

THE  
**Family History and Biography**

---

M. R. Ry. Sri Kachi Chinna Nallappa Kalakka  
Thola Udaiyar Avergal,  
ZAMINDAR OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM,  
(TRICHINOPOLY DISTRICT.)

---

*A reprint from "The Aristocracy of Southern India,"  
Volume II.*

BY  
A. VADIVELU,  
LATE SUB-EDITOR, "EVENING MAIL."

AUTHOR OF  
"SOME MYSORE WORTHIES,"  
"TWO WORTHIES OF SOUTHERN INDIA,"  
&c.      &c.      &c

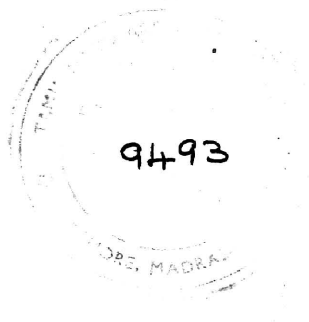
---

MADRAS :  
THE MODERN PRINTING WORKS, MOUNT ROAD.

---

V211920, 93 (x723)

N21





THE LATE ZAMINDAR OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM  
KACHI YUVA RANGAPPA KALAKKA THOLA UDAIYAR AVERGAL  
(THE PRESENT ZAMINDAR'S PREDECESSOR.)

**M. R. Ry. SRI KACHI CHINNA NALLAPPA  
KALAKKA THOLA UDAIYAR AVERGAL,**  
*ZAMINDAR OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM*  
**(TRICHINOPOLY DISTRICT)**

---

The Estate of Udaiyarpalaiyam underwent various changes of fortune and the Polegars that came one after another in succession made their marks in the annals of Southern India, and the predecessor of the present representative of this ancient family, was M. R. Ry. Sri Kachi Yuva Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar Avergal, who was deeply imbued with generous instincts, was known to be a firm friend of all noble causes, and earned an honourable reputation as a patron of all useful institutions.

The ancestors of the Udaiyarpalaiyam family originally lived in Conjeeveram in a street called Kachi also known as Raja Veedhi and ruled Conjeeveram and other places. When Pallikonda Rangappa Udaiyar was the Polegar of Conjeeveram, Veera Narasimha Royar, a descendant of the Royalu dynasty founded by Vidyanarania Swamigal, ruled the kingdom of Vijayanagar seated on a throne set with diamonds, rubies and other precious stones. He divided the southern portion of his vast kingdom into several principalities such as Jinji, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Mysore and Madura, and appointed his own men as rulers of those places. Then he directed Pallikonda



Rangappa Udaiyar, the Polegar of Conjeeveram, to assist Udayagiri Ramabhadra Naick, the newly appointed ruler of the Jinji State, in the protection of his kingdom, and gave him Kunnathur Droog and the adjoining villages as Jaghir besides other rewards. While the Polegar was rendering his assistance as ordered, Ramabhadra Naick was so pleased with him that he gave him elephants, horses, troops and other royal ensigns such as *Gandapendiyarams*, a couple of *châmarams*, and *vellai vëttu pâvâdai* and invested him with the honorary titles of "Senji Purathy Raja Dhatta Kanaka Manjira Ubhaya Chamara" (to whom two chamarams with golden bells clinging were presented by the Rajah of Jinji), "Kâncipurâthi pâlà" (who is the ruler of Kancheepuram), and Pallikonda Rangappa Udaiyar thus honoured lived a happy and glorious life.

Bareedsha of the Bedar kingdom then invaded the Royalu territory with a large army. On hearing this, the Royalu sent for all the Polegars and Munsubadars under him to assist him, when Pallikonda Rangappa Udaiyar went as the head of the army of Ramabhadra Naick. On arriving at the Royalu's court, Kachi Pallikonda Rangappa Udaiyar was strengthened with an army ordered to join him by the Royalu. Thus reinforced, he attacked the forces of Bareed and completely annihilated them, and after killing Bareed captured his insignia, such as drums, *Barjari Janda*, *Canchu Kombu*, the royal umbrella coloured green and red inside and outside respectively, and *Navabath*. He thus returned victorious to Ramabhadra Naick who took him to the Royalu's court. The Royalu was so pleased with him

that he gave him all the insignia obtained by his own valour and ordered that the following honorary titles be sung by his Bhatrajas (heralds):—*Bareed Sapthagaharana* (who severed the seven limbs of the body of Bareed), *Rana Vijaya Vasi Kritha Kamsia Thoothumbikabharana* (who possesses a kind of pipe made of bell metal to proclaim his success in war and which pipe was captured in a battle), *Kanakathanda Manditharuna Chathiralanchana* (whose insignia is a red umbrella with a gold handle), *Nava Vithanga Bherirava Mukaritha Diganthara* (the sound of whose drums pervades all directions so as to drown that made by those of his enemies), *Kanchipurathipala* (who is the ruler of Kancheepuram), *Kalakka Thola* (who resembles Yama in punishing the wicked). He also presented him with 12 elephants, 200 horses and 5,000 men; and besides the Jaghir villages which were already given him, he presented him also with Jillickavanam, a tract of country situated to the East of Vedaraniyam, to the West of Veeranam tank, to the South of Vellore, and to the mouth of the Coleroon and measuring  $3\frac{1}{2}$  kâdams (about 35 miles) from East to West and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  kâdams (about 35 miles) from North to South to be enjoyed by him and his descendants in perpetuity. Having thus received honours at the hands of the Royalu, he, under the name of Kachi Pallikonda Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar, returned to Conjeeveram with all the presents and insignia. He left Conjeeveram in charge of Varadaraja Udaiyar, selected a village near Bhuvanagiri and took his residence there, because the tract of country granted to him consisted of thick jungles infested with wild beasts and was also the haunt of petty and trouble-

#### 4 EXTIRPATION OF TROUBLESOME POLEGARS & ROBBERS.

some Polegars and robbers. This village now goes by the name of Arasagudy, which means the residence of the Rajah. He also guarded his residence strongly with 5,000 men, and from there he soon got rid of all the robbers and the petty Polegars from the town of Tittagudi, Bhuvanagiri, Virdbachellam, Mannargudi, Chidambaram, and the countries around them, and informed Jinji Ramabhadra Naick of the extirpation of the Polegars, and the suppression of robbers and other low characters. Whereupon, the Naick granted the whole *Arasookaval* income of the above five places and also of the surrounding villages to Kachi Pallikonda Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar to be enjoyed by him in perpetuity. He spent his time at Arasagudi and was a master of the four political expedients, *viz.*, conciliation, donation, differentiation and coercion, with the aid of which he not only put down all the turbulent men and secured the favour and good graces of the Royalu, but also acquired notable insignia, dignities and various kinds of rewards as well as renown.

Even to this day, the persons performing all the duties of these insignia are Mahommedans, evidently the descendants of the men who did the same service under Bareedsha. They have *maniams* and allowances.

Of the titles so given, *Bareed Sapthagaharana* and *Kalakka Thola* are of importance. The former refers to his success against Bareed's forces and the latter means that Kachi Pallikonda Rangappa Udaiyar is "Kalakka Thola," the friend of Yama, the God of Death, thereby referring to him as a man

dreaded by his foes. The term Kachi in the list of titles refers to the fact that these Polegars were the members of the Conjeeveram royal family. 1)

He was succeeded by his eldest son, Kachi Peria Nallappa Kalakka Thola Udayar, who lived at Arasagudi in the full enjoyment of all the property which his father had acquired, *viz.*, Palaiyam, Arasookaval mirasi, etc.

One night, however, all the petty Polegars collected a large force, rose against him and attacked him. Although he had not foreseen any such event, yet he managed to fight them with great courage and valour. But at last he was killed by a Polegar in a street at Bhuvanagiri.

For the sake of convenience, we shall merely mention the names of the succeeding Polegars of Udayarpalaiyam, without their titles. Peria Nallappa Udayar was succeeded by his younger brother Chinna Nallappa Udayar, who was comparatively young at the time and felt much the loss of his brother, and in memory of his death erected a temple at the place where he died, and called it the Udayar temple, and duly arranged for the daily performance of worship there. He also built an Agraharam, sank a large tank and named it Ayikulam. To the village thus constituted, he gave the name "Kalakka Tholapuram." Afterwards, owing to excessive grief, he undertook a pilgrimage. On his way he reached Chidambaram, bathed in the Sivaganga tank within the temple, and under the auspices of Gurunamasivayar had some repairs done to the temple. After a short stay there, he went direct to his place in Jillikavanam through

the Sholatharam village, and while he was roaming about in the jungles, he now and then encountered good omens. Proceeding further to see what these omens meant, he came across a small Siva shrine and a small tank. He halted there the whole day and night. In a dream, God Chidambareswarar appeared unto him and told him that if he should found a town in that forest and live there, his family would be highly blessed and favoured and that He would continue to help him as his tutelary deity. Immediately he awoke with surprise and remained there the following day also. He sent for the Brahmins of the neighbourhood and heard from them all about the glory of the Siva and the Vishnu temples as well as the tank, and learnt that the *Lingam* in the Siva temple was adored by Sri Rama Angaraka, Brahma and Arjuna, and that the tank was created by Arjuna's *gandeepa*. This fact is borne out by the *Sthalapurana* of the Siva Temple. He at once selected a site for the town and while he was thinking of a spot within the limits for the construction of a palace for his residence, he saw a hare pursuing a hound and decided that that was the place for the intended building. On Thursday, the 15th of Thai, in the year Ananda, towards the close of the 15th century, during the Full Moon, under the influence of *Pushia Nakshathiram*, the foundation was laid for a town about a mile square to the North of Mayalur, to the East of Kalumangalam and Paranam, to the South of Easakuly and Kachiperumal, and to the West of Suriyamanal. Within the above precincts was performed the *sanka stapana*, that is the laying of the foundation of this town. At the same auspi-

cious hour, arrangements were made for laying the foundations for the extension of the temple and the tank for Mudgapuriswarar and for building a palace in front of it on the site selected as stated above, and a temple for Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal and a number of houses for Brahmins. This town was named Udayarpalaiyam and the territory belonging to this Chief was subsequently called Udayarpalaiyam Samasthanam. With 5,000 men, 200 horses, and 12 elephants as well as other emblems of royalty, Chinna Nallappa Udayar came in procession round the newly erected town with great joy and splendour. Then he set apart many plots of ground, allowed the income from them for doing certain services of devotion to Sabhanayagar in Chidambaram, prepared gold and silver vehicles for the deity and did many repairs to the temple. Further, he cleared the jungles around Udayarpalaiyam for 20 miles up to ~~Tittagudi~~ in the West and Sreemushnam in the North and there founded 150 villages and divided them into 5 Mahanams, viz., Cadur, Anganur, Sennivanam, Sendurai and Kawdur. He was very happy in the enjoyment of the country which yielded him an annual income of 30,000 *gettipons*. As he acquired an immense fortune, he granted for the service of Chidambareswarar's *sarva kattalai*, the village of Easambur, otherwise called Elangambur as inam, spent large sums of money in improving the temple and ruled his country undisturbed under the regal name of "Udayarpalaiyam Samasthânâthar."

The history of this ruler and the details of his charities to Chidambareswarar will be found in the history of the Gurunamasivayar Mutt at Chidam-

baram. His grant is also engraved on a stone in the doorway of the northern tower of the temple at Chidambaram. There is also a stone inscription on the bank of the tank of Elangambur showing that that village was granted for *sarva kattalai* offering to Chidambareswarar which is still in continuance. A fine engraving of Chiuna Nallappa Udaiyar's figure is cut on a stone and kept on the banks of the tank inside the Gurunamasivayar Mutt at Chidambaram. The temple built by this Chief in remembrance of his brother's death is still in existence and is called the Udaiyarappan Kovil. From that time to the present, the members of this family perform occasionally special worship there.

He was succeeded by his son Muniyappa Udaiyar, who renovated the Munnainathaswami temple at Mannargudi, performed several acts of charity, properly maintained the Sreemushnam and other temples and agraharams, improved the town and the palace of Udaiyarpalaiyam and the condition of the people and enjoyed his Palayappat, Arasookaval Mirasi, etc. acquired by his ancestors. He was succeeded by his son Poyyappa Udaiyar, and after him came his son Ramappa Udaiyar. They ruled the Samasthanam with perfect peace and tranquility. There are stone inscriptions and deeds of gift for grants made by them in favour of temples and Brahmins.

Ramappa Udaiyar was succeeded by his son Venkatappa Udaiyar, who also, during his reign, cleared some more jungles that surrounded Udaiyarpalaiyam and increased the number of villages and the revenue. He found work for many people, extended his palace,

opened a mint of his own, and had gold and copper coins struck. The gold coins were called Udaiyarpalaiyam *pudhupanam*. The revenue during his reign rose to 50,000 *gettipons*.

Even now a portion of the palace at Udaiyarpalaiyam is called the mint buildings. As Chetties were managing the mint, it is also known as Chettiar-kudam. Their descendants are living even to this day at Udaiyarpalaiyam and they are shown some respect in the palace on important occasions. During the rainy days, these coins are sometimes picked up in the streets. After 1801, the mint ceased to work and was closed.

Mr. Wallace, the Collector of Trichinopoly, in his report to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August, 1808, made mention of the Udaiyarpalaiyam *panams*. Some of the copper coins are still preserved in the palace.

Muthu Krishnappa Udaiyar, Chandrasekhara Udaiyar, Nalla Nainaga Udaiyar, and Kalyana Rangappa Udaiyar next ruled in succession making several liberal donations for charities.

There is a stone inscription in the tank belonging to the Guroogavalappan Temple, to the effect that the stone steps to the tank were built on behalf of Nalla Nainaga Udaiyar by one of his servants, and another inscription on the outer wall of the Kumarappan Temple in the village of Kallamedu bearing date Saka 1532 corresponding to the Tamil year Sadharana, month Masi, date 18, shows that the village of Kallamedu was given by Nalla Nainaga Udaiyar as Sarvamaniam to Senniyandavathambiran of that temple on behalf of Kondama Naick, and this



to continue as long as the sun and the moon exist, and the inscription further states that he who keeps up this charity will obtain the same result as the one who on the banks of the Ganges has established a thousand Siva Lingams.

In the temple at Tirukkalappur next to the divine bull towards the East there is a stone inscription, dated Dundubi, Chittirai 17th Thursday, Divithiya Rohini Nakshathram, which runs as follows:—"On this auspicious day for the pooja and repairs of the temple of Kotivanasweraswami, I, Kachi Nalla Nainaga Kalakka Thola Udaiyar, son of Kachi Chandra Sekara Kalakka Thola Udaiyar, do hereby give over the village of Tirukkalappur on account of our Naickerappan; the charity to continue so long as the sun and the moon exist."

In the year 1600 of the Salivahana era, corresponding to Kalayukthi Magasutham 15th Thursday, Kalyana Rangappa Udaiyar made a gift of Amutharangottai, a village in Karuppur Mahanam, within his jurisdiction and situated between the Coleroon and the Vellar rivers, for the midday worship and daily lighting of the Arunajataisweraswami and Krishnaisweraswami temples at Tiruppuandal. Nallappa Udaiyar, son of Kalyana Rangappa Udaiyar, then succeeded and governed his countries with great ability and skill and lived at Udaiyarpalaiyam with his army as a renowned ruler. There was a misunderstanding between Muthulinga Naick and his brother Chockalinga Naick, the ruler of Trichinopoly. The former sought refuge under the Chief of Udaiyarpalaiyam who had him securely and carefully guarded in

Kasankottai, a well fortified village in his territory. He was there treated very kindly and was kept without any want.

Yasamma Naick, a ruler in the Telugu country up in the north, having lost his power, also came to Udaiyarpalaiyam and remained under the protection of its Chief. Owing to the downfall of the Royar family and also on account of the disturbance caused by Surap Singh in that part of the country, Ekambaraiswerar, Varada Raja, Kamatchi Amman and other deities of Conjeeveram were all brought to Udaiyarpalaiyam and their worship was duly conducted by the Udaiyar there. As Udaiyarpalaiyam was then strongly fortified and protected by a dense forest and by a well-disciplined military force consisting of 10,000 men, 300 horses and 20 elephants, this Chief gave shelter to all those that sought his protection and aid.

Udaiyarpalaiyam then consisted of 22 mahanams comprising 250 villages and yielding an annual revenue of 70,000 *ghettipons*. Besides this, the *Arasukaval* of Tittagudi, Vridhachellam, Bhuvana-giri, Chidambaram and Mannargudi brought him annually 6,000 *ghettipons*. With this income, he maintained a large establishment and also governed the country well. He had 8 wives, 52 concubines and 30 children, with whom he is said to have lived in happiness. During his *regime*, he gained the favour of the East India Company and of Mr. William Hotsell and Mr. John Barley who were then the heads of Devanampattam. These officers presented him with an elephant and granted him the *Arasukaval* of the Devanampattam and the Gundu villages

which yielded him an additional annual income of 10,000 star pagodas or 35,000 rupees. He bore a good name for his generosity and kindness towards his subjects and servants.

It was this Chief that presented the Kasankottai village to the Ahobala Mutt. There is still a necklace in Conjeeveram called Venugopala Pathakkam which is also mentioned in the list of the temple ornaments as "Venugopala Pathakkam" presented by Nallappa Udaiyar.

In the book called Jathi Sangraha, it is mentioned that the Conjeeveram deities were brought to Udaiyarpalaiyam annually. That they were detained at Udaiyarpalaiyam as stated above, during this reign, is proved by the existence of several mandapams in the Vishnu and the Siva temples of this place bearing the names of these deities.

There is also a stone inscription in the *sthoabi* of the Gangaikondapuram temple to the effect that it was built by Kachi Nallappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar.

After him came his son Uthama Rangappa Udaiyar in his 60th year, when the Jinji State fell into the hands of Surap Singh and the sovereign authority of the Royalu family became extinct, and the Golkonda Subha was taken possession of by Akkanna and Madhanna.

Nizam Ali Khan Bahadur, under the orders of the Emperor of Delhi, took possession of Hyderabad, and Hazarath Dawood Khan Bahadur of the Carnatic took by force the Jinji State and incorporated it with the Arcot Subha. Dawood Khan presented the Udaiyar with an elephant, fixed Rs. 40,000 as the

peshcush for the Udaiyarpalaiyam Samasthanam, and the Chief thenceforward ruled his territory paying punctually the peshcush. During his time, Mangammall, the Queen Regent of the Madura and the Trichinopoly States, sent under the command of one Narasayya a force consisting of 1,000 men and 200 horse to invade and seize Udaiyarpalaiyam because the father of this Chief had harboured Muthulinga Naick. The force was met by Uthama Rangappa Udaiyar with an army of 1,000 men and 300 horse at Vilangudy and a battle ensued. Although he and his men fought gallantly for six days, they were eventually obliged to retreat, and the enemy's force then entered Udaiyarpalaiyam on an *Ekadasi* day. On the following day, the Udaiyar collected 10,000 men and attacked the enemy's army under cover of night, and put the latter to flight. His troops routed them and pursued them for more than 10 miles and returned to Udaiyarpalaiyam victorious after capturing their banners of *churootty* with leaf green on one side and red on the other and one makaradhwajam (a flag with an insignia of a fish). The banners thus secured by the Udaiyar and those already in the possession of the family increased the number of the insignia and added to his fame. The pandits and the bhatrajahs praised him with the following titles:—"Kachi Kulathiran Mriganka" (who is like the moon among the Kings of Kachi), "Kathanarjithorthanda Pandya Dhalaran Makaranka" (who conquered in war the troublesome commander of the Pandiyan country and captured from him his makardwaja). During the short time he reigned, he was in the full enjoyment

of his Samasthanam and realized an annual income of 10,000 *ghettipons* paying a peshcush of Rs. 40,000 to the Nawab of Arcot.

It was Uthama Rangappa Udayar that gave Authukurichi, one of the villages of the ancient palaiyam, as shrotriem to the Brahmins of that village and this gift was confirmed on behalf of the British Government by the Inam Commissionuer in the year 1865, and the vilage still continues to be in their possession.

Next came Rangappa Udaiyar, the nephew (brother's son) of the former Chief. He was regular in the payment of his peshcush to the Nawab, showed reverence to Brahmins and performed the Shodasa Mahadanam (16 grand gifts) at a cost of 300,000 *ghettipons*. He was praised by the pandits as "Vasooth-vithaya Sankya Punkita Mahadana Samedhamana Esovisala" (who has obtained great fame by having performed the 16 grand gifts called Shodasamahadanam which are capable of annihilating all kinds of sins). He led such a spotless life that he was styled the "Raja Rishi." During the earlier part of his reign, the deities of Ekambaraiswerar, Swarna Kamatchi Amman and Varadarajar continued to remain at Udaiyarpalaiyam and their worship received his particular attention. In the middle of his reign, in Saka 1632, the Ekambaraiswerar and Varadarajar deities were clandestinely removed to Conjeeveram. The Swarna Kamatchi Amman deity alone remained at Udaiyarpalaiyam.

There is an inscription in the Conjeeveram temple to the north of the *sannathi* of the goddess



1. SRI RANGAPPA UDAIYAR AVERGAL OF THE FOURTEENTH GENERATION, 2 SRI YUVA RANGAPPA UDAIYAR AVERGAL OF THE FIFTEENTH GENERATION, 3. SRI NALLAPPA UDAIYAR AVERGAL OF THE SIXTEENTH GENERATION, AND 4. THE BROTHER OF THE LAST (NO. 3).

14-H

on a large stone, bearing date Sali Vahana Saka 1632, showing that the Varadarajaswami deity was brought back to Conjeeveram from Udaiyarpalaiyam on the corresponding Tamil Virodhi year, in the month of Panguni, Krishna Paksha Uthirattadhi.

There is also a stone inscription in the Sri Bhoovaraha Swami Temple at Srimushnam, dated Saka 1635, corresponding to the Tamil year Vijia, and the 7th day of the month of Panguni. It shows that Rangappa Udaiyar built for the deity Asthana-mandapam and Kaliyanamandapam and granted for the offerings and festivals to that deity, the villages of Rangiam Siludacheri. Thavadanallur, Soorakuly and Valanatham which formed a part of his ancient palaiyam. Another inscription on the southern portion of the main wall of the Vaitheanathaswami Temple of Vallur shows that certain lands were given by him for the worship of the said deity.

During the life-time of Rangappa Udaiyar, he installed his eldest son, Yuva Rangappa Udaiyar, as the ruler. He reigned 18 years. In his gifts, he excelled the most liberal donors the Samasthanam had ever seen. He possessed all the qualifications required for a Polegar. He was an excellent scholar and poet, and also a musician of a very high order. He was a great patron of learning and fine arts, and his court attracted many Sanskrit pandits, one of whom named Gopalasastri, on account of his great scholarship and extraordinary powers of versification, received from this Chief the title of 'Abinva Kalidasa' or a second Kalidasa. Sanskrit pandits in slokas, and Tamil poets in verses, delineated the greatness of Yuva

Rangappa Udaiyar. He paid a peshcush of Rs. 40,000 to the Nawab and governed his territory with great renown. During his time, the Udaiyarpalaiyam Estate contained 300 villages which comprised 27 mahanams, and he ruled these villages in addition to Arasookaval in the villages of Tittagudi, Vriddachellam, Chidambaram, etc. He was highly spoken of for his good administration and charitable disposition. At Udaiyarpalaiyam, Jaiyankondasholapuram, Eravangudi, Gangaikondapuram and seventeen other villages under his rule, he repaired several temples which were in dilapidated conditions and constructed many new temples and dedicated them to Siva and Vishnu. He also had car and other festivals celebrated, and worships duly performed in all these temples and also in that of Sreemushnam Sreebhuvarahaswami. He built houses and aghaharams in a number of villages and made a free gift of them to the Brahmins. Sarvamaniam was also given to them who showed their blessings upon the donor. The poems sung in his praise are still extant and are recited by the pandits of this generation also.

Yuva Rangappa Udaiyar was succeeded by his younger brother Nallappa Udaiyar, who governed his ancestral territory with dignity and power without departing from the principles of justice ordained for a king, meted out punishment to the wicked and decided disputes to the entire satisfaction of the people under his rule. The country therefore enjoyed peace and prosperity. Its capital Udaiyarpalaiyam was very populous and was in a flourishing condition, having many wealthy merchants dealing in cloths and other



articles. There was an occasion when *Hiranyagharba Mahadavam* was performed by his mother, for which purpose a very large quantity of gold was required, and it was supplied by a single Komatti, a wealthy merchant of the city. The Udaiyar made many vehicles of gold and silver, renovated a number of temples and erected at an enormous cost (the main portion of which was met from the money obtained durring the wars with the Maharattas and the Mahomedans and from the customs or sayars) the eastern tower and the *mandapam* in the Siva temple covering a portion of the tank called *Gandeepta theertham* and also the tower of the Prasanna Venkatesa temple at Udaiyarpalaiyam and performed many other charitable deeds like his fore-fathers. These facts are abundantly alluded to in a Tamil poem called "Nondi chindu," whilst the existence of the custom of levying *sayar* duties is borne out by the Collector's letter, dated 24th April 1792 to the Udaiyarpalaiyam Polegar, who was very influential with the East India Company.

In 1748, during the war with the French, the Governor of the Company sought the assistance of the Udaiyar in taking Pondicherry, and the latter, in compliance with the request, sent an army to assist him and promised to send another if required; and on several other occasions also, he rendered similar assistance. Like his ancestors, he guarded Devanampatam, Cuddalore and other places by appointing a Polegar there, gave entitre satisfaction to the Company, and was in the enjoyment of the Arasookaval Mirasi thereof. This Udaiyar also helped the Carnatic Nawab with armies on several

occasions. He paid the peshcush regularly and was in the good graces of the authorities concerned. The Nawab consequently showed him high regard, presented him with an elephant and granted to him Tittagudi and other territories, in addition to the Arasookaval Mirasi he was already in possession of. A stone *mandapam* built at an enormous cost by his ancestors at Tittagudi, a big tank with stone steps all round, are still extant, and there is also a stone inscription in the building, which shows that the *mandapam* and the tank were constructed by his forefathers.

In 1749, Muzaffur Jung and Chanda Sahib, assisted by the French, invaded Udaiyarpalaiyam with an immense army and demanded large sums of money from the Polegar, who refused to meet the demand, and in consequence a war was waged which continued for more than a month. As there was some delay in the war coming to an end and as the Polegar did not wish that the several other Polegars who sought refuge under him should be frightened, he concluded a peace with them and the army retreated.

In 1755, the French under Massin marched against Udaiyarpalaiyam and demanded tribute from the Polegar, who acknowledged only the Nawab of the Carnatic as his superior, and hence refused either to submit or pay tribute to them. At the request of the Polegar, the East India Company ordered Captain Colliand to march from Trichinopoly, and threatened to send a force from Madras if Massin persisted. On hearing this, the French withdrew; but two years later, in the year 1757, they, under D. Antewill, again appeared before the woods of Udaiyarpalaiyam with an army and demanded tribute

as before. The Polegar as usual endeavoured to gain time by discussion; whereupon, they attacked one of his barricades but were repulsed with a loss.

The Polegar to avoid future conflicts agreed to pay Rs. 40,000. He then had under him about 5,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry and 36 elephants, besides warriors and artillery. Nawab Walajah who suspected that the Polegar was in possession of considerable hidden treasure, had an eye on Udaiyarpalaiyam.

In August 1758, the exiled Reddy of Thuraiyur, named Kumara Venkatachalla Reddiar, a friend of the Polegar, sought refuge under him. He and a relation of his, the Polegar of Ariyalur, tried to reinstate the Reddiar. The English thinking it expedient to strengthen their friendship with the Polegars, helped the Reddiar in getting back his territory. All this fostered the Nawab's aversion and enmity towards the Udaiyarpalaiyam Polegar. During his time, as it was done in the days of his ancestors, the Devasthanam people at Srirangam, Conjeeveram, Srimushnam, Chidambaram and other places showed him great respect by receiving him at the lower gate with garlands and sacred waters (respect shown to kings), escorted him into the temples and made him worship the deities. In the latter part of his reign, it is said that the idol of Swarna Kamatchi Amman of Conjeeveram which remained in the Udaiyarpalaiyam temple for a long time was clandestinely removed from there to Tanjore by the Rajah of the latter place.

An extract from the letter to the Secret Committee of the East India Company, dated 7th May, 1757, shows that the French army under D.

D. Antewill

Antewill attacked Udaiyarpalaiyam and was repulsed with a loss, but that however the Polegar Chief promised some compensation to the French. Proceedings of the Select Committee, dated 12th May 1757, show that the French attacked the out-guard of the Woriyar (Chief) of Udaiyarpalaiyam on the 7th idem and that after some of their men were wounded, they retreated.

A letter from the Udaiyarpalaiyam Polegar to the Governor received on the 11th November 1749, proves that Muzuffer Jung and Chanda Sahib assisted by the French detachment invaded Udaiyarpalaiyam and that the Udaiyar made some request: and it also shows that the East India Company treated him as their equal and a perfect concord subsisted between them both. It further shows that the Udaiyar ruled with real power.

A letter from the Governor to the Udaiyarpalaiyam Polegar, dated the 11th November 1749, substantiates the long-standing friendship between the Udaiyar and the East India Company and that the Governor complied with the request of the Polegar.

A letter from the Udaiyarpalaiyam Polegar to the Governor, received on the 6th December 1749, contains the fact that the Polegar concluded a peace with Chanda Sahib and Muzuffer Jung after having opposed them for a month, and that they went away from Udaiyarpalaiyam.

A letter from Woriyur to Mr. Charles Flayer received on the 28th September, 1748, shows that the East India Company solicited the assistance of the Udaiyar in taking Pondicherry. In compliance with their wishes, he helped them with an army and

promised to send another if required. They were very friendly and each party regarded the other's cause as their own.

Muthu Vijiah Rangappa Udaiyar was the next Polegar. During his time, on account of the troubles by the Nawab, the Polegars of Ariyalur and Thuraiyur sought refuge under him. The Udaiyar sheltered them owing ostensibly to the already existing ill-feeling between his father and the Nawab, but in reality to the known rapacity of the Mahomedan Government, and also on account of the fact that the Nawab had already an eye upon Udaiyarpalaiyam. Nawab Walajah, in 1765, on the pretext that the Udaiyarpalaiyam Polegar failed to pay the peshcush punctually as well as to help him in the Madura war, sought the help of the East India Company, collected a large army and advanced against Udaiyarpalaiyam. Though young at the time, the Udaiyar defended himself and fought gallantly. As he found that his forces were scattered on all sides, he retreated into one of the forts of Tanjore with 2,000 men, 200 horses and 14 elephants and with an immense treasure. He lived in the Mysore Province for some time and then in the village of Thathamgarampettai of the Sandamangalam Taluq, making attempts to regain his territory. With the assistance of Hyder Ali and with a large army of his own, he returned to Udaiyarpalaiyam in 1780, besieged the fort, drove away from that place the Nawab's army and his Amils and regained his ancestral Palaiyam. He, like his predecessors, ruled his country with great dignity.

The East India Company with a view to separating the Polegar from Hyder Ali made the former

and the Nawab, friends and advised the Udaiyar to pay the peshcush regularly. He consented to do so with the object of avoiding future troubles.

He thus helped the Nawab and the East India Company against Hyder Ali, and during the two assignments of the Carnatic by the Nawab to the East India Company, the Polegar paid the peshcush to the latter. He performed many charitable deeds.

Mr. Blair, the Chief of the South Arcot District, within his jurisdiction, granted to the Udaiyar wet and dry lands, as Sarvamaniam to be enjoyed in perpetuity, besides the Kaval fee of one panam on each  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the wet kanee. The Polegar died in the year 1792. There is a copper plate grant given by him, bearing date Saka 1706, corresponding to the 17th June 1784 A. D., showing that 20 kanees of wet lands in Sendurai Mahanam, Palaiyam Seemai, was granted as Sarvamaniam for the worship of the Sabhanayagar deity at Chidambaram.

There is also another copper plate grant, bearing date Saka 1706, corresponding to the 30th August, 1784 A. D., which shows that 40 kanees of dry and wet lands in the village of Karaikurichi, Palar Mahanam, Palaiyam Seemai, were given by this Polegar for the worship of Sri Kamatchi Amman of Concheepuram.

Mr. Robert Andrews, the Collector of Trichinopoly, wrote to the Polegar on the 24th April, 1792, informing him that as the cloth contract of the East India Company ceased, he might levy duty as usual on all cloths passing through the Udaiyar-palaiyam Seemai under any name whatsoever.

There is also a stone inscription at Vilandai in the Udaiyarpalaiyam Taluq, bearing date, Tuesday, Rohini star, 15th of Chitrai of Pareedhapi, corresponding to Salivahana 1713, showing that the ruined temple of Agasthiswara Swami was renewed on the said date during the days of Muthu Vijiah Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar Avergal, who was also known as Kachi Brahmna Vanniar and the Lion Flag Chief.

Letters to the Rajahs of Udaiyarpalaiyam and Ariyalur, dated 26th July, 1782, show that the East India Company demanded aid from them against Hyder Ali.

An extract from the Military Consultation, dated 27th September, 1782, convinces us that the East India Company recognised this Chief as the Rajah of Udaiyarpalaiyam.

The letters and the extract further show that this Udaiyar and his ancestors were the Rajahs of the Udaiyarpalaiyam Samasthanam, that the East India Company treated them with equality, and showed them due respect.

In a letter to the Court of Directors, dated 15th September, 1782, paras. 93, 96, we find that the Polegar was also recognised as the Chief that assisted the Company with money for a war, and that some agreement was made between them.

An extract from the Military Consultation, dated 25th April, 1782, shows that the English were trying to separate the Polegar from Hyder Ali and prepared a *cowle*.

A letter to Mr. Erwin, dated 12th December, 1784, from the Secretary, shows that the Udaiyarpalaiyam Polegar was paying peshcush to the Com-

pany during the assignment of the Carnatic, for ruling a certain portion of the territory under them. The term Udaiyar denotes an owner of property, Polegar means a Military Chieftain and Ruler of a Palaiyam, and Palaiyam in the South means a tract of country under the rule of a Polegar.

After Muthu Vijiah Rangappa Udaiyar, his eldest son, Abhinava Yuva Rangappa Udaiyar was installed. He failed to pay the peshcush regularly to Government on account of unforeseen difficulties, and therefore one Chinniah Mudaliyar, a friend of both the Polegar and the Nawab, was appointed to manage the Palaiyam, collect the revenues, and after defraying the expenses of the management to pay the peshcush to the Nawab including the arrears, and to give the balance, namely, Rs. 12,000 to the Polegar. The Mudaliyar received as a reward from the Udaiyar the village of Tiruvalaputhoor in the Tanjore District. The former gave away this village for charity. Besides this income, the Polegar also received the proceeds of the Arasookaval Miras and kumbatham (private property). He died on the 31st December 1801. He was succeeded by his younger half-brother Rangappa Udaiyar, a minor of 15 years. The Government of the Carnatic had been transferred from the Nawab to the East India Company before he succeeded. The East India Company as sovereign rulers of the Carnatic, acknowledged him as the heir to his deceased elder brother and also as the Polegar of Udaiyarpalaiyam, but placed the Palaiyam temporarily under the management of the Collector of the District as was done in the case of other ancient Palaiyams of the Carnatic for the purpose of ascertaining the value of



these lands and the extent of the military service which the Polegar was bound to render to the State, and of fixing the peshcush. The Polegar received during the period in which his Palaiyam was under the management of the Collector 10 per cent. of the net revenues which amounted annually to Star Pagodas 4,044 and odd, in addition to Kanivari and Arasookaval maniam in the Trichinopoly District, which yielded annually Star Pagodas 4,073 and odd. Besides this, there were other incomes in Mannargudi in land. Rs. 13,325 12 9  
 Chidambaram do „ 3,304 15 9  
 Sankarapuram Jaghir do „ 2,541 6 10  
 Cash on account of lands resumed  
 in Virdhachellam „ 910 2 5

---

Rs. 20,082 5 9

---

The income from the villages outside the Palaiyam amounted to 691 Star Pagodas. The paddy income from Kumbakonam in the Tanjore District amounted to 2,400 kalams. He also enjoyed all the kumbatham or hereditary lands.

In the meantime, the East India Company thought that the Polegars were generally incapable of managing their estates and paying their peshcush punctually, and hence changed their policy with regard to the Permanent Settlement. In pursuance of this altered policy, the Government with the full consent of the Polegar retained so much of the Palaiyam as would yield an income equal to the peshcush and other incidental expenses which the

Polegar would have to pay for and gave him only 65 villages (with the Mazaras) of this Samasthanam which were calculated to yield him the same profit as the whole estate would have yielded him if it had been given to him in its entirety with the usual peshcush of two-thirds of the income. A nominal peshcush of 175 Star-Pagodas was fixed for the Zamindari of Udaiyarpalaiyam consisting of 65 villages, and a Sannad-I-Milkiat Istimirar was given on the 23rd December 1817 to the Zamindar, Kachi Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar, who enjoyed the Zamindari with all the rights, privileges and titles acquired by his ancestors.

Like his predecessors, he maintained a big establishment. Those pertaining to the Samasthanam are Ministers, Commanders (Dalawal), Pradhanickams, Vakils, Javabhavis, Samprathies (cashiers), Bodyguards, Subadars, Havildars, minor heads, Samadika Pramukhas, Kandasaram Sampratis (accountants), for the *pannai* lands, Servaigars, Purohits, Danadhi-kari's pages, time reckoners, Baghavathars, Sastra Pandits, day torch bearers, players on the harp, balarajahs, heralds, shroffs, Telugu Pandits, Tamil Pandits, attavanais, store-keepers, avasarakars, personal attendants, kamattathans, pavadaikars, maid servants, dyers, flag bearers, umbrella bearers, pipers, nautch set, blowers of kouch kombu, drummers, nagara navabath, alkojakars, Arabpipers, drummers of barithu drums, blacksmiths, barber physicians, and carnatic sepoys. Besides these, he had also under him kaval establishments such as kaval adhikaries, kaval accountants, menkavalkars, tanadars, and thalaiyaries.

He conducted himself in such a satisfactory manner that the East India Company treated him with great consideration and respect. He was praised by the Tamil, Telugu and Sanskrit Pandits of those days in the poems of Pillai-thamil and Kovai, and in Amirthadwani in Sanskrit, and in Telugu padyams and prabandams. He was very pious and charitable. He died on the 13th August 1835. In the letter written by Mr. Wallace to the Revenue Board, dated 2nd January 1802, it is mentioned that his half brother (elder) died at Kilapalur on the 1st December 1801, and that Kachi Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar was the proper heir.

From the letter written by the Secretary to Mr. Wallace, the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 2nd March, 1802, we see that Kachi Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar was accepted as the legal successor to his elder half brother.

The letter from the Revenue Board to the Government of Madras, dated 5th July 1802, shows that the investiture sannad copy was sent along with the letter, and that the Collector proposed that the Palaiyam should be under his management till the next Fasli to enable him to fix the peshcush.

In the letter forwarded by the Revenue Board to the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 14th August, 1802, it is stated that the Palaiyam should be under him to enable him to find out the land revenue and to settle the peshcush, and that after defraying the expenses of the management, 10 per cent. of the net revenue should be given to the Polegar as long as the

Palaiyam continued to be under the management of the British Government.

In the proceedings of the Revenue Board, dated 21st December 1815, it is said that, without departing from the intention already proposed, the Board thought it expedient to give the Polegars such a number of villages with a nominal peshcush as would yield the same amount of income, as the whole would give them after deducting the peshcush, and that a report must be made to the Board after consulting the Polegar as to the villages which would give a net income of 33 per cent. in lieu of all the former villages.

The order of the Government to the Revenue Board, dated 29th March 1816, states that the Polegars should receive Kusba villages which would yield 10 per cent. of the whole revenue of the Palaiyam and give up their lands, Police duties and allowances.

In the order of the Government to the Revenue Board, dated 30th September 1817, it is said that the villages stipulated should be given on a Zamindari tenure by the deed of Permanent Settlement to the Polegars of Turaiyur, Ariyalur and Udaiyarpalaiym.

In the letter of the Revenue Board to the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 30th October 1817, they say that the villages proposed to be given back to the Polegars of Ariyalur, Udaiyarpalayam and Turaiyur might be given them.

The order from the Government to the Revenue Board dated 23rd December 1817, says that the Istimirar Sannad proposed to be given to the Polegars of Udaiyarpalayam, Ariyalur and Turaiyur was sent with the order. In the Sannad-I-Milkiyat Isti-

mirar dated 23rd idem and given to this Samasthanathipathi on the 2nd October, 1818, the details about the villages belonging to this Samasthanam and the conditions thereto are shown.

From the letter written by the Collector to the Revenue Board, dated 26th December 1816, we see that this Polegar received while his estate was under the Collector, for settling the peshcush, Pagodas 4,044 and odd for the annual revenue from the palaiyam, and Pagodas 4,073 and odd for kavalmaniam, and kanivari in the Trichinopoly District.

From the extract of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th August 1836, it is evident that this Polegar was also enjoying the emoluments in the South Arcot District to the extent of Rs. 20,082-5-9.

On the full moon day in the month of Audi, Thunthubi year, Salivahana era 1724, for daily worship, lighting and oblation to Prasanna Venkateswara-Swami at Udayarpalaiyam 48 cawnies as detailed below were given as sarvamaniam, 5 cawnies of punjah out of the kavalmaniam in Palamalanathapuram, Kadur Mahanum, in the west of Udaiyaryalaiyam Seemai, 15 cawnies in Kadur, 5 cawnies in the Vittugudi village, 9 cawnies in the Namamgudi village, 2 cawnies in Vallur, 9 cawnies in Kaimangalam in Sannivanam Mahanam, 3 in Vettugudi, Kadur Mahanam.

There is a deed of grant in the possession of the Gurunamasivaya Mutt, dated Rathakchi year, Adi month, corresponding to Saka 1726, and Kali 4905, showing that a grant of 15 cawnies of land in the villages of Vanniyur and Vichiyur was given as sarva-

maniam for the service in the said Mutt. There is also another deed of grant in their possession, bearing date Akshaya year, Panguni month corresponding to Saka 1728, and Kali 4907, which shows that one-sixteenth of one month's income of this Samasthanam establishment should be paid to the Mutt annually.

His eldest son Muthu Vijiah Rangappa Udaiyar succeeded him and ruled for 6 months. He died on the 28th January, 1836. Without his father's consent he married the daughter of his uncle (the Ariyalur Zamindar). This brought on an ill-feeling between them. The father desired to disinherit the eldest son and to instal the second son. His intention could not be carried out as it was contrary to justice and to the custom of the Zamindari.

In a letter written to the Samasthanathipathi by the Collector on the 21st August 1835, it is stated that the Collector issued an order to the Tahsildar to make all the devasthanams of the Taluq, send tokens of respect on the date of the installation ceremony.

In a letter addressed to the Revenue Board by the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 29th August 1835, it is mentioned that Kachi Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar Avergal died on the 13th and that this Udaiyar being the eldest son was the heir to the Samasthanam.

The Collector of Trichinopoly wrote to the Revenue Board on the 26th February, 1836, to the effect that the Udaiyar died on the 22nd leaving a minor son, named Rangappa Udaiyar, 2 years and 9 months old, and that he was the heir to the estate according to law and custom in preference to his paternal uncle.

Rangappa Udaiyar succeeded his father as a minor, when the Zamindari was placed under the management of the Court of Wards. Maintenance was given as usual to all the junior members of the family. He died on the 16th July 1842.

After him his paternal uncle, Kalyana Rangappa Udaiyar succeeded. He was highly charitable like his ancestors and repaired the choultries erected by them at Udaiyarpalaiyam and Madanathur and arranged for the feeding of travellers. He presented to the deity of Sree Bhuvarahaswami in the Sreemushnam temple, which had been under their hereditary management and trusteeship from time immemorial, with a gold kavacham and many other costly jewels, and also performed *kainkariams*. He personally attended the annual car festival in the months of Masi and Chitrai at Sreemushnam. Though in some years the Government did not pay to the temple the annual amount due, yet the Udaiyar conducted the worship, as well as the car festivals at an enormous cost. He also presented a gold Kavacham set with rubies to the deity of Alagia Thiruchitrambalamudaiyar in the Sabhanatesar temple at Chidambaram and *sahasradara* plate made of gold for Abhishekam to the said deity. He also gave forty cawuies of land in the Devamangalam village belonging to the Samasthanam as a maniam for the service of the Kumbaconam Sree Sankarachari Mutt, which is still in their enjoyment. He borrowed large sums of money on account of the litigation between him and one Srirangam Kachi Vijiah Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar for his maintenance and to relieve his son-in-

law, the Zamindar of Ariyalur, from his debts. As it was impossible for the Zamindar to be free from embarrassments, Mr. Webster, the District Judge, with the approval of the Governor, placed this Samasthanam under attachment and appointed a receiver for some years, and when the estate was found to be without encumbrances, the Udaiyar was entrusted with its management. He died on the 20th June 1885.

After him, the predecessor of the present Samasthanathipathi, Sri Yuva Rangappa Udaiyar Avergal, the heir according to law and custom, the son of Sri Muthu Vijiab Rangappa Udaiyar Avergal, who was the second son of Sri Prasanna Rangappa Udaiyar Avergal, the younger brother of the former Zamindar Sri Kaliyana Rangappa Udaiyar Avergal, was installed under favourable auspices.

Udaiyarpalaiyam has been an impartible estate from the beginning, and the succession to it devolves on a single heir under the law of lineal primogeniture and special family custom, regulated by descent in the line of the senior wife (first married) in preference to the junior wife. In 1897 one Kachi Kaliyana Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar, residing at Srirangam contrary to the above custom, brought a suit in the District Court of Trichinopoly for a share in the Zamindari with other alternate reliefs. The Court held the estate partible but in the appeal, the High Court decided it to be impartible, and the then Zamindar to be the heir according to law, which decision has since been confirmed by the Privy Council. This Zamindari is also included in the list of



Impartible Estates appended to the Madras Impartible Estates Act, II of 1903.

Sri Yuva Rangappa Udaiyar Avergal was born in March 1869; his father died when he was about six years old and his mother, two years later. The former Zamindar Kachi Kaliyana Rangappa Udaiyar died on the 20th June 1885, after executing a Will. As his brother, the aforesaid Prasanna Rangappa Udaiyar and his son Muthu Vijaya Rangappa Udaiyar had predeceased him, the present holder who was the legal heir inherited the estate on the same date. The late Dewan Bahadur H. Subroyer who was then a Divisional Officer of distinction reported this matter to the Collector, Mr. Henry Sewell, who in his turn sent a report to the Government, which in its Proceedings No. 1156 dated 13th October 1885, recognised the succession. The Zamindar was a minor, 16 years old, when he was installed and consequently Meenatchi Aya, the last wife of the late Zamindar, was his guardian for a short time. Then one Oppayee Ammal residing in Srirangam as mother of one Kachi Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar who was a minor and who was not a proper heir, brought a suit in O. S. No. 22 of 1886 on the file of the Trichinopoly District Court on behalf of her minor son alleging that he was the senior heir and as such was entitled to this Samasthanam and all its appurtenances.

As the guardian of the present Samasthanathi-pathi was a female, not capable of conducting the suit which was one of great importance, as the feeling between her and the minor was somewhat strained owing to the duplicity of the then palace

servants, and as the time for the minor attaining his majority was close at hand, an adjournment of the trial of the case was obtained. On the 28th February 1887, when the present Zamindar attained his majority and when the case was about to be taken up for disposal, the plaintiff and others offered to compromise. Although the plaintiff's father received a monthly maintenance of only Rs. 200 through the Court still the present Zamindar was very generous and agreed to pay him a liberal sum of Rs. 750 per mensem and a sum of Rs. 30,000 on account of the expenses in connection with the case. The counsel on both sides arranged a compromise with the permission of the Court whereby the right of this Samasthanathipathi to the undisturbed enjoyment of his Zamindari was duly acknowledged. He took charge of the estate on the 14th September 1887, from the Receiver under whose management it was placed by the Court for sometime during the pendency of the suit, and was duly installed. His first marriage took place on the 31st May 1888, when he was 20 years old. With a view to all his subjects taking part in the rejoicings, he granted them a remission of assessment amounting to about Rs. 5,200.

His consort Sowbhaghiavathi Jalajaganthi Aya Avergal was a highly accomplished Ranee possessing rare virtues and an exceedingly charitable disposition and these qualities made her an invaluable companion and ideal housewife. She died on the 10th July 1898, leaving three sons and three daughters. The eldest daughter, the first born, is Sowbhaghiavathi Ambuja Valli Aya Avergal, the second daughter, Sowbhaghiavathi Abhirama Valli Aya Avergal and the third

34A



THE LATE FIRST PRINCE OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM.

34 B



THE SECOND PRINCE OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM (WHEN YOUNG)  
THE PRESENT SAMASTHANATHIPATHI AVERGAL OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM  
SRI KACHI CHINNA NALLAPPA KALAKKA THOLA UDAIYAR AVERGAL.

34 C



THE THIRD PRINCE OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM.

34D



THE FOURTH PRINCE OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM AND THE LATE SRI RAJA  
LAKSHMI AYA, THE THIRD DAUGHTER OF THE PRESENT  
ZAMINDAR'S PREDECESSOR,

34 E



THE FOURTH PRINCE OF UADIYARPALAIYAM,

daughter Sowbhaghiavathi Raja Lakshmi Aya Avergal. The eldest prince is Sri Kachi Bhavaraha Muthu Vijaya Rangappa Udaiyar. The second marriage of the Zamindar took place on the 21st June 1899, and the name of the Ranees was Sowbhaghiavathi Neelothpala Gandhi Aya Avergal, who died on the 16th May 1900, leaving a male issue. The third marriage was celebrated on the 28th. August 1904, and the name of this Ranees is Sowbhaghiavathi Sambraja Lakshmi Aya Avergal. All these three wives were sisters, being the daughters of the Kadalaugudi Zamindar.

This latter gave birth to three children, 2 daughters and one son, of whom one daughter the eldest died. The son is the youngest.

Thanga Aya Avergal, the elder sister of the Zamindar, was given in marriage to the present Zamindar of Ariyalur and she died leaving a boy who is now 18 years old, and is living with his maternal uncle at Udaiyarpalaiyam. His name is Kumara Vijaya Oppillatha Malavaraya Nainari.

Sri Yuva Rangappa Udaiyar is kind to his relations and treats them with due consideration and helps them according to their respective positions. His chief relations are at Ariyalur, Kadalangudi and Pitchapuram.

Among his friends are many Rajahs, Zamindars, high officials (both European and Native) and other respectable persons, with whom he holds a frequent and friendly correspondence. He is well informed on all matters and his conversation is always interesting and edifying.



H. E. Lord Ampthill, the former Governor of Madras, addressed the following letter to the Zamindar :—

MILTON ERNEST HALL,  
BEDFORD,  
*3rd December 1906.*

MY DEAR ZAMINDAR,

It was a great pleasure to hear from you and I thank you heartily for your kind letter of the 29th October. I am glad that you are willing to keep up the acquaintance which we made with each other at so unfortunately late a period of my Governorship. In reply to your kind enquiries I am glad to be able to tell you that Lady Ampthill and my sons are all flourishing and that we are settling down very happily to English life once more. I have not had much of a holiday as numerous public duties of a minor but none the less exacting order have been thrust upon me so that I find myself constantly busy.

I have been much saddened by recent news from Madras which includes the death of several of my old friends and the terrible misfortune of the Arbuthnot failure. The death of Mr. Ravi Varma and the Hon'ble Muthu Kumaraswami Mudaliar have made grievous gaps in the life of Southern India.

I am glad to hear that you and yours are flourishing and I cordially reciprocate your good wishes.

Believe me,  
Yours very truly,  
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

To

THE ZAMINDAR OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM.

His Highness the Rajah of Cochin, G.C.S.I.,  
wrote:—

(THE COCHIN DURBAR)

HILL BUNGALOW,

TIRUPUNITHURA,

*12th April 1906.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I have much pleasure to receive your kind letter of the 27th ultimo for which you will kindly accept my heartiest thanks.

It is very kind of you to ask me to write you often about my welfare. \* \* \* It would always give me much pleasure to hear from you all about yourself, your family and your affairs, and shall request you to send me a letter whenever you have leisure to do so.

I was obliged to leave Madras soon after the visit of Their Royal Highnesses owing to some ceremony for which my presence here was necessary, and I feel equally sorry that I have not had more opportunities to meet you.

Perhaps you have ere this heard that Mr. Andrew has left us and that Mr. Carr has taken his place.

Trusting that this will find you and all the members of your family in the enjoyment of very good health.

I remain,

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed) RAMA VARMAH.

To

THE ZAMINDAR OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM.

Although the Zamindar was young when he got possession of his estate, he was intelligent and shrewd enough to grasp matters and was anxious that he should conduct himself in a manner becoming his high position and agreeably to the best traditions of his ancestors. Even during his minority, he had the honor of an introduction to, and a private interview with, Lord Dufferin who was the Viceroy, and Lord Connemara, the Governor of Madras, on the occasion of their visits to Trichinopoly. Since attaining his majority, he had the honor of being presented to His late Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor, the eldest son of the present Emperor, on the occasion of his visit to Trichinopoly on the 11th December 1889. On the 11th November 1892 when His Excellency Lord Wenlock, on the 2nd December 1895 when His Excellency Lord Elgin, and on the 24th October 1905 when His Excellency Lord Ampthill, visited Trichinopoly, he was accorded a reception with all the respects and honors which his ancestors had enjoyed. On the occasion of the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to Madras in January 1906, he was one of those selected from among the ancient Chiefs and Nobles and invited to Madras to be present on the occasion. He formed one in the carriage procession of Their Royal Highnesses from the Pier to the Government House. He had the honor of being presented to His Royal Highness at the audience given to the Zamindars and noble men, and also at the deputation of the Landholders' Association. The Samasthanathipathi also attended

the Levee and the State Reception at the Banqueting Hall as well as the Garden party given by Lord Amphill in honor of Their Royal Highnesses.

The Zamindar invited all the Rajahs and Zamindars who came to Madras in connection with the Royal visit as also the *elite* of Madras to a party given by him at his residence on the 30th January 1906. About twenty-five Rajahs and Zamindars and seventy-five native gentlemen responded to the invitation and the affair was a great success and proved a very pleasant social gathering. The Royal visit was also availed of for exchanging visits with the distinguished gentry of the station and also with some of the Rajahs and Zamindars who came there. On the occasion of the visit of His Excellency Sir Arthur Lawley to Trichinopoly on the 23rd November 1906, he was invited and was received with all the usual respects.

He is patient, courteous, modest, charitable and generous; he is very careful in preserving the dignity of his exalted position, and is sincerely loyal to Government.

These virtues have been commemorated by Pandits both in Sanskrit and Tamil verse and also sung in *krithies*. He is a strict Hindu and has his daily *pooja*; he gives freely to the poor, and helps poor Brahmins with money for *upanayanam* and marriage. On certain occasions, he makes presents of cows, elephants, etc. He is addressed by Government in various forms of which the following is one:—

“Subdadul, Amajil, Valekaran Srimath, Zamindar Elakai Udaiyarpalaiyam, Bahuth Bashvauth Salam.”

The Collector of the District addresses the Zamindar in the following manner:—

"May M. R. Ry. Srimat Kachi Yuva Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar Avergal, the distinguished Zamindar of Udaiyarpalaiyam, and one who is to be treated with equal respect like ourselves live in happiness."

The British Government has all along been treating this family with respect and dignity.

The Zamin is administered ably and systematically. Accounts, correspondence, etc. are kept regularly in several revised forms adopted from the British system. Efforts are made for improving cultivation in the villages, and they are attended with success. When the Zamindar took charge of the estate, the revenue was about 1 lakh of rupees, but it has since risen to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs.

Attention is also paid to the Forest Department. For the past many years, a number of reserves have been formed and improvements in forest conservancy effected. The work of the samasthanam is divided into 14 departments, the chief of which are the Huzur office and the Dewan's office.

The Government of Madras, on the occasion of the coronation of His Majesty the King-Emperor in 1903, granted the following certificate to the Zamindar in recognition of his being an exemplary landlord:—

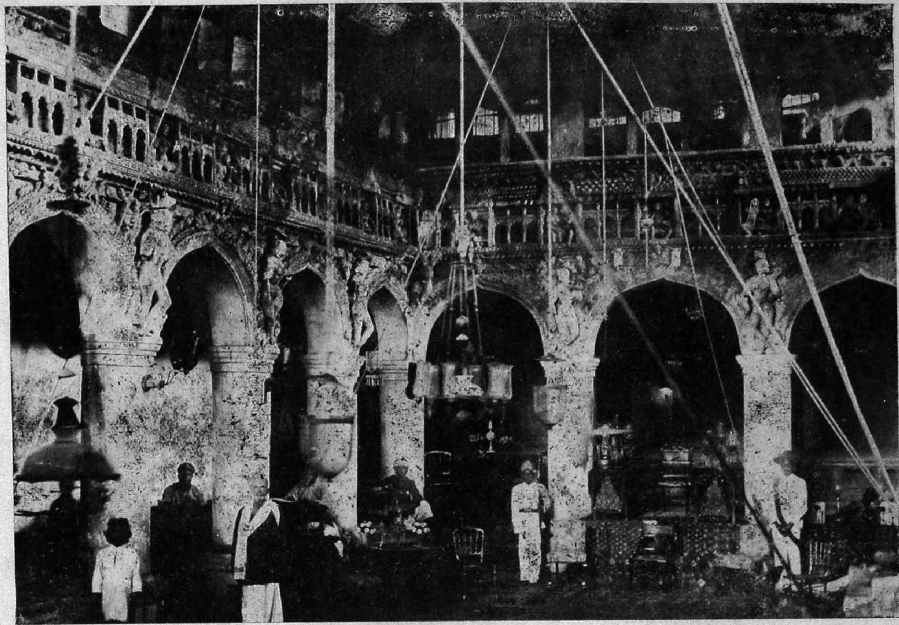
"By command of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, this certificate is presented in the name of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII, Emperor of India, to M. R. Ry. Kachi Uva Rangappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar, Zamindar of Udaiyarpalaiyam, in recognition of his merits as an exemplary landlord."

MADRAS,

(Signed) G. STOKES.

1st January 1903.

Chief Secretary to the Government  
of Madras.



THE PALACE DURBAR HALL (PATTAGASALAI) OF THE UDAYARPALAIYAM SAMASTHANAM.

To commemorate the coronation of His Majesty the King-Emperor, he has planted a mango tope on the road side in the Thathanore village and also opened a new road from Kusba Udaiyarpalaiyam to Elaiyar, a distance of three miles.

The palace in Udaiyarpalaiyam consists of buildings erected about 600 years ago. It can be seen that the edifice was surrounded by a ditch, a fort and ramparts until 1802. There seem to have been 64 compartments in the palace of which 25 are still in existence. Some of them are beautiful and contain fine decorative works similar to the Taj Mahal at Agra. These buildings were constructed by his ancestors from time to time. There is also a stately polygonal tower which is said to have been used in by-gone days as a tower from which to watch enemies. The Durbar Hall in this palace is like the Thirumal Naick's Hall in Madura and its arches have some fine carved work. Another building called Nataka Sala has similar carvings in wood as well as in masonry. Some competent European gentlemen of antiquarian tastes who lately visited the building remarked that it deserved a careful study from an historical and architectural point of view. This palace is inside the fort.

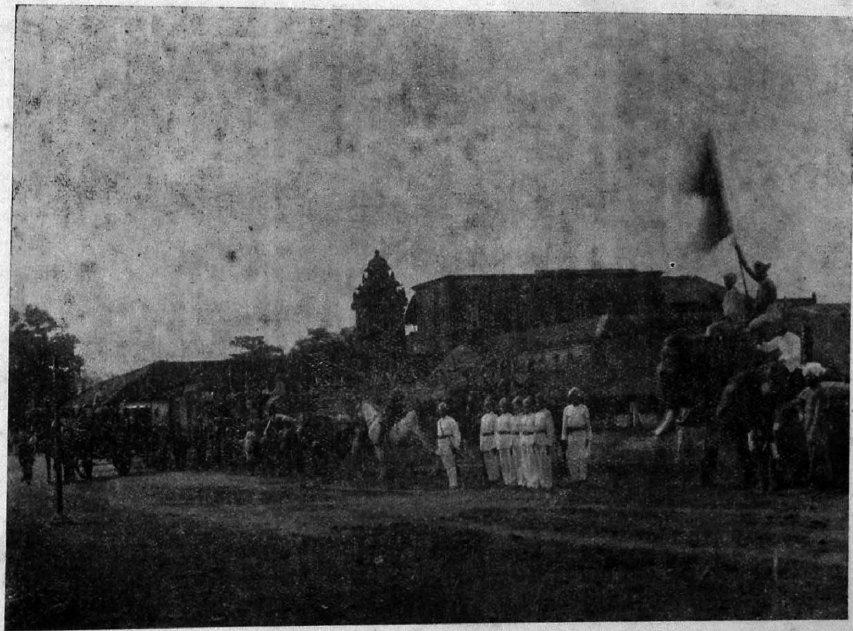
No attention having been paid to the repairs of these buildings for about 105 years, a greater portion of them was in a dilapidated condition and the present Zamindar working continually for the past 19 years and spending about 2 lakhs of rupees, has restored most of these buildings to their original style and beauty under his own personal supervision without entrusting the work to

contractors and other irresponsible persons. There are only a few buildings which remain to be repaired, and the Maramath Department is still working at them very diligently; some new buildings have also been built both inside and outside the palace compound. The front gate facing the north of the palace which was in a dilapidated condition is now renovated in a decorative style. A separate building has been erected specially for feeding the poor without distinction of caste or creed at least twice in the year.

The Zamindar is a patron of education. He maintains a school in Kusba Udaiyarpalaiyam to teach Sanskrit and Vedas. He gives a scholarship of Rs. 50 annually for a student to learn Sanskrit and Vedas and Visistathuvaitham at Kumbakonam. He pays annually Rs. 75 to the Visistathuvaitha Vithvath Sabha at Kumbakonam. He has given Rs. 3,500 to the National High School, Trichinopoly, for building a block for the use of the primary classes. In laying the foundation-stone of this building, His Excellency Lord Amptill thanked the Zamindar on his own behalf and also on behalf of the public for the interest he took in the cause of education.

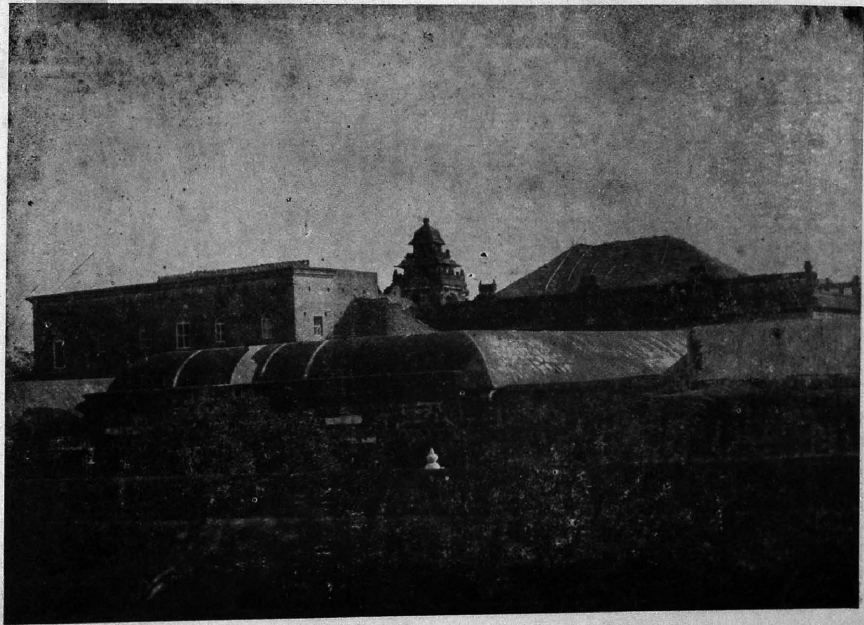
The chattrams founded by his ancestors in Kusba Udaiyarpalaiyam and Mathanathur are properly managed. He gave Rs. 2,200 in January 1906 for endowing a bed in the Victoria Gosha Hospital, Madras, in the name of Her Excellency Lady Ampthill. He has revived the Brahmotsavam of the Kusba Siva temple which had been stopped for upwards of 150 years. In March 1898 he made a fine car for the use of that temple at a cost of Rs. 20,000 with beautiful carved figures. In this ancient





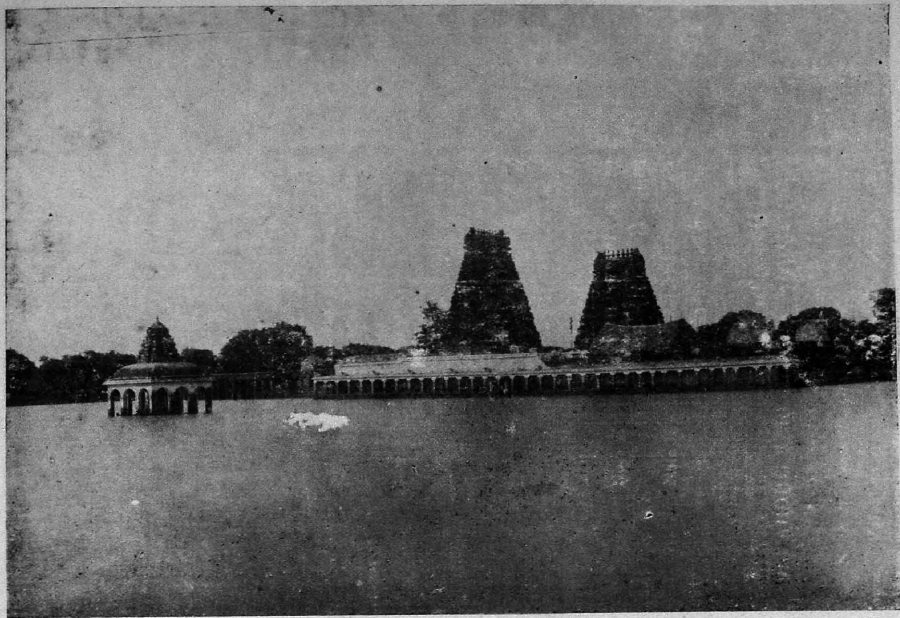
EASTERN VIEW OF THE UDAIYARPALAIYAM SAMASTHANAM PALACE.

42A



NORTHERN VIEW OF THE UDAIYARPALAIYAM SAMASTHANAM PALACE.

42 B



THE SIVA TEMPLE AT UDAIYARPALAIYAM FACING EASTWARD TO THE BIG TANK  
"GANDEEPA THEERTHAM" WITH THE MANDAPAM IN THE CENTRE.

temple his ancestors built several Mandapams and Gopurams and the present Samasthanathipathi has spent Rs. 15,000 on it and carried out extensive repairs. This temple notwithstanding its antiquity and importance did not possess the figures of the nine planets for worship ; and this want was supplied by the present Zamindar who had these images made in stone and in metal and duly installed them in 1902 at a cost of Rs. 2,500. The big tank in front of this Siva temple which is known as Gandeeppathirtham and which covers an area of 30 acres was in disrepair. The flight of steps all round it were repaired and the tank cleared of silt with which it was filled. He spent Rs. 10,000 on these repairs. A floating festival was then celebrated in that tank at a cost of Rs. 5,000. To make this a permanent feature a strong and beautiful floating car in wood has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 3,000. He has *Archanais* performed in the temples at Swamimalai, Conjeevaram, Madura, Srimushnam, Palani, Tiruvanaikovi, Tanjore, Purasewaukam, Suryanarayanakovil, Tiruchandur and Kusba Siva, Perumal and other temples ; and in addition to these several other periodical festivals are celebrated by him on a grand scale.

The day on which the idol of Conjeevaram Varada Raja Perumal was clandestinely removed back to Conjeevaram, namely, Panguni Uthirattathi, is commemorated by the celebration of a grand festival by this Samasthanathipathi as was done by his ancestors. The *Archanais* and the festivals in the various temples as said above, the maintenance of the two Chattrams and the various charities which are being

made in the palace from time to time, cost him about Rs. 30,000 annually. Some 5,000 poor of all castes and creeds are also fed sumptuously twice or thrice in the year. The 1st of August, the day on which the news of the success of the Zamin Suit of 1905 in the Privy Council reached Udaiyarpalaiyam, is observed annually as a "Jubilee" and cloths are presented to the poor on that day. The Zamindar presented jewels of the value of Rs. 5,000 to the Siva and the Vishnu temples at Udaiyarpalaiyam and to the temples in Vytheeswarankovil, Chidambaram, Thirukadaiyur and Triplicane on different occasions. The temple of Bhuvarahaswami, the tutelary deity of the family, is managed by him as was done by his ancestors from time immemorial. He presented jewels to this temple of the aggregate value of Rs. 15,000 on several occasions. By an economical management of its finances he has saved to it Rs. 10,000. In addition to the two car festivals which are celebrated annually in that temple, he also celebrates in it some other festivals.

To commemorate the successful termination of the Suit referred to elsewhere, he passed proceedings on the 30th August, 1905, and openly declared their contents at a Durdar held on that day. For the charities mentioned in them he has set apart the Pannai lands (*i.e.*) lands which have lapsed from non-payment of arrears of kists to the estate, for repairs to Rangasamudram Vinayaga temple, Siva temple, Perumal temple, and Peria Andavankovil at Udaiyarpalaiyam, Srimushnam Bhuvarahaswami temple, etc. There were 26 items in all and the cost

of them was 25,250. For the flagstaff in the Kusba Siva temple, for the Thittagudi mantapam, for jewels to be presented to the temples at Chidambaram and Srimushnam, for printing Sthala Puranam, charities to the poor &c., it cost him Rs. 25,350, and the total cost in all was Rs. 50,600. Besides these, 124 cawnies of land were granted as Inam in 19 cases for the temple pooja and festivals, and 155 cawnies to Brahmins, and temples in 13 cases on other auspicious occasions.

Whenever the present Samasthanathipathi goes out in state, he, like his ancestors, appears in oriental dress and is followed by elephants, horses, camels, barred molam, barjari janda, kanchi kombu, vellai pavada, ubhaya chamaras, and royal umbrella, coloured green and red inside and outside respectively, and is also followed by Savars and flag, navabath and other paraphernalia, with heralds proclaiming his titles.

He leads a good and religious life and is kind to his ryots and administers the Samasthauam efficiently. His present Dewan is Rao Bahadur R. Kaudaswami Pillai, who was a Tahsildar in the District of Trichinopoly for about 25 years and has now retired.

Sri Kachi Yuva Rengappa Kalakka Thola Udaiyar Avergal died on the 24th October, 1918, after a distinguished career quite in keeping with the illustrious predecessors of this ancient Zamindari leaving a brilliant record for himself during his eventful reign of 32 years, much regretted by the members of his large family and the palace dependents at the early age of 50.

The present Samasthanathipathi Sri Kachi Chinna Nallappa Kalakka Thola Udayar Avergal succeeded him immediately as the first surviving prince and the heir according to the law of primogeniture. After performing the obsequies of his worthy father, according to the custom of this Zamindari in a manner worthy of his dignity and position distributing large gifts to the Brahmins and the poor, he was installed in the right oriental fashion as the 24th ruling prince in the line of his famous ancestors. Worship in the local temples and in the shrines of Chidambaram, Srimushnam, etc. was performed praying to the long life and prosperity of the Rajah. Durbar was held in the Rangavilasam of the palace and he received the blessings of His Holiness Sri Sankarachariar of Kumbakonam. It was attended by his relations, officials and tenants who offered their respectful congratulations and paid their obeisance. On this important occasion Mr. David, the then Revenue Divisional officer and the Taluk officials were present. Just at this time was received a message conveying the news of the cessation of the Great World War which devastated Europe and that the armistice was signed. This added much to the pleasure of the occasion. Immediately salutes were fired at the fort. A grand procession of their most gracious Majesties' pictures placed in a four in hand was celebrated in the town and the Samasthanathipathi Avergal followed them with the whole staff of palace officials, relations and visitors accompanied by different sorts of music and fire works, and with the whole paraphernalia of the palace consisting of elephants, horses, camels barred



SRI KACHI CHINNA NALLAPPA KALAKKA THOLA UDAIYAR AVGL.  
(THE PRESENT SAMASTHANATHIPATHI OF UDAIYARPALAIYAM).



molam, barjari-jandab, kanchikombu, Vellai pava-dai, Ubhaya chamaras and royal umbrellah coloured green and red inside and outside respectively, also followed by sowars and flag navabath with heralds proclaiming his titles.

In commemoration of his late father he has erected as a mark of filial affection a temple called Kailasmahal at a cost of Rs. 50,000, and every day at about 12 noon pujah is performed and some people are fed. The charities started by his father and his predecessors are properly kept up.

He is a gentleman of generous instincts and has begun his rule well by being very kind to his brothers and sisters and other members of his family, and liberally remitting rents from such of those tenants who could not pay and granting other concessions. The family of this Samasthanathipathi Avergal has ever been loyal to the British Government.

He has married the first princess of the Ariyalur Zamindar Sowbhaghiaivathi Oppayah Avergal. The Rani is an accomplished lady of rare virtues and of a very charitable disposition and a model housewife. These qualities make her an invaluable help-mate to the gentleman. She had a daughter but the child unfortunately died after a year. Now the Zamindar Avergal is blessed with a prince and heir to succeed him.

The Collectors of Trichinopoly Mr. H.T. Reilly, I.C.S., Mr. C.G. Austin, I.C.S., and Mr. E.W. Legh, I. C. S., and other high officers were pleased to see him and gave him a good start in the administration of the Samasthanam by their kind advice and instructions.

48 KACHI CHINNA NALLAAPA KALAKKA THOLA UDAIYAR.

The present Dewan Mr. Arcot Rajah Bahadur Mudaliar, B. A., Retd. Tahsildar, has been at the helm for the past 6 years and has been discharging his duties satisfactorily.

V21192V, 93 (X223)

1981

9493

—

THE MODERN PRINTING WORKS, MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.