

THE WELSH NATIONAL ANTHEM A TAMIL SONG

HEN WLADFY NADAU

என் பழ தகப்பி நாடு

BY

M. S. RAMASWAMI AIYER, B. A., M. R. A. S.,
Deputy Superintendent of Police.

PRINTED AT
SRI VYASA PRESS,
TIRUPATI.
1928.

All Rights Reserved.

THE WELSH NATIONAL ANTHEM

A TAMIL SONG

BY

M. S. RAMASWAMI AIYER, B. A., M. R. A. S.

Deputy Superintendent of Police.

HEN WLADFY NADAU

என் பழ தகப்பிநாடு

All Rights Reserved.

Those who have followed my contributions to the Press regarding the Tamil nationality of Jesus Christ, will remember, that in some of my articles published in 1924 and in 1925, I said that the Tamils went to England. The story of the European freelances in the Orient in the 18th and in the early part of the 19th centuries may be read in the neglected pages of Western writers. And திறை கடலோடியும் திரவியம் தேடு is an ancient Tamil proverb. When in the wake of the East India company, the English Raja Brooke wandered to the East and became king of Sarawak in Borneo, the world had forgotten that centuries before, Asiatics had gone to the West and became rulers there. For would you believe it, the Asiatics that went and sat upon the

throne of the imperial Ceasars in Rome and Constantinople were Aravas, Tamils. History that marches forwards and backwards watching the rise and fall of Man records many romances of such soldiers of fortune.

Gradually the tangled skein of the early history of W. Asia and E. Europe is being unwound. Through excavations and study of recovered documents and other records, the relation is being understood born by the various peoples and races to one another; and light is being thrown upon the forces that played in the great historic drama that history has unrolled for us in this part of the world. Richard Gotheil of the Columbia University, America in commending a work called "Aram and Israel or The Aramaens in Syria and Mesopotamia" by Dr. E. G. H. Kraeling says that "our own interest in this history is certain; for whatsoever we are and whatsoever we posses come to us from the Eastern half of the Mediterranean Sea. The Coast and Hinterland of that Sea has played a preponderating part in determining the influence that was supreme there. One of the peoples engaged in playing that part were the Aramaens." Quite so, but who were the Aramaens?

They are an enigma and historians are still groping in the dark for a clue to understand them. Scholars have not thought it necessary to look to

India to solve historic puzzles that bristle in W. Asian and E. European pre-history. Somehow they have come to think of India as a country that lived a hermit life "world forgetting by the world forgot". Look as far back as you like, India was one of the the greatest powers of the world and she played a very great part as I see from my researches, in the international politics of the Orient and the Occident in the dim ages of the distant past. Infact the intensive and extensive activities and colonisation that India carried on in ancient times seem to have been one of the chief reasons for the decline of her civilisation, for the weeklings remain at home and it is the energetic, strong of muscle or brain or those who are above the average that leave a country to win their fortunes abroad. If savants would only turn to India and especially to the neglected South India civilisation, many of the riddles of pre-history will vanish. Who were the Aramaens whom historians vainly search and seek? They were none other than Aravamaens, Aravams, the Tamils of South India. This is not the place to discuss the ways and means by which the Tamils went thither. It will suffice if I say for the present that after swarming in Western Asia, they reached England across the continent of Europe via Hungary and by way of the Mediterranean Sea. And it was they that gave the

name Albion meaning white to England. For that term comes from the Tamii word Veluppu which is pronounced Eluppu by the common folk and Albion is the Sweta dwipam of our Sanscrit literature.

The story of words may be less interesting than the story of nations that made them but it is equally instructive. For words are compressed tabloids of history and to those that will examine them carefully, they reveal the forgotten tale of the past. Now Bombay is called the Gate of India because it is the chief port where Westerners coming from Europe alight in our country. The Tamils that went to Briton across Europe got into England through that port on the English Channel called Dover in the maps. For the same reason that English men call Bombay the Gate of India, the Indians that went to England called their port of landing Dover, துவாரா, Dwaraka, the Gate of England. In support of my contention I shall state a significant fact. Dwaraka in Guzerat belonged to the Yadus of the Puranas or to the Yadavas of modern nomenclature. A reference to the map of England (Vide Article on England in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Ninth Edition) shows that the port Dover was in that part of the territory occupied by the Jutes of old. Since the Jutes or Yutes were Indian Yadu or Yadava colonists, there is nothing surprising in finding a home-port-

name in the colony. Dwaraka in Guzerat was the Exit Gate and Dover(ka) in England was the Inlet Gate. An advancing people will invent new implements of war to sustain their forward march and the Bayonet (பாய் மீட்டர், பாய் னீட்டர்) of European warfare seems to have been invented by the Tamils like Toopakki (தூப்பக்கி, தூப்ப-அக்கி,) tube fire i e fire tube. Further to such a people the deity of worship will be the God of War. Skanda is the Hindu God of war. In Tamil the name is written without the initial S as Kanda, Kandan and Kandar is its honorific form. One of the chief shrines that the Tamils established in England for their war-god in their victorious expansion was Kandarpuri-Canterbury. Skanda is an important deity in Hindu pantheon and many shrines as at Tiruppuramkundram near Madura are dedicated to him and to which thousands of pilgrims go. He is the God that is called Iskandar by the Arabs and Secunder by the Persians and by which names for obvious reasons that incarnation of war, Alexander the great is known to these two peoples. Since Christianity too was a Tamil Reformer's sect that came later on to England (in the fitness of things) it is but natural to expect the primate of the Church to be coupled to the most ancient and sacred of shrines in the island and it is not by accident therefore that the head of the Church in England is

styled the Archbishop of Canterbury. Indian names like Hari—Hara, Siva—Rama, Rama—Subbu and Biblical title like Son of God (Kumara) and son of Man (Narayana) show that the gulf that divides Sivaism and Vishnuvaism now was non-existent two or three thousand years ago. In the light of my discoveries regarding the Indian colonisation and Indian penetration of Palestine and England and the Indian origin of Christianity, the reader may realise why Moses is spelt Moyeses (Mahesa) in ancient fragments; why God is called Shaddai (Satta natha) and Adoni; why names like Maasiah, (Mahesayya), Sheshan and Rama occur in the Bible; why an American historian of Babylonia says that the authentic history of Assyria begins with the rule of the Ikshakis (Ikshwakus); why the Psalms of David speak of Rahab (Rahava) and Babylon; why Abba Ram's (Rama Appa's) wife is stated in the Bible as carried away by the Philistine (Pulastian) king; why Apostle Peter says that the obedience of Abba Ram's wife to him is proverbial; why Jesus is made a descendent of Ragau (a Ragavan) in his geneology given in the Gospel of St. Luke; why again Jesus is called Hannozeri (அண்ணாசாரீ) and since Arava is Arava, why such names as Ansari (அண்ணாசாரீ) Fatima (பாட்டியம்மா), Usman ((உச்சிமான்), Ottoman (உத்தமன்), and Muttanna ((முத்தண்ணு) occur.

in Moslem lands; why the Hebrew Old Testament asks us to refer to the Book of Yashar (Vyasar) for full details of the battle of Five kings (Five Pandavas) when dealing with the exploits of the great ancient hero Jeshua—Keshua—Kesava; why the world occurring in the Book of Judges that has been mistranslated as Lord in the English Bible owing to confusion with the term Guru (Master) is Kuru (Kauravas); and why a great Epic of ancient India and why a great Epic of ancient Europe bear similar sounding names—Barata of Vyasa and Brut of Wace from the latter of which the Anglo—Saxon Layamon paraphrased his Brut. I may add in passing that when I equate Canterbury to Kandarpuri, I am perfectly aware of the etymologies that English scholars give to that word. But since they are unaware of the expansion of the Tamils, their etymologies of that term are unsatisfactory. Canterbury is not the only term: some other place names also could be traced to Tamil and the Tamil place-name-suffix Pet (பெட்டை) has gone even to Scotland in the North. Owing to Western ignorance of Tamil intrusion into Europe, lexicographers' etymologies of many English words like Alarm, Bayonet, Bed, Cack-hus (latrine), Cantle (torn cloth), Eight, Elephant, Father, Island, Minx etc., to mention a few, are not satisfactory as a reference to even authorota-

tive dictionaries would show and I may add in this connection that 30 per cent of words in the English tongue owe their origin to Tamil expansion.

Well if Dover is in the S. E. of England, Cornwall is in the S. W. of that country and that was the part of the island which the Tamils that went by the Mediterranean Sea to England for tin, occupied. They then expanded towards wales in the north of Cornwall. The term Wales itself as a reference to Anandales' English Dictionary would show, means foreign, outside and it is the Tamil word Veli meaning outside, foreign. Scholars are wrong in imagining the Celts to be Aryans and their discussions on many topics are vitiated on that account. The Celts were Dravidian காலாடிகள். I am not writing the history of Indian colonisation. Abler hands than mine are needed for it. I am only drawing a thumb-nail sketch of a few flash light pictures taken here and there of a landscape over which dense darkness hangs, in the hope of drawing some co-workers. In support of my statements I shall mention just one striking fact. "No man could call himself a Welshman who did not know Hen wladfy Nadau (Land of my Fathers), yet it is only recently that a movement to provide a memorial to the composers of the famous national anthem (Evan James and his son) has been started in Wales. The

music of this anthem was composed by the son of the man who wrote the words'. So writes a writer in the English weekly journal called Tit-Bits for 26 Nov 1927. That journal may be seen for further particulars. As a result of my researches in the Holy Bible I find that the vowel points in writing appear to have been introduced in Tamil later on. The reader knows that V. B. P. and F are interchangeable letters and that Vijya is often written with a W as Wijya. For these reasons it may come as an agreeable surprise to the South Indian to learn that the words of the famous anthem Hen wladfy Nadau are Tamil words. Hen—En, my: Wla-Pla-Pala, old: Dfy—Dpy—Dapy (Tahapy), father: Nadau-Nadu, land என்வலதாபிராடு, என்பழி தகப்பிராடு. As the words literally mean in Tamil my old father land, the Welsh anthem is freely rendered in English as Land of my Fathers. The wonder to me is not that there is some strangeness in the pronunciation of the words of the anthem. It is bound to be. The common folk in every land speak its tongue in slang accent and those that usually emigrate from a country are the common lot. Further, centuries of sojourn in foreign land far away from home must have shed its quaintness on the voice of ancient Indian emigrants and their descendants. But the wonder to me is that the alteration in the pro-

nunciation of the words is so slight that a little scratching of it would allow the anthem to be recognised in the streets of Madras today as in the streets of the cities of Wales—Hen wlad y Nadau— *என் பழ தகப்பி நாடு*.

Cowper's beautiful lines on his mother's picture have immortalised human affection to motherhood. And lives of patriots prove that a mother-land is just as a mother.

Where ever I go whatever realms to see,
My heart untravelled fondly turns to thee.
sang a poet. India to us has ever been our Holy Land. The Indian went to the east as well as to the west, to the north as well as to the south. And little does the modern Welshman realise that when his band strikes the notes of his national anthem, the land that his heart pines for is not the new out-lying cold Hen wlad y Nadau whereon his band plays but is the old central sunlit *என் பழ தகப்பி நாடு* that his forefathers left of old. For the heart remembers things that the brain forgets. Is the anthem Welsh or Tamil? It is both and either. Time shrinks and expands. India to Wales may be a far cry, but truth is stranger than fiction. And our old Mother Land still thrills and animates with her aged voice her far travelled children and the memorial that they are raising now in far away

வெளி (Wales) நாடு is a belated though an unconscious tribute to the genius of the ancient brothers of Evan James and his son overseas and whose glory are their hoary songs which yet hold the world enthralled through Tayumanavar's Tevaram and king David's Tevalam.

Since Indian archers took part in the campaigns of Xerxes against Greece and since the frontiers of the Roman empire extended from Parthia into England and seeing that an Indian cavalry was stationed at Cirencester in England by the Romans during their occupation of Britain, historians are prone to explain the occurrence of Indian names in Europe as the result of the imperial activities of Persia and Rome. But in the light of my discoveries the reader will see that the connection of India with Europe began with the maritime, commercial and colonial activities of Indians themselves independently of Persian or Roman imperial needs. Indians in fact reached Europe long before Xerxes crossed the Hellespont and long before the Roman eagles flew from Parthia into England. They reached Europe by way of the northern shores of Africa, and by way of Central Asia as well. For the Indian Mahouts of the Carthagenean armies were paraded in the streets of Rome by the Roman General Metallus after the defeat of Hasdrubal and when Hannibal

crossed the Rhone in his fight against Rome, Indians accompanied him as soldiers in his campaigns. Cornelius Nepos tells us that when Q. Metallus Celer was pro-consul of Gaul in 59 B C, the Ariovist king of Suevi made him a present of Indian merchants that were shipwrecked in the German ocean. Did they reach that ocean via Central Asia? The German Ocean divides the continent of Europe from England. In the N. E of England in the county of Durham at the mouth of the river Tyne on its southern bank lies the sea port city of S. Shields. And in the museum of that place is a sepulchral monument representing an English girl "seated with flowers on her lap, a jewel box in her right hand and implements of needle work in the left." Roughly carved inscriptions belonging to the 3rd century A.D. on the monument tell the woman's romance. The inscription written in Latin reads; d. m. Regina liberta et coniuge Barates Palmyrenus, natione Catuallauni, an. xxx." This is followed by an inscription in Palmyrene characters which translated is "Regina, the freed woman of Barate. Alas." Love knows no barrier. The romance is the tale of a mixed marriage - how a foreigner came and wooed and won and lost his English bride to Death. In reflecting upon the different conditions that must have prevailed in those far off days by commenting upon

this monument, Thomas Hodgkin in his History of England says. "The blended nationality, the British girl bought, enfranchised, loved and too soon lost by the Syrian, - merchant perchance or usurer, - who followed the flight of the eagles of Rome, are all brought before us by these few roughly carved lines, and they tell a story of world wide empire, in which, perhaps, the Britain of our own day could offer the closest parallel to Rome." May be but English archeologists do not know the importance of this monument: they have not understood the husband's nationality from his name. In the light of my discoveries the S. Indian will realise why he is called in the inscriptions, Barate. "Seated with flowers in her lap, a jewel box in her right hand and implements of needle work in the left" that was how Barati of old wished the Future to see his beloved and lost English wife. Who was this Barati whose family had emigrated to Palmyra in W. Asia? Palmyra was founded by king David's son Solomon and he called it Tadmor—*טדמור*. Did Barati's family emigrate there when Adinathan ruled Palmyra with his Ujjayni wife Chinn Bee, Chinna Bai Chinna Pahi called Zenobia by Roman historians. The Romans called Adinathan's capital Palmyra. Did Adinathan himself call it as in the days of Solomon Tadamari? Was Barati a merchant

prince or a soldier of Fortune? 15 centuries have flown away since Barati lived and died and his affection lies enshrined in England.—that is all we know. Solomon that founded Tadamari flourished about 1000 B. C. Carthage in the Punic language was called Kāthada (new town), Kottathu, கொத்தது, Kotha patam and it was built by Elli Achi sometimes before 800 B. C. Indian archers marched with Xerxes against Greece in 481 B. C. Hasdrubal (Astrapala) sustained his defeat at Panormus (Palermo) in 251 B. C. and Hannibal (Annipala, Agnipala) made his daring crossing of the Rhone in 218 B. C. who was Kartha Virya Arjuna mentioned in our Puranas, was he what is called now a Carthaginian? Indian merchants were shipwrecked in the German ocean in 59 B. C. the Indian cavalry should have been stationed in Cirencester in England by the Romans some date between 59 B. C. and 410 A. D. Adinathan was murdered in W. Asia in 267 A. D. and his Ujjayni consort Chinna Bee who there after ascended his throne at Palmyra was captured by Emperor Aurelean in 279 A. D. and led as a captive to Rome with golden fetters: and Barati lived in England in the 3rd century A. D. 13 centuries hold the romance of these names in 3 continents Europe, Asia and Africa. The Welsh National Anthem, and these few scraps of information from Palestenean, Cartha-

genian, Persian, Roman and Arabic history floating down the tide of Time like bits of withered leaf and these few roughly carved lines on a sepulchral monument on distant English soil tell perhaps the lost story of Indian History much better than one can do.

P. S.) The equation Dover—Dwara and the equation Jute—Yadu and reference in the Encyclopaedia Britannica I owe to my friends messrs T. S. Krishnamurthi Aiyar and A. Padmanabha Aiyar.

