

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 same
= *irita*.

There are two kinds of Tamil viz. pure &
impure: The first is called *Shen-tamil* and the last *borim-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 nãudoo*, *Boroo nãudoo*, *boorhãu nãudoo*, *Anroo nãudoo*,
Vã nãudoo, *Boroo nãudoo*, *Arivãu nãudoo*, *Arivãu Vãdãtaly nãudoo*,
Sãdã nãudoo, *mãlãntoo nãudoo*, & *Bõõnã nãudoo*; as *Pittã m Tãlly*,
ny nãlly, *Lyãr*, *Elõvãr*, *Shõlly*, *Tãndõõv*, *Sõõrõ*, *Bãull*, *Sivõ*, *boõlly*,
boõny, &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-koornin* 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 *Mälü, Völ* &c. i. e. a Mountain, paddy &c. The Tamil is bounded in the Sanscrita words, & their corruptions as *Méio, Sily* &c. i. e. a Golden Mountain, a stone &c. *Néüllanéé, or Néüllänvör, Gopuläm or lövüläm* &c. i. e. 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 *Andö, Chéppö* &c. i. e. *Alas, say*, &c. - *Andö* is a word of the *Singales or Simhalas*, that is, *Ceylonese* - *Chéppö* is a word of the *Gentoos 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 *Arichékövädéé* & *Värvécävüppäväm*, that is, the rudiments of the Tamil tongue - then in *Attalvödeé, löörü Vignäin* &c. which are little books containing the alphabetical admonitory sentences upon Morals - & then in *Läckäm, Néülläckäm, Arichékövädéé* &c. the treatises of arithmetical 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 *Eläckäm*s with meaning & then *Eläckänäm*, -

Note, By *Eläckänäm*s are meant the Grammatical books, such as *Leuvitü, Nämmöl, Eläckänä Véläckäm, Tölcäup-piam* &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 *Eläckäm*s are meant *Néülläckäm, Vöväcäväm, Tiruvöllvör-cöval, Näüllädéé, Nüppädäm, Öhünlämänü, Kämmäyanäm*, &c. see the explanations

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 *Teroovercaudo* — 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 *Rāmañjanā* — *Vāchikēn*, that is, the history of *Rāma* (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 Mr. 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.

Teroovercaudo Moothiah

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