

TO

EDUCATION

*A reprint of Articles contributed to The Hindu and The  
Indian Patriot of Madras*

BY

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F. R. HIST. S.

*(Officiating Dewan of Travancore-Retired.)*

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MADRAS :

PRINTED AT THE LAW PRINTING HOUSE, MOUNT ROAD.

1913.

## SOME OPINIONS—Continued.

"I think they the speeches would have done honor to any legislative assembly with which I am acquainted; so clear and full are they in statement, so cogent in argument, so skillful in presenting the case they desire to establish. I congratulate you most heartily upon them."—*Sir M. E. Grant Duff.*

"A work the State Manual which I shall always value not only on account of its intrinsic merit but also on account of its associations. May I congratulate you on the successful achievement of a work which must have involved an immense amount of research and study, and which in its present complete form reflects, if I may say so, the greatest possible credit on its author."—*H. E. Sir Arthur Lawley.*

"They (the volumes) form an admirably compiled and complete work the State Manual which should be of great value, usefulness and interest to the administration of the State, which contains a mine of information for all those who wish to study the history, the social and material condition of one of the happiest and best governed portions of the Indian continent which evinces on the part of the author knowledge of his subject, literary skill and devotion to his undertaking, deserving the praise and gratitude of all his fellow-subjects and countrymen. To me, who retains for Travancore and all belonging to it a warm affection and a sincere admiration, these volumes will form a cherished possession. I accept them from you with an unqualified expression of commendation for the work itself and with an assurance of my appreciation of and my gratitude for the kind recollection of me which led you to bestow upon me this most agreeable memento of a beautiful country, of kind friends, and of happy days."—*Sir Arthur E. Havelock.*

"I read with much admiration your speech in the Legislative Council of Travancore, on the Devasthanam Bill. It puts the whole question in as plainly a way as possible, and seems to be almost an answer to Lord Curzon's argument in the Governor-General's Council."—*Sir A. Sashiah Sastri, K.C.S.I., [May 1900].*

"The Bill I have glanced, re-read through and found that the debates were worthy of any Legislative Council in India, especially your Introductory speech and reply, both of which I admire as reflecting much credit, vast research and lucidity of expression."—*Sir A. Sashiah Sastri, K.C.S.I. [February 1901].*

"I read with admiration your speech in your Legislative Council. It would have done honor to any legislative body whether in India or else-where. I am proud of you. Your style always superior, has now become mellow, elegant, no, eloquent."—*Sir A. Sashiah Sastri, K.C.S.I.*

"His valuable Census Reports and Manual of the State will bear testimony to the labours of one of our most cultured Officers."—*Dewan Mr. P. Rajagopalachari, C.I.E.*

"It was a pleasure to me to notice the excellent work you have done in reviewing the Travancore Administration Report and to mention your Census Report, from the perusal of which I obtained much pleasure and profit."—*The Hon'ble J. D. Rees, C.I.E., C.S., F.R.G.S., M.R.A.S.*

## SOME OPINIONS—Continued.

"A most interesting series of articles is now being printed, showing the admirable character of the Hindus in family and domestic life. The author is a talented servant of His Highness' Government, the Dewan Peishcar Mr. Nagam Aiya."—*Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., British Resident.*

"The results of the Census have been exhibited in detail in the very able and interesting report drawn up by the Superintendent Mr. V. Nagam-aiya."—*Mr. Athol McGregor, M.C.S., British Resident.*

"I have a very high opinion of his abilities and have had frequent opportunities of judging of them elsewhere than in the class. For some time he was member of a Debating Society here which I was in the habit of attending. I was often struck with the clearness and pointedness with which he expressed his thoughts, and the intelligence and good sense they displayed."—*Dr. Robert Harvey, M.A., Director of Education, Travancore.*

"As to the work (State Manual) what shall I say? Words fail me. I am in ecstasies with it. I am enamoured of it.....Every page has been informing and instructive."—*Mr. T. Ananda Row, B.A., C.I.E., Dewan of Mysore (Retired).*

"I offer my hearty congratulations to the prize-winners, and I think I may include among them the first Graduate from your Highness' College. Mr. Nagamaiya graduated, well, I will not say how many years ago, and has recently held with conspicuous success the highest office in your Highness' State."—*Hon'ble Mr. R. C. C. Carr, British Resident.*

"Please accept my thanks and convey my congratulations to Mr. Nagamaiya on the completion of his labours.....Will you convey my best compliments and best wishes to H. H."—*Sir James Thomson, K.C.S.I., Member, India Office Council.*

"I am very much obliged for your Highness' most kind letter and for the munificent gift of two splendidly bound copies of the Travancore Manual.....I have been perusing the volumes with the utmost interest and I respectfully congratulate your Highness upon this great work which will serve for all time as a memorial of your Highness' reign in Travancore."—*Mr. G. T. Mackenzie, I.C.S., (Retd.)*

"I return the accompanying chapter on the Economic condition of Travancore. I read it with much interest."—*H. H. the present Maharajah.*

"His Highness (Cackwar) desires me to say, that he considers it (State Manual) a publication of unique interest and value, highly creditable to yourself and to the enlightened State of Travancore. The book is a mine of information."—*Mr. R. C. Dutt, C.I.E., I.C.S., (Retd.)*

"My friend Mr. Nagamaiya, whose name will be handed down to posterity as the author of the Travancore State Manual."—*Hon'ble Mr. R. C. C. Carr, I.C.S., British Resident, at the Oachira Exhibition.*

"I was very glad to receive your Note on Lord Morley's Reforms. You are certainly occupying your time to advantage."—*Hon'ble Mr. R. C. C. Carr, I.C.S., Bar-at-Law, British Resident.*

## PRESS NOTICES—Continued.

Syed Hussain Bilgrami, should not be appointed to the Secretary of State's Council. In any place he will be able to reflect Indian opinion faithfully and with the authority of having held high office with distinction."

*The Indian World*:—"Mr. Nagamaiya has an encyclopedic knowledge of every manner of subject concerning Travancore, and his retirement can be described as a public calamity to that State, with as much justice as Sir Subramanyaiyar's retirement has been by Sir Arthur Lawley."

*H.B. in The Times of India*:—"A very distinguished citizen of Travancore is the Senior and retiring Dewan Peishcar, Nagamaiya, who has five times served as Acting Dewan. Mr. Nagamaiya still but fifty-seven and a fine figure of a man, is the oldest graduate of the Trivandrum College. I was introduced to him by his close friend, Mr. Ananda Row, first Councillor of Mysore, who shares with him his literary tastes. Mr. Nagamaiya is the accepted literary man of the State.....As a young graduate, he began to attract the notice of the gifted previous Maharajah, not yet on the throne, by 1872 or earlier. He conducted the Census of 1891. But his great work is the 2,000 pages of the 'State Manual.' These three volumes, or the thinnest of them would be enough to knock a man down with. The 'State Manual' is the best, practically the only, repository of the latest information about Travancore. Mr. V.P. Madhava Row an old political opponent of the writer, who is severely glanced at in its pages, delights in it. He gave me his own copy saying that there was, on the whole, no book like it."

*The Statesman, (Calcutta)*:—"Mr. V. Nagamaiya, Senior Dewan Peishcar, is already favourably known as the author of the Travancore Census Report, which appeared ten or twelve years ago, and as the promoter of the Travancore Hindu Religious Endowments' Bill which has since become law. His latest effort is an exhaustive Manual of the State of Travancore prepared by the command of the Maharajah. The book is modelled upon the District Manuals of Madras, and consists of three large illustrated volumes, each one bearing testimony to the writer's industry and conscientiousness.....Even a layman, after a careful perusal of Mr. Nagamaiya's work, cannot but acknowledge the rare qualities which the author has brought to the task."

*The Hindu (Madras)*:—"We have just received the three volumes of the Travancore State Manual prepared by Mr. V. Nagamaiya, B.A., F.R. Hist. S. Dewan Peishkar. We congratulate Mr. Nagamaiya and the Government of Travancore. Mr. Nagamaiya is a very able and experienced officer of the State and in literary capacity and knowledge nobody was more competent to be entrusted with the writing of so important a work as the State Manual.... An unsympathetic Dewan would not leave the author to be absolute and unconditional as desired, and went the length of even more than once threatening this devoted worker by open communications of 'entrusting the work to other agency.' But Mr.

## PRESS NOTICES—Continued.

Nagam Aiya was not to be swayed from his purpose by threats of this kind. Three former Dewans concurred in thinking that the work should be done by him, 'as if they could not think of any other officer equally competent to do it.' The Dewan's threat was only a passing cloud. Dewans came and Dewans went away, but Mr. Nagam Aiya's work went on. The idea of writing a State Manual was first broached to him by Dewan T. Rama Row, C. I. E., 'one fine morning 14 years ago, i.e., even before I had begun to compile the Census Report of 1891.' The offer was kindly made with 'flattering compliments.' It was agreed to without a moment's hesitation."

*The Madras Mail*:—"We congratulate Mr. Nagamaiya on the admirable result of his labours, carried on mostly when he was engaged upon other work of a responsible kind. His English is almost faultless."

*The Hindu (Madras)*:—"Mr. Nagamaiya discusses, in view of the approaching Coronation Durbar at Delhi, the question of the boons which the authorities might think fit to confer on the people and which have the best chance of reaching the ryots. Mr. Nagamaiya, we need scarcely add, is entitled to speak with authority on the subject by virtue of his long experience and his great abilities."

*The Indian Patriot (Madras)*:—"We publish to-day the ninth and last of the series of very interesting articles (Education) from the pen of the veteran Travancore Statesman, Dewan Bahadur V. Nagamaiya.....He is a remarkable instance of a man of an older generation standing stripped to the knees in the whirlpool of modern ideas, ready to plunge into the tide of progress without waiting for the Pundit Social Reformer or the Hindu Woman Suffragette.....It is a loss to the cause of progress that men like Mr. Nagamaiya have no direct hand in the shaping of affairs, but once retired are lost for ever. Fire and ideas evidently cannot die and there are always men like the late Dewan Bahadur B. Ragoonath Row, who wrote until he ceased to breathe, read until he ceased to see and heard until he ceased to hear."

*The Hindu, (Madras)*:—"Mr. Nagamaiya's opinions on the important subject of Education are both fresh and interesting and his views on some of the pressing problems have been expressed with a bold outlook, which coming as it does from such an experienced public servant, has its own value. Particularly useful are Mr. Nagamaiya's observations on the increasing cost of secondary education and the disastrous results which flow from it. The last two articles are on Godless education and we would specially commend them to those people who are so insistent on the introduction of moral education in our Schools and Colleges."

"The Review of the Report in the 'Pioneer' was a very highly laudatory one."—*Mr. Rochford Davies, B. C. S.*

*The Indian Mirror, Calcutta*:—"And Mr. Nagam Aiya, Dewan Feishcar of the Travancore State, who was entrusted with the supervision of the Census of the State has rendered the account considerably pleasant reading

PRESS NOTICES—*Concluded.*

by the interesting, learned and instructive remarks with which he has presented the inevitably dry figures.—We now take leave of Mr. Nagam Aiya and his exceedingly interesting Report, and with the Government of Travancore, to whom he submitted it, 'cordially congratulate him on the result attained.' ”

*The Madras Mail* :—The Travancore State Manual which has been issued, is written by Mr. Nagam Aiya the well-known Travancore official to whom in the past has been entrusted most of the 'literary' work of the State—who is to be congratulated on the manner in which he has discharged this arduous work. The Manual, during the course of preparation, was read and approved by various Residents and by His Highness the Maharajah, than whom no one can be more alive to the welfare and proper development of the interesting and beautiful land over which he rules. We may take it for granted, therefore, that the Travancore State Manual will be a valuable addition to Indian official literature and will form a valuable work of reference for all seeking information about the State.”

*The Madras Times* ;—“This work by Mr. V. Nagam Aiya, B.A., Dewan Peishkar, Travancore, is an important and noticeable addition to the Manuals of the Presidency. In this, as in other matters, Travancore has led the way to its sister States, and it would add greatly to our information if Cochin and Hyderabad and Mysore and other well-known and advanced Native States were to follow the example of Travancore. In a very modest preface in which, however, the author takes credit for much research and trouble, he relates the circumstances in which the compilation came into existence, and gives the credit of the idea to the late Dewan, Mr. T. Rama Rao, C.I.E. In Mr. Nagam Aiya, Mr. Rama Rao found an efficient lieutenant to carry out his conception, for it is not difficult to perceive that the author has performed his task as if he loved it. Not only has Mr. Nagam Aiya the pen of a ready writer, but he has an intimate knowledge of the land he lives in, while he lingers with evident affection and sympathy over names and facts connected with the history of Travancore, which only a son of the soil would evince for the land of his birth or his adoption.... Mr. Nagam Aiya is to be warmly congratulated on the result of his labours and by this work he adds to his reputation as a cultured literary man.”

*The Indian Patriot, Madras* :—“This latest book is in keeping with Mr. Nagam Aiya's past achievements and we warmly congratulate him and his Government of which he is so distinguished an Officer, upon this great work which is a lasting memorial of his connection with the Travancore State. Travancore has again led the way for other Native States like Baroda, Indore, Hyderabad and Cochin to follow.”

*The Western Star (Trivandrum)* :—“We are inclined to think that the three stout volumes now brought out by Mr. Nagam Aiya will stand for ever as an enduring monument of his talents and energies.”

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The Gentle m<sup>r</sup> J. K. Pothole CPE

with best compliments

V. Rajamaya

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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

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"I have decided to commemorate the event of my Coronation by certain marks of my special favour and consideration."—*H. M. The King-Emperor, at the Delhi Coronation Durbar.*

"The Government of India have resolved.....to acknowledge the predominant claims of educational advancement upon the resources of the Indian Empire."—*H. E. Lord Hardinge, The Governor-General.*

"What is even the use of great attainments if they are not to be devoted to their noblest purpose, the service of the community. Let Britain be subjugated by a Foreign power to-morrow; let the people be excluded from all share in the Government, from public honours, from every office of high trust and emolument, all their knowledge and literature would not save them from becoming, a low-minded, deceitful and dishonest race. It would certainly be more desirable that we should be expelled from the country altogether, than that the result of our system of Government should be such a debasement of a whole people."—*Sir Thomas Munro, Governor.*

"The greatness of the Moghul Empire depended upon the liberal policy that was pursued by men like Akbar availing themselves of Hindu talent and assistance and identifying themselves as far as possible with the people of the country."—*Sir Stafford Northcote.*

"If we do not use the knowledge which we impart, it will be employed against us."—*Sir John Malcolm.*

"The application to Natives of the competitive Examination system as conducted in England, and the recent reduction in the age at which candidates can compete are all so many deliberate and transparent subterfuges for stultifying the Act and reducing it to a dead letter."—*Lord Lytton to the Secretary of State.*

"I think the people of India must press for Examinations being held in India for appointments to the Civil Service. To insist upon the youths of India proceeding to England and staying there and passing would in effect be to place a number of barriers in their way. They are, the great expense involved; great inconvenience; withdrawal from friends, guardians and natural well-wishers; risk of youths going astray; risk as to health; great loss of time; loss of touch with his own country and people; probable impairment of social status; a certain amount of denationalisation. These barriers would be insuperable to most classes and particularly to the Brahmin community which has from time immemorial and through successive dominations maintained intellectual and moral ascendancy and social influence in India. As regards the best families, the plan would amount to a sentence of exclusion. Just imagine what the people would have felt if the Mahomedan rulers, even in the plenitude of their despotic strength and prosperity, had declared that no Hindu would be eligible to high office without going to Mecca and staying there several years."—*Rajah Sir T. Madava Row, K.C.S.I.*

"I would make it a rule that all Natives might be admitted to all posts from that of Viceroy down to that of Sub-Collector."—*Sir Henry E. Stokes, K.C.S.I., Senior Member, Madras Council.*

## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

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Diwan Bahadur Mr. V. Nagam Aiya, B.A., F.R. Hist. S., of Travancore—was born in the neat little village of Veeraraghavapuram on the banks of the Tambrapurni river, Madras Presidency (Tinnevely), in December 1850. He is a Telugu Brahmin of the *Aravelu Niyogi* clan, originally belonging to a village in the Kistna District, but the family must have migrated into South India several centuries ago. He was wholly educated in the Maharajah's High School and College at Trivandrum (Travancore), where his ancestors held high office since the middle of the eighteenth century. After passing the Matriculation Examination in 1866, he took service as a clerk in the Educational Department, where he rose to be Assistant Professor of History and Mathematics, teaching the F.A. and Matriculation classes, under the late John Ross, M.A., Principal and Director of Public Instruction, Travancore. Meanwhile he passed his F.A. and B.A. Examinations of the University and after passing B.A. in 1870, he joined the Revenue Department of the State as a Clerk under the

late Rajah Sir Madhava Row, K.C.S.I., the great Native Statesman who was Dewan of Travancore, Indore and Baroda successively. He was appointed a Tabsildar in 1872, then Superintendent of Census in 1875, and wrote the *first* Census Report of Travancore in 1876, which received the high appreciation of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India (the Marquis of Salisbury). He was Police Sheristadar and Marahmut Sheristadar in the Huzur for short periods, and then was appointed Dewan Peishkar in 1880, which office corresponds to that of a Collector and District Magistrate in British India—the highest Executive office in the State under the Dewan. He held this office for 12 years and was subsequently appointed Settlement Dewan Peishkar in succession to Mr. Shungarasubbaiyar, C.I.E., when the latter was elevated to the Dewanship. As Settlement Dewan Peishkar, he was for 12 years the highest Revenue Officer of the State—a position which corresponds to the Revenue Minister in other Native States. In the Revenue Settlement, his policy was one of light taxes and large revenues—a result which, while it gratified the ryot, also satisfied the Government. The rates were in no case materially increased—the increased revenue being due to *increased* areas brought under cultivation, to *accurate* to measurements, *greater* planting and a thoroughly reliable *classification* of soils and trees. During these years, he conducted the Censuses and wrote the Census Reports of 1881 and

1891—with conspicuous ability and literary success. His Census Reports have been highly commended both by the authorities and the Public Press in England and India. From the Revenue Settlement, he was placed on special duty for writing the Travancore State Manual, which he brought out in 3 massive volumes in 1906. This was his *magnum opus* and has received the highest encomiums from all quarters. The Encyclopædia Britannica (11th Edition) bases its article on Travancore wholly upon Mr. Nagam Aiya's State Manual and quotes his authority for the same. During his long service he has been several times placed on *special* duty in several important undertakings, in all of which he won distinction and the appreciation of H. H. the Maharaja's Government. It was in appreciation of his admirable Census Reports that the Royal Historical Society (London) elected him as one of their Fellows, on the recommendation of Sir M. E. Grant Duff, a former Governor of Madras and a personal friend of Mr. Nagamaiya's. He has been President of the Travancore Regulations' Committee, of the Chuekram Coins' Committee, of the Accounts' System Committee, &c., in all of which his work was highly appreciated. More than half of his long official career was under the present Maha Rajah, a circumstance which enabled His Highness to know him intimately and form a high estimate of his worth increasing with the years, until it resulted in his elevation to the acting Dewanship, on *five*

occasions, an opportunity which secured for him the special approbation and confidence of his Royal Master. His late Highness, known as the *learned Maharajah of Travancore* was Mr. Nagam Aiya's early patron and friend and had often expressed high admiration of his ability, integrity and attainments. Mr. Nagamaiya served under three Maharajahs and was associated in the administration of the State with ten Dewans, beginning with the great Minister Rajah Sir T. Madhava Row. After such a distinguished career of over 42 years, he retired in February 1908.

H. M.

## A FOREWORD.

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1. These ten letters on Education, herein collected into a pamphlet, were originally contributed by me to 'The Hindu' and 'The Indian Patriot' of Madras, in December 1912. That they are not exhaustive will be seen from the last paragraph of letter X, where I have enumerated the headings that remain to be dealt with. These will be taken up later on. In re-printing these letters, which I have been enabled to do by the courtesy of these two journals, I have thought fit to add a few foot-notes.

2. These are great days for Education. India has started on a career of unexampled educational prosperity. The first announcement which H. E. the Governor-General, Lord Hardinge, made under command of His Imperial Majesty King-George, at the Delhi Coronation Durbar, was "the recognition of the predominant

“claims of educational advancement upon the resources of the Indian Empire, and to make Education in India as accessible and wide as possible.” So far as this Presidency is concerned, we have the welcome assurance from H. E. Lord Pentland, that “if in my period of office it is given to me to aid the work which has been going on so long, and to second the efforts of those, many of them I see before me now, who have for many years borne a distinguished part in this Presidency in forwarding the interest of Education, it will be a true and lasting pleasure and satisfaction to me.” In part fulfilment of this assurance, we are told that very liberal allotments are being made by the Madras Government, this year, under the item of grants to schools and colleges. And to crown all, comes the happy news from England that “Messrs. Asquith and Lloyd-George have taken in hand a great scheme of Educational reform, the basal principle of which is a general unification linking the Primary school with the University. It includes a longer period of education and the broadening of the curricula in Primary education, more especially in manual and technical directions. Room will be found for every primary school-child, whose capacity justifies it,

in secondary schools, while Universities similar to Leeds and others of the same standard will be increased. As regards the very much enhanced cost that the elaboration of the scheme and its carrying out would involve, it is stated that it will be met from taxation." Now then the darkest hour of the night has passed, and we see the dawn of day-light. Thus India and England, linked together by an inscrutable Providence to work out their salvation, will hereafter march side by side in their educational mission also, carrying forward the torch of knowledge to alien climes and races, and emancipating mankind from the intellectual thralldom of ages. That there is ample work to do in this direction will be clear from the fact that Education in India, at present, costs only £2 millions a year, against £20 millions per annum, for the Indian Army.

3. The current topics of Indian administration in which the public are deeply interested have afforded me in recent years, a kind of leisure-hour occupation congenial to my temperament, and I have accordingly from time to time contributed my thoughts, just as my inclinations led me, to their discussion and elucidation, some of the most recent being 'Lord Morley's Indian Reforms,' 'The Hon'ble



Mr. Bhupendranath Basu's 'Special Marriage Bill,' and 'The King-Emperor's Indian Tour,' before the present series was taken up—all of supreme importance to the welfare and happiness of millions in this great continent. The kind terms of appreciation in which these literary excursions have been viewed by my European and Indian friends, embolden me to collect them into a booklet, in the hope that my readers will see in them a *new* presentation, at any rate, though of perhaps old and well-recognized ideas, and an honest endeavour on my part to add my unit of light to the solution of problems of vital importance, engaging public attention at the present time. It is besides a duty, which we all owe to the rising generation, to place at their service the results of our experience, such as they are, so that our successors might in turn, by way of gratitude to us, treat their posterity with the same considerateness and in the same spirit of unselfish beneficence.

MYLAPORE, MADRAS. }

*February 1913.* }

V. NAGAM AIYA.