



A. K. Kandiah, B. A. (Lond), the founder Principal

This is a tribute to a veteran teacher; a Super-Grade Principal; a Guru born to that galaxy that is now fast be – coming extinct; affectionately called and known throughout the little world of schools and scholars as **'A-KAY-KAY'** or **'Carbon'** . We have with the exit of Mr.Kandiah lost a true Diamond of purest ray serene that ministered with rare devotion and dedication for the moral and intellectual advancement of 'many a darling of chill penury' who came to him with a State scholarship in the Central Schools of which he was Chief Steward and Mentor for well over three decades.

His old students in the various walks of life in this country and overseas are living testimony to his labour of love. Pale, loitering Death would not efface him from our memory as long as his **'priceless pearls'** now in the lime light and the institution he had nurtured and nourished remain living monuments to his handy-work. He served as Principal from **1945 to 1950** at our school. He exemplified as a Teacher and Principal.

It was men of the calibre of Mr. Kandiah who had worked for the reality of the dream of the Father of Free Education, Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara through the State Central Schools founded just before and after 1948. As Founder Principal of Velanai Central College, Whose motto **'Lead Kindly Light'** was his coinage, he had successfully launched a legion of youth in their quest to enter the learned professions, where they are right now in.

"He was, perhaps the first Tamil who gained the distinction of becoming a Super-Grade Principal of a Central School, a much coveted recognition he conferred only on one worthy of it, so much so that none could dispute it as in our time and day! As a teacher of English he was non-pareil as his pupils still swear that learning English under him was never dry or difficult. As an administrator, he was stern and strict and it was verily so for the love he had towards learning was of diverse dimensions. He did what was right and never bothered of rights and privileges. Those of us who had served under him were made more aware of the rights and concessions of pupils than ours though intrinsically we yearned for the latter caring a damn for the taught! He was in every sense a true servant of children and played his part well. He will continue to smell sweet and blossom in his ashes!" wrote by legend and former (English) teacher of our college Mr. T. N. Punjaksharam.

Even though he had worked for few reputed schools in the vicinity of Jaffna near to his residence the last school function he attended before his demise was the "Prize Giving Ceremony" of our school in 1981.

By: S. Elancheliyan