

MISCELLANEOUS.

WELIGAMA SRI SUMANGALA.—AN OBITUARY.

It is with profound regret that we learn of the decease on March 13, of the Right Rev. Weligama Sri Sumangala, a Buddhist High Priest of Ceylon, and a distinguished Oriental scholar whose place it will be hard to fill. He was in his eighty-second year and had led a life of remarkable usefulness. He came of one of the oldest and most respected families of the southern provinces. His father intended him to follow the medical profession but a serious illness compelled him to relinquish the plan, while the suffering he experienced at the time led him to renounce wealth and ease and give his life to the service of humanity. He entered the Buddhist priesthood when only twelve years of age, and received his education under the High Priest Bentota who was one of the most famous Sanskrit scholars of his day.

For almost sixty years he has been consulted as an authority in Sinhalese, Pali, and Sanskrit by scholars from the West as well as from the East. Some of his works are the *Mugdha Bodha*, which is an extensive commentary on Sanskrit grammar, and a Sanskrit edition of the Hitopadesa with a Sinhalese translation. He has also revised the text of the Three Pitakas. His influence will probably be most widely felt through the interest he took in educational matters, and his efforts to elevate the schools of Ceylon grew to be more and more appreciated by the government.

The Rev. Sumangala belonged to the Amarapura sect of Buddhist priests, and in 1894 his colleagues in Ceylon unanimously elected him as their Chief High Priest, at the same time bestowing upon him a distinguished title. He lived and dressed as did the Buddhist monks at the time of Buddha more than twenty centuries ago, and was a noble representative of the religion of "The Enlightened One" in its original and purest form. His whole life has been characterized by a single-minded devotion to the uplifting of mankind, and he was beloved and appreciated by high and low, Buddhist and Christian.

Reports of the impressive ceremonies at his cremation state variously the attendance to be from six to ten thousand persons, and Ceylon journals have devoted many pages to doing honor to the memory of this worthy Buddhist saint and sage. We are so fortunate as to have a copy of one of his latest and most characteristic portraits, which was published in *The Open Court* of February, 1904.

CHARACTER.

A growing tree is not thinking of the shadow it will cast. It is growing to bear its fruit or furnish the timber of its being. The shadow grows in con-