

Noollichs Memorandum respecting the Tamil language showing an
easy method of reading and writing the Practical Tamil.

Tamil is the most liquid or soft of all the
Eastern languages, for the letters of its alphabet, are of no harsh but soft
sound, in comparison of the Sanscrita and Gento's Alphabets. — The very
name Tamil itself implies that which is liquid, or soft — Hence, it ought,
according to its Etymology, to be spelt and pronounced Tamil and not
Tamil — It is therefore, that the Gento's call the Tamil *iravam*, which
literally signifies that which is not loud. — It is improperly called a
Malabar which is a corruption of the word Maliar meaning the people
of Malialams now known by the name of Malabar coasts. — The
Tamil, as well as the Gento's language, took its origin from the Sans-
=crita.

There are two kinds of Tamil viz. pure &
impure: The first is called *Shen-tamil* and the last *boim-tamil*. — The
former is subdivided into the acromatic and the exoteric and the latter
into 12 dialects. — By the acromatic Tamil is meant the sublime
or poetic Tamil as *Acim, Voolavi yee i e*, a house, a bough, &c. — And
by the exoteric Tamil is understood the common, or practical Tamil —
Vudoo bombu yee i e, a house, a bough, &c. — The 12 Dialects are,
those of *Timpounde nandoo*, *Boim nandoo*, *boirka nandoo*, *Anri nandoo*,
Venandoo, *Boole nandoo*, *Arivau nandoo*, *Arivau Padataty nandoo*,
Seda nandoo, *malautti nandoo*, & *Boinanandoo*; as *Pittam, Tally*,
nyilly, Lijar, Elivau, Akoty, Tandoo, Sonri, Bault, Sivri, booty,
bayni, &c. so forth i.e. a lion, a father, a dog, a rogue, a male, &
companion, a female-companion, a Mother-in-law, victuals, a tank,
a paddy-field, Measures of paddy, pool, &c. so forth.

The Place where the Tamil is used is bounded
by *Tirupattur* on the North and by *Kafo-loomerin* on the South and by Seas
both on the East & on the West - Some words are equally used both in the
Common & sublime Styles of the Tamil language, as *Māly. Vēl* &c. i. e. a,
mountain, paddy &c. The Tamil is bounded in the Sanscrita words, &
their corruptions as *Mēriō. Sēy* &c. i. e. a Golden Mountain, a stone &c.
nēcillānēē, or *nēcillānēr*, *Gōpālām* or *lōvāilām* &c. i. v. the water in
which boiled rice is kept over night; a handfull of food, &c. - Some foreign
words are also found in some of the ancient poems, as *Andō. Chēppō* &c.
i. e. *Alas, say*, &c. - *Andō* is a word of the *Singalas* or *Simhalas*, that is,
Ceylonese - *Chēppō* is a word of the *Gentoo* People, -

After acquiring a thorough Knowledge of the
practical Tamil, a native is to enter upon the poetic one. He is, at first, -
instructed in *Arichēkōvādēē* & *Vācēcāvāyapāwām*, that is, the rudiments
of the Tamil tongue - then in *Attēlōdēē*, *lōmōy Vēyudān* &c. which are
little books containing the alphabetical admonitory sentences upon morals -
& then in *Lāchām*, *Nēllāchām*, *Arichēkōvādēē* &c. the treatises of arithme-
tical rules - By being instructed thus far the reader becomes able to read
& write letters & also to work questions respecting addition, Multiplication,
subtraction and division - After this, if he be desirous of being acquainted
with the Poetic Tamil, he should at first read some *Elāchāms* with
meaning & then *Elāchānām*. -

Note, By *Elāchānām* are meant the
Grammatical books, such as *lōvāyōy*, *nānōōl*, *Elāchānā Vēllāchām*, *Tōlōcūp-
pānām* &c. The last mentioned book is the most ancient, excellent,
abstruse & Voluminous Grammar of the Tamil tongue & he that has
learnt this Grammar is looked upon as a complete Scholar - And by
Elāchāms are meant *Nēcānōōl*, *Tēvācārām*, *Tēvōōllōvēr-cōōōl*,
nāulādēē, *nēyōōdām*, *Chēnānānēy*, *Rāumāyānām*, &c. see the
explanations

explanations of *Āṛiky*, *nānnōḍ* &c. *Nēēndōḍ*, *Tivāucārām*, &c. in my notes to them annexed to the historical & chronological journal of my life.

N. B. The *Rāmāyānam* contains 12,000 stanzas & is entitled in the *Ēṭṭi* Tamil, *ḷāmbḷ Rāmāyānam*, because it was composed by *ḷāmbḷ* an eminent Poet, of low tribe - *nyshāshām* is a poetic book treating of the history of *māllā* - *Tiruvilloṅṅār-ḷōṅṅāl* is an excellent book, so called because its author was *Tiruvilloṅṅār* & because it consists of 1330 *ḷōṅṅāl*, that is, couplets. This book is admired for judicious Moral lectures - The *Tiruvilloṅṅār* was a Man of Meanest extraction; yet his name is revered by all the *Ēṭṭi* Tamil poets; for it is said, that *Bṛāmhā* himself was incarnate under figure of *Tiruvilloṅṅār* in order to disgrace the sacred bench of the Inspired Poets, called *ḷiṅḷḷāṅṅār* who were very proud of learning - *nāḷḷēḷē* is also an excellent book upon Morals, containing 400 *ḷēṭṭāḷḷēḷē* verses.

Hence it is plain, that it is impossible for the European Gentlemen to be well acquainted with the sublime Tamil, called *ḷāḷḷēḷēḷēḷēḷē*, because they cannot undergo so much pains as to learn the same - nay the *ḷāḷḷēḷēḷēḷēḷē* is unnecessary for them in the management of the country Affairs; for it is enough for them, only to understand the practical Tamil called *ḷāḷḷēḷēḷēḷēḷē* which they can learn very easily if they pursue the following Method, with due care and Attention.

A method of reading and writing the practical Tamil: - Be at first instructed in *Arichchōṅṅāḷḷē*, a little book so called because it begins with *āṛi - nā - mē - t - tō - sē - t - tā - m* - signifying Obedience to the Godhead - This book contains 12 Vowels and 18 consonants, & their variations being 216 connected letters - The next book is called *Vāṅḷḷēḷēḷēḷēḷēḷē* which is unnecessary as being a repetition of the same Vowels, Consonants & connected letters in a different order.

The

The 12 Vowels are $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$ (as in *that*) $\text{उ}, \text{ऋ}$ (as in *wish*)
 $\text{ॠ}, \text{ॡ}$ (as in *English*) $\text{ॢ}, \text{ॣ}$ (as in *note*) $\text{।}, \text{॥}$ (as in *bush*) $\text{॥}, \text{०}$ (as in *Duke*)
 $\text{०}, \text{ॠ}$ (as in *bar*) $\text{ॠ}, \text{ॡ}$ (as in *hate*) $\text{ॢ}, \text{ॣ}$ (as in *pine*) $\text{।}, \text{॥}$ (as in *obey*) $\text{॥}, \text{०}$
 (as in *note*) $\text{॥}, \text{ॠ}$ (as in *bow or thou*). — The 18 consonants are $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}, \text{घ}, \text{ङ}$
 $\text{च}, \text{छ}$ (as in *child*) $\text{ज}, \text{झ}$ ञ $\text{ट}, \text{ठ}$ $\text{ड}, \text{ड}, \text{ण}$ $\text{त}, \text{थ}$ (as in *country*) $\text{द}, \text{ध}$ न प फ भ म
 य र ल व श ष स ह ळ ॠ ॡ ॢ ॣ । ॥ ० — $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}, \text{घ}, \text{ङ}$ are of the
 same sound yet the former is said to be a correspondent letter to क of the latter
 to ख ; as $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}, \text{घ}, \text{ङ}$ are sometimes soft as *ed* & sometimes hard
 as it — $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}, \text{घ}, \text{ङ}$ $\text{च}, \text{छ}$ $\text{ज}, \text{झ}$ ञ $\text{ट}, \text{ठ}$ $\text{ड}, \text{ड}, \text{ण}$ $\text{त}, \text{थ}$ $\text{द}, \text{ध}$ न प फ भ म य र ल व श ष स ह ळ ॠ ॡ ॢ ॣ । ॥ ० .

Note. When a consonant stands itself, it is marked
 with a cypher over it, thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$ — The cypher is likewise placed over
 the vowels of short quantity especially over the 7th & 10th vowels & also over
 their connexions, thus: $\text{अ}, \text{इ}, \text{उ}, \text{ऋ}, \text{ॠ}$; whereas the vowels of long quantity &
 their connexions are marked with a dash atop, thus: $\text{आ}, \text{ः}, \text{इः}, \text{ः}$; but the
 vulgar custom is to use the cypher to denote the long quantity thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$
 & also to put atop a point or full stop to distinguish the consonants from the
 connected letters thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$. When a consonant is joined with the first
 vowel अ , it is shaped as it is, but the cypher atop to be only taken off, thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$
 $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$ — When क is joined with अ , it is written क ; when with $\text{इ}, \text{उ}$
 when with $\text{ऋ}, \text{ॠ}$; when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$; when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$; when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$
 when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$; when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$; when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$; when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$
 when with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}$ and so of other consonants. — Hence it is clear that the mark
 $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$ denotes $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$
 $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$. Here it is observable that $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$, when joined with अ
 are written thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; when joined with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}, \text{उ}$
 are formed thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; — $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$
 when joined with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}, \text{उ}$ are shaped thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$
 $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; when joined with $\text{अ}, \text{इ}, \text{उ}$ are written thus:
 $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$; — when joined with अ , are
 formed thus: $\text{क}, \text{ख}, \text{ग}$. If you retain in your memory all the foregoing
 marks —

marks, as well as the 12 Vowels & 18 Consonants. you can form out yourself all the connected letters — This done, read about 100 words of monosyllables, as a b c , d e f &c. 50 of disyllables as g h , i j &c. 30 of trisyllables as k l , m n &c. 20 of poly syllables as o p , q r , s t , u v , w x , y z &c. afterwards be instructed in *Antichristian* and *Monysindian*, so called because they begin with those words — These 2 little books are said to have been composed by the famous *Arya* or *Ariar* who was an inspired poet & sister of *Teroovercandoo* — altho' he likewise composed several other books which are unnecessary for you. After this, put down yourself the most usefull & necessary words of the English upon some papers in one column and let your instructor write the equivalent or Synonymous terms of the Tamil in the opposite column. & then get by rote these words — In like manner make yourself some Dialogues answering to your purpose — This done, proceed to read *Rāmāyānā* — *Vāchikēṇ*, that is, the history of *Rāmā* (an incarnation of *Vishnu*) written in the vulgar style of the Tamil. The mean while, forget not to amuse yourself with perusing the Malabar and English Grammar and also the Malabar and English Dictionary the production of the late reverend *M^r. Philip Fabricius* and marking out therein a number of most useful words, keep them in your mind, and use them in your discourse with your Instructor.

As to the method of writing, learn, at first, to write the above mentioned 18 Marks and also these 8 typical lines of which all the letters of the alphabet are formed *Viz.* 1 — O U N C D A 4 and then you can write all the letters of the alphabet very easily and handsomely.

Teroovercandoo Moothiah

Mootiah's memorandum
respecting the Tamil language
Shewing an easy method of reading
& Writing the Practical Tamil.