

Mr. M. Shanmugalingam, *District Judge*

Mr. Subramaniam and Members of the Bar,

It is most distressing that as our Civil Courts assemble today after the Christmas vacation, we have to start the proceedings of the day by referring to the passing away of Mr. Mylvaganam who was an active practitioner in this court for more than 20 years and who had appeared before me, full of life, when we sat for the last time in 1974.

I must confess that I had not known Mr. Mylvaganam before I assumed office here. I however heard enough of him to know what a grand gentleman he was. My first impression of him was that he was a person with a genuiness of heart and a friendly attitude towards all. He also appeared to have some firmness about his convictions and it looked to me that no wicked thought ever entered or passed through his mind. To his credit I must say that I still carry this impression which I had formed in the latter part of 1971.

Mr. Mylvaganam, as a Lawyer, always maintained the highest traditions of the Bar and was extremely conscious of his duty to court and to his clients. He was quite learned in the law and was a master of his facts. In fact, I have known instances when his clients won the day mainly due to the very subtle presentation of the facts by Mr. Mylvaganam.

Mr. Mylvaganam, as a man, possessed abundantly the finer instincts of life and these were always uppermost in his mind. He liked to be happy and at the same time wished that all around him were also happy. He was a gentleman who always lived the life of one.

Mr. Subramaniam, you the members of the Bar, have lost a stalwart and a great champion of your causes, the family has lost a devoted husband and a kind father and the people of Batticaloa have lost a great counsellor and a friend in need. We on the Bench have lost an Attorney on whom we could rely much with confidence. The Bench quite spontaneously joins the Bar in mourning the passing away of this accomplished Lawyer and great Gentleman. When I think of his life and the suddenness of his passing away, I am reminded of the famous lines of Marlowe in 'Dr. Faustus' - "Cut is the sapling that would have grown full straight".

As requested by you I will make order that a copy of this proceedings be forwarded to his wife and children so that it will be of some comfort and consolation to them to know that they are not alone in their hour of grief and that their sorrow is shared by all the people who came to know Mr. Mylvaganam.

