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THE TRAITOR.

THE STORY OF A NIHILIST CONSPIRACY.

In the reading-room of a Liberal Club in the South of London (writes Mr. A. MacDougall) I was introduced the other evening to a gentleman who has been long resident in Russia. In the course of a very interesting conversation he recounted to me a story of a crime perpetrated some two years ago, during a Nihilist agitation, in the ancient town of O—, in Russia. The story in question, I am informed, has hitherto remained unpublished, although it is well enough known in Russian revolutionary circles.

One bitterly cold winter's evening, towards the close of the year 1887, five men were seated together in a small room in a house situated in the Jewish quarter of a busy and largely populated Russian city. The appearance of the room was as wretched as the external aspect of the house itself. The solitary window was totally concealed by a heavy faded curtain, depending from the roof, and as the wind moaned dismally through the broken panes of glass, its sombre folds swayed to and fro. The inmates of this mournful den were seated round the table, smoking their pipes and talking, as if furtively, in whispers. As the feeble rays of the candle fell fitfully upon the company they revealed the youthful faces of four students. The chief spokesman, however, was a much older man, apparently about fifty, with a short pointed beard, shaggy brows, and keen penetrating eyes of the darkest hue. The others deferentially addressed the speaker as "professor," and such, indeed, he was, at that time, at a well-known school of medicine in Russia. On the present occasion, however, he was speaking, not of science, but of the terrible doctrine of assassination. Professor V— was a Nihilist—a reputed Colossus of craft and cunning in the dissemination of revolutionary doctrines, and on the particular evening in question he was engaged in advocating, with fiery eloquence, the assassination of a certain colonel who had lately been promoted to the rank of Chief Commissioner of the Secret Police. As the night wore on their whispered conversations were suddenly interrupted by a low knocking at the outer door. In a moment the conspirators sprang noiselessly to their feet, and listened with bated breath. The sound was repeated—a peculiar whistle was heard from without, and then the listeners exchanged significant glances and quietly resumed their seats. Presently cautious footsteps were heard in an outer room, the door was opened, and a young man hastily entered. His face was pale, his manner seemed agitated, and as he returned his companions' salutations he regarded them with a fixed and angry stare.

"You have kept us waiting, comrade," exclaimed the professor, puffing calmly at his pipe. "Ugh! we are almost frozen, for the air of this wretched apartment is quite Siberian. But now to business. We will warm ourselves with talk, and fire our minds with the prospect of revenge."

There was a murmur of approval. It was noticed, however, that the young man who had just appeared upon the scene took his seat in silence, and, resting his elbows upon the table, slowly scrutinized the faces of his comrades.

"My dear professor," he said at length, "we cannot possibly proceed at present with this business."

"Why not?" was unanimously asked.

"Because," replied the latest comer, as he quietly snuffed the candle, "because one of us is a traitor."

"A traitor!" exclaimed the men, starting to their feet, in the utmost astonishment.

"Yes, comrades, we are betrayed; and as no one knows of this plot of ours except ourselves, it is plain, I think, that one of us has turned informant."

"You are mad to say so!" hoarsely exclaimed the professor; "but, in heaven's name, what has happened? Come, tell us quickly. This is no jesting matter."

"Listen, then. On my way hither, comrades, I entered the Café de Paris to sip a cup of tea and smoke a cigarette. I happened to sit down beside two officers of the Secret Police, and, as one of them was somewhat tipsy, I could distinctly hear his conversation. I found it rather interesting. He told his companion that he was under orders to surround this old deserted house at midnight—it is near eleven now—and to arrest all persons found within. He mentioned, moreover, all our names, and added, with a maudlin laugh, that a certain person, to whom the Administration is eternally indebted, would be found in our midst playing the part of conspirator. Now, comrades, I have done. What shall we do?"

The men looked at each other in dismay. A dead silence filled the room, for the mere suspicion of treachery among men who had solemnly dedicated their lives to the sacred cause of liberty seemed to hold them dumb. Such villainy in their very midst—among men banded together in sacred brotherhood—was a greater crime than the merciless acts of a despot and his minions.

"If this is true," said the professor, in a voice of suppressed rage, "then I will no longer believe in human fidelity, or the future of our cause. But—Death! if the story is true. Which of us is the informer?" added the speaker, staring fiercely at the pale faces of his companions.

"Bah! it is useless to ask that, my dear professor," exclaimed Ivan—such was the name of the youth who had brought the strange intelligence—as he advanced to the door of the room, locked it, and placed the key in his pocket. "Every one will assert his innocence—of course. But, comrades,

suppose we endeavour to find him out? Let us search each other. The traitor, whoever he may be, must doubtless have in his possession some proof of his guilt. At least, the experiment is worth trying. What say you?"

"Agreed! agreed!" exclaimed the Nihilists, as with one accord they sprang convulsively to their feet. One of the students—a tall, lank youth, with a somewhat foppish appearance—objected, however, to the proposal.

"But why?" hotly demanded the professor, who seemed all eagerness to begin the investigation.

"Because," was the hesitating rejoinder, "because it is unnecessary. Our word of honour ought to be enough. Besides, there is something degrading in the idea of searching one another, as if, indeed, we were a lot of pickpockets. So let us break up the meeting. This excitement is absurd and renders the discussion of our plot impossible. As for the story told by the drunken soldier in the café, I don't believe a word of it."

These words produced an angry murmur among the excited conspirators. The protest seemed so ridiculous; and as the clamour increased Ivan turned to the speaker and warmly exclaimed, "Very well; we shall abstain from searching you, since you wish it; but remember this, that if we fail to find a clue to the informant among those who willingly submit to the examination we shall then know upon whom to fix our suspicions. Now, comrades, search me first; I am ready."

In a moment the speaker's pockets were emptied of their contents, and even the lining of his cloth was carefully searched; but beyond a few old love letters, some political pamphlets, and an English newspaper with a paragraph obliterated with lamp-black, nothing of an incriminating character was found. A second student readily submitted to the test—if test it was—with similar results. Then a third stepped forward and placed himself in the hands of his companions. But at that moment a curious incident occurred. An invisible hand suddenly extinguished the light of the candle, and in a second the room was plunged in utter darkness.

What did it mean? Who had quenched the light? For a moment the Nihilists remained motionless, as if rooted to the spot. As they listened in alarm, they heard a strange creaking sound in the direction of the curtained window.

Suddenly the voice of Ivan exclaimed in the darkness, "Comrades, this is a trick! Listen: some one is endeavouring to escape by the window! It is the traitor—at last. His attempt to escape betrays his guilt. Stand back! I know how to deal with him!"

In an instant the report of three revolver shots rang through the room, and was followed by an agonized yell as some one fell heavily upon the floor. A profound silence then ensued. It was an awful situation. At length Ivan spoke to his terrified companions.

"Strike a light now," he said, in a trembling voice, "and let us look upon the face of a traitor. Will no one move? Are you all afraid to gaze upon the dead body of a miscreant who has betrayed us to our enemies? Come, professor, where are the matches? You had them last. But hush! What sound is that? Listen. By heavens, comrades, the police are upon us already. The house is surrounded! Quick! here is a trap-door, known only to myself. It leads to the main sewer, and is our only hope of escape. Follow me."

Groping hand in hand in the dark, the affrighted men followed the speaker's directions, and, after some momentary confusion, disappeared into a dismal abyss. None too soon. In another instant

the door of the room was battered to pieces; and a company of gendarmes entered. Lights were now flashed in every direction, but it was obvious to all that the conspirators had escaped. The officer in charge swore long and deep, and ordered the men to search the house from top to bottom. Then, advancing towards the window, he stumbled over a human body.

"What's this?" he exclaimed, examining the dead man's features with a lanthorn. "Ha! so they have caught you at last, my friend, have they? Well, you played the spy long and well, but it always comes to this in the end." And, tearing down the window curtain, the officer threw it over the rigid body of the professor.—*Pall Mall Budget.*

MISCELLANEOUS MILITARY PAPERS OF FIFTY YEARS AGO.

(Continued from page 27.)

The Military Secretary.

Statement of the proposed Expenditure by the Colonial Branch of the Royal Engineer Department in Ceylon in 1841, on the supposition that the Grant for the Year may be £8,000.

Description of Service.	Remarks.
<i>Station: Colombo.</i>	
A new Armourer's shop and Armourer Serjeant's Quarter.	£ 150
A New Sally Port (men's) Guard House	150
Improvement of Barracks, which cannot be decided before reports are obtained from the Commanding Royal Engineer but which will involve a sum of about	1,800
A New South Gate (men's) Guard House	350
	£2,450
<i>Galle.</i>	
In continuation of the permanent hutting of the Detachment Ceylon Rifle Regiment	£ 600
	£600
<i>Trincomalee.</i>	
Two New Cleaning Sheds.	£ 400
Towards the permanent hutting of the Detachment of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment	1000
	£1,400

(In addition to the usual Incidental services, the capabilities of Galle will not admit of a larger Expenditure.)

(On the supposition that an estimate for altering and improving a 2nd of the European Barracks will be sanctioned in 1840 and that although the service will not be completed in that year, the expenditure will be chargeable to the Grant for that year (1840).)

Kandy.

Towards a New (Men's) Barrack to hold one Service Company

£ 1200 It is supposed that the two cleaning sheds at Kandy, for which Estimates have been ordered to be rendered will be sanctioned in 1840, and although the service may not perhaps be completed in that year, the expenditure will be chargeable to the Grant for that year (1840).

Towards renewing the Royal Artillery and Gun Lascar Barracks and Establishments.

£ 800 In addition to the usual Incidental services the capabilities of Kandy will not admit of a larger Expenditure.

£2,000

Nuwera Ellia.

Towards additional Military Buildings or the improvement of existing ones

£ 250 It is supposed that the Verandah round the whole of the Men's Barrack together with shutters to all the windows, for which an Estimate has been ordered to be rendered will be sanctioned in 1840, and although the service cannot be completed in that year, the Expenditure will be chargeable to the Grant for that year 1840.

(Signed) T. M. WILSON, A. M. S.

ABSTRACT.

Station.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Colombo	2,450	0	0
Galle	600	0	0
Trincomalie	1,400	0	0
Kandy	2,000	0	0
Nuwera Ellia	250	0	0
For Incidental Services throughout the Command	1,300	0	0
Total	£8,000	0	0

No. 207. Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 16th May, 1840.
The Assistant Military Secretary.

Sir,—Having submitted to the Right Hon'ble the Governor your letter No. 174 of the 6th instant, I am directed to state that His Excellency concurs generally in the suggestions made by the Major-General Commanding the Forces as to the Military Colonial Buildings and repairs to be undertaken during 1841. Estimates may be prepared accordingly, to be considered in the Executive Council before they are laid before the Legislative Council at its next meeting. It will however, depend on the state of the Finances whether, even if sanctioned, the whole amount can be expended, and in reference

to your remark on the expenditure to be incurred at Trincomalie, I am to explain for the information of the Major-General, that no part of the amount assigned for 1840 and left unexpended at the end of the year, can be rendered available for 1841. Out of the sum voted for 1841, all the charges incurred in that year must be paid including the balances due on Estimates for works commenced during this or any previous year.

Under this explanation the Estimate for altering and improving a 2nd Barrack for Europeans at Fort Frederick ought, if possible, to be completed with the means available for this year, and if that object be not attainable, the balance unexpended must be included in the appropriations for 1841.

I am to take this occasion to state that pursuant to the assurance given to the Legislative Council at the time a general vote was applied for, for the services of 1840, it will be requisite to lay on their table Estimates, as well as plans, on the instances in which they were prepared, of all works and repairs effected under that general vote, accompanied by a statement shewing the amounts expended and balances remaining of each Estimate, at the date of that statement.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE TURNOUR, A. C. S.

Colombo, 26th December, 1840.

The Hon'ble the Acting Colonial Secretary.

Sir,—I have had the honor to submit to the Major-General Commanding the Forces, your letter of the 24th instant, No. 589, acquainting me that the Right Hon'ble the Governor cannot accede to the appointment of Captain Fisher to be Acting Staff Officer at Kandy, and that he "is desirous of conferring that situation on "Captain William Layard of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment as fully explained to the Major-General."

Having rendered to His Excellency, in the demi-Official correspondence adverted to by the Governor, a full explanation of the grounds in which he declined to sanction Captain William Layard being now removed from his Regimental duties, the Major-General would willingly have been spared the task of officially repeating his reasons for withholding his assent to the appointment of that officer.

The periodical returns furnished to the Governor of the number of Officers who can be spared from their Regimental duties in the several Regiments serving in Ceylon, are based upon the principle (approved of by Lord Hill and communicated by Sir John Wilson to the late Governor on the 19th March 1836) that the minimum number of Officers of the European Regiments required to perform Regimental duty, is not to be reduced below one half of the number allotted to their establishment, nor those doing duty with the Ceylon Rifle Regiment below 10 Captains and 24 Subalterns.

The Major-General has, as already intimated to His Excellency, taken this scale as a precedent, reserving to himself the right of restricting its application whenever the interests of the Military Service may require it.

I am directed to observe further that in regulating the application of this rule, the Major-General has two points to consider,—1stly, The maintenance of the efficiency of the several Regiments,—2ndly, That the Duties of those Officers who are left with their Regiments shall not be increased to an unreasonable extent or shall be the means of depriving them of the indulgence of leave of absence according to the custom and rules of the service.

The Major-General now begs to draw His Excellency's attention to the subjoined return of Officers at present performing regimental duty with their Corps :—

	Captains.	Subalterns.
90th Regiment ..	3	7
95th Regiment ..	5	10
Ceylon Rifle Regiment ..	8	29

In this return are included Captains Rogers and Kelson—whose Civil duties render them Regimentally available only at the posts at which they are stationed, thereby leaving only six Captains disposable for the General Duties of a Corps composed of 16 Companies and much detached ;—under these circumstances the Major-General cannot consistently consent to the removal of an additional Captain.

I am now directed to state very briefly the Major-General's motive for submitting Captain Fisher's name to His Excellency. The 95th being the only Corps from which an officer can conveniently be spared, the Major-General considered that Captain Fisher from the influential recommendation he has received, from his rank in the army, from his length of service in the Colony, to be the most eligible Officer he could recommend. Sir Robert Arbuthnot was also induced to hope that his own personal wishes might have had some weight, the more so, from His Excellency having, on a recent occasion, offered to appoint Captain Fisher to a situation precisely similar to the one for which he has now been recommended.

In conclusion, the Major-General readily allows Captain William Layard to be a deserving officer, and one whose interests he would willingly promote, that the Major-General has been anxious to conciliate His Excellency's wishes in regard to this officer will best appear from the concession made in Captain William Layard's favor with reference to his late acting appointment of Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, a concession made solely to oblige His Excellency.

Having now stated the grounds for having recommended the one officer and disapproved of the other, the Major-General awaits the decision of the Right Hon'ble the Governor.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) T. M. WILSON, A. M. S.

No. 600. Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 31st December, 1840.

The Assistant Military Secretary.

Sir,—I have laid before the Right Hon'ble the Governor your letter of the 26th Instant, and I am directed to state in reply that His Excellency dissents from the Major-General's views as therein expressed and protests against the grounds on which he disapproves of his (the Governor's) appointment of Captain W. Layard to be Acting Staff Officer at Kandy, during Captain Atchison's leave of absence, and that although he regrets that the Major-General Commanding cannot spare Capt. Layard from his Regimental duties for the situation he had intended to confer upon him, nevertheless to evince his disposition to oblige Sir Robert Arbuthnot, he will be happy to meet his wishes by appointing Captain Fisher, Acting Staff Officer in Kandy instead of another.

His Excellency begs that his compliance with the earnest request of the Major-General may not be considered as giving His Excellency's assent to the principle laid down in your letter regarding the Officers available for Staff or Civil employment,

for the rule alluded to, as established in 1837 on the subject, does not apply in His Excellency's opinion to the present reduced Military Force in this Colony.

I am also to remark, that the Returns alluded to in your letter are of such Military Officers as are available for *Civil Situations* and are headed accordingly. Sir John Wilson's (the late Commander of the Forces) words too are equally distinct, they are already quoted in the Governor's demi-official letter of the 14th instant to the Major General Commanding of which, I am directed to enclose a Copy. This rule was applicable only to Military Officers filling Civil Situations, while neither Garrisons, Commands, or Outstations, or Staff appointments formed subjects of discussion in that correspondence.

From the liberal allowance of Officers to fill Civil Situations thereby laid down two Captains only are now taken, who also do Regimental duty. The appointment of Captain Layard to fill the Staff Officership of Kandy does not therefore come under the rule respecting Civil appointments. Before selecting Captain Layard there were five Officers of the 90th, two of the 95th and six of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, holding staff appointments. But to fill 19 Command and Staff appointments in the Colony, it is scarcely necessary to point out, that from the Ceylon Rifle Regiment a larger number of Officers must be available than from either of the two other Regiments in this Command, and that the number of Officers, below which standard Sir John Wilson fixed, that they should not be reduced by appointment to *Civil Situations*, must also be encroached upon, if Officers of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment are to hold Staff appointments, at all proportional to their number, and to the number of Officers in the other two Regiments, so long at least as these Staff appointments remain to be filled up.

I am therefore distinctly to state His Excellency's entire dissent from being guided by the rule apparently adopted by the Major-General, from its being so entirely inapplicable to the present Military Force in the Island.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. TURNOUR,
Actg. Col. Secy.

(To be concluded.)

A LATIN VERSION OF "SIMPLE SIMON."

Simple Simon met a Pieman
Going to the Fair,
Says Simple Simon to the Pieman
"Let me taste your ware."
Says the Pieman to Simple Simon
"Show me first a penny."
Says Simple Simon to the Pieman
"Alack! I haven't any!"

Ecce petit pistor festi commercia pagi,
Obvius it vegetâ simplicitate Simon;
Occupat alloquio nimium sibi comis, et ultro
"Mi bone, quæ vendas experiamur" ait.
"Ede prius nummum." "Me" simplex "Jupiter" inquit,
"Perdiderit! msiero scilicet omnis abest."

REV. P. F. GANTILLON.

Cheltenham College, 1867.

CEYLON IN 1815-16.

(From the "Asiatic Journal," vol. I, Jan.-June 1816.)

AN ACCOUNT OF THE LATE CONQUEST
OF CANDY.

(Continued from page 24.)

About the same time that Major Moffat obtained possession of the battery at the foot of Mount Balani, Major Hook carried the passes of Gallegerah and Geriagama; and our troops in consequence, were soon securely posted on the westerly range, which, at the distance of eighteen miles, surrounds the capital of Candy.

Here, it became necessary for the divisions from Colombo to halt for a few days, in order to allow a sufficient time for the troops from Galle, Batticaloa, Trincomale, and Negombo, to arrive at their places of destination; and, besides, it was judged inadvisable to press too rapidly on the capital, lest the king should commence his retreat, before the passes in his rear were effectually secured.

The king appears in the mean time to have remained in a state of almost passive inertion; he repelled for a long period all belief of our serious intentions to attack him. His flatterers had at first persuaded him that the British government would never recover the fatal campaign of 1803, and when he was at length roused to some sense of the danger which menaced him, he insisted that our means were ill-proportioned to the accomplishment of his ruin. The difficulties of his situation, however, became shortly, even in his own contemplation of them great and alarming. Instead of atonement or remorse for the past, however the occasion appeared to offer nothing but fresh incitement to additional acts of tyranny and barbarity. A messenger brought him intelligence of our troops having crossed the frontiers—he directed his head to be struck off; another informed him of the defeat of his troops in the Seven Corles, and he ordered him to be impaled alive.

But his reign was now drawing to a close. Molligodde, his principal minister, deserted him; and, on the morning of the 8th of February, came into the British camp, bringing with him, in solemn procession, with several elephants, the insignia of the Four Corles, a banner with the device of the sun and moon, (indicating perpetual duration,) and the rolls or records of his Dessavony. He was followed by all the chiefs of the province who had not previously joined the British standard.

Molligodde had long since made private overtures to the British government through Mr. D'Oyley, but excused himself from joining the standard of the expedition, on account of his family being in the power of the king. He hoped to effect their release on the nearer approach of the army towards the capital, in which having the good fortune to succeed, he immediately fulfilled his promises, and declared himself in favour of the English.

Some little difficulty occurred in arranging the ceremonial of his reception, without giving cause of offence or jealousy to Eheilapola, who was at the time in his Excellency's camp. The latter had every claim to be considered the first ally of the English government, not merely in point of age, but in family, rank, ability, and general influence. Molligodde, on the other hand, was actually first Adigar and Dessave of the Four Corles, the province esteemed of greatest rank, and to which Eheilapola was supposed to look as the reward of his zeal and attachment. A slight diplomatic distinction obviated all jealousies, and contented both parties. It was observed that the honours belonged to the insignia of the Dessavony, and not to the Dessave; that the act of surrender should be attended with all possible state, and that Molligodde must in consequence march in with his full honours; but having deposited the rolls and banner, he would of course no longer look for the same ceremonies on taking leave, but would retire with only the honours of an Adigar, to which Eheilapola had no kind of objection.

In this little question of etiquette, there was something characteristic of the manners of the Candian court; but, in substance, the point was a natural one, and its discussion was conducted with politeness and liberality. Molligodde, of his own accord, in retiring from the audience of reception, proposed to pay a visit to Eheilapola, which was agreed to, and the few particulars that are known of the interview are truly affecting.—The visitor introduced himself with an exclamation that he was a ruined man. "What then am I?" said Eheilapola. Distressing recollections attached to this question, and both the chiefs burst into tears.*

At this juncture, the king, who found himself abandoned by all but his nearest relations, and began to entertain apprehensions of being surrounded and captured, precipitately quitted Candy; and General Brownrigg, on receiving the intelligence of his flight directed the advance of the troops, and on the 14th took possession of the capital.

In the course of the day on which the capital was taken, his General received a dispatch from Major Kelly, commanding the third division, with information, at the palace of Hanguranketty, a distance of eighteen miles from Candy, of his having captured many of the females of the king's family, with a very large amount in treasure. This intelligence was regarded as the prelude to the capture of the king himself, who was known to be in the neighbourhood of the capital; and a detachment under the command of Lieutenant Mylius, and which was accompanied by Mr. D'Oyly and Eheilapola Adigar, was accordingly sent from Candy in the direction of Dombara to intercept his retreat.

The movements of Lieutenant Mylius's detachment were supported by one under the command of Captain Antill of the 2d Ceylon regiment, who was detached to the ferry of Kimbulgamtotte, the passage of which led to the mountainous province of Ouvah, which had, from time immemorial, served as a place of refuge for the kings of Candy. It was of the first consequence to prevent the fugitive monarch from throwing himself upon the allegiance of his Ouvah subjects, who had suffered less from his tyranny than the inhabitants of the other provinces, and might therefore feel disposed to afford him an asylum in his distress.

The anxiety occasioned by the king's flight from the capital, and the uncertainty which prevailed for some time as to the actual place of his retreat, were not of long duration; for, on the fourth day after the capital was taken possession of, General Brownrigg received the welcome and gratifying intelligence of his capture. This event took place on the night of the 18th of February. "An armed party of Eheilapola's adherents having discovered the house in which the tyrant had taken refuge with two of his wives, and a few of his most faithful followers, surrounded the dwelling, the door of which was strongly barricaded. The assailants, however, headed by a devoted servant of Eheilapola, after some opposition, in which one or two of both parties were killed, commenced the destruction of the house. The wall of the apartment in which he was concealed being thrown down, the tyrant was suddenly exposed to the view of his injured subjects in the full glare of the light which was reflected from the torches of the surrounding multitude, by whom he was now regarded for the first time as an object devoid of terror.

"In the most abject manner he implored protection for himself and his wives, and he could stoop to ask it from the dependents of the man whose wife and children he had so recently murdered with circumstances of such wanton barbarity. His life was spared,

* Narrative of Events, page 20.—It is useful, as well as pleasing, to preserve these little traits of history, because they increase our acquaintance with the people among whom they were observed. It is no new observation, in the meantime that an extreme sensibility on points of etiquette is a rational feature of the Candians; and the remark may be useful in our public and private intercourse with the new subjects of the king.—Edit.

but from the indignation and contempt of his subjects, it was impossible to protect the tyrant. They bound him like a felon, and dragged him to the nearest village, upbraided him, spit on him, till at length, wearied with their own execrations, they left him to all the repose which the dreadful reverse of his fortunes would at present permit him to enjoy.

"On the succeeding morning, Mr. D'Oyly paid a visit to the fallen monarch; on entering the apartment, he found him surrounded by his mother, his wives and family, who were all in the deepest consternation and affliction, which had been increased by some idle reports, circulated by the Candians, of an intention on the part of the British government to bring the king to trial and disgrace his family. Mr. D'Oyly humanely assured them that his person should not only be safe, but that he should be treated with every degree of respect and attention. The king, who was at first sullen and reserved, now betrayed evident signs of emotion, and taking the hands of his aged mother and four wives, he presented them successively to Mr. D'Oyly, and recommended them in the most solemn and affecting manner to his protection. In the governor's assurances, he said, he had perfect confidence.

"Major Willerman,* one of his Excellency's staff, and who had been sent from Candy on the first receipt of the joyful intelligence, now arrived, and was introduced to the king, who complained bitterly of the treatment he had received from his subjects. He pointed, in proud indignation, to the marks of a rope on his arm, and asked if that was treatment fit for a king. Major Willerman replied, that the indignities he had suffered were matter of great regret to the governor; to which the monarch answered, that he lamented that he had not at once thrown himself on the generous protection of the British.

"It was judged inadvisable, for many reasons, to bring the king to the capital, and means were therefore immediately taken for sending him under a strong escort to Colombo. The charge of the royal prisoner was entrusted to Major Hook, the sense of whose services during the campaign, it was intended to mark by a selection which was now made of that officer. A large house had in the mean time been fitted up for the king at Colombo, where the glorious intelligence of the termination of the war was received with a degree of enthusiastic joy, which it would be difficult to describe."†

A slight resistance had been opposed to Lieutenant Mylius's detachment, by a party of fifty Malabar soldiers, headed by Mootal Samey; the whole campaign began and ended without the loss of a single life on the part of the English.‡

* Major Willerman is since dead.—*Edit.*

† Narrative of Events.—For anecdotes of the fallen Prince and his captivity at Colombo. See the *Asiatic Journal* for February, pp 60, 191.—*Edit.*

‡ "The commander of the forces also has particularly to make his acknowledgments to Captain De Bussche, and the corps under his command, for the unwearied exertions shewn by them in their march to Wessinawe in the Seven Corles.—Near this place, on the morning of the 29th, the advance, under the command of Lieutenant Mylius, of the first Ceylon, after a pursuit of some miles, came up with a body of armed Candians, at the village of Polpalite who having stood their ground and fired on Lieutenant Mylius's party, the fire was resumed, when six of the enemy were killed and several are said to have been wounded; two gingals, five firelocks, and a number of spears, bows, and arrows, were taken. Captain De Bussche, with the remainder of his corps put to flight a body of the enemy posted in the king's garden near Wessinawe, who left behind them the carriage of a three pounder gun, a musket, some powder and ball, and a quantity of paddy. Captain De Bussche's movement will immediately free the Seven Corles from the presence of hostile Candians, a detachment sent by Captain De Bussche to Allowotte had brought in fifteen prisoners and four Muskets." *General Orders, Head Quarters, Colombo, 31st January.*

•Immediately on the capture of the king, it became a point of great deliberation in what manner the affairs of the Candian government were henceforward to be conducted. The proclamation which the Lieutenant Governor had issued at the commencement of the war had promised to the chiefs the continuance of their titles and offices, and to the people, an impartial observance of their laws and customs; but there were so many opposite interests to reconcile among these chiefs themselves, and so many jealousies to overcome, that it was sometime before a day could be fixed for a solemn audience of the head men, and the signature of a convention which was to secure to the British government the peaceable and permanent possession of the important conquest it had obtained. The 2nd of March was at length fixed on for that purpose, when (to cite the words of the official bulletin) a solemn conference was held in the Audience Hall of the palace of Candy, between His Excellency the Governor and Commander of the Forces, on behalf of his Majesty and of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent on the one part, and the Adigars, Dessaves and other principal chiefs of the Candian provinces on the other part, on behalf of the people, and in presence of the Mohottales, Coraals, Vidaans, and other subordinate headmen from the different provinces, and a great concourse of inhabitants.

"A public instrument or treaty, prepared in conformity to conditions previously agreed on for establishing His Majesty's government in the Candian provinces, was produced and publicly read, in English, and Cingalese, and unanimously assented to.

"The British flag was then, for the first time, hoisted, and the establishment of the British dominion in the interior was announced by a royal salute from the cannon of the city."

In a paper, entitled "An Official Declaration of the Settlement of the Candian provinces," there appears after a recapitulation of the examples of tyranny adduced against Wikreme Rajah, the following conclusion which is deduced from it:—

"Contemplating these atrocities, the impossibility of establishing with such a man any civilized relations, either of peace or war, ceases to be a subject of regret; since his Majesty's arms, hitherto employed in the generous purpose, of relieving the oppressed, would be tarnished and disgraced in being instrumental to the restoration, exercised in a perpetual outrage to every thing which is sacred in the constitution or functions of a legitimate Government."

The governor having thus resolved upon dethroning the king, framed his "settlement," "treaty," or "convention," as it is also called, accordingly.—In a proclamation of the same day of March, the details are thus set forth. "At a convention held on the second day of March in the year of Christ, 1815, and the Cingalese year, 1736, at the palace in the city of Candy, between his Excellency Lieutenant General Robert Brownrigg, Governor and Commander in chief in and over the British settlement and territories in the island of Ceylon, acting in the name and on behalf of his Majesty George the Third, King, and His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, Regent, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on the one part, and the Adigars, Dessaves, and other principal chiefs of the Candian province, on behalf of the inhabitants, and in presence of the Mohottales, Coraals, Vidaans and other subordinate Headmen from the several province, and of the people then and there assembled, on the other part, it is agreed and established as follows:

"1st. That the cruelties and oppressions of the Malabar Ruler, in the arbitrary and unjust infliction of bodily tortures and the pains of death without trial, and sometimes without an accusation or the possibility of a crime, and in the general contempt and contravention of all civil rights, have become flagrant, enormous, and intolerable; the acts and maxims of his government being equally and entirely devoid of that justice which should secure the safety of his subjects, and of that good faith which might

obtain a beneficial intercourse with the neighbouring settlements.

"2d. That the Rajah Sri Wikreme Rajah Singha, by the habitual violation of the chief and most sacred duties of a sovereign, has forfeited all claims to that title, or the powers annexed to the same, and is declared fallen and deposed from the office of king; his family and relatives, whether in the ascending, descending or collateral line, and whether by affinity or blood, are also for ever excluded from the throne; and all claim and title of the Malabar race to the dominion of the Candian provinces is abolished and extinguished.

"3d. That all male persons being, or pretending to be, relations of the late Rajah Sri Wikreme Rajah Singha, either by affinity or blood, and whether in the ascending, descending, or collateral line, are hereby declared enemies to the government of the Candian provinces, and excluded and prohibited from entering those provinces on any pretence whatever, without a written permission for that purpose by the authority of the British Government, under the pains and penalties of martial law, which is hereby declared to be in force for that purpose; all male persons of the Malabar caste, now expelled from the said provinces, are, under the same penalties, prohibited from returning, except with the permission before mentioned.

"4th. The dominion of the Candian provinces is vested in the sovereign of the British empire, and to be exercised through the governors or lieutenant governors of Ceylon for the time being, and their accredited agents, saving to the Adigars, Dessaves, Mohottales, Coraals, Viduans and all other chief and subordinate native headmen, lawfully appointed by authority of the British government, the rights, privileges, and powers of their respective offices, and to all classes of the people the safety of their persons and property, with their civil rights and immunities, according to the laws, institutions, and customs established and in force amongst them.

"5th. The religion of Boodho, professed by the chiefs and inhabitants of these provinces, is declared inviolable, and its rites, ministers and places of worship are to be maintained and protected.

"6th. Every species of bodily torture, and all mutilation of limb, member, or organ are prohibited and abolished.

"7th. No sentence of death can be carried into execution against any inhabitant, except by the written warrant of the British governor or lieutenant governor for the time being, founded on a report of the case made to him through the accredited agent or agents of the government resident in the interior, in whose presence all trials for capital offences are to take place.

"8th. Subject to these conditions, the administration of civil and criminal justice and police over the Candian inhabitants of the said provinces is to be exercised according to established forms, and by the ordinary authorities; saving always the inherent right of government, to redress grievances and reform abuses in all instances whatever, particular or general, where such interposition shall become necessary.

9th. Over all other persons, civil or military, residing in, or resorting to these provinces, not being Candians, civil and criminal justice, together with police, shall until the pleasure of his Majesty's government in England may be otherwise declared, be administered in the manner following:

"First, all persons, not being commissioned or non-commissioned military officers, soldiers, or followers of the army, usually held liable to military discipline, shall be subject to the magistracy of the accredited agent or agents of the British government, in all cases except charges of murder, which shall be tried by special commissions, to be issued from time to time by the governor for that purpose. Provided always, as to such charges of murder wherein any British subject may be defendant, who might be tried for the same by the laws of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in force for the trial of offences committed by British subjects in foreign parts no such British subject shall be tried on any charge of murder alleged to have been perpetrated

in the Candian provinces, otherwise than by virtue of such laws of the united kingdom.

"Second, Commissioned or non-commissioned military officers, soldiers, or followers of the army, usually held amenable to military discipline, shall in all civil and criminal cases, wherein they may be defendants, be liable to the laws, regulations, and customs of war, reserving to the governor and commander in chief, in all cases falling under this ninth article, an unlimited right of review over every proceeding, civil or military, had by virtue thereof, and reserving also full power to make such particular provisions, conformably to the general spirit of the said article, as may be found necessary to carry its principle into full effect.

"10th. Provided always that the operation of the several preceding clauses shall not be contravened by the provisions of any temporary or partial proclamation published during the advance of the army; which provisions, in so far as incompatible with the said preceding articles, are hereby repealed.

"11th. The royal dues and revenues of the Candian provinces are to be managed and collected for his Majesty's use and the support of the provincial establishment, according to lawful custom, and under the direction and superintendence of the accredited agent or agents of the British government.

"12th. His Excellency the Governor will adopt provisionally and recommend to the confirmation of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on behalf of his Majesty, such dispositions in favour of the trade of these provinces, as may facilitate the export of their products, and improve the returns, whether in money, or in salt, cloths, or other commodities, useful and desirable to the inhabitants of the Candian country."

"Of the treaty," says a writer at Co'ombo, "you will be enabled to judge, as it will be published. It comprises, though in a very summary way, the heads of a constitution carefully adapted to the wishes of the chiefs and people, and with a more particular degree of attention to some prejudices, the indulgence of which was plainly understood to be a *sine qua non* of their voluntary submission to an European power. The preservation of the religion of Boodho was the first.* The other (hardly inferior in their estimation) was the recognition and continuance of their local (civil) institutions."

"The advantages to be derived from this conquest," it is added, "are incalculable. The position of Ceylon, its fine harbours, and rich and peculiar productions, must render it a place of the utmost importance in our eastern dominion. While the interior of the country was governed by a king independent of our authority, and adverse to our views, we held our dominion by a most precarious tenure. The known hostility of the Candian ruler was a succour on which our exterior enemies might at all times calculate; and in case of a foreign war, we should always have had the defence of our coast to maintain with a force divided and weakened by the necessity of watching the movements of an inveterate and formidable enemy within the heart of the country."

The Rajah of Candy is to be carried with his family from Colombo to Madras.

(To be continued.)

THE "FOLK LORE OF INDIAN PLANTS."

The following is a report of lecture on the above subject given by D. Kirtikar at the Sassoon Mechanics' Institute:—

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—From time immemorial plant life has always had its tal's connected with itself or with the places in which it grows. In ancient Grecian and Roman literature we find that there are certain plants favourite to certain gods and

*For an account of the ceremony of opening the great temple at Candy, see Asiatic Journal, page 90.—Edit.

goddesses. Bacchus is described as ivyclad. *Æsculapius*, the god of the physicians and physic, wears a crown of laurel, because the tree is supposed to be a powerful cure for disease of all kinds. The goddess Concordia (concord) has her symbol illustrated by two right hands joined together and a pomegranate. Pax, the goddess of peace, is represented as being crowned with olives and laurel, bearing ears of corn in her hands. Pluto, the king of the nether regions, is represented as being sometimes crowned with Narcissus flowers (white daffodils), and sometimes with cypress leaves. The god Hymenæus presiding over marriages, and companion of Venus, is crowned with sweet marjoram, and sometimes roses. Who can read without horror the experience of *Æneas* as has been graphically portrayed by the masterly pen of Virgil, when *Æneas* on landing on the Thracian shore plucks a shoot of what is apparently a shaggy myrtle bush! Drops of dark blood arise from where the shoot was torn off the ground. He did it again, and again did blood ooze out of the upturned soil. At last a voice arose from the bosom of the soil, "Spare me! I am Polydorus, buried here. Let me enjoy repose in my grave, murdered as I lie by the hand of a Thracian monarch, who killed me for my gold." Take another instance from classic legends, when Phaeton, one of the children of the sun, mounted his father's chariot, and being unable to manage the fiery horses, set fire to heaven and earth. Jupiter struck him out of the chariot with thunder, and cast him headlong into the river Po. Phaeton's sisters mourned over the loss of their brother, and wept uncontrolled by the side of the river. The gods in their compassion changed the sisters into Poplar trees. Proserpine, the queen of the infernal regions, loved her husband Pluto—the black god so much, lovely as she was, that she in a fit of jealousy converted his mistress *Meniha* into *Mint*, a plant known after her name. We know again the story of the youth Narcissus who was so infatuated with his own beauty that he fell in deep love with himself. In the love of his own matchless beauty he pined away, when at last the compassion of gods turned him into a daffodil. In our own day we speak of "successful" men bearing the palm from the ancient Roman custom of giving the gladiator a palm tree branch. Our leading poet is called the Poet "Laureate." The laurel is an emblem of peace and victory in our day. In modern days our flowers have a language, which finds no small pleasure, encouragement, and fruitful occupation to two young loving hearts about to be united in the sacred bonds of wedlock. The lady love sends a beautifully pressed dried heart's-ease. The sweetheart swears constancy and warmth by enclosing a rose. The lady-love sends a lily-of-the-valley—the sweetheart sends back love-lies-bleeding, and so on, till the orange blossom veil hands over the virgin wife to her ardently admiring husband. Nor is the village tree, or the wayside bush, free from its own tale. Near Glastonbury Abbey they say there is an old hawthorn tree that sprang up and at once threw out bud and blossom, when Joseph, the first preacher of Christianity in Britain, thrust his staff into the ground to convince the British Islanders that he had a divine mission to fulfil. They all sing its praises. India is no exception to this universal natural propensity of the human mind to connect tales of more or less interest with the trees and plants we see around. Have you seen the peepul (*ficus religiosa*) tree yonder? It is dusk now. Don't you pass by it. Don't stand under its rustling branches, or you will be possessed of the spirits that haunt its deepening shadow. Why should the peepul more than any other tree, say its neighbour the acacia or babul, be haunted by spirits? There is no more reason for this than there is for young Narcissus being looked upon as turned into a daffodil in preference to a rose. Nobody has seen these spirits in *propria persona*. It is all imagination. Good spirits, according to other accounts, dwell on the different parts of the peepul. Thus Bramha, the creator of men, is at the place where the roots strike the ground; Vishnu, the preserver, is at its middle; and Shiva, the destroyer, is at the top. The ghosts, or evil spirits, are supposed to haunt the branches. It is possible that the idea of evil spirits has stuck

the story-teller's mind from the topmost deity being inordinately fond of the company of goblins or demons. What are these demons? Principally there are two—the *Hedli*, a female, and the *Munja*, or an unmarried youth, a boy under or about twelve. The *Hedli* is a ghastly figure, being the spirit of a married woman dying during the lifetime of her husband. She is dressed in a yellow *sari*. Her hair is dishevelled, her forehead besmeared with red powder, and her eyelashes darkened with lampblack. She has the appearance of wildness, and her general demeanour betokens mischief, for death has been early, and the woman has died before properly enjoying the world. The youthful *Munja* is not so wild, having died before he was old enough to appreciate a worldly life. The spirit *Munja* is the best an indifferent spirit. He is dressed in the fashion suited to his age and calling. His age is boyish. He has just passed through the ceremony of the investiture of the holy thread, but has died before the sacred girdle is off his waist. He is nude, he carries with him a staff obtained from the palas tree (*Butea frondosa*). He has the recently assumed sacred thread across his left shoulder. He has his water bowl and his *gholi*, or bag to receive the alms he asks to sustain his body during the period of his pupilage. Why such a tender and harmless spirit should ever have been created by the story-teller beats my imagination. I can understand an angry, unsatisfied grown-up person, male or female, being anxious to linger around the place dear to him or her during life, and being angry and dissatisfied, they might wear countenances horrid enough to terrify those whom they haunt; but I cannot understand this of a boy, whose spirit, after his boyish frolics, requires rest and peace, or whose lissome countenance wants a more congenial home than the constantly rustling branches of a shaky peepul. There is no botanical reason why the peepul should be haunted by evil spirits. In Bombay it grows rather irregularly, but up-country I have seen its stem as perfect and erect, beautifully shining, as it could be. The leaves, lovely, delicately tinted, perfect in their framework, and altogether when the stem is not irregular it is a lovely tree, though not productive of any edible fruit. The presence of the Hindoo trinity gods, therefore, is more suited to the general appearance of the peepul.

(To be continued).

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