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NEW SERIES.

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NO. 10.

WHERE AND THERE.

10:

**The War Feelings.** THE rumours of war with which the New Year began seems to have considerably abated and the political atmosphere is now comparatively clear and calm. The Transvaal crisis may be regarded as practically over, the burghers having disbanded and returned to their homes, whilst the latest information is that President Kruger has accepted the invitation of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, to come over to England to discuss the whole question of the grievances of the Uitlanders and the advisability of establishing a scheme of local autonomy for the Rand. One of the most remarkable phases of this question has been the extraordinary ebullition of feeling excited in England by the Emperor of Germany's telegram of congratulation to President Kruger. For weeks past the English Press has teemed with what they describe as the black ingratitude of the German Emperor, but even that sore has now become mollified and as presumably the effect of the cor-

respondence which is reported to have taken place between the Queen and Emperor William, the Foreign Minister of Germany, has publicly got up in his place in the Reichstag and removed the responsibility of the telegram from the Emperor's shoulders to his own.

**The Jingo Feeling in Australia.** THE situation in America is regarded as grave, the sentiment in Washington being described as overwhelming by Jingo. The Senate Committee on Foreign relations has adopted a resolution declaring in substance that the United States Government will not consent to see any boundary line upon the American continent changed in favour of a European Power, and that it will resist with arms the entrance of the British upon any land that may be ceded. The prospect, however, of a collision between England and America is regarded as remote, notwithstanding the mischievous machinations of the Jingo authors of this resolution.

**Ashanti.** HAPPILY, the war with Ashanti is ended. Sir Francis Scott has occupied Kumasi unopposed and there is universal native rejoicing at the bloodless victory of the British and the prospect which it offers of a resumption of trade and the return of prosperity.

**Armenia,** THE effect of other complications abroad has diverted the public mind from the Armenian massacres. The slaughter of some 50,000 Christians, the apostacy under the threat of instant death of other thousands and the utter impoverishment of some hundreds of thousands—such is the contribution which his Majesty the Sultan has recently made to the solution of the Armenian question and such is the preparation which his Majesty is making preliminary to the fulfilment of his promise to Lord Salisbury, on his honour, to carry out the scheme of reforms.

**Yankee**  
**Bombost.** MR. EDISON'S threats to pulverize the British Fleet, in the event of a war with the United States, with sundry wonderful electrical inventions, must have amused Lord Salisbury considerably. The Premier is a clever electrical engineer himself, and if he does not possess the inventive faculties of Mr. Thomas Alva Edison, he at least knows enough about the science to appreciate the childish bunkum of that boastful and sanguine young man.

**Sir Joseph**  
**Ridgeway.** THE new Governor of Ceylon, the Right Hon. Sir Joseph West Ridgeway, Lady Ridgeway and Miss Ridgeway arrived in Colombo on the afternoon of the 10th inst., and were accorded a reception which was hearty and loyal in the extreme. The members of the Executive Council went on board the P. & O. *Rome*. and, on the Governor landing he was presented with a series of addresses, his replies to each, in so far as they may be

considered to indicate any lines of general policy, being regarded as full of promise for the success of the administration, which His Excellency has commenced under such favouring auspices. Ceylon's great need at the present juncture is to have at the head of affairs a Statesman who shall be essentially independent and strong, and possessed of sufficient force of character to break through the trammels of conventionality and initiate and carry through a policy of progress and reform unhindered by any such miserable consideration of "Will it pay?" as distinguished the latter part of Sir Arthur Havelock's *régime*. Sir Joseph Ridgeway comes to Ceylon, with a very high reputation for ability, boldness and impartiality and in his person now centres every loyal aspiration of the inhabitants of this Island. Lady Ridgeway, we have no doubt, will not be content with merely filling the ornamental position of leader of society in Ceylon, but will employ her great influence and associate her name with those worthier movements of culture and humanity which so distinguished her predecessor.

**Young**  
**Morotuwa.** EARLY in the month, "Young Moratuwa," by which happy phrase that versatile knight, Sir Harry Dias, hit off the rest-

less progressive spirit existing in Moratuwa honoured the aged President of their Association, Mr. Francisco de Mel, by presenting him with a gold medal in appreciation of his life-long services for the public weal. This Association exists for the common good and it would be well if other Sinhalese communities were equally pushing and enterprising. In this connection the congratulations which the new Governor expressed to the members of the Colombo Municipal Council on possessing the privilege of local self-government and his promise to encourage and develop this policy will be received with great satisfaction by the native population of the Island. There is no reason why the modified form of self-government, which now exists, should not

be greatly extended and the privileges be conferred on populous districts as well as such towns as Colombo, Kandy and Galle.

Senatorial  
Fireworks.

CONSIDERING the large outcry made against some of the provisions of the Mines and Machinery Ordinance and to tea factories being included within the operations of the measure it is somewhat surprising to notice the comparative indifference with which the Government insistence on the retention of what was deemed to be so objectionable has been received by the whole of the planting com-

munity. We have not heard a single protest, and one would imagine that tea planters, whose interests were represented as likely to be vitally affected did not care two straws for the matter. But, perhaps, the planters have a greater and more intelligent conception of the difficulties that there are in the way of the provisions of the Act being efficiently carried out than those members of Government, who, in spite of remonstrance and indignant protest, hastily carried their point by means of their mechanical majority. Of one thing we may be sure, planters will scarcely tolerate the inspection of their buildings by persons about whose qualifications there seem to be doubt.

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## A CENTURY OF ENGLISH RULE IN CEYLON.

ON the 15th of February, 1796, John Gerard Van Anglebeek, Counsellor of India, Governor and Director of the Dutch Possessions in the Island of Ceylon, agreed to surrender to Colonel James Stewart, Commanding the British Army and Captain Allen Hyde Gardner, of His Majesty's ship *Heroine*, the Fort of Colombo, and also the town of Galle and the Fort of Caliture, together with all their Dependencies, Lands, Domains, sovereign rights of the Honourable the Dutch India Company. The terms of the capitulation were signed on the evening of the 15th of February: on the morning of the following day, punctually at ten o'clock, the entire Dutch Garrison marched out with the honours of war, piled their arms by command of their own officers on the esplanade and again returned to their barracks—the officers being allowed to retain their side arms. Immediately on the march out of the Dutch Garrison the Gate of Delft was delivered over to a detachment of the British troops, the Standard of St. George was planted on the old Portuguese-Dutch Fort and there it has waved for just one hundred years, and long may it

continue to wave! Colombo at the date of the capitulation, however, was not, it need hardly be said, the Colombo which now, thanks to British enterprise it is—the Emporium of the East. On the 11th of May, 1656, when the Dutch took over the town from the Portuguese an old Fort existed, built many years ago. This Fort was enlarged and strengthened, and at the date of the capitulation the fortress of Colombo was one of the most formidable in the East. But it was not the Fort so familiar to residents about thirty years ago. The Fort, as we then knew it, comprised the inner Fort of the Dutch. The larger fort included the Pettah and all Bankshall. It extended along the lake up to where the Pettah Railway Station now stands and from thence turning inwards up to the sea past Kayman's Gate. A moat surrounded the wall on the land side. Kayman's Gate (*i.e.*, the gate of the crocodile) was the entrance to the Fort and near it stood the well-known belfry. The Forts at Galle, Kalutara, Matara, Manaar, Batticaloa and other provincial towns remain now as they remained at the date of the capitulation. They stand as they stood nearly

two centuries ago with hardly any change. But they present no warlike appearance. Not a soldier may be seen on the ramparts. The few remaining guns are useless and encrusted with the rust of ages. Colombo alone has changed, is changing and will continue changing.

This is not the place to discuss the relative merits of English and Dutch rule. The sceptre has passed away completely from the Dutch, never again to return. But this much must be said, it is unfair to compare the Dutch rule of a century ago with the English rule of to-day, as it is unfair to compare the English rule of to-day with the English rule of a hundred or two hundred years ago. The purity of the English rule in India, for example, at the present day no man questions. An English official is presumed to be pure and uncorruptible in the same manner as a vestal virgin in days of old was presumed to be chaste. English rule has progressed and the purity of English administration has attained perfection as much as it is possible for things mundane to attain perfection. But it was not always so. There were many things done which opinion at the present day, condemns as cruel, unjust and corrupt. We have no means of judging what the Government of the Dutch would have been at the present day if they had remained in Ceylon. We must judge of their capacity for just government by comparative standards. Compare the government of India up to a hundred years ago with the Dutch rule in Ceylon, and who can say that the Dutch suffer by the comparison? We now, with the experience and enlightenment of the latter end of the 19th century, disapprove of the methods of government by the Dutch in the same way we disapprove and condemn English methods of government before the battle of Plassey. Remember that in the early days of colonisation the object of all foreign conquest whether English, Portuguese, Spanish, or Dutch was solely with the object of adding to the revenue of the mother country. The welfare of the people was matter of very minor consideration. "Get money, honestly if possible, but get money" was the cry. Yet during the Dutch occupation

of the island much was done by them for the moral and material improvement of the people of the country and what was done here will compare most favourably with what was done in the neighbouring continent by the English during the same period. The Dutch were wise in their generation and did not break up the caste system which they found in the island. They discovered a state of society quite different from what existed in Europe. The whole social fabric was founded on caste. Caste was the cement which bound together native society and they made no attempt to break it up. They recognized social inequality by reason of caste, but caste gave no man further privileges or subjected him to further disabilities. In the eye of the law all men were equal and justice was administered with an impartiality with which the indigenous population were totally unacquainted. Ordinary police protection and purity in the administration of justice are after all the essential of good government and these were introduced by the Dutch. But they did much more. They helped to spread education. They fostered and promoted agriculture. They facilitated intercourse between towns by an admirable system of waterways. They introduced perfect laws. They promoted fixity of tenure and introduced a system of registration of lands and of registration of births, marriages and deaths, admirable in every respect.

The superintendence of the education of the island was entrusted to a body composed of the Dissave of the Province, the clergy of Colombo and three or four members from the Civil and Military branches of the Service nominated by the Government. The functions of this body were large. It exercised a supervision over all native Christians, took cognizance of all matters relating to marriage, examined and appointed school masters and marriage and baptismal registrars and acted as inspectors of schools. Attendance at schools was made compulsory, and those who habitually failed to send their children to school were fined. The Colombo Seminary was established in 1701 by Governor Von Imhoff; who introduced the first

printing press into Ceylon. The course of teaching in the Seminary included Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Logic, Sinhalese and Tamil. The most promising of the pupils were sent to Holland to complete their education. D. C. Meier, for instance, after a course of eleven years at Leyden was appointed rector of the Seminary and subsequently head of the Presbyterian church in the Island. Mention must also be made of Thomas Quint Ondatjie, a native of Ceylon, who, after a stormy career in Holland as a political agitator ended his days as a Government official in Batavia. Governor Von Imhoff placed on record the following opinion of this Seminary.—“This institution is conducted under the care of a Dutch minister. He and his assistants perform church duties and as instructors taught their pupils Latin and Greek in so perfect a manner, that it was perfectly astonishing to hear the little black fellows chatter in Latin and construe Greek when they hardly know Dutch.”

The primary duty of every colonising power has always been to afford ordinary police protection, to introduce just and equal laws, to administer justice purely and to facilitate means of communication. The delicacies of civilization are of slow growth and should come later. The greatest civilising power of old carried with her, her laws and spared no pains to facilitate intercourse. The Roman Law permeates the whole of Europe overrun by the Roman legions and the roads built by them remain up to this day. Roman Law still finds a place even in English jurisprudence and the jurists of the continent still turn to Justinian and Gaius, Papernian and Ulpian. The Dutch introduced their laws into the island and they still obtain as the common law of the land. These laws are so well understood, so mixed up with the life of the people that they are destined for many years to remain the law of the land untouched by any crude legislation. The Dutch facilitated intercourse between the towns and remote districts by means of canals, which are still being utilised and from which both native and

European enterprise has profited and is still profiting. Workshops (*wenkels* the name exists up to this date) were established in the various towns and trained artificers from Holland were appointed as instructors. The space at our disposal would not be sufficient to discuss the fiscal policy of the Dutch Government or to enumerate the advantages conferred by registration on the ownership of lands.

Enough, however, has been written to show that the Dutch were not behind any other colonising power in promoting the well-being of the people. Many of the Dutch left Ceylon after the capitulation. Many, however, remained behind and their descendants are amongst the most loyal subjects of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen. They know not the language of their forefathers. A few of their customs and habits still exist. But they hardly look to Holland as their mother-country. They know little and interest themselves little in the history of Holland. Love of country is to them almost an unknown quantity as it must naturally be to the subject native races. Yet a hundred years of just British rule has made them loyal subjects of the Queen. They almost look to England as their mother country. They rejoice in her victories and grieve in her disasters. The blood runs warmer in their veins when they hear tell of heroic deeds done by England's sons. They cannot stand unmoved at the recital of the charge of the Light Brigade, the stand at Rorkes Drift amongst the mealie bags or the relief of Lucknow. It is not simply because these were deeds of heroism, but also because they were deeds of heroism by Englishmen. Under the English flag they have been for a hundred years and they are content to remain under that flag for all time contributing their mite towards the upholding of the Empire.

A century of Dutch rule has been followed by a century of English rule. Who can say what the next century, nay the next few years, may bring forth?

## THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN CEYLON.

A SKETCH OF ITS RISE AND PROGRESS WITH A RUNNING COMMENTARY ON MEN AND THINGS CONNECTED WITH THE CORPS SINCE ITS INITIATION.

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THE ancient history of Ceylon records the military prowess of the Sinhalese, but it would be beyond the purpose of this sketch to recount any of their successful triumphs. The stand they made against the usurpations of continental invaders are such as might throw credit on any nation. We refer to those struggles between the Sinhalese and the Indians, which in justice to the warriors of Lanka, have thus been spoken of by Hardy:—"The struggles were continued century after century, and if the natives of Ceylon had an adequate historian to record their deeds, there are many places amidst the rice-clad hills that would have been magic names, vying in interest with Marathon or Thermopylæ."\* The successive conquests by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have not tended to damp the military spirit which animated the Sinhalese of old, on the contrary, generation after generation of this once powerful though vanquished nation have risen to the occasion at all times of need, and loyally volunteered their services for the good of their country, to

"Fight in its sacred cause and lead the van."

And so we see mention made by Cordiner of the natives tendering their services to the army as far back as 1637, that is one hundred and thirty-two years after the arrival of the Portuguese, when "an army consisting of 1,300 Sinhalese and Misticos,† and 60,000 Kaffirs penetrated into Kandy." Soon after this, Rebeiro, writing of a period some considerable time before the Dutch became possessors of Ceylon, records that the inhabitants were enlisted into militia companies, some being exclusively native. Coming to the early days of the British occupation, we find that the attachment which the Burghers—a term which was then not restricted in its application: to the Dutch descendants only, but included the natives, in so far as they were virtually BURGHERS—showed the British was so great that in 1837, when the French were cruising in the Indian seas and attack was anticipated from them, and simultaneously the Kandians were becoming aggressive and threatened to attack the cities and towns in the maritime provinces, they came forward in large numbers and with one accord enrolled themselves as Volunteers. If further proof were needed of what the

\**Eastern Monarchism*, p. 326.

†The descendants of the Portuguese, being paternally and maternally Sinhalese.

natives could turn out when required, witness the "Ceylon Rifle Regiment," chiefly composed of Malays, who were singularised as "intelligent, quick and steady," while their regiment was said to be in "a crack" state of efficiency and discipline.‡

The dissociation from everything warlike, the absence of opportunities to display their military ardour, their desire for peacefulness and their tendency for quietness made the generality of the Ceylonese settle down into money-making, ease-loving automata, caring little for the world and being less cared by it. But all this does not at its worst argue that they are "the women of the human race" which writers who have evinced prejudice and unreasonable bias in dealing with Ceylon affairs, try to make out they are. "Fifty train and discipline the Ceylonese of mingled races, and you have the English of the East"¶ is the just and well-merited encomium passed on them by an unprejudiced and disinterested authority.

In May, 1861, just as volunteering was being undertaken in England; owing to the appearance of a speck in the political horizon of a warlike nature, the movement was started in Ceylon. It was at this time that the Volunteer Corps Ordinance, 3 of 1861, was passed in Council. In referring to its introduction Sir Charles Justin Macarthy said in his opening address;—

"I have seen with peculiar satisfaction the spontaneous rise and progress of this truly national and patriotic movement in Ceylon. You are well aware of the proportions which it has already assumed in the mother-country and in other British Colonies, and will agree with me that a time like this, when the power and strength of England and her importance in the Councils of the world are greater than at any previous period of history—when her very ability for war, combined with her essentially pacific policy, gives the surest guarantee for the peace of Europe—is the time most fitting and proper for the extended organization of the movement throughout the dependencies of the Crown."§

The movement does not seem to have met

‡*Calcutta Englishman*, Feb. 1837.

¶Representative Government elective and broad; not nominated and narrow. An appeal to the people of Ceylon, p. 32.

§Governor's Address to the Legislative Council. Vol. 1., 1861-79.



hideous orgies which desecrate the East of Europe and Armenia. The massacres and other nameless horrors which the Armenians suffer at the hands of "the unspeakable Turk" have aroused the widest attention and the most genuine sympathy. We should have called them horrible if they had been occurrences in the Dark Ages; happening now, and under the government of a race supposed to be civilised, or, at any rate, amenable to the influences of civilization, the horror is enhanced, and everyone wonders why such monstrosities are permitted. In fulfilment of their high and acknowledged mission, the poets lift up their voice on behalf of justice and humanity.

But we have at present to deal with the utterances of one poet chiefly, and incidentally with another. Under the title of "The Purple East," Mr. William Watson contributed a sonnet to the *Westminster Gazette* in which he rebuked England for her apparent apathy in connection with the massacres. To understand the sonnet rightly, it is necessary to remember that for the present state of affairs in connection with the Christian populations under Turkish rule, England by her policy and direct intervention is largely responsible. Besides the fact that England boasts of having been to all oppressed nations the Champion of Liberty, it was England that mainly secured to these Christian populations the rights and liberties they enjoy. So that it is naturally to England that Armenia looks for redress and protection. When the fact of the massacres was established, England took prompt action; but for various reasons she was compelled to refrain, or did for her own reasons refrain from further decisive interference. In warnings and threats to the Sultan, she was not found wanting.

Hence the first sonnet on the "Purple East." The poet is indignant at the indifference and apathy of England in a matter which concerns her so intimately:

"Winter at Armenia's door

Snarls like a wolf; and still the sword and flame  
Sleep not, thou only sleepest."

And England's torpor encourages and supports "Hell's Regent," in his iniqui-

ties, "Abdul the Damned on his infernal throne."

We may be sure that "Abdul the Damned" will become one of the watch words of the campaign. There may be—though, judging from the tone of our comic papers of all classes, that is doubtful—there may be polite circles where the epithet may create some consternation. We may have to go so far back as the poems of Milton to find an equivalent for this forcible expression. But no one will deny that among the great majority of Englishmen the epithet will, on the whole, be considered just. It was obviously suggested by the name "Abdul Hamid," and if we look at events from the poet's point of view, we shall probably be inclined to concede that the epithet is as apt as it is clever.

For it is "Abdul the Damned" who is directly responsible for the state of things described in the following sonnet, published a week later than the one already noticed:—

"Heaped in their ghastly graves they lie, the breeze  
Sickening o'er the fields where others vainly wait  
For burial: and the butchers keep high state  
In silken palaces of perfumed ease  
The panther of the desert, matched with these,  
Is pitiful; beside their lust and hate,  
Fire and the plague-wind are compassionate  
And soft the deadliest fangs of ravening seas  
How long shall they be borne? Is not the cup  
Of crime yet full? Doth devildom still lack  
Some consummating crown, that we hold back  
The scourge, and in Christ's borders give them  
room?"

How long shall they be borne, O England? Up,  
Tempest of God, and sweep them to their doom."

This is indeed poetry, heightened by the lofty moral purpose which it teaches. A passionate demand for justice, a strong cry on behalf of outraged humanity, breathe in every line. And three other sonnets are of the same tenor. "What stays the thunder in your hand?" The poet asks of English statesmen in power and office. Is it fear for England? Then, if her "pillar'd stands only on faith forsworn, let her "accursed greatness" fall. When "an English thane, in this our English air" repeats "the immortal rhetoric of Cain" and asks, "Am I my brother's keeper?" then England's greatness is become a shadow:—





he turns to the Laureate's criticism and points out that he too is a lover of England, though he does not think it necessary to slobber her with fawning praise. But now, the star on her brow—Mr. Austin's Morning Star—is eclipsed. As for the theory that England only "bides her hour." She, no doubt, does so, and she will act at last. But when? "When there is naught remaining to retrieve."

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Then shall our England, throned beyond alarms  
Rise in her might! Till then, "she bides her  
hour."

We may linger no longer over these sonnets. Quotable lines abound, but the lover of poetry will be better pleased to examine the sonnets himself in their entirety; and it will be surprising if he does not confess that in his first essay in official verse-writing, Mr. Alfred Austin, Poet-Laureate, has come off second-best, both in poetry and in argument.

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## MALARIA AND ITS RESULTS.

(BY A MEDICAL VICTIM.)

No. II.

THE most generally prevalent idea regarding malaria is that it is produced by the putrefaction of vegetable and animal matter in water. Malaria has been known indisputably, to exist in places innocent of marshes or of moist decaying vegetation. One of the best authorities on the subject tells us, that "malaria is produced in the earth and not in water," and that "the *sine qua non* condition of the production of malaria is the existence of malaria in the earth. "In places," he continues, "which do not hold that ferment, there may exist every form of marshy ground and every sort of putrefaction in dead water, but malaria is not generated." This is the key to the whole matter, and it dispels a number of utterly erroneous notions which the popular mind all the world over, strange to say, has learned to believe in. No one has yet been able to identify the malarial parasite in the soil or atmosphere. All that we know of it prior to its reception into the human body is that it exists in the soil as a ferment, that it may remain there latent for indefinite periods, and that it is favoured in its multiplication by moisture. Malaria remains latent under certain favourable conditions, thus, for instance, when the surface soil is baked and dry, or when by the formation of an impermeable matting of roots, such as those

of grasses, the malarial subsoil is protected. It is the upturning of such soil and exposure of the ferment to conditions favourable for its development which give it a start, and this indeed in a few words may be said to be the story of the recent outbreak of fever at Galle. I have already said that, as a miasm or exhalation it rises above the ground level and infects those who breathe it in. It is also probable that it taints water. Persons who live in malarial districts have, therefore, been recommended to wear respirators, which must cover both mouth and nostrils; and they ought not to neglect the boiling and proper filtration of drinking water. It was at one time believed that malaria was conveyed great distances by currents of air in such compact masses as to be able to infect inhabitants of healthy localities, but this is obviously erroneous. It is, however, not impossible for the malarial miasm to be carried to distant parts by winds, and to be precipitated to the ground with rain, and thus infect a soil for the first time.

I may be gratifying the curiosity of some of my lay readers by a slight reference here to the cause of this mischief in the human body, which we shall for our purpose here, call the "parasite of malaria." The creature is an ameba, capable like creatures of its kind of spontaneous movement, and occupying the corpuscles of the blood,

which they ultimately tend to destroy. The maturation of a generation of these parasites coincides with the beginning of a paroxysm of ague, the parasite completing its life cycle in two and three days according to the nature of periodicity of the attacks. By destruction of its corpuscles the blood is impoverished, and by accumulation of the parasite in internal organs, such as the spleen, the foundation of organic complications is laid.

As I pointed out in a previous article, it should be borne in mind that it is possible by the exercise of care, and by the adoption of precautions, such as I have enumerated, and many others popularly recognised as such, by the maintenance of an active and regular circulation and a proper functional activity of the skin and internal organs, to favour the expulsion of the malarial germs we may receive into our systems. Physical exercise and judicious medication directed to keep the skin, kidneys and bowels—the three chief eliminating organs through which noxious materials, leave our system—in order, and moderation in the use of alcoholic stimulants are the principal. Neglect of these, places the multiplying germ under favourable conditions for the attack on the constitution of the vital fluid—the blood—in which they thrive, and of ultimately revealing the fact of their existence in our bodies in the form of fever and its *sequela*. A few words as to alcohol. It is, I am aware, freely resorted to in malarial districts under the popular but distinctly erroneous belief, that “it keeps out the fever.” This is as fallacious as that which maintains, that it is the best thing to keep the cholera out. In the latter case it merely serves to infuse what is generally but most unjustly termed “Dutch courage”; in the former, it is positively mischievous. I, however, commend its moderate use. A little alcohol serves without doubt to stimulate the circulation, and by its action on the capillaries to create a “glow” and feeling of comfort; it prevents the accident of a “chill,” so fertile a source of danger in malarial places. But for its use there is a time. Stimulants with food is recommended, and if exposure

to night air or dew is necessitated, a “night cap” is a boon and a blessing. Anything more than this cometh of evil and is to be deprecated.

In a discursive review of such a very extensive subject written for a lay periodical, it is desirable to guard against being too professional for lay minds. Information as to prevention is therefore better suited than as to cure. I shall, therefore, content myself with a few remarks as to how the parasite of malaria introduces himself to our notice. Amongst the earliest manifestations is a feeling of indescribable languor. I abhor the use of foreign equivalents, but no two words, as *malaise* and *ennui* convey the feeling adequately. Terribly distressing pains are felt in the joints, neuralgic affections, headache, loss of appetite and restlessness, these are the harbingers of a malarial attack. But they need not necessarily be present. The fever, which is the culmination of the infection, may come on the complacent individual, who, perhaps has been flattering himself on his strange immunity, with an awful suddenness. The course of an attack it is not necessary for more reasons than want of space to describe. Suffice it to say, that in milder forms the periodicity of its return is notable, but with the virulence of the infection, the periodicity vanishes and a deadlier form of continued fever ensues. Then follow the complications, but before matters come to this pass the patient, we shall suppose, has passed into the hands of his doctor.

There are two drugs which share the honors as preventatives. These are quinine and arsenic. Of these, quinine may be said to be the safest, as it undoubtedly exterminates the parasite in the blood. The thoroughness of its work is, however, marred by the insufficiency of the quantities usually used. The latest professional practice points to the use of large and decided doses, and though it may cause some degree of temporary inconvenience in an otherwise healthy individual, a few doses about the weight of about two ten-cent pieces every morning for a week, taken in solution, may be relied upon to have the necessary effect. Arsenic is doubtless an efficient prophylactic, but

the very mention of its name creates a feeling of dreadful caution, and it would be unwise to resort to it unless under the guidance and observation of a medical man.

Finally, comes the question connected with the suppression of malaria in soils in which it exists. Is it possible to eradicate it finally? This may not be altogether possible, but a great deal may be done, as I pointed out before, to reduce the dangerous character of a locality. Hygienists have resorted to strange expedients. The sunflower plant, for instance, has been credited with anti-malarial virtues, and extensive plantations of it have been made. So, too, the eucalyptus which is said to reduce the moisture, destroy the malaria by its absorption and to form a layer\* on the ground by its leaves

which by their intrinsic anti-malarial properties disinfest the soil, and form an impermeable surface layer which would prevent the malaria from rising. Irrigation has itself proved futile though as perfect a system of drainage as it is possible to devise in any given locality is indispensably necessary. We are unfortunately uncertain as to how the malarial ferment can be eradicated. It still remains an unsolved problem, and while it so remains, we shall continue to observe an "incalculable amount of suffering and racial deterioration sapping the life and vigour of the country," and while scientific investigators are seeking to bring about the long wished-for amelioration, it is the duty of the State and people to do each their best "to reduce the mortality, suffering and inefficiency caused thereby."

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## SOME HEROINES OF OLD GREEK VERSE.

BY MEZ.

Author of "SAVED FROM THE STORM," "THE YOUNG DRAYTONS," ETC.

### HOMER'S HEROINES.

#### CHAPTER II.

#### • THE ODYSSEY.

WE now come to the second of Homer's great epics. Of course, most of us are aware, that since the days of Xenon and Hellanicus, who lived in the second century B.C., and who with their followers were known as the *Chórizontes* or Separaters, there have been amongst the learned, very grave doubts, as to whether the Iliad and the Odyssey are by the same author, or even of the same date, many holding from strong internal evidence that the latter must have been written quite a hundred years later than the former and greater poem; but then, as we know, the very existence of Homer is doubted by the overwise, who say that the blind bard never lived at all, his name meaning merely, "fitted together," which according to them shews that even the Iliad itself, was a mere collection of fugitive verses by different authors, arranged into a perfect whole.

This, however, is the opinion of the learned, to us who are not learned, at least it is to be devoutly hoped not, since too much knowledge is apt to rob us of some of our sweetest illusions, let Homer be Homer, just, as Ignatius Donnelly notwithstanding, Shakespere is Shakespere still.

The style of the Odyssey is certainly different from that of the Iliad, less grand, less impressive more given to incarnations of vices and virtues, but the two poems have at any rate one point in common, which is that neither time nor grief, nor wearing anxiety seem to have power to dim the brightness and beauty of its heroines. Ulysses, or Odysseus, from whom the poem takes its name, on setting out from home at the beginning of the Trojan war, leaves Penelope his wife, young, attractive and beautiful exceedingly, and after ten years spent in the performance of deeds of mingled valor and wisdom, and another ten of sojourning in strange lands, often in, what notwithstanding his assertions to the contrary, he seemed to find very pleasant company, after many hair-

breadth escapes by flood and field, he returns to his native country to find her still young, still dowered with undiminished beauty, the cynosure of all eyes, the beloved of all hearts. If the recipe for this perennial loveliness could be handed down to modern times, what a boon it would prove to those who now sigh over the quickly coming wrinkles, and the silver threads which show up in the once bright hair.

Penelope has been very faithful too ; though attracted by her wide possessions and her unfading charms, scores of suitors vie for her favour, she will listen to none, resorting to different ruses in order to avoid giving a definite answer. "Penelope's web," is still a common description of any piece of work which makes no progress, and arose from the fact, as probably most readers are aware, that the faithful wife of Odysseus, having promised to make choice amongst her suitors when she had finished a winding sheet, which she was employed in weaving was in the habit of undoing each night what had been woven during the day, and this little scheme served her in good stead for three years, and is also useful to us, as shewing a likeness between her and the women of the Iliad in the matter of domesticity ; this is a point in common shared by another heroine of the Odyssey. Queen Arête, wife of Aleinous, king of the Phacacians, who entertains Odysseus after his escape from the island of Calypso, and of whose home-life Professor Jebb says that it "is like a modern picture of fireside happiness."

The expense and worry of having over a hundred aspirants to her hand constantly loafing about her palace, where they appear, according to modern parlance, to have done themselves exceedingly well, must have been so great that we almost wonder at the tenacity of affection to a husband, whom nearly all thought dead, which prevents Penelope from selecting one suitor and so ridding herself of the remainder, but no, her faithful heart clings to Odysseus, whose son, Telemachus, by the advice of the goddess Pallas Athene, goes in search of him. Telemachus must now be over thirty, as before proceeding

to the siege of Troy, "the stern black bearded kings," had spent ten years in their preparations and at the beginning of that time, we may remember that he had been laid by Palamedes, as an infant across the furrow which Odysseus was ploughing, in order to test whether the pretended madness, by which the latter strove to escape joining in the war, was real or feigned. It is not every mother of a son approaching middle age, who is worried by crowds of lovers, but Telemachus once safely out of the way, the suitors grow more pressing than ever, and it is astonishing that Penelope's beauty does not fade from sheer worry, but possibly she may have derived some satisfaction from the knowledge that she was in such request, and yet leal and true as she has been, when Odysseus returns to his home in Ithaca his wife does not recognise him, neither do his loyal retainers. That is left for Argus his faithful dog, who wags his tail, looks up lovingly and dies. Evidently the twenty years have not passed as lightly over his head, as they have done over Penelope's, though we must not forget that the friendly Athene had disguised him as an old beggarman.

In many modern eyes Odysseus is not a very interesting hero, being indeed the impersonation of subtlety mingled with courage, but he seems in his own day to have been a regular lady-killer ; we hear of dwadlings by the stream with gentle Nausican—to whom, says Professor Jebb, no image of girlhood more noble or charming can be found in poetry—the daughter of King Aleinous and Queen Arête ; one year spent with the enchantress Circe, Oh ! naughty Odysseus !! Of seven passed in the care of Calypso, who loving him retains him there against his will—so he says—of the songs of the Sirens, which no man else had ever heard and lived and then when at last, after the most wondrous deeds of prowess, he slays all the suitors nearly single-handed, and makes himself known to his wife, he is rapturously greeted by the loyal hearted woman, whose affection, has never for twenty years, severed from her liege lord.

Like those of the Iliad, the women of the Odyssey are for the most part sweet and

domestic. Penelope herself weaves and superintends her household, so does Queen Arête, who is helped in her home duties by Nausican, who though the daughter of a king, does not think it derogatory to have the family laundry in her sole charge.

Perhaps no feminine character in the late epic is quite as winning nor touching as Hector's sad wife Andromache, in the earlier one, but the heroines are very faithful, simple, womanly and pure.

:o:

## "ONE CHANCE MORE."\*

(AFTER POE'S *RAVEN*.)

1.

ONCE upon a midnight dreary, in the month of February,  
As I sat in Baillic Street, thinking of the days of yore,  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
And a flapping and a rapping,—rapping at my office door;  
"Tis some correspondent," said I, "some unthinking, idle bore—  
"Only this and nothing more."

2.

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December  
That I left, with all my lumber, quiet Southampton's murky shore;  
Eagerly I rushed to Lanka, where my well-known warmth and rancour,  
And the pass-book of my Banker, claimed my presence evermore,  
Claimed the rare and radiant powers, which my paper lacked before—  
And I said "I'm game for more!"

3.

And the voice of one who knew me outside in the passage gloomy,  
In a perspiration threw me, and my head was very sore;  
So that now, to still my panting, I was thinking of recanting  
All the ranting and the canting which had raised my fame before,—  
All the bluster and the bombast, which had raised my fame before,  
In the good old days of yore.

4.

Presently my soul grew stronger, hesitating then no longer,—

"Burgher, Beast or Bat," said I, "pray forgive me I implore,—  
But the fact is I was writing on a subject so exciting,  
All about the J. P.'s fighting,—scizing coolies by the score;  
Pray come in and sit beside me,"—here I opened wide the door;  
And—I could not utter more:—

5.

For, with many a flirt and flutter, many a bow and croak and splutter,  
In there stepped a Ceylon Raven, bearded like a wilderness,  
And with looks of milk and honey, staring hard at me and Johnny,  
In he stepped, so blithe and bonny, Perching on a Printing Press,  
Perching on a double-action, patent Eagle Printing Press:  
Perching, sat, and nothing more.

6.

And this Bird of wicked omen, smiling with a grave decorum,  
While we stood in awe before him, quietly scanned us o'er;  
Then in anger I harangued him, and with wicked names I slanged him,  
Till I thought I'd nearly hanged him, and destroyed him evermore,  
So that he and I should never meet each other as before—  
Quoth the Raven—"One chance more!"

7.

Much I marvelled this ungainly fow should dare to speak so plainly  
To a man whose efforts mainly helped his countrymen of yore;

For you cannot help agreeing that no  
living human being  
Ever thought of disagreeing from my  
published views before;  
And I clenched my fists against him, and  
a terrible vow I swore;—  
Quoth the Raven—“*One chance more!*”

8.

But the Raven, sitting lonely, on that  
Printing Press, spoke only  
Those unmeaning words, as if their force  
would simply knock me o'er;  
Nothing further, save a croaking while  
his feathers he kept stroking,  
As if inwardly a-joking,—till in desper-  
ation sore  
I addressed him—“Leave me, Raven;  
Leave me,—there's the open door!”  
Quoth the Raven—“*One chance more!*”

9.

“German, Dutch or French descendant,”  
said I “still so independent,  
With a train of friends dependent on your  
merest beck alone;  
Tell me is it in your nature, day by day to  
cari-cature  
Every face and every feature in the Legis-  
lature of Ceylon,  
Till your victims writhe in anger as they  
never writhed before?”  
Quoth the Raven—“*One chance more!*”

10.

Still with wrath and anger seething,—  
“Was there ever Scotchman breath-  
ing?”  
Said I, all my soul bequeathing to the  
Night's Plutonian shore;  
“Was there ever such a donkey, such an  
everlasting flunkey,  
As would ever be so funky, as to read  
your wicked lore,  
As to let your wicked paper ever cross  
his chamber door?”  
Quoth the Raven—“*One chance more!*”

11.

Then in mortal perspiration, uttered I an  
exclamation,  
“How about your circulation,—is it less  
or is it more?  
For the Planters at Badulla, will not be  
your punkahpuller,

For to make your List the fuller, and  
your rivals to ignore;  
And your graceless, grumbling, greedy,  
growling rivals to ignore.”  
Quoth the Raven—“*One chance more!*”

12.

Then with sundry nods and winkings,  
shoulder-shrugs and shoulder-shrink-  
ings,  
I reminded him of Jenkins, keeper of a  
coffee store;  
And I spoke of all he'd said of him, and  
of all the fun he'd made of him,  
And I fondly begged and pray'd of him,  
not to do so any more,  
Lest the angry Jenkins should attack him  
as an anti-English bore;  
Quoth the Raven,—“*One chance more!*”

13.

Then I could no longer bear him, and I  
thought it best to scare him,  
By naming Driberg, Morgan, Saram,—  
men who'd stood by me before:  
And I thought, by this manœuvre, I  
should win the Burghers over  
For to look on me with favour, as they'd  
done in days of yore,  
But the dodge was unsuccessful, for they  
laughed at me the more,  
Slyly adding,—“*One chance more!*”

14.

Lapsing into wrath and panic, with a  
prompting most Satanic,  
I gravely called him a “Mechanic,”\*  
thinking *that* would knock him o'er  
And I sent for little Dickson,† with his;  
well-known predilixon,  
And I set that little vixen to correct his  
English lore;  
But the Raven laughing loudly, rising,  
higher still did soar,  
Always croaking—“*One chance more!*”

15.

While this Bird was round me flying, all  
my wrath and slang defying,  
Tried I then a *little* fibbing;— I could really  
do no more!  
For when low abuse and slander, from  
the Kitchen's back-verandah,  
Failed to raise the Raven's dander, Fibs  
might bring him to the floor,

Fibs might vex him and annoy him,  
uttered daily by the score;—  
Quoth the Raven—" *One chance more!*"

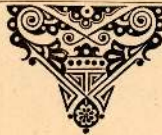
66.

And the Raven still is croaking, always  
joking, always joking,  
Flitting o'er my Printing Presses, right  
before my office door,

\* This spirited parody of Edgar Poe's "Raven" was published thirty years ago in the *Examiner* newspaper, and in pamphlet form. It was written by Mr. Charles Ambrose Lorenz, then editor of the *Examiner*, while at Teak Bungalow, his favourite holiday resort at Kâlutara. It will be read to-day with as great interest as in 1864, when feeling amongst rival editors ran rather high. Its literary excellence being so great, we make no apology for republishing it.

And his eyes above me gleaming, often  
rouse me in my dreaming,  
Till they set me almost screaming, and I  
tumble on the floor;  
And I sometimes think it better, looking  
back to days of yore,  
To accept his "*One chance more.*"  
Caltura, March 10, 1864.

\* An opprobrious epithet in Ceylon,  
‡ Sir J. F. Dickson, who was at the time 2nd Assistant Colonial Secretary. It was said that Mr. J. F. Dickson, while holding an examination of certain candidates, placed before them a leading article from the *Ceylon Examiner* newspaper then edited by the late C. A. Lorenz with instructions to "correct the errors" in the following article:—It was a spiteful thing to do, and the reference to Dickson as "that little vixen" was perhaps quite deserved.





# OUR ALMANAC.

JANUARY, 1895.

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| <p>Jan. 1.—Kandy New Year Festivities. A. B. C. D. Athletic Sports and Fancy Dress Ball. Public Hall: General Booth on the Social Works of the Salvation Army. Galle Gymkhana, 1st day. Mr. W. C. Twynam, G.A., N.P., knighted.</p> <p>" 2.—Kandy Festivities continued. Gymkhana and Dance at Queen's Hotel. Galle Gymkhana, 2nd day.</p> <p>" 3.—Kandy Festivities continued. Europeans vs. the Colts. General Booth at Kandy. Galle Gymkhana concluded. Town Hall, Kandy: A, B. C. D. Ball.</p> <p>" 4.—Kandy Festivities continued. Europeans vs. the Colts. The Colts won by an innings and seven runs. Kandy Town Hall: Farical Entertainment.</p> <p>" 6.—Departure of General Booth for India. Royal Warwickshire Regimental Sports. Nuwara Eliya, Wedding: Miss Swann—Lieut. Woodcock, R.E.</p> <p>" 7.—Annual Meeting of the Nuwara Eliya Planters' Association.</p> <p>" 9.—Dismissal of Mr. C. J. R. Le Mesurier, A.G.A., of Matale. Havelock Racecourse C. T. C. meeting, 1st day.</p> <p>" 10.—Colombo Technical School Prize Distribution Scheme propounded for the employment of students.</p> <p>" 11.—Havelock Racecourse C. T. C. meeting concluded. Mr. Vigors appointed A.G.A. of Matara. Moratuwa: Presentation of Gold Medal to Mr. Francisco de Mel, President of the Moratuwa Association.</p> <p>" 14.—Arrival of Mark Twain in Colombo. Association Football: R. W. R. beat Colombo Club 2 goals to nil.</p> <p>" 15.—Imperial Institute, London Banquet to the new Governor of Ceylon. R. W. R. Non-Commissioned Officers' Farewell Dance.</p> <p>" 16.—Retirement of Sir W. C. Twynam.</p> <p>" 17.—Kelani Valley Races 1st day. Dimbula Hall: Dimbula P. A. Annual Meeting: Colombo City Council Meeting.</p> | <p>Jan. 18.—Kelani Valley Races, 2nd day. Nuwara Eliya Meeting of the Ceylon Fishing Club.</p> <p>" 19.—Death of Mrs. Gratiaen at Kandy.</p> <p>" 21.—Colombo: Destructive Fire at Mutual, 500 people rendered homeless. Association Football: Royal Artillery beat Colombo Club, 3 goals to nil.</p> <p>" 22.—Legislative Council resumed its sittings. A 4½ hours' sitting. Kandy: Mr. Edward Silva drowned.</p> <p>" 23.—Death of H. R. H. Prince Henry of Battenberg at sea. Legislative Council held another 4½ hours' meeting.</p> <p>" 24.—Chamber of Commerce: Plans of new building inspected. Dimbula Hall: Race Ball.</p> <p>" 25.—Radella Races. Emperor of Germany's Birthday Dinner at Colombo. Cricket: Garrison Sergeants vs. The Railway Club.</p> <p>" 27.—Sale of Lippakelle Estate for Rs. 366,500.</p> <p>" 28.—Kandy: Wedding, Miss Millicent Hobden—Mr. H. F. McMillan. Norwood Rooms: Dikoya P. A. Annual Meeting. Formation of Boys' Brigade at Colombo. Udugama: Tea and Timber Company annual meeting. Matale: Opening of the Boron Memorial Hall.</p> <p>" 29.—Royal Artillery Sports. Bristol Hotel: Colombo Gymkhana meeting.</p> <p>" 30.—C.C.C. Meeting: Election of officers.</p> <p>" 31.—Cricket: Sports Club vs. Non-Scripts, 1st day. Public Hall: Concert and Comediette. Colts C. C. meeting: Election of officers. Meeting of the subscribers to George Wall Memorial Fund, Rs. 3,000 additional subscription received. Meeting further adjourned until June 26th. Formation of a Lacrosse Club in Colombo. Municipal Council special meeting: Address to the new Governor. Bogawantalawa Tennis Tournament.</p> |
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## ORIGINAL POETRY.

:o:

## A HUMBLE OFFER.

'Tis true no honoured post I hold  
 No office dignified,  
 Nor prospects such as win the love  
 Of maiden tender-eyed ;  
 No costly pomp no show I own  
 Nor riches great nor fame,  
 But what is more than these is mine  
 A good untarnished name.

No gold I have to 'dorn thy neck  
 No gems of pearly hue,  
 As budding flowers with beauty deck  
 Spring morning's early dew ;  
 But I can give a gift more rare  
 Of gold and gems in lieu  
 'Tis this—my promise true and fair  
 That I will live for you.

The luxuries of wealth and ease  
 Perhaps are not for me,  
 The slender means of lowly toil  
 Will e'er my future be ;  
 But what is mine a humble home,  
 And more than all my heart,  
 I lay them meekly at thy feet  
 And pray we'll never part.

By A. B. GOMES,  
 Kotahena.


 OBITUARY.
 

THOMAS STEELE.

:o:

**T**HIS gentleman, whose death has just been announced, was born on May 27th, 1834, at Walton, near Brampton, Cumberland. He was the third son of the late William Steele, author of "The Beauties of Gilsland" and "Poems." Educated at Croft House School, then under the charge of Mr. Coulthard, with whom he remained for some years; in 1856 he received a nomination for the Ceylon Civil Service from Lord Taunton, on the recommendation of the Hon. Charles Howard, M.P., for East Cumberland, father of the present Earl of Carlisle. This was the first time that the Civil Service appointment was thrown open to a competitive examination. Steele came off successfully at the examination held at Westminster in 1856, sailed for Ceylon on September 4th, and was put on active service in October. He held various judicial and revenue appointments at Chilaw, Kurunegalle, Galle, Kandy and Hambantotta. His annual administration reports were replete with information of interest and value, regarding the several districts he had charge of, notably an account of the Katarama festival and the archæological ruins in the

Hambantotta district. In 1871, he published a volume of original poems entitled "Under the Palms" (Sampson, Low, Marston & Co.) One of the gems in this collection is a piece entitled "May." A member of the bar, over which he presided, hit off a happy parody on it and we crave no apology for rescuing it from oblivion and placing it below in juxtaposition with the original :—

MAY.	STEELE.
Of flowers, the snowy scented May Ranks ever with the fairest; Of seasons brightest and most gay. Is May month, time the rarest.	Of swords, the polished trusty steel Rank ever with the surest; Spirits refined in a still The strongest are and purest.
But better for them blithe May-tide Than May-boughs blossom laden, Is May, dear May, the winsome bride, The ever peerless maiden.	But better far than wines distilled Than polished sword blade brighter, Are the sense and wit of Steele, dear Steele The ever peerless writer.
No peerless maiden now, for she 'Smiles gay, a happy mother, But peerless still, there ne'er shall be To match her such an- other.	No peerless writer now, for he 'S a beak whom proctors bother, But peerless still, there ne'er shall be To match him such an- other.

Shortly afterwards, also in 1871, Steele

published a metrical translation from the Sinhalese of "*Kusa Jatakaya* : "An Eastern Love Story" (Trübner & Co.), a poetical legend of one of the incarnations of Buddha. The dedication has a melancholy interest, was made to his first wife, and reads as follows :—"Inscribed with much love to E. K. S., at whose request the translation was written in happy years ago. *Kusajatakaya* was rendered for the first time into English verse from the Sinhalese poem of Alagiyawanna Mohottala. The original poem, it may be added, was one of the books prescribed in Ceylon by the Board of Examiners for the Civil Service, of which the deceased was admittedly a shining light.

Steele was twice married, first to Miss E. K. Jolly, eldest daughter of Capt. John Keith Jolly, H.E.I.C.S., late of Fairieland, Kandy, Ceylon, at one time Planting Member of the Legislative Council, and

father-in-law of Dr. Kynsey, Principal Civil Medical Officer, Ceylon; his second wife was Miss Helen Staverts, daughter of A. Staverts, Dykecrofts, Liddesdale, a near relation of the distinguished family of Malcolms, of Burnfoot, Langholm. Steele, after working for twenty years in the Service, with short term of absence on leave for the purpose of visiting Europe, retired owing to ill-health in 1876, when Assistant Government Agent at Hambantotta, on a yearly pension of Rs. 3,066-67. He was at his death proprietor of Friarsgarth (where he resided), Scaur Estate, Irthington and Brackenbank, on the banks of the Eden, above Wetheral, all in Cumberland, for which county he was nominated a Justice of the Peace. At the comparatively early age of 62, and having enjoyed a well-merited pension for twenty years, he rests in peace!

:o:

## LOCAL SUMMARY.

THE commencement of the New Year in Ceylon was marked as usual by the usual festivities and possibly in the case of individuals by the making of a good many resolutions, many of which, probably, are as great a memory of the past as the festivities. The *venue* of the latter was the hill capital and the caterers were principally the A. B. C. D. Club. The only drawback to perfect enjoyment was the weather which seriously interrupted the earlier part of the proceedings. The athletic sports were gone through in a drizzle, and on the Gynikhana day the Bogambra ground was converted into a veritable swamp which played sad havoc with delicate *bottines* and *lingerie*.

But the ladies and their cavaliers braved each day's storm and tempest and, despite the exactions of nightly dancing, the former re-appeared next day as fresh and handsome as ever. The whole of the festivities were voted a great success and Mr. H. P. Borrett, the Secretary, who has recently

had regretfully to resign that position won great praise for the adequacy and comfort of the arrangements.

The Europeans *vs.* Colts' match was a fiasco, and the former had to put up with an innings defeat. The gratitude of the admirers of the victors took the pleasant form of a substantial cheque which was presented by the Hon. H. L. Wendt at a most enjoyable "At Home" given by Dr. and Mrs. Thomasz.

Both in Colombo and Kandy, General Booth, whose arrival in Ceylon preceded that of young 1896 by a few hours, addressed public meetings regarding the aims and scope of the Salvation Army, with special attention to the social side of the work, and enunciated a scheme which the author of "Darkest England" is maturing for the relief of distressed native peasantry both in India and Ceylon.

Politically, as far as Ceylon is con-

cerned, the great event of the month has been the dismissal from the Civil Service of Mr. C. J. R. Le Mesurier, or as he is pleased to call himself "Abdul Hamid" Le Mesurier, for purporting to marry, according to Mohammedan rites, a lady when his legal wife is alive. The blow fell quick and sharp and on the question of the justice of its severity opinion is divided. Mr. Le Mesurier accepted his dismissal philosophically, although not without a spirited protest in the public Press, and, singularly enough, made the position of his legal wife and children a ground for indicting the Government with harshness and injustice. One hardly sees how the legal Mrs. Le Mesurier would have benefitted pecuniarily by her husband being suffered to remain in the Service unless he had died in harness when would probably have arisen a struggle for any property left behind on the part of the rival spouses:.

In Colombo, the principal events in which Society has been enabled to participate were the two day's race-meeting promoted by the Ceylon Turf Club, which, contrary to expectations, hardly came up to the success anticipated, and the series of very enjoyable regimental sports promoted by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and by "No. 6" Company, Royal Artillery. The last named drew together the largest crowd and, certainly, the promoters deserved this honour for they had made elaborate preparations for a most enjoyable afternoon and they fully achieved what they had so hardly worked for.

Then January has constantly conjured up thoughts of the adage "Welcome the coming and speed the parting guest." There has been activity displayed to accord a proper welcome to H. E. Sir Joseph West Ridgeway and Lady Ridgeway, and the members of the Government exhibited considerable zeal in clearing up Legislative arrears before the advent of the new Governor, who duly arrived at the beginning of the present week and was received with state and escorted with pomp to Queen's House. The joy of wel-

coming a new Governor has been somewhat tinged with regret at the early prospect now of losing so popular a regiment as the Royal Warwickshire. The officers have not only been hospitable, but have identified themselves in various ways with the social life of Colombo in a manner which makes regret at their departure all the more keen. Already several farewell functions have come off, the principal of these being the ball given to the officers at the Assembly Rooms.

The people of the North have during the month, witnessed a change of administration. After half a century of good and loyal work the Government Agent of the Northern Province retired, the event being marked by the distinction of knighthood being conferred on the "Rajah of the North," as Mr. Twynam was more popularly known by. Sir W. C. Twynam, who has been succeeded by Mr. R. W. Ievers, an able and popular member of the Service, carries into retirement with him the best wishes and lively gratitude of a large section of the population of the Northern Province.

On January 17th and 18th the Kelani Valley races took place under the favouring circumstances of fine weather, excellent arrangements and good sport. The Talduawa course presented the appearance of a fair ground. Permanent accommodation being limited, miniature streets of cadjan huts were erected for the housing of visiting Europeans, whilst the natives constructed a veritable Pettah on each side of the minor cart road leading to the course. As usual, difficulty was experienced in getting through all the events in time and the Kelani Valley Sporting Club have already had it under favourable consideration to enlarge next year's Meet to three days,

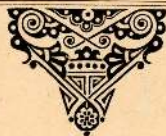
The Radella Race meeting which took place a week later and which drew together a large and fashionable attendance of ladies was inaugurated by a successful ball given in the Dimbula Hall. Ideal weather favoured the racing and the Radella ground presented an animated and

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picturesque appearance, the distinguishing feature being the large number of well-dressed ladies who were present.

On the last day of the month the subscribers to the George Wall Memorial Fund met and were given so satisfactory a report by the Maha Mudaliyar, concerning the special efforts he was making to collect subscriptions from natives all over the Island, that the meeting unanimously agreed to postpone coming to a decision

as to the form which the memorial should take until June 26th, in order that the Maha Mudaliyar might be afforded full time to systematise and complete the successful efforts he had launched. In addition, however, to the schemes already partially discussed, a new scheme was broached of apportioning a portion of the fund to the erection and equipment of an ornamental fountain, the suggested site being near the Baptist Chapel, Cinnamon Gardens, where seven roads converge.



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paid to make the Cuisine as perfect as possible,  
and it will now compare with that of any Hotel  
in the East.

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BOMBAY MERCHANTS.

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Silks (Assorted Colours.)

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AND BURMAH WORK.

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