

THEVAGI SABARATNAM a woman of many talents

Mrs. Thevagi Sabaratnam, a barristor's wife,
Second mother to hundreds of children
From the Islands, Moolai and Chulipuram
Was born in Karampan, Kayts.
Her family renowned for wealth and education
Nurtured her with humility, modesty and culture.
She learnt music that soothes one's soul.
Her talents volunteered to flow in melodious tunes
Through her hurrying fingers that touched her "veenai".
She was an adept in singing too.

The thirst for knowledge and their sharp intelligence
Brought many young girls and boys as scholars
To the beautiful island of Velanai,
Into a very young institution called,
VELANAI GOVERNMENT CENTRAL COLLEGE.
Thevagi made a brave decision.
She took charge of the Girls' Hostel,
Where the kids had food and accommodation.
A real mother she was to her kids and the scholars
Who benefited immensely under her guidance.



Several years have rolled by but still I remember
Thevagi Sabaratnam, who entered Velanai Central
In those valiant years of 1940's as a young woman
With an unperturbed vigour and firm determination.
A smart woman was she with a smiling face.
Her sternness and assertiveness commingled with kindness
Turned out to be a sweet concoction and a recipe
For the pupils to turn their intelligence and attention
Not towards frivolous pastimes but useful education.
They then entered the real world with confidence and
qualification.

Young children of hers and those at Velanai Central
Gained out of her enthusiasm and industry
A purpose in life, enshrined in her life's motto,
"Do thy duty without caring for the results thereof."
She followed it. She succeeded to live in the hearts
Of all whom she had any contact with.
I'm one of those who had a secret admiration for this great
lady.
In her upright posture and her progressive ideas
I saw "Bharathiyaar's puthumaippen".
With her "veenai" I saw a representative of "Kalaivaani".

She was by night and day an untiring busy bee.
She was a manager of funds and pupils' overall welfare.
She was an adviser, mentor, organiser and educator.
Her life and work proved in the end to produce
Doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers and administrators,
Who are thankful for making their lives comfortable at the
hostel.
With her kids she was like a fondling mother swan.
With the students she was like a calm and careful stewardess.
May God bless her with many more wonderful years
Of happiness, health and lasting peaceful life.

*Varatha Shanmuganathan
(Velanai Malar)*