "but," says the Editor of the Magazine, "so far we regret to find that the games have not gone off

with the swing necessary to maintain enthusiasm." The territorial division of houses was not found successful, and in the inter-house cricket matches, three Day Houses had to combine against two other Day Houses, so that house individuality was lost. The Boarding Houses were little better off at the time, for Miller and Copleston Houses consisted entirely of senior boys, while Chapman had a team consisting of its prefects and the tail filled up with Juniors, so that the contest tended to be very unequal. Claughton consisted of the youngest grade of Juniors in the Boarding House. Miller House played and won the final of the inter-house cricket against the combined teams of Wood, Buck and Stone.

At the end of the year the increasing numbers in the school made it necessary to divide the Cambridge Junior Form and the forms below it into three parts, and the boys were put into A, B or C forms according to their proficiency. Later the Day Houses became three in number, Buck, Stone and Wood, boys being placed in houses according to their forms.

Other activities beside the organization of the Day Houses, marked this year. A Hunt Club was started for cross-country running, and had a brief and strenuous existence. A Day Boys' Debating Society, and a Junior Debating Society were started, but soon disappeared. In the next year an Art Club was started in October, but almost immediately came to an end.

Much more important was another society, a society which St. Thomas' owes to Trinity College, Kandy, and which Trinity College owes to that fine Christian gentleman, Mr.N.P.Campbell, who made it a real and living institution at Trinity : the Society was the Social Service League. Among so many bubble societies founded at this time, it is gratifying to find that the Social Service League has never lost its original vigour. The first Secretaries were E.C.M.Anthonisz and A.J.D.N.Selvadurai, and for many years the Rev. J.Barnabas was the mainstay of the Society.

The Sinhalese Literary Association was founded in May of the same year with a hundred and fifty members, and continued its useful work. M.D.Mirando was the first Secretary of the Association. The Tamil Literary Association was started soon afterwards.

The College Debating Society received a new stimulus from the Warden, who regularly took the chair himself at its meetings. The Society was full of vigour at this time, but it lacked the dignity that marked its early years. On Friday the 16th of July the first debate with Royal College took place in the Royal College Hall. The School was represented by F.C.Salgado, P.Ondaatjie, A.H.S.Keuneman and B.Ratnayake, Mr. Reed, Principal of the Royal College, was in the Chair.

In the first term of 1926 Elroy Flecker's play Hassan was produced by the College Dramatic Society, under the direction of Mrs.McPherson, and in the second term of the next year the Society staged "The Tempest." Mr. C.B.Paulicpulle was the producer. The part of Prospero was taken by Mr. C.H.Davidson, Ferdinand by Mr. C.F.C.Jayatilleke, Sebastian by Mr. Heyzer, Antonio by Mr.D.F.David, Mirando by Mrs. R.S.de Saram Ariel by Mrs. E.F.N.Gratiaen.

With the coming of the Rev. T.W.Gilbert, A.R.C.O.as Chaplain, the School treble choir was brought up to a very high standard. Seldom had the College had a finer or more patient musician and choir-master than Mr. Gilbert, and great were the pains that he took in training the singing classes in the Lower School. When he left the College his work was carried on by Mr. C.H.Wheat, and after him, by Mr. N.M.B.Jansze.

The Rev. G.M.Withers resigned his position in the College this year, and the Rev. R.S.de Saram was appointed Sub-Warden.

At the end of the following year Miss Hunter, who had been Matron for 17 years, retired.

#### Dedication of the Chapel

On the 13th of February, 1927, the College Chapel was consecrated by Bishop Carpenter-Garnier. The imposing ceremony, worthy of so great an event, is thus described in the Magazine :

The Bishop vested in full ecclesiastical canonical, with cope, mitre, etc., on arriving, accompanied by his several Chaplains, was received by the Warden and the Sub-Warden at the West door. The Warden then read the Petition of Consecration.

Prayers and responses followed. Next the Bishop,preceded by those assisting, passed round the Chapel three times. Between the circuits, responses were sung. The Bishop then blessed the outer walls of the Chapel, in sections, the choir meanwhile singing the appointed Psalms.

The Bishop, clergy and congregation next entered the Chapel, which was opened to them from within by the Guardian Deacon, and on their arrival Psalm 132 was sung.

His Lordship, and the Minister of the Altar, and the Bishop's Chaplain, went to a prayer desk, placed in the Nave. The people took their seats, while in the form of a St. Andrew's cross the Master of Ceremonies strewed sand on the floor in front of the Bishop, as he faced the principal Altar.

After silent prayer, the hymn "Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire," and the Litany, were sung.

After this the Benedictus with its antiphon was sung, followed by the Gloria.

While the Canticle was being sung, the Bishop with the end of the Pastoral Staff, wrote the first letter of the Greek Alphabet on the end of the arm of the cross, nearest to him on his left, and the last letter of that alphabet on the opposite end of that arm. He then wrote the first letter of the Latin alphabet at the end of the arm nearest to him on his right, and the last letter of that alphabet at the opposite end of the same arm.

After the Canticle with its antiphon had been sung, the Bishop standing near the cross of sand said prayers, while the People responded. The 43rd Psalm was then sung.

His Lordship then standing at the Altar, turned to the people and asked all to pray that God with his great mercy will sanctify with his blessing this Altar.

After a prayer, the 41st psalm was sung. His Lordship with his attendants then made a circuit of the Chapel, blessing the walls as he went. During this the 69th Psalm was sung.

After this the Bishop and his attendants made a second circuit, this time signing each of the consecrated crosses cut in the walls of the Chapel.

His Lordship then blessed the principal door and the pavement. Returning towards the principal Altar, a His Lordship said prayers at the Sanctuary step, at the Lectern, at the Pulpit, and at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

After some further prayers and responses, His Lordship signed the front of the Altar.

Two short prayers followed and His Lordship sat in his chair, and dedicated and blessed such ornaments of the Chapel and of the ministers as were placed before him.

After His Lordship had offered two prayers of thanksgiving, he ordered the sentence of Consecration to be read by the Registrar.

The hymn "Praise my soul the King of Heaven" brought the service to a close.

## **1928**

In January, 1928, the College played and beat St. Peter's Adelaide, on the Sinhalese Sports Club ground. The Australian boys were making a cricket tour in Ceylon. R.Hermon made 97 in the first innings, and 51 in the second, for the College.

There were one or two fine performances in the Old Boys' Day Sports Meet this year. O.S.E.de Silva cleared 5 ft. 6 ins in the High Jump A. J. N. D. Selvadurai covered 20 ft. 10 ins. in the long Jump and O.S.E.de Silva won the Weight with of 35 ft. 10ins.

The Inter-House Sports were renewed this year and the Inter-House Boxing Competitions took place for the first time.

The year 1928 saw great developments in the Building Scheme of the College. The set of four Class-rooms facing the sea to the West of the military road were completed, and the New Tuck Shop on the South of the Cricket field, was opened. The last was largely the result of the efforts of Mr. V.P.Cooke, who while raising money for it, travelled steerage to Singapore. The first progress in the laying out of the grounds was made at this time, and was due to the same good friend of the College. One important part of this scheme was the making of the Small Club ground

above the Hotel Road. Rails were laid across the road and through the compound, and the soil was carried down and used for filling up and levelling the land near the sea shore.

The question of raising new Dormitories and a Big School was considered by a committee of Old Boys at a meeting held on January 16th, and a scheme was proposed by the Hon. T.L. Villiers, under which it was determined to start the work. The cost of the buildings was estimated at Rs.300,000.00 of which Rs.78,000.00 was cash in hand subscribed for the purpose, and a loan of Rs.50,000.00 had been promised by the Incorporated Trustees of the Diocese. A sum of Rs. 172,000.00 had to be raised. The Old Boys had already subscribed with very great liberality, and it was decided that the time had come when posterity should be called upon to provide a fair proportion of the cost of the buildings. It was therefore proposed to ask any persons interested in the College to subscribe to an issue of St. Thomas' Building Fund Debentures carrying interest at 6% or 7% according to the wishes of the lender. These would be issued in bonds of Rs.100.00 each. It was estimated that the College would be able to pay the interest on these bonds and gradually repay the lenders. The bonds to be paid would be drawn for by ballot.

This scheme was accepted and immediate action taken. Everything looked well, and Rs.47,000.00 worth of debentures was applied for before February 1928. Plans were drawn up, soundings taken, and by the end of the year the steam hammer began to resound through the school driving in the piles to hold the foundations of the promised buildings. This vital step was taken only just in time, as it proved.

In June, the Thomian Fair was held at the Mount Lavinia Hotel, to raise money for the Building Fund, with such success that Rs.7,000.00 was realized.

It was very appropriate, when all the energies of the College were concentrated on the progress of the new buildings, that Mr. C.E.A. Dias should have been asked to preside at the Prize-giving in August. He was one of the greatest benefactors the school had known, and had given over half a lakh towards the buildings, as well as a great deal of advice and practical help.

In the Warden's report at this Prize-giving the numbers in the school were given as 860, of whom 180 were boarders. Each Warden in turn, from Warden Miller onwards, had given his warning against allowing the College to grow too large, and it cannot be denied that by this time it was rapidly doing so, even allowing for the fact that 105 of the 860 were in the Kindergarten. However dangerous the growth of the numbers in the school may have been at this time, it was certainly very remarkable. In 1927, there were 750 boys, in 1928 there were 860, and in 1929, there were 947.

## **1929**

In the Cadet Sports in February, 1929, the school won the Senior and Junior cups for the best athletic teams sent in by the schools. The Stubbs Shield in the Inter-Collegiate Boxing meet was also won this year. The team consisted of L.R.Gooneratne, Light Heavy Weight, A.Dias, Middle Weight, F.Gooneratne, Feather Weight, A.Gunasekera, Fly Weight, and F.V.Edirisinghe, Pin Weight.



The fiftieth annual match between St. Thomas' and Royal College was played this year, on the Sinhalese Sports Club ground. Royal College went in first and made 293 runs. St. Thomas' made 190 in their first innings, and had to follow on. In their second innings they made 138. The Royalists made the odd runs for the loss of three wickets, and thus won the match by seven wickets.

When the buildings of the Old College were dismantled, the stone which stood over the door of Library in the Old School was preserved, and brought to Mount Lavinia. On Thursday, June 27th, 1929, this stone was unveiled, and the foundation stone of the new Dormitory block was laid by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Herbert Stanley. The original stone is let into the wall on the right side of the main entrance, and the new stone is outside, under the window, to the east of the main entrance. There is an old story that when Warden Read was shown the Bishop's throne in the old College Chapel, the Cathedral, he pointed out an error in the Latin inscription upon the brass plate which commemorated the donors. Of the inscription on the foundation stone of the Dormitory block, it is said that the Sub-Warden, while meditating upon it in bed, suddenly realized that there was an error, which a Fourth Form boy might have been whipped for, made no doubt, by the stone mason in copying the letters. The truth of either of these stories may be tested by anyone who thinks it worth while to examine the inscriptions.

Before the end of the year the new Sick-room was completed and ready for use. The two wards were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Daniels in memory of Charles LaBrooy, who died at the early age of nine. The Dispensary was given by Mrs. Morris in memory of her husband.

### **1930**

On the 12th March, 1930, a Bill was passed in the Legislative Council which amended the law relating to St. Thomas' College, and incorporated the College Board of Governors. The idea had been proposed by Warden Stone in 1911, and again in 1921, and it was finally carried out this year. Bishop Chapman had left the affairs of the college in the hands of the S.P.G., and his successors had constantly taken the counsel of the Society on College affairs, and received very generous contributions from it: but virtually the government of the school had been in the hands of the Bishops of Colombo. The College was the property of the S.P.G., and the right of appointing the Warden and the Sub-Warden belonged to the Bishop. During Mr. McPherson's tenure of office a new constitution was drawn up for the College a difficult piece of work, for which the credit was chiefly due to Sir Stewart Schneider and Warden Stone. The constitution set up the Board of Governors, who henceforth took charge of all the property of the college; and they became responsible for the College's future welfare. To them passed the right of appointing the Warden. Subject to the approval of the Bishop, who was ex officio President of the Board. The S.P.G., renounced all its rights in their favour.

"So, at length" wrote Mr. McPherson, "the College became one of the national assets, and was to be for all time the property of a Board, which consisted of representatives of various sides of Ceylon's professional life, and of the Old Boys."

The Constitution of the Board was carefully planned so that it might be really representative, and at the same time preserve the intentions of the founder. It was to consist of twelve members :

- (1) The Lord Bishop of Colombo, or in his absence his commissary, who should be Visitor and ex officio member and Chairman of the Board.
- (2) A representative nominated by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, who should be ex officio member of the Board.
- (3) Two representatives of the St. Thomas' College Old Boy's Association elected by that Association from among its own number.
- (4) One person who should be a member of the Church of England in Ceylon, elected by the Staff of St. Thomas' College from among the members of the St. Thomas' Old Boys' Association.
- (5) One representative of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Colombo, elected by that Committee from among its own members.
- (6) One representative nominated by the University College Council who should be a member of the Church of England in Ceylon.
- (7) One person nominated by the Director of Education, who should be a member of the Church of England in Ceylon.
- (8) Two persons nominated by the Lord Bishop of Colombo who should be members of the Church of England in Ceylon.
- (9) Two persons to be co-opted by resolution of the Board, both of whom should be members of the Church of England in Ceylon, and one of whom should be a member of the Old Boys' Association.

The original Board of Governors consisted of the following Members: \_

Bishop Carpenter– Garnier, Mr. R.Jewell–Thomas the representative in Ceylon of the S.P.G., Mr. D.S. Senanayake, Mr. C.E.A.Dias, the Rev. Dr. G.B.Ekanayake, Mr. H.H.Bartholomeusz, the Rev. W.A.Stone, Mr. T.L.Viliers, Sir Stewart Schneider, Ven. F.L.Beven, Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, Rev. G.E.H.Arndt, Dr.G.H.de Saram, Prof. J.W.Hinton and Mr. S.J.C.Kadirgamar.

The year 1930 saw the completion of the essentials of the Building Scheme of the New College after twelve years. They were years of growth and development, which generally bring their troubles with them, and the College had its full share of troubles during this time, which it will fall to the lot of future generations to record.

At the end of August this year Warden McPherson resigned. A most valuable institution started by him was the uniform dress for all boys in the Fifth Form and below. It consisted of white shirts and blue shorts, and it added very greatly to the neatness of the appearance of the boys in school.

Of Warden McPherson, his successor said, with abundant truth, "I have never seen in my life a man who worked as hard as Mr. McPherson." His tall, slim figure was constantly seen hurrying across the compound with restless energy. In addition to seeing the Dormitory block and the Big School completed, he built four new Class-rooms, and saw to the building of the Sick-room. He busied himself, with the assistance of Sir Stewart Schneider, in the settlement of the business connected with the founding of the Board of Governors, and saw to the final completion of the Chapel, and was largely responsible for raising the money to pay off the last debt upon the building. He was a keen progressive educationist, and did much to stimulate thought and progress in the school. Nevertheless discipline was not satisfactory in the school at this time.

He left Ceylon and joined the Establishment in India.

# COLLEGE HISTORY

## CHAPTER 9

### Warden de Saram

With the completion of the Boarding Houses, and the appointment of the Rev. R.S.de Saram as Acting Warden in 1930, and finally as Warden in 1932, a new era began. The advantage of proper boarding accommodation was immediately felt, and the discipline of the school was improved. The old system of two Junior and two Senior Houses disappeared, and four Houses, Chapman, Claughton, Copleston and Miller, each with a Senior and Junior dormitory, were established. The Day Houses, Buck, Stone and Wood, were allotted boys from the A, B and C Forms. Inter-house competitions spread over the year, and in the course of time were sufficient to bring out almost every talent that boys were likely to possess. The Cricket competition continued its yearly round as of old, and the Soccer competitions and Athletic competitions for Seniors, and Juniors under 16, were established. There were in addition competitions in Swimming, Shooting, Tennis, Fives, Boxing. Physical Training and Cross-Country Running. An All-Round Shield was given by Mr.Thuraiappa, in memory of his son, which covered all these competitions, and the work of the boys in school in addition.

In 1931 Athletic and Swimming tests for every boy who was old enough to be a member of a house were started, and have been carried out every year since then with great keenness. The result of the House Competitions soon became visible in a very much greater interest in all school activities shown by Day Boys, who began to hold more places in school teams than in former years. A Day Boys' Debating Society was started by Mr. E.L.Perera, and won places for its representatives in the Inter-College debates. The Competitions did a great deal for the Boarders, especially the Athletic and Swimming tests, and the Boarding Houses continued to be, as they had always been, the centre of the College life, and to hold their own against houses three or four times their numerical strength.

But with the complete re-establishment of the school in its new surroundings, there came an unforeseen difficulty in the scheme under which the new buildings had been raised. The trade depression fell upon the world, and it hit Ceylon as severely as anywhere else. With the depression it was impossible to raise money by the sale of debenture bonds, and the school was left in debt to the builders who had carried out the work. The builders, Messrs Walker and Sons, Ltd. Of Colombo, met the College authorities very reasonably in the difficult situation that was created. Nevertheless such a debt was a severe weight for any school to carry, and the Warden had had as heavy a task put upon him as any of his predecessors had to face in the whole history of the College. To help to ease matters a Million Six-pence Fund was started in 1934, when the depression had begun to show signs of lifting. It was splendid piece of pilotage that carried the College without mishap through the intervening years.

### 1931

At the Old Boys' Day Sports of 1931 Warden Stone gave away the prizes. It was his last visit to the College before he finally left Island.

Two Fives Courts were given to the College this year by Dr.R.L.Hayman of the College staff, and the same generous donor added two more in the following year.

The school lost the Royal-Thomian Match this year by eight wickets, the team being all out for 60 in the first innings after Royal College had made 258. In the second innings N.de S.Wijesekere made 105 and F.Amarasnghe 70 out of a total of 218. F.C.de Saram made 140 for Royal.

At the end of the second term the Debating Society held a mock trial. The Acting Warden was judge. Mr.B.E.W.Jehorathnam and W.S.D. Mather were counsels for the prosecution, and Mr. J.Sitharam and E.F.Edirisinghe counsels for the defence. The prisoner, C.Dias Bandaranake, was accused of "gallicide" while driving his car.

This year Mr. C.V.Pereira retired from the College Staff after thirty-five years work at St.Thomas'. An Old Boy has left a record of his work in the Magazine.

"Mr. Pereira came to us from Trinity College with the highest credentials. He had been their "star student," and when the news came that he was joining our Staff, it was generally anticipated that we had made a capital acquisition; but as we look down his wonderful record in the rolling on of years, it must be acknowledged that Mr. Pereira has proved the golden link in long chain of celebrated masters. When he took his B.A. examination from Trinity he won record marks in Latin-that was his best subject-and year after year he produced many distinctions in Latin at the Cambridge Examinations, and established a foundation on which Warden Stone was able to work to such purpose that our excellence in Classical study became a by-word. Mr.Pereira's love of the Classics was only equalled by his great ability. He knew no Greek when he joined the Staff of St. Thomas' College, but he studied it himself; and the born teacher that he was, he taught Greek so successfully that his students won distinctions in Greek nearly as often as they obtained distinctions in Latin.

Apart from his teaching, Mr. Pereira took the utmost interest in all sides of school life. His interest did not cease with the ringing of the closing school bell. For many years he guided the destinies of the Magazine. He took a keen interest in the College Reading Room and Book Cupboard, and altogether his all-round enthusiasm lives as an example to all who undertake the career of a master."

It will be appropriate to quote the opinion of Warden Stone: "As a master Mr. Pereira had admirable discipline. His teaching was skilful and resourceful to a degree; and the best results in the Cambridge Examinations and beyond, in S.T.C., were due almost entirely to his untiring devotion and unceasing freshness in presenting the subjects he taught for thirty-six years without a break; for the year he spent in the Government Training College was no interruption. He collaborated with me in a book of Intermediate Latin Exercises. For years the College Magazine lived by his efforts, and his care of Book Cupboard of the College, a task enough to weary the most ardent, was a valuable source of revenue. In my long and confidential relations I found in him a devoted colleague and a friend. His election to the Board of Education was an honour well deserved, and to teachers at large he gave ungrudging service

to promote their best interests. I count him one of the best teachers Ceylon has produced."

Over two hundred of Mr.Pereira's old pupils subscribed to a presentation which was made to him the year after he left.

## **1932**

The principal event of 1932 was the appointment of the Rev.R.S.de Saram as Warden and his installation on June 24th. The event was of peculiar interest to all Old Boys and friends of the school, because the new Warden was himself an Old Boy of the College of Warden Stone's time. Mr.de Saram went to England in 1918 and took a Second Class in Greats from Keble College, Oxford. While at Oxford he won a Blue for Boxing. After taking his degree, he went to Cuddesdon Theological College, and was ordained. He was appointed Curate of St.Paul's, Kandy, and in 1925 he was invited to join the Staff of St.Thomas'. He was appointed Sub-Warden in 1926. He acted as Warden twice, for six months at a time, during the absence on leave of Warden McPherson, and since August, 1930, he had been virtual Warden.

News arrived this year that L.Jayasundere had won the English University Scholarship in Mathematics at the London B.Sc. Examination in the previous year. He had passed the Inter Science from S.T.C. in 1928, and proceeded to the University in 1929 where he was placed first in First Class Honours in the B.Sc.

The Magazine of July conveys the congratulations of the School to Mr. O.P.Gooneratne, on his having completed twenty-five years service at S.T.C. He was one of the earliest students at the Training College for teachers, and joined the College Staff in 1906. In the following year Mr. Gooneratne was Acting Warden while Mr. de Saram was on leave in England.

The College Dramatic Society was very active at this time. It staged small Christmas plays in 1930 and 1931, and in 1932 it produced "Twelfth Night," in 1934 "The Tempest" and 1935 "The Merchant of Venice". In "Twelfth Night" Mr. C.B.Paulicpulle was Sir Toby, and Mr. H.J.de Silva Sir Andrew Aguecheek.Mr. C.H.Davidson was Malvolio. S.L.Schockman took the part of Olivia, and C.W.Theideman that of Viola. In the Tempest Mr.C.H.Davidson acted Prospero. The part of Miranda was taken a by Miss Thelma Hall, and that of Ariel by Miss. Zoe Jayatileke, Mr. N.E.M.B.Jansze was Ferdinand and, Mr. C.B.Paulicpulle Caliban. In the "Merchant of Venice" Mr.E.S.D.Ohlmus acted the part of Sylock. Antonio was acted by Mr. C.H.Davidson, and Bassanio by Mr. C.B.Paulicpulle. Mr.H.J.de Silva was Lancelot Gobbo, Mrs.Anthonisz was Portia, D.C.Ingleton Nerissa, Mr.C.V.A.Ratnayake acted Lorenzo and Tubal.

Efforts were made at this time to bring the School Library up to a better standard. The old cupboards were brought down from their temporary retreat in the U.VIB Class-room, and the Library was given a permanent room next to the Dining hall, where the collection of books rapidly expanded. Everything possible was done to collect the records of the College, and to restore the Library to the central position in the life of the school that it had held at Mutwal.

Another expansion was the making of the new Botanical Garden between the Hotel Road and the main Class-room block, a very creditable piece of work, which was due to the exertions of Mr. R.S.D.Jansz. There is a story that at the end of the first term of the Botanical Garden two small boys showed their appreciation of it by eating the College specimen of Sugar-cane.

The College Scout Troop which was restarted in 1928 had won for itself a recognized place among the activities of the school: and the Cub Pack, which belonged to a still earlier date, continued to flourish. Both gave many opportunities of camping to the boys who joined them in places as wide apart as Anuradhapura, Kandy, Maskeliya and Bentota.

### **1933**

The athletic of 1933 were very successful. Mr. John Halangoda gave unsparingly of his talents as a cricket coach to the team, and the results were visible in great improvement all round. The team owed a great deal to the Keeness and judgement of Mr. F.L.Goonewardene, and the Rev. A.J.Foster, the Chaplain of the School.

On July 22nd the Boxing team won the Stubbs Shield in the Inter-Schools Championship for the third time in five years. The school was represented by : J.H.T.Perera, Heavy Weight "A," A. Caldera and P.Kularatna, Light Heavy Weight "B," A.C.Dassanayake, Welter Weight, E.Thiedeman, Light Weight, R.B.Jayatilleke, Bantam Weight, R.Proctor, Fly Weight. The team was trained by Mr. Deraniyagala.

In the Inter-School Sports the School was again victorious, and won the Tarbat Challenge Cup, and the Jefferson Challenge Cup for the Relays. S.Thabrew cleared 5ft.8ins. in the High Jump and W.A.Wijesinghe 20ft. 4ins. in the Long Jump

### **1935**

On Prize Day, Wednesday, August 7th, 1935, it was announced that Dr.R.L.Hayman had been appointed Sub-Warden. No school boy who plays a game of fives in the College courts, or who takes a header into the Swimming Bath is likely to forget Dr.Hayman. The Swimming bath was first opened on December 14th, 1933 when the Warden took the first plunge. It was officially opened by Bishop Carpenter Garnier on February 1st, 1934. The appointment of a Sub-Warden after that office had been vacant for three years was sign of the development and returning prosperity of the school.

### **1936**

The years 1930 to 1936 belong to the present rather than the past, and events in them are too recent to have fallen into their proper perspective, but some general record of them may be given.

The disturbing of old standards and old ideals, which has taken place in all countries, has had its effect in Ceylon as everywhere else, and it has forced people to think more and to measure things anew. In St.Thomas' this has been manifest in many ways, and foremost among them has been the development of a new religious life in

the school. Its root must be looked for far back in the days of Warden Stone and its growth has been the outcome of a movement within the Diocese of which the College is a part. In this connection mention must be made of the work that the Rev. A.J.Foster has done for the boys of the school.

The development of thought has led to intellectual development, which has found expression in the growth of the College Form; in the steady enlargement of School Library; in the new and more serious spirit in the Debating Society; in the recently started Literary, Scientific and Historical Society, and the revival of the Art Club, and the Musical Society.

Another development has been the making of gardens in several parts of the compound for the study of Botany. The Vth Form, the U.IV, the L.I.V, and the U.III, each have their own gardens, and much keenness has been shown both in school and out of school in the making of them. The work the Social Service League has done in the school grounds has expanded steadily, and has contributed to the general scheme of improvement.

In July, 1936, regular Carpentry Classes were begun for the L.IV forms as part of a two years' course, and a number of classes were added out of school for any boys who wished to learn wood-work.

In school games, Hockey began to replace Soccer in 1936. Ever since 1929 Hockey had been played more or less regularly and in 1936 the first Inter-House Hockey competitions, Senior and Junior, took place. H.D.Bartholomeusz was the first Captain of Hockey.

These years were marked by the conscientious work of many House Masters. Among them may be mentioned Mr.V.P.Cooke who did much to promote keenness in Big Club Cricket, Mr. H.P.Jansz whose patient work with Small Club Cricketers was of great value to the School; and Mr.C.H.Wheat and Mr.E.L.Perera who did good work for the School Athletics; and Mr. C.H.Davidson who was a pioneer among the Day-House Masters. Dr.Hayman's work as a House Master, and in the promotion of School Swimming during this time has been invaluable.

Of very great importance to the school has been the reduction of the debt upon the buildings. To help this reduction the Thomian Fair, organized by Lady J.P.Obeysekere, Mr. And Mrs. A.L.de Witt, and Mrs. P.Saravanamuttu, was held in Colombo in November, 1935. It proved a very successful undertaking and 9,000 rupees were raised.

Behind all the activities of the last six years a steady discipline has been maintained which has made the school run smoothly and efficiently, and has made possible the development in its activities.



# COLLEGE HISTORY

## CHAPTER 10

### S. Thomas' and Educational Influences in Ceylon

What has so far been said has been matter of fact, as accurate and as true as it could be made from the sources available. But as soon as the interpretation of facts begins, there must be an element of opinion; and so what follows has been separated from the chronicle of events, and set out by itself. Its purpose is to try and show the influences that have made up the historical background of the ordinary boy who goes to school today. For this purpose it is essential to understand something of the history of the country, and an outline of the history of Ceylon may therefore be of use to any who are not already familiar with it.

### The Ancient Sinhalese Kingdom

The Mahavamsa, one of the oldest chronicles in the world, gives the story of the Sinhalese people from 483 B.C. to 1815 A.D., and it is the main source of knowledge about the ancient kingdom. From the Mahavamsa it appears that Prince Vijaya led one of several waves of conquest from Northern India, possibly Bengal, and settled with his followers in Ceylon, where they founded the city of Anuradhapura which became the royal capital of the Sinhalese nation. He found in the Island a people whom the chronicle calls Yakkhas (demons), but they seem to have had some sort of civilization, being ruled by a queen, and living in cities. The Yakkhas seem almost certainly to be the ancestors of the Veddas of the Ceylon jungle. Seligmann's work on the Veddas records such of their customs and language as remained at the end of the last century, while it is held that today there is hardly a pure Vedda to be found. However that may be, the influence of the Vedda race in the making up of the modern Sinhalese race should not be left unconsidered when more light comes to be thrown upon the subject.

The Sinhalese are believed to have brought Hinduism with them to Ceylon,\* and it remained the principal religion until 247 B.C., when Asoka sent over the Buddhist missionary Mahinda. "Asoka", says Bishop R.S.Copleston in his book on Buddhism, "was a great man who found in Buddhism the great social, moral virtues of kindness to man and beast, peacefulness, truth, honesty that he wished to instil into his people."† Asoka gave Buddhism to Devanampiatissa, King of Ceylon, and the Buddhist philosophy with a strong Hindu bias upon it, became one of the greatest influences on the Sinhalese character.

Buddhism came upon a vigorous race; the race that built the cities of Anuradhapura, and later Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya, and made the water-storage tanks, which prove that their builders had great artistic sense, architectural skill, and engineering ability, not to say capacity for organization of labour. The cities and tanks still stand in the jungle as a witness to a great civilization.

Most writers on Ceylon History have pointed out how the priests established schools, but these schools do not seem to have been organizations of any permanence. Each saint or scholar gathered his disciples and taught them the Buddhist scriptures in the

Pali language, the lists of places of pilgrimage, and the astrology that was needed for casting the people's horoscopes; while the Brahmans still continued to teach Sanskrit. With the departure or death of a teacher his disciples would scatter to find new masters.

There are records of skill in surgery, of great poets, of Brahman scholars who taught arts and sciences under the patronage of kings; but the Mahavamsa is chiefly concerned with the Maha Vihara, or great monastery at Anuradhapura. Here the writer of the early part of the Mahavamsa lived. It was one of seats of learning, a Pirivena, a kind of university. But it is misleading to apply western terms to ancient oriental institutions. The whole idea of a fixed organization for worldly purposes was quite foreign to the Buddhist ideal. Perhaps something in the nature of Tagore's school at Shanti Niketan would give a better idea of an ancient Pirivena. The students, assembled from many countries, studied in the open air under the shade of trees, and recited the verses they learned from their teachers' lips. Manuscript books must have been exceedingly rare and precious. Nevertheless education for the higher castes seems to have been fairly universal, and covered a wide range of subjects for that age.

Buddhism rapidly became the national religion. Supported by royal favour, and led by men of really saintly lives, it took such a hold on the people that multitudes took vows of asceticism and lived upon the bounty of their fellows.

In these circumstances and with the pacific teaching of Buddhism, the king found it difficult to raise forces, for the defense of his coast, and to keep order in the interior, and into so he took his pay a body of Tamils from South India. "Of the foreigners thus confided in", writes Tennent, "two youths powerful in their cavalry, and navy named Sena and Guttika, proved unfaithful to their trust, and after causing the death of the King Suratissa, (B.C.237), retained the supreme power for upwards of twenty years, till overthrown in their turn and put to death by the adherents of the legitimate line."\*But the Tamils had now tasted of the wealth of Ceylon and they started by wave after wave of petty raids and conquests to establish themselves in Ceylon, especially in the North with their headquarters at Jaffna, and their influence stretching for to the south. In B.C .145, another Tamil, Elara, again held the throne for 44 years. The Sinhalese people then had a great revival under Dutu Gemunu, but it did not last long. In 642 A.D., Anuradhapura, the ancient capital, was practically deserted. In 1037, Polonnaruwa was seized by the Tamils. The Sinhalese capital moved steadily southward to Sigiriya, to Yapahu, to Kurunegala, to Gampola, to Kotte and to Kandy. Thus the Tamils were established in Ceylon nearly two thousand years ago, and they looked upon the island as their home, and had a long history in the North, centuries before the needs of the coffee, tea and rubber industries added to their numbers in Ceylon.

It was a long time before the Tamil raids were seriously felt and that interval was marked by the greatest days of the Sinhalese Kingdom. In the time of King Vijaya Bahu III, (1232 A.D.), education was greatly encouraged, and the Buddhist priests were directed to teach the children in every village. Of King Vijaya Bahu III, the Mahavamsa says : "Now in his faith the Sovereign set about rendering helpful service to the Order (priesthood) of the perfectly Enlightened One (the Buddha). If one asks how this was done, the account runs thus : "Deeply grieved in his heart that

in the island of Lanka so many books that dealt with the true doctrine had been destroyed by the alien foe (Hindu Tamils), the Ruler called together laymen endowed with good memory and knowledge, pious, well instructed, free from indolence, and skilled in quick and fair writing, and along with these, many other writers of books, and made all these write down in careful fashion the eighty-four thousand divisions of the doctrine, and made over to them in accordance with the number of the divisions the like number of gold Kadapanes."\* This passage shows how education was not confined to the priesthood and how, as in Europe at the same time, men still looked backward to past ages for inspiration, and found it chiefly in religion. If the priestly writer meant to hint at the decadence of the priesthood, the insinuation was not unjustified. Again and again he condemns the laxness of his brethren. Royal patronage and accumulated wealth very soon had their effect upon the original deep sincerity of the Buddhist leaders.

The long Tamil wars forced the peace-loving Buddhists to become soldiers and they founded military schools where youths could learn "archery, management of the elephant and fencing with swords." But in course of time war brought another deadly enemy upon the ancient kingdom. While men were away fighting, the great lakes and vast irrigation systems of former years, were left untended and they became choked, or burst their bounds, or the bunds were cut by the enemy, and the water lay in stagnant pools across the land. The inevitable result was malaria. When it came is not known, but when the first Europeans reached Ceylon, the jungle had taken possession of the ancient cities and Ceylon was divided into a number of petty kingdoms almost too obscure to have left any records of their existence. Years of war and bloodshed, and the often selfish, and sometimes weak, rule of a long line of absolute monarchs had tended to crush the originality in art and the progress in society that had once made the race great.

The ancient kingdom left a legacy of thought, and so of language and customs impregnated with Buddhism. It left a caste system divided according to crafts, and strictly graded, with an aristocracy and an absolute monarch at its head. No great quantity of Sinhalese literature or learning survived, though what did survive was of importance and was constantly added to in the following centuries : but respect for learning never died out, and that respect was to be turned to an entirely new and very different culture from anything the people had known before.

### **The Portuguese Era**

When Vasco da Gama found his way round the Cape of Good Hope (1497), it was not long before his countrymen established themselves at Goa in South India, and from Goa they came to Ceylon and built a fort at Colombo, where they came in conflict with the long established trading interests of the Moors. They came to trade, and to spread Christianity, but they were soon forced by circumstances to become conquerors. The Portuguese showed in Ceylon, as the Spanish showed in Mexico and Peru, an incredible mixture of courage and endurance, with an unscrupulous lust for gold. They married Sinhalese wives and the children of these alliances were admitted to full citizenship, one of the them becoming Commander –in-Chief in Ceylon. They wished the people to accept the laws of Portugal and they offered to the Sinhalese nobility the same rights and privileges as the Portuguese nobles enjoyed. "But the people's delegates declined to submit to such wholesale

assimilation, pointing out that they were Sinhalese brought up from their youth in the laws which they knew and observed, and that it would be a very grave matter for them to abandon those laws and take others in their place."\*

The Portuguese followed the policy of supporting one Sinhalese prince against a rival, so that the hundred years of their supremacy became a duel between the Low Country under the Portuguese and the Hill Kingdom under the Kings of Kandy who remained independent. Three times did the Portuguese burn Kandy, and each time their army found itself cut off in the midst of the enemy, so that it was twice annihilated in the wild rocky ravines leading back to the coast. Twice did Raja Sinha of Sitawaka, almost win his way over the walls into the city of Colombo. Amidst the rapine and disorder and bloodshed of this period it was no wonder that Buddhism declined in the Kandyan Kingdom. The people were forced to put up with the despotism of their kings because the king's power alone would protect them from the Portuguese.

But the bravery that marked the Portuguese soldier was not lacking in the Portuguese missionaries. St. Francis Xavier's life is a typical example of their daring and enterprise. He preached in India, China and Japan, a perfectly marvellous achievement for those days. It was no mean feat that he found his way into Kandy when his countrymen were at war with that kingdom. Education was entirely in the hands of the Church. The Franciscans, the Jesuits and the Dominicans all started Colleges and Schools in the towns, while the village priests, scattered over the Low Country, taught the people in the Village Schools. With the rare psychological insight which has always characterized them, the Jesuits encouraged teaching in the Vernacular, while other orders used the local corrupt Portuguese. The Village Schools taught Sinhalese reading and writing.

The Portuguese left a very enduring mark upon the people of the Low Country. As late as 1846, Bishop Chapman read services in Portuguese, a very corrupt Portuguese it is true, but enough to show the firm hold that the language had taken, and to account for the many Portuguese words that have been absorbed into Sinhalese. The great vigour of the Roman Catholic missions in Ceylon is a legacy of the Portuguese, and they were responsible for giving the Sinhalese and Tamils their first contact with European ideas and European education. The Portuguese left too a legacy of romantic valour, coupled with greed and treachery, which did little good to the country.

### **The Dutch Era**

In 1656 the Dutch captured Colombo, and the Reformation reached Ceylon. The Dutch avoided war with Kandy as much as possible, to the great benefit of the people of Ceylon, and turned their energies principally to trade. For this purpose, according to the usual practice of the time, they endeavoured to establish government monopolies in their dominions, in which the people of the country only shared indirectly.

But the race that had so lately fought for its religion in Europe with such wonderful courage and endurance was equally ardent in its missionary labours in Ceylon, and the missionaries were responsible for the establishment of schools. The Dutch

system of education seems to have been elementary but widespread. At one time there were 70,000 children in the schools. The Dutch Governors agreed with Baldaecus, their Minister of religion and historian in Ceylon, that oral instruction in the fundamental truth of the Gospel in as few points as possible was best.\* In this the Dutch followed the same principal that prevailed in the elementary schools of their own country and in most countries of Europe at that time. The schools were nearly all taught in the Vernaculars, and not much was done to extend the Dutch language, though a large number of Dutch words have passed into the Ceylon Vernacular languages. Girls were taught with boys in the schools, which was a great advance. Where their influence was strong enough, the Dutch sent round inspectors, always clergymen, who saw that the children stayed at school until the progress made was satisfactory. Efforts were made to improve the standard of teachers by the Seminaries founded in Colombo and Jaffna after 1696 : but by 1743 these Seminaries had reached University standard and had largely lost touch with the village Schools.

The schools were unpopular in some districts, partly because of Buddhist and Roman Catholic opposition, and partly because they interfered with local customs, especially marriage customs. It seems undeniable that a large number of those who received baptism at the hands of the Dutch missionaries did so out of interest and were only nominal Christians : yet it would be unfair to underrate the Dutch educational system as a whole. It is interesting to find how many people in the villages were able to read the tracts that were poured out of the missionary presses in Jaffna and Kotte in the early days of the nineteenth century, and the Dutch school had a share in the development of literacy which seems always to have been high in Ceylon. The schools also continued to undermine the caste system as the Buddhists, and the Portuguese conversions had done, and so far they helped to advance common schools and common education.

The Dutch left an important Burgher element in the population, nearly all English-speaking today, and all conscious of a distinction of race from the rest of the people around them.

Perhaps the best way to appreciate the historical background of a schoolboy of today is to examine the names in a school list. There will be found ancient Sinhalese names many of them civil and military titles and names derived from districts or villages where families have held sway ; Sinhalese names with portuguese names added ; Ceylon Tamil names, and English and American names taken at Baptism; Indian Tamil names; and a very large number of Portuguese names. In 1934 there were in St.Thomas' 50 boys named de Silva, 47 named Fernando, 30 named Pereira, 14 named Pieris, 10 named Rodrigo, 10 named Dias, 8 named de Soysa and 7 named de Mel. There were also Moor names : and a number of Dutch names.

In 1795 the Dutch surrendered Colombo, and shortly afterwards the Kingdom of Kandy came under British rule.

### **English Education and the Vernacular**

In the early days of British rule the Dutch school system was allowed to decline. Compulsory attendance was abolished and schoolmasters' salaries were no longer

paid by Government. The system was gradually replaced by Baptist, Wesleyan and American Mission schools, and by the C.M.S., while the education of boys in the Buddhist temples continued as it had done for centuries past. The C.M.S. missionaries learned Sinhalese or Tamil themselves, and used it in their work, and in the elementary schools they founded.

In the Christian Institution at Kotte, which the C.M.S. started in 1827 "for the higher instruction of native teachers" the Vernaculars were an essential part of the training, and a version of the Bible in Sinhalese was produced.\*

But while vernacular elementary education was thus gradually developing in the villages, the wealthier classes of Sinhalese and Tamils, and especially the Burgher population, were eagerly learning English. In 1835 the Government decided to found a school to impart higher education, and for this purpose, they took over a private school founded by a C.M.S. missionary, the Rev. J. Marsh, who became the first Principal. This was the first of the English Secondary Schools in Ceylon which have been responsible for the spread of English Education. It was known as the Colombo Academy, and has come to be called the Royal college. 'In the general routine of the College' says the history of Royal College written by the boys of the school in 1933, 'the subjects taught were Logic, Elements of English law (Blackstone's Commentaries), Principles of Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Sinhalese, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. \* When, in 1859, the Colombo Academy was affiliated to the Calcutta University the vernaculars seem to have dropped out of the curriculum. † Mr. Harward, who became Principal in 1892, was a keen Sinhalese scholar, and introduced the Vernaculars, Sinhalese and Tamil, into the curriculum; while Mr. Hartley, Principal in 1903, went a step further and introduced Ceylon History in the three upper forms further and introduced Ceylon History in the three upper forms in 1907. ‡ But as time went on the vernaculars seem to have lost their place amid the increasing number of subjects, and they were not again introduced until quite recently.

When Bishop Chapman founded St. Thomas' College in 1851, the subjects for study were Cornelius Nepos, Virgil, Greek Delectus, Arithmetic, General History and Geography, Algebra, Euclid, Mensuration and Mechanics, Scripture, Analysis, English reading and Composition. Provision was also made for instruction in the Vernacular Languages, and the Rev. G.R. Muttukistna and the Rev. C. Alwis were appointed Tamil and Sinhalese pundits. Yet in a list of school subjects for 1855 the Vernaculars are not mentioned, and they did not regain their position until 1918. Ceylon History did not gain a place in the curriculum until even later.

Trinity College, Kandy, was founded by the Rev. J.I. Jones in 1857, and became a secondary school taking the Calcutta Examinations in 1876. The list of subjects studied in the Upper School in 1860 included Scripture, Euclid, Algebra, Arithmetic, Latin, Greek, Geography, History of India, History of England, Astronomy, English Grammar, Poetry, Drawing; 'and the Principal added two extra classes after school hours for the teaching of Sinhalese and Tamil.' # There seems to be no other mention of the Vernaculars until the coming of Mr. Fraser in 1904, when Sinhalese and Tamil were again taught and 'Ceylon History was revived as a school subject.'

Kingswood, Kandy, started in 1891, and its founder and first Principal, Mr.L.F.Blaze, writes in his 'Story of Kingswood, 'Sinhalese did not form part of our curriculum.'

The question arises, when the missionaries who originated both the elementary and secondary school with the full support of government, and with every willingness and intention to teach the Vernaculars, why the Vernaculars either disappeared or held only a subordinate place in the English Schools.

The answer is not far to seek.

The Sinhalese Classics were little known either to the people of the country or in Europe. They were written in Pali, or High Sinhalese, which only a handful of scholars understood. Macaulay's famous minute on the Indian Classics, written in 1835, condemned them for purposes of education as altogether too fabulous. Moreover the Ceylon Classics were almost entirely Buddhist in outlook, and so did not recommend themselves to Christian missionaries

But this alone would not have established English education. The East had almost universally worn out the inspiration of its ancient social and intellectual systems, and the intelligent Easterner could not fail to see the value, material and intellectual, of the new knowledge from the West. It was not English education, as such, that he wanted, but the universal element in education which the English missionaries offered to him. The teachers and the books were at hand, and the Ceylon parent paid the school fees, and enrolled his sons, and later his daughters, under the new system.

There were other incentives to English education. Although much of the ancient Ceylon system of local government was retained, the legal, medical, educational and other government departments were English in character, and gave openings to English-speaking Ceylonese, of which, those who could afford the new education, were quick to take advantage.

Of the policy of Britain at this time Wyndham writes in his book 'Native Education', "With the arrival of the 19th century a remarkable cycle of assimilation was opened. The new movement was inspired by high humanitarian motives, by faith in the beneficent influence of individualism, by a conviction that European civilization was the best for all mankind." Under this policy, the old caste organization of society was almost entirely done away with, and so the old officials lost much of their ancient power. In 1828 it was decreed that in future no Headman should be appointed who could not read and write English.

"English education," says Father S.J.Perera in his History of Ceylon, "became the hall mark of gentility, it alone was considered secondary education, and very few of those who were educated in English schools had any knowledge of Vernacular grammar or literature."\*

Under such circumstances it was inevitable that the Vernaculars should fall into discredit, in spite of the efforts of some schools to keep them in to the curriculum. Moreover, as living languages, they were purely colloquial. The learned wrote and

conversed in the learned languages. It was impossible to translate the new ideas into the Vernaculars, for these languages lacked the vocabulary to express them.

As Wyndham says, "scarcely any subject referred to in a newspaper could be studied in a vernacular work." So the Vernaculars got left behind and only the most ignorant could not make shift to read and write some kind of English.

### **English the Universal Language of the East**

The development of English Education in Ceylon was part of a great wave of English Education that swept over the East. It penetrated all the well-to-do classes in India, Ceylon and Malay States : famous schools sprang up under its influence in Singapore, Sarawak, British North Borneo and Hongkong: the S.P.G., the C.M.S., and the American missionaries founded Colleges in China and Korea where English was the medium of instruction, and Japan put English into the curriculum of her schools.

This spread of the English tongue makes an interesting comparison with spread of Latin. Leach in his book, "English Schools at the Reformation" says:

"The learned professions required a competent knowledge of Latin far more directly than now. A need for Latin was not confined to the Church and the priest. The diplomatist, the lawyer, the civil servant, the physician, the naturalist, the philosopher wrote, read, and to a large extent spoke and perhaps thought in Latin. Nor was Latin only the language of the higher professions. A merchant, or a bailiff of a manor, wanted it for his accounts; every town clerk or guild clerk wanted it for his minute book. The sea-captain had to study for his voyages in Latin. the general had to study tactics in it. The architect, the musician, everyone who was neither a mere soldier nor a mere handicraftsman, wanted not a smattering of grammar, but a living acquaintance with the tongue, as a spoken as well as a written language."

The parallel is very striking. Every word of this passage might be applied to English in most of the countries in the preceding paragraph.

The Government Education Committee of 1867 declared the 'English should be to natives of Ceylon what Latin is to the natives of Great Britain'.

Has it been so?

### **The Effect on Ceylon Boys of being Educated in English**

In his introduction to Tagore's "Letters to a Friend", C.F.Andrews says, "Early in the nineteenth century the burning question in Bengal was whether the spread of the English Language should be encouraged or not. Macaulay poured contempt on the Sanskrit Classics; he treated Bengali literature as useless. In expressing these opinions he committed egregious blunders. Yet strangely enough, in spite of his narrow outlook, his practical insight was not immediately at fault. The hour for indigenous revival had not yet come. A full shock from without was needed, and the study of English gave the shock required.



But the new life which first appeared was not altogether healthy. It led immediately to a shaking of old customs and an unsettlement of religious convictions carried often to a violent and unthinking extreme. The greatest disturbance of all was in the social sphere. A wholesale imitation of purely western habits led to a painful confusion of ideas. It was a brilliant and precocious age, bubbling over with a new vitality; but wayward and unregulated, like a rudderless ship on a stormy sea."\*

This is a sound statement of the effect of English Education, and to it may be added Tagore's own words in a lecture delivered in India. He says:

"The European vernaculars first woke up to life and fruitful vigour owing to the impact of foreign thought power. The same thing is happening in India. European culture has come to us, not only with its knowledge, but with its velocity. Though our assimilation of it is imperfect, and the consequent aberrations numerous, still it is rousing our intellectual life from its inertia of former habits into growing consciousness by the very contradiction it offers to our mental traditions."

It is safe to say that Tagore is among the greatest of living poets, and he is admittedly a product of the stimulus of English education. His verdict on the teaching of the Vernaculars in his Reminiscences is therefore of peculiar value. It applies to all children who speak nothing but the Vernaculars in their earliest years. He says:

"It was because we were taught in our own native tongue (Bengali) that our minds quickened. Learning should as far as possible follow the process of eating. When the taste begins with the first bite, the stomach is awakened to its function before it is loaded, so that its digestive juices get full play. Nothing like this happens, however, when the Bengali boy is taught in English. The first bite bids fair to wrench loose both rows of teeth-like a veritable earthquake in the mouth! And by the time he discovers that the morsel is not of genus stone, but a digestible bonbon, half his allotted span of life is over. While one is choking and spluttering over the spelling and grammar, the inside remains starved, and when at length the taste is felt, the appetite has vanished. If the whole mind does not work from the beginning, its full powers remain undeveloped to the end." †

Father Perera gives the following estimate of the effects of the English Education System. He says:\*

"This system made education synonymous with a knowledge of English and denationalized the English educated classes of the island. A system of education without knowledge of the mother tongue and severed from historical associations of the people, led to results as unexpected by the Government as by the people. The Ceylonese imbibed English political ideas and soon elbowed out the European colonists from the political fields and demanded a form of government consistent with their self respect. But the system of education under which they were reared enabled the Government to contend that the demand was a demand of a minority, out of touch with the great mass of their countrymen. Thus the demand for political reform and the refusal were both the outcome of a misguided policy."

The committee's Report on English Education in 1867 said that it had done little more than to produce "a class of shallow, conceited, half-educated youths who have

learnt nothing but to look back with contempt upon the conditions in which they were born and from which they conceive that their education has raised them, and who desert the ranks of the industrious classes to become idle, discontented hangers-on of the Courts and Public Offices." If this state of things ever existed it has long since passed away. But the fact remains that boys who were separated from their village or from the working classes by their knowledge of English and English customs did develop a certain contempt for the 'villager', a contempt very unworthy of themselves and very undeserved by the villager.' The 'villager' on his part followed his superiors and preferred a school for his children which taught the merest smattering of parrot-learned English to one which taught only the Vernaculars.

It is clear that the problems of the Ceylon boy and of the Bengali boy are not the same : it is also true that many men educated in English schools worked in every part of the country in the professions, or managing estates, and that they were upon intimate terms with the villagers and put a proper value upon them and their work. Yet the passages quoted above help to show the effect of English education on Eastern boys, especially upon town boys who formed the great majority in the schools. They show how social and literary ideals receive new power from outside; they show the danger of unsatisfied thinking in one language caused by the imposition of another at too early an age; and they show the danger of separating the educated minority from the mass of the people.

So far then English had begun to do for Ceylon what Latin did for England. With all its dangers it had given new thought, and new vocabulary, and had been the means of opening up the knowledge of the world to the people of the Island.

But there were other and more subtle effects in which English education in the broadest sense, that is including language, customs, art, religions and social ideas, games, and so on, had a part. Nobody could ask for better promise than was shown by the children of Sinhalese and Tamil stock, but centuries of sometimes weak and selfish, and often foreign kings after the first greatness of the Ceylon kingdom passed away, the long lust-stained wars of the Portuguese, and the rule of the Dutch Merchant Company had had a depressing effect. Though British rule, helped by the new democratic principles which were spreading over the world, had done wonders for the people of Ceylon, it supplied most of the initiative and leadership that were so sorely needed. History makes the psychology of a people and the roots of man's nature stretch far back into his past. It is all stored in his subconscious mind, and will find its way into his thoughts and actions. The history of the people of Ceylon had long been an almost continual suppression of mental energy and that energy had found outlets of its own.

English education had had its full share in that suppression. By replacing the indigenous culture and setting itself up as a superior culture it had diverted the native energy of the people and repressed native leadership. It had given a sense of inferiority, and encouraged the putting of the responsibility of preserving society upon an extraneous government.

The problem before educators in the early years of St. Thomas' College was how to remove the obstructions, how to turn the energy into natural channels, and to

sublimate a force strong enough to bring about a 'renaissance' in the new generations.

The rest of this chapter is intended to show very briefly some ways in which educators in St. Thomas' and elsewhere tried to take their share in solving this problem. It should of course be borne in mind that elementary education in Town, and Village, and Estate Schools, which is at least as important as education in English Secondary Schools, was being developed at the same time, and has expanded very widely.

### **The Progress of English Education and its relation to St. Thomas'**

Bishop Chapman was one of an army of pioneers of many races who believed in education as a redeeming force, and who opened up new systems both in England and on the continent of Europe, and in almost every other part of the world. In one of his letters the Bishop acknowledges his debt to Dr. Arnold of Rugby; and his long contact with Eton both as a boy and as a master had a strong influence upon his work in Ceylon. But he went further than his teachers. He founded a school upon the same general principles as he had known in England, and, in addition, a College working upon University standards. The idea of a preparatory school which has since done so much to give individual attention to younger boys was in Chapman's day only contained in the despised private schools, and it formed no part of his scheme. The Victorian gentleman believed in the dignity of age and position, and in the efficacy of a hard and simple life, and so he put his work -people into slums, and gave his children a hard barrack life at school. Bishop Chapman was a thorough Victorian. He believed in his own dignity and in the dignity of the Warden of his College, but he spared neither himself nor the boys under his care. He offered them a simple life of hard fare, and hard work, and promised them in return the best education that could be had from his own and his masters' patient care and teaching, long experience and distinguished university qualifications.

So far as we know Bishop Chapman never sat for an examination in his life. He took his degree from King's College, Cambridge, in the days before examinations were made compulsory. But the great improvements that examinations had brought about both in Universities and in the Public Schools where they had been instituted, had won the confidence of the public for them, and the Bishop had his own examinations and his own certificates for his school and his College.

When Bishop Chapman thought of education he thought very definitely of Christian education; and the purpose of offering the Christian faith to the people of Ceylon was never out of his mind. His College was primarily intended to educate young men so that they might afterwards become priests in the Church if they wished; but he nevertheless opened the School and the College, from the first, to any who wished to take advantage of the education that they offered.

The nature of his school reflected the nature of the Public Schools of his boyhood. There was the long room with the various classes each in view of the other, and each attended by its usher, while all were under the vigilant eye of the master at his desk at the head of the room. Set lessons were learned, and the cane was the recognized treatment for any kind of disorder or bad work. Supervision out of school hours, though it was much greater than had prevailed in the English Public Schools before Arnold's time, was very small when compared with the present time, and consisted more in punishments for offences than in supplying legitimate outlets for boyish energy.

The plan of the Founder is made quite clear by the report of Warden Baly written in 1854. He says: "The design of this institution is to introduce into Ceylon such a complete system of education, preparatory to the study of particular professions, as may render it unnecessary for young persons who wish to acquire the higher branches of instruction to leave the island."

But this idea could not be completely realized because the glamour of a Calcutta degree proved too strong for it.

In 1859 the Academy was affiliated to Calcutta University and Queen's College was founded to prepare some of the best boys at the Academy for Calcutta degrees. In 1863 St. Thomas' was forced to follow suit, and it was also affiliated to Calcutta; so that Chapman's idea of a University for Ceylon in Ceylon died, and has never been realized to this day.

Calcutta degrees were a great spur to higher education and gave a new opportunity to those who could afford it to take a degree in a recognized University. But Calcutta was far away and did not belong in any way to the country. Ceylon education had begun to lean upon foreign Universities and a great opportunity was missed.

For the next fifteen years St. Thomas' continued to prepare boys for degrees in the Indian University, and it was not until the time of Warden Miller that the Cambridge examinations began to replace those of Calcutta. When the Government University scholarships were transferred to Cambridge and awarded on the Cambridge examinations, the transformation soon became complete, and once again Ceylon education leaned upon an outside University even more remote and more foreign to the character of her people than Calcutta had been.

Ceylon secondary education was now following the examination scheme of the English Public Schools but with an important difference. The examinations were a great stimulus to work and they brought everybody up to a certain standard of efficiency, but still they were the invention of a machine-turning age, confining all boys in practice within a very limited range of subjects and showing little mercy to individual talents or individual weaknesses. They brought every boy up to a certain pitch of education, but where there was nothing beyond them for a boy to aspire to, they tended to clip the wings of those who were capable of flying high. There was little danger where the examinations led on naturally to a University, but where the chances of University education were few they were not without danger to education as a whole.

The fault, if fault there were, did not lie with the Cambridge authorities. It was chiefly due to lack of money. "The root weakness of the (English) schools was poverty." Says Mr.L.J.Gratiaen.\* "Very few of them had any endowments. In the colleges, the salary of the missionary Principal usually came of mission funds, but little other help was given. The schools relied mainly on fees and grants. The average grant per pupil had varied from Rs.5.33 to Rs.6.82 before retrenchment. From 1885 it fell. It was as low as Rs.3.30 in 1892 and never reached Rs.5 again till the next century..... The fees usually ranged from 50 cents or Rs.1.00 in Standard I to from Rs.2.00 to Rs.5.00 in Standard VIII." Hence it was that although Cambridge offered to examine candidates in a great variety of subjects, the schools could not afford to pay masters in more than a few, and so the boys were limited to those few.

At their first coming the Cambridge examinations were a great stimulus. For the cleverer boys there were the English University Scholarships to prepare for; to parents and employers they gave a certain standard of education guaranteed by the name of a great University; to school masters they gave something definite to work for, which parents approved of, and which gave a clear and tangible result for their boys to aim at. The Calcutta examinations and the early days of the Cambridge examinations produced many of the best scholars, novelists, Ceylon historians, essay writers, antiquarians, translators and writers on Ceylon, that this Island has seen amongst her English educated sons: and they produced also a distinguished company of doctors, lawyers, Churchmen, schoolmasters, politicians, and Civil Servants. The harvest of those days was very rich.

In St. Thomas' Warden Miller was careful not to allow examinations to throttle his best boys. He kept the idea of the scholarships always before them; he and his Staff took an active interest in the Debating Society and kept it to a high intellectual standard; he gave much of his spare time to coaching his most promising boys; in the days before Science was a regular school subject he gave lectures in Physics; he extended the library and brought it more within the scope of boys' minds; he started a workshop with a forge and lathes; and one of his boys started the Natural History Society, while the College Choir gave some musical training to its members.

For the backward and average boys he used the Cambridge examinations as a stimulus. It was said of Thring of Uppingham that he took such care of every boy, clever, average or backward, that parents used to send him their less promising sons because they knew that he would make the most of them, while they sent their clever children elsewhere. Miller followed his master Thring in, believing that there was no such thing as a dull boy.

With regard to leadership, Miller started prefects in the College. The prefect system is a scheme by which the Headmaster or Principal consults with certain senior boys – Arnold consulted with his Sixth Form – and communicates to them what he wishes to be done in the school, and what he wishes not to be done, and sends those boys among their fellows to carry out what has been settled between himself and them. The prefects are the Headmaster's special care. He himself, commends, restrains and stimulates their efforts as the need arises, and removes from office those who are incompetent or fail in their duty. The boys give their advice, and then maintain the rules of the Society and guide its activities under the immediate care of the Headmaster. Warden Miller did not introduce the complete system. He had prefects

only in the Boarding Houses and their duties were limited to the small circle of boys within their own houses, but his aim was none the less to give them experience in the art of handling their fellows and of social responsibility. Though not himself an athlete, the Warden was careful to be present during games, and his Staff took an active part in school games and lived on intimate terms with the boys.

Warden Stone continued Warden Miller's plan with regard to prefects, and development was slow. It has been pointed out that with boys the idea that a thing is hard upon an individual is stronger than the ideas that it is hard upon community. The man and not the principle counts. This is due to a lack of a developed sense of responsibility for the community, and it greatly adds to the difficulties of leadership. Even where a boy has personality and natural powers of leadership, it is hard for him to lead if his fellows resent following. Remembering the difficulties that were caused by the starting of prefects in other countries, it is not surprising to find that progress was equally slow in Ceylon. Perhaps the best prefect system in Ceylon has been that of Trinity College, Kandy a legacy of the work of Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Fraser became Principal of Trinity College in 1904 and his influence upon the English schools helped to cause the next development in education. Mr. Fraser's finger was upon the pulse of the times, and he was a great missionary, so that the effect of his work upon St. Thomas' was peculiarly strong. His policy is thus laid down in the Trinity College History:

"We intend to make a serious effort –

First, to train Christians in Ceylon so to preach Christ that their hearers may realise. He is no foreigner, but the real and true fulfillment of all that is highest in their aspirations and past.

Second, to make our pupils good citizens of their own land –

(a) By carefully relating all that is taught them to the needs, problems and language of their own people;

(b) By deliberately striving to foster and encourage their sense of responsibility and readiness to act, and so work for leaders.

Modern education in the East is still largely an experiment, and we are

still ignorant of most that we should know. So we propose –

1. The appointment of three capable and accomplished students to devote themselves to the study of education in India and Ceylon, and to Hindu and Buddhist apologetics....

2. The establishment of a good Training College for Christian teachers in the Vernacular and English (Anglo-Vernacular) and the creation of a ladder from the village school, where there are so many Christians, to the College with its possibilities of leadership. We hope by basing our education on the Vernaculars whilst teaching English thoroughly to make the transition from village schools to

college easier, and to instruct more readily and more intelligently from the basis of their own knowledge.

3. The efficient prosecution of higher education on the lines of the Japanese code or of the Arya Samaj in its national gurukulas, i.e., education in their own classics combined with that of the West and modern science.

4. In all we hope to devolve responsibility more and more on the people themselves, strictly to limit the number of our pupils that each may have individual attention, and that there may be close contact between teachers and taught."\*

That was Mr. Fraser's vision of nationalist democratic Christianity, and it is astonishing how much of it he made into reality. Mr. Frazer was strongly influenced by the nationalist movement in India, and it was that same nationalist movement that became a new force in education in Ceylon. As a result of it, nearly every English School in the Island, St. Thomas' among the rest, found a larger place for the Vernaculars in the curriculum, and developed a new interest in Ceylon History. Warden Stone started the Vernaculars in 1918, Warden McPherson did much to improve Vernacular work in 1926, and Warden de Saram added Ceylon History to the curriculum in 1933.

But meanwhile as the numbers of schools, and the numbers of pupils increased, the opportunities of University education became less and less adequate and the Cambridge Senior Certificate became more and more the goal of a pupil's ambition. Warden Stone was himself too keen a scholar to allow what he called the "flat iron of the Cambridge Senior" to have too levelling an effect, and his work and that of his Staff produced many scholarships and a harvest of honours and distinctions. The examination results of 1914, 1915 and 1916 were very creditable to the College, but they were nevertheless becoming too good. The standard was too low to be the final test of those who had prospect of going to a University, and it kept the best boys below their proper degree of attainment. Those who were responsible for the examinations realized this to some extent and the standard was raised. It was also realized that two University Scholarships to England were not sufficient, and a step of the utmost importance to Ceylon education was taken in 1911 when "the Government appointed a committee to inquire into the question of Secondary and Higher Education in Ceylon". The result was the founding of the University College in Colombo in 1921 as a half-way house to a University. This gave a fresh spur to education in every direction, though the new College still looked outside the country, and prepared boys for the London University degrees. The College gave a new opportunity and a new ambition to schoolboys, and with the Training College for teachers, which had been started some years earlier, it enabled those who wished to become schoolmasters to qualify themselves without leaving the Island.

The Cambridge examinations continued as before, and in 1923 honours were abolished, and distinctions in 1933. With the coming of the University College the London Matriculation became more popular in schools.

In January, 1929 the Report of the University Commission was published. The report says :\* "There are manifest objections to encouraging secondary schools to adapt their curricula to syllabuses controlled by distant authorities which may not be, and

often are not, appropriate to the needs and characteristics of the students of the country. The system under which a private student attempts to follow a degree course unaided and without the guidance and inspiration which a University can give, has obvious limitations." The work that the University would undertake, and relative importance attached to the various subjects, is indicated by the following table.†

Professors. Readers. Lecturers. Assistant Demons-

Lecturers. trators.

English .. .. 1 1 1 2 -

European Classics .. 1 1 1 1 -

(Latin) (Greek)

Oriental Classics. .. 2 - 4 1 -

Philosophy & - - 1 1 -

Psychology (to assist in  
education)

History .. .. 1 - 2 - -

(One for

Oriental History)

French and German... - - 2 - -

(Pass work only)

Econmics .. .. - 1 1 1 -

Geograhly .. .. - - 1 - -



Law ... 1 - 2 - -

(one full time)

(one part time)

Mathematics .. 1 - 2 2 -

Archaeology .. - 1 - - -

Education ... 1 - 1 - -

Chemistry ... 1 - 1 2 2

Physics ... - 2 2

Botany ... 1 - 1 1 2

Zoology ... 1 - 1 1 2

Physiology ... 1 - 1 1 2

Anatomy ... 1 - - 1 2

Agriculture ... 1 - 2 2 -

(Third year onwards) (Pathology) (Pharmacology)

(full time)

15

(part time)

Engineering ... 1 1 2 2 3

Full time ... 17 6 26 19 -

Part time ... - - 16 - 15

It will be seen ample provision was made for the teaching of the Vernacular languages and Classics, and for English, that Ceylon History was not forgotten, and that the claims of Agriculture were to be recognized more fully than they had been in the past. It looked as though the hopes of the greatest educators of the country through the years were at last to be realized. But the University question was set aside, and the recommendations of the Commission were shelved. Secondary Education which had been planned to lead up to a university was still to be a headless trunk as far as the problems of Ceylon were concerned.

With the delay in the establishment of the University the leaders of education had to turn to other fields, and the cry of "back to the land" became popular once more. That it was not an empty cry is shown by the work that Old Boys of the English Schools, many Thomians prominent among them, have done both privately and publicly for agriculture. Trinity College had shown the way in 1909 when it obtained land to make agricultural work possible amongst the boys, and later made the Trinity College farm for the same purpose. Warden McPherson started Botany at St. Thomas', and Warden de Saram added an extensive Botany garden. Many Old Boys opened up land in various parts of the country and Warden de Saram initiated a scheme to obtain a tract of land for agricultural purposes near Anuradhapura for the benefit of boys after they had left school. The St. Joseph's College farm where boys could receive agricultural training was another experiment on the same lines. Irrigation and the development of agriculture became a new and increased factor in the public and private budget.

At St. Thomas' after 1930 the Vernaculars continued to hold their place in the curriculum, and the Sinhalese and Tamil Literary Associations encouraged boys to study them more carefully. Pictures of Ceylon architecture and art were collected in the library and the collection of books upon Ceylon History and Geography and other subjects pertaining to the country was greatly increased so that research in those subjects was made possible. The house system was greatly developed and scope was found for developing many talents, intellectual and physical, that boys possessed. The prefect system was extended. School prefects were instituted and house prefects were given more definite duties, so that few boys, at least among the boarders, left school without some training in leadership and responsibility.

When the College moved from Colombo to Mount Lavinia it was hoped that there would be a new chance of getting in touch with the real life of the people of the country outside the great cities, but with the coming of the College and the expansion of Colombo, the suburbs soon shut the School in on every side, and the atmosphere of the town closed round it once more. Even so it enjoyed more freedom than had been possible in the last years at Mutwal, and the boys had not far to walk to be in the country. To help them to take an interest in social problems of the town and the country the Social Service League was started. The League began the study at home within its own compound and it had extensions in the villages round about.

The present aim of English Education for the Ceylon boy would seem to be this : to make the English he already possesses a source of culture, to make it an international language and use it to keep before his mind the idea that many branches of knowledge are common to all nations, and that each should make its contribution to the general progress of knowledge. English must be used, as Tagore suggests, to revive indigenous culture and to give a stimulus to new developments in the arts of the race. English must give the incentive, the Ceylon classics must give the models, and the aim must be a new literature and a new life. The Vernacular languages and the history of the country must be set before boys as something precious and worthy of every care and study. And lastly its aim is to see that the boys and girls of the future are not deprived of the benefits of a University which would help to bring all these things to pass, and through which they could make their contribution to the world's culture.