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THE JILTING OF GEORGIE GERARD: OR A BIT OF CEYLON SOCIETY LIFE.

IN 12 CHAPTERS.

BY C. LEWIS,

Formerly of Ceylon.

(Continued from page 170.)

CHAPTER V.

"Now it is your turn, Mr. Crawford," she said at length.

"Before I begin you must look round at the sunset behind us. Did you ever see anything more glorious or more gorgeous?"

It was indeed a sight to remember. A sun, not the pale ball that illumines our English skies, but a blazing globe of fire—vivid—immense, at whose glory the eye could not gaze unwinking for half a second. All the sky around was as if on fire; it brightened and it deepened in colour, and the cloud shapes became more brilliant and more fantastic, until lo! ere one could count a score, the sun had dipped beneath the horizon, leaving only the soft splendour of the afterglow behind him.

"The sun's rim dips—the stars rush out;
At one stride comes the dark,"

is hardly exaggerated language after all," said Lewis Crawford. "When I see a sunset like that I do not wonder at the fire worshippers' veneration! I have felt with them that I could worship the sun, source of light and life, and warmth and beauty. I too could fall down and adore, given a different creed, a less amount of knowledge: have you ever felt so?"

"I don't know," said Georgie. "I don't think so. I don't think I ever took the trouble to look at the sunset before!"

"No one has taught you to admire the beauties of nature, perhaps. Will you let me be your teacher some day?"

"Oh! yes," with a ready smile, "but you are forgetting that you promised to tell me all about yourself."

Only the personal pleased Miss Gerard; nature and scenery and art were poor abstractions to her, and her world was narrowed to the sayings and doings and looks of men and women.

"What shall I tell you?"

"Oh, everything! To begin with, how many brothers and sisters have you?"

"None. I am an only child—the one legacy left to my mother, for my father died almost penniless. She was a Scotch lassie, my father was cosmopolitan I think! He had roamed all over the world, and had lived a great part of his life in India.

Of course I wished to go to India too, but 'beggars cannot be choosers,' and the only rich relative we had gave me a nomination for the Ceylon Civil Service. He told me, I remember, at the same time, 'Ceylon is a strait cage for a young eagle. Don't flap your wings too much!' Soon after my landing in the island I was sent to K——, and here I am. I have spent some happy days there, thanks to your sister's goodness. You don't know how I love and respect her!"

"Why she is years older than you!" said Georgie in a surprised tone. She held the juvenile opinion that the word Love can only be used between lovers, and that lovers must be under thirty.

"I know it; but cannot one love a woman in various ways—as a divinity, as an elder sister, adopted mother even?"

"Yes, I suppose so," said Georgie carelessly, though a little piqued to hear of her sister's claim to so large a portion of Lewis Crawford's heart. She was also getting a little sleepy and hungry, and Lewis Crawford's voice sounded like a far away pleasantly murmuring stream. "Strait cages—eagles—divinities,—what did he mean?" She pondered drowsily, when she was rudely startled! The horse gave a great plunge and swerve to one side of the road; she screamed aloud. "Oh! good gracious. Oh! Mr. Crawford, what is the matter?" and she clutched his arm convulsively, as if she were drowning, and he were the last spar from the wreck.

"Steady, Sultan! Quiet, old horse, quiet!"

Then in Tamil to the horsekeeper: "Go to his head, Mootoo Samy. It is nothing, Miss Gerard, but a fallen coconut palm branch. This horse always shies at them when it gets dusk, though he knows full well what they are. I am afraid you are frightened still" (for the girl seemed to tremble as if she clung to him). "There is really no cause for alarm. We shall have the lamps lit in a moment, and then it will be all right. We are just in K—— now."

Gardens and bungalows of more or less pretension began to loom out of the uncertain light, and heavy scents of flowers were wafted from hedges and parterres. Within, glimpses of white walls and lights; and behind the inevitable red verandah screen the burgher community seemed to be at its evening meal. Further on came the native bazaar, with more lights, odours of coconut oil and curry-stuffs, and the yapping of pariah dogs to give local colouring to the dim streets (so-called).

Then up a gentle wooded incline—"There is my house, Miss Gerard. I live almost at the great man's gate."

Everything was black, vast, mysterious, more like the heart of the forest than the abode of civilization.

"Oh! are n't we nearly there?" sighed Miss Gerard.

"Close to the gates."

And soon the fairy light of gem-like fireflies gave way to the torch-lit avenue, and a blaze of modern lamps and candles.

Mr. Le Marchant was dressed for dinner in his pure white China silk coat and white trousers—no one in those days dreamed of “swallowtails” but dressed for the climate, not bringing Europe with them in the unsuitable form of broadcloth and tweed.

Yet did not Mr. Le Marchant suggest coolness altogether, he was too florid. Rather did he resemble a large white turkey cock, a most amiable mild bird when shorn of his fierce carriage and gobble-gobble.

Mrs. Le Marchant was in her best flowery muslin, her bright eyes brighter from excitement and nervousness.

A score of white-robed servants, and peons, the latter distinguished by their black and red badges; a foreground of ferns and plants in pots and stands, a background of white walls and archways; here, bright with many lights; there, dim vistas. A sense of numbers, space and vastness; all this duly impressed Miss Gerard, as, indeed it was meant to do.

This array of servants, this blaze of mellow light, was the happy thought of Mr. Le Marchant.

His, too, was the notion of having the avenue lit up by torchlight, each torch held by a dusky retainer.

His soul loved a spectacle, and he and his junior were always at loggerheads on this very point.

The one liked processions, decorations, addresses, triumphal arches, when he went on an official tour.

The younger man would protest against all, as wrung by the headmen from the peasantry, a dreadful survival of the bad old feudal system.

“Welcome to the Maligawa, my dear Georgina!” said Mr. Le Marchant, as, with an air of stately courtesy, he advanced to help the young girl down from the carriage.

“It is not often that we are privileged to have youth and beauty beneath our roof-tree.”

“What a dear man!” thought Georgie. “How I should like to kiss him!” But she did not, as his presence awed her. He made way for his wife, and her heart was too full for pretty speeches.

“Oh dearest, dearest sister! to think I have you here!”

“Oh, dear Carrie!”

Kiss, kiss, first, and then suspicious little sniffs, and pocket handkerchiefs; more sniffs, embraces, broken sentences. The gentlemen discreetly retired into the background for a while, and the elder man made enquiries of the younger about the journey and Sultan’s conduct.

After a few minutes spent thus Mr. Le Marchant raised his voice—

“Caroline, my love! I do not wish to interrupt you, but remember it is close upon dinner time. Also, recollect that Juanis does not like his dishes spoiled by delay!”

This was a pleasing fiction of Mr. Le Marchant’s—his, not the cook’s, was the objection to unpunctual meals. He had perfect health, and sound digestion, and thoroughly enjoyed good living.

It is a pleasure that grows with advancing years, for the very young usually eat to live; later on dinner gives a pure happiness, forms the one certain pleasure of the day.

Mr. Le Marchant’s cook was an artist of no mean order. No one else in the service, Mr. Le Marchant contended, could give him such goodly soups, curries, and other delicacies as he ate at home; and this fact constituted the chief drawback to paying visits, or dining out.

“Yes, Georgie must want her dinner, and be tired too,” said Mrs. Le Marchant. “Come to your room, dear. My ayah shall help you and you won’t

be very long? Marmaduke does not like being kept waiting.”

He was not kept waiting, and looked with suave admiration at his sister-in-law when she re-appeared in a fresh and white evening gown, and he sailed into the dining-room with wife and sister, one on either arm, smiling on the one, making pompous and pretty little “company” speeches to the other.

The young girl looked around her in a *distrain* manner.

“Where is Mr. Crawford? I did not even say goodbye to him. I thought he would have been here still.”

“I found him flown when I returned from your room. Marmaduke asked him to dine, but he refused, on the score that we would like to be alone the first evening of your arrival.”

“Another instance of Mr. Crawford’s sense and delicacy of feeling,” observed Mr. Le Marchant.

“It was indeed,” said his wife, but Georgie said nothing. She felt vaguely disappointed, and though she ate her dinner with a good healthy appetite, unaffected by her broken-hearted condition, she said but little, and impressed both her sister and Mr. Le Marchant with the idea that her feelings were more deeply wounded than they had thought possible.

(To be continued.)

COLOMBO LIBRARY.

(From “*The Library*,” the Organ of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, for December 1890, pp. 481-482.)

COLOMBO MUSEUM.—A most interesting account of the work accomplished during last year is to be found in the *Ceylon Administration Reports, 1890, part IV., Miscellaneous*. Although opened as long ago as 1887, the present is, in reality, the first authorised annual report on the Library, and in it full particulars are given of the earlier history of the institution. As now constituted, the Library in the Colombo Museum is the result of a wise amalgamation of several libraries. These were the libraries of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Government Oriental Library, and the free Public Library. In his report the Librarian, Mr. F. H. M. Corbet, deals at considerable length with the progress made in the various branches of library work, such as book-binding, cataloguing, and exchange of publications; the difficulties he has to contend with in the first-named are happily to a great extent unknown in home Libraries. Most important information is given on books relating to or printed in Ceylon, and we earnestly hope both branches of literature may receive all the attention that they deserve in a collection which is national in character and purpose. The report teems with matter of so great interest, that we can do little beyond saying that the MS. records of the Dutch administration of the Island are noticed at some length. These documents, “fast crumbling to pieces from dust and neglect,” it is proposed to transfer from the Government Record Office to the Museum Library, and as soon as the necessary accommodation for the 6,500 folio volumes is provided, they will be removed and made accessible to the public. Perhaps the most interesting portion of the report is that which deals with the collection of the literature of Ceylon, “much of which remains enshrined in old manuscripts.” By purchase and loan for transcription wonderful progress has

been made in collecting these ancient writings; and if we consider the difficulties of long journeys (for "except by inquiry on the spot and personal inspection" it has been found impossible to procure them), and the very limited funds at the disposal of the institution, we think that for number and importance the list of purchases will compare most favourably with any similar Institution in the world. Mr. Corbet's "able and zealous assistant," Mr. De Zilva Wickramasinghe, gives a summarised description of the manuscripts added to the Library. Of course there are a certain number of statistics, but with so much of greater importance to select from, we must content ourselves by merely observing that they show steady progress and increasing appreciation in the institution.

(From "The Library," December 1890, pp. 475-476.)

We have on our table a "List of the Pansiya-panas Jataka, the five hundred and fifty birth stories of Gautama Buddha; compiled by N. D. M. de Zilva Wickremasinghe," assistant Librarian of the Colombo Museum. We note that the list is divided into decades, and that the compiler has received much assistance from Veliwitiya Dharma ratna Unnanse of the Vidyodaya College, but we do not feel ourselves competent to criticize it.

VICEREGAL MUNIFICENCE OF BY-GONE DAYS.

The late Mudaliyar Simon Cassie Chitty, writing of Moratuwa in the "Ceylon Gazetteer" says:—"A large Protestant church erected by Sir Robert Brownrigg and a neat schoolhouse for girls by his amiable lady stand near the roadside as a lasting memorial of their noble munificence in the cause of religion." But the "large Protestant church" and the "neat schoolhouse" have both passed away long ago and are no longer memorials of anything. Yet there are at least two living, though it is to be feared not lasting, but on the contrary time-worn, care-worn and transitory, memorials at Moratuwa to commemorate the munificence of the Brownriggs. Mrs. Gebel Mendis, well-known in Salvation Army circles as "Anna the prophetess," and another vigorous old grandame, the landlady and guardian-angel of a legion of fishmongers, have both been pupils of the Brownrigg Girls' School. The former has a vivid recollection of the opening of the school, but what has made a stronger impression on her mind is the kindness and hospitality of Lady Brownrigg on the eve of her leaving Ceylon. The good lady wished to see at Queen's House not only the scholars of her school but also their parents and the schoolmistress. So they were all invited, and a certain Mudaliyar was asked to supply them with conveyances, all the expenses being borne by her ladyship. The party, like England's only General approaching Tel-el-Kebir, chose to travel by night, and halted at Kollupitiya, where provision had been made as regards lodgings and other conveniences by the considerate Mudaliyar of Moratuwa. Early in the morning next day after attending to their toilette, and doing justice to some hoppers that had been prepared for them, according to previous arrangement in a neighbouring boutique, they resumed their journey towards the Fort, where they were ushered into a church, St. Peter's probably. Poor Gebel, who was then very young, observed, may be with some little alarm at first, that almost all the worshippers, with the exception of the company from Moratuwa, were Europeans. The military especially attracted her attention, and she was not a little surprised to see these men

of blood and iron conducting themselves at church precisely like poor ordinary civilian folk. The next move was to Queen's House (or whatever it was then called) where Gebel enjoyed herself thoroughly, though most of the other children were quite done up by the fatiguing journey of the previous night. She went upstairs and romped about the place at will, which greatly delighted her. Now it was time for His Excellency and the good hostess to show that they meant something more than mere kind attention. The men were by themselves, and were treated as seemed best to the gubernatorial mind. The children and their mammas sat together for breakfast, and Lady Brownrigg was assiduous in serving and doing all she could to honour and please her guests. Little Gebel, whose mother, having the care of younger children, was not one of the party, had been taught court etiquette carefully by her father, and behaved accordingly, which it is thought was the reason why she was especially noticed by their noble benefactress. For, she says, the *Bisawummanse* patted her on the head: and this causes great exultation even now after the lapse of more than half a century.* Thus passed a very happy day to my informant and many others too at Queen's House. In this refined age of ours we sigh in vain for the olden days of true simplicity and genuine kindly feeling, and seldom find generous and benevolent people like the old-fashioned men and women of the golden age when our grandmothers were young.

P.S.—Some authorities state that the *patres et matres familiarum* were unexpected, and that they had misunderstood unwittingly or otherwise the terms of the invitation. This it would appear is not unsupported by internal evidence.—*Cor.*

CEYLON IN 1816.

(From the "Asiatic Journal," vol. II, December 1816.)

CEYLON.

Colombo, Feb. 21.—A twelvemonth has now elapsed since the conquest of the Kandian territories, and we find it difficult to record the fact without adverting to the encouraging state of our affairs in the interior. We believe that few were sanguine enough to hope, that the pride of feudal independence, and the long cherished hatred of European dominion, would so readily have yielded to the influence of good rule, without some of those indications of revolt which are so frequent in newly-modelled Governments, in proportion as the recollection of past tyranny diminishes, and the operation of milder measures is less sensibly felt.

It was still less generally expected, that the newly-conquered country would be found to afford situations equally calculated to promote the security of our acquisitions, and to ensure the health of our detachments, whatever might be the attention paid to local advantages, and however the diet and clothing of the troops might be regulated by the nature of the climate they were about to encounter.

The experience of the past year has more than fulfilled the expectations of the most sanguine. We have seen in the increasing intercourse of the Kandyan chieftains with the British authorities, both at Colombo and the interior, a convincing proof of their earnest disposition to improve the good understanding which happily exists; and in the frequency of appeals to British justice from the lower orders of our Kandian subjects, we may trace, not only the confidence which their newly-acquired sense of an equal and impartial administration of justice has inspired, but their conviction that the slavish submission in which they have so long been held, has entirely passed away.

* About 70 years ago.—ED. H. R.

To our readers, the majority of whom are acquainted with the baneful effects of a tropical climate on European constitutions, the small number of casualties that have occurred in the interior of Ceylon, during the last year, will be a matter of equal thankfulness and surprise. We understand that the returns in the Adjutant General's Office shew no greater proportion of deaths than five men in 200—a result which, we believe, is unparalleled in any part of British India.

The 14th February, being the anniversary of the day on which the British colours were hoisted in Kandy, a ball was given to Sir Robert and Lady Brownrigg, in commemoration of the event, by Major Hardy, Mr. Sutherland, Capt. De Busche, and Capt. King, four of the gentlemen of his Excellency's family. The room lately occupied by the Royal Artillery, was tastefully fitted up for the occasion; and we do not recollect to have been ever present at a more cheerful or a better conducted entertainment. The ball was opened by Lady Brownrigg and Major Hardy, and the dancing continued until one o'clock, when the company sat down to a sumptuous supper. After the healths of our revered Sovereign and his Royal Highness the Prince Regent had been drank, Major Hardy rose, and in a short but emphatic address, in which he adverted to the happy occasion of the meeting, and to the respect and attachment which their good Commander merited from all present, he proposed the health of his Excellency Sir Robert Brownrigg. This toast was received with the greatest applause, and drank with enthusiasm, by all the company, standing, with three times three.

We are sorry that we are unable to offer more than a very faint outline of his Excellency's address to the company. After thanking the whole of them for the distinguished honour they had done him, in drinking his health, he said, "It was impossible not to feel and express himself most grateful to those Gentlemen of his family, whose affectionate attachment had induced them thus publicly to evince the sense they entertained of his humble services to his country; he was happy to believe that every succeeding year would prove more and more the value of the acquisition we had gained, and that the natives of the interior would have equal reason to rejoice at a revolution which has ensured to them the safeguard of British laws, and the protection of a British government." His Excellency concluded a most feeling and animated address, by proposing the healths of the Gentlemen who had given the entertainment, which was drank with three times three.

Many other toasts were drank, and their number was not diminished by the wines of every description being of an excellent quality. At a little after two the Ladies led the way to the dancing-room, the first dance after supper being led off by Lady Brownrigg and Mr. Sutherland. We understand that the party did not break up till near gun fire on Thursday morning, and that many partook of what is usually termed a second supper, but what may be more strictly considered as a very substantial early breakfast.—*Ceylon Gazette*. [Something like the banquet in Brussels which preceded Waterloo. Rebellion was brewing while the British were dancing.—*Ed. L. R.*]

DEATH.

At Trincomalee, April 21, at the house of Mrs. Whielling, Frederica Wilhelmina, youngest daughter of Mr. H. G. Speldewinde, clerk to the first assistant to the resident in Kandy, aged one year three months and five days.

REPORT ON THE CANAL FROM ELLEHARA NEAR MATELLE TO MINNERY AND THENCE TO GANTALAWA NEAR TRINCOMALIE,

By MESSRS. ADAMS, CHURCHILL AND BAILEY.

Our attention having, in 1853, been drawn to the remains of an enormous stone bund across the Ambanganga, at Ellehara, in the District of Mat'el'e,

we resolved on taking the first opportunity of making a close inspection of it, and of tracing the Canal which, according to tradition, was directed from that River into the Gantalawe Tank near Trincomalie. Circumstances prevented our carrying out our intention until lately, and, having now completed our exploration of this, the most extensive work of irrigation in Ceylon, we are induced to throw the information which we have collected, into the form of a Report, for the information of Government, as it may, at some future period, prove useful.

It is recorded in the native histories of Ceylon, that Canals were formed, which conveyed the waters of the "Karaganga" to Minnery; and thence to Gantalawe; and these are attributed to king Mahasen, who reigned A.D. 275. Native history also records that Prakrama Bahoo I., who reigned A.D. 1153, diverted the waters of the same "Karaganga" into "the Sea of Prakrama." Local tradition assigns the Canal at Ellehara to Mahasen, and the bund across the Ambanganga to Prakrama Bahoo: and Major Forbes, in his work on Ceylon, mentions having procured an inscription from a stone pillar, which at the time he wrote, existed in the ruins of the bund, "signifying that the Canal was completed by the happy, victorious, and illustrious monarch of Ceylon, Prakrama Bahoo."*

Now, as the Ambanganga is the only stream in that part of the country, which bears the name of "Ganga," or which deserves to be described as a "river,"—as the bund at Ellehara is the greatest work upon it, and as we have ascertained, beyond a doubt, that the Canal leading from it conveyed its waters to Minnery, and thence to Gantalawe,—these facts, supported by the unvarying tradition existing among the natives of almost every village along its route, seem to us satisfactorily to establish the identity of the "Karaganga" with the Ambanganga; and therefore to prove, that the canals leading from it were the works of Mahasen, who, we are told, "formed the great Tank at Minnaria,† and, by damming up the Karaganga, turned its stream into it," and "that he cut the Talwatta Ella Canal, by which means he formed 20,000 fields, which he dedicated to the Denenaka Wihare, whereby the Rice grounds got the name of Dantalawet‡ (Gantalawe—Kandaly§). But the inscription mentioned by Major Forbes, as well as local tradition, ascribes the bund to Prakrama Bahoo, whose reign commenced 852 years after the death of Mahasen. History also records, as we mentioned before, that, among the many canals cut by him, "for the purpose of diverting the rivers in to the great Tanks," he formed "the Goodaviree Canal, to divert the waters of the Karaganga into the Sea of Prakrama."||

It seems therefore beyond dispute, that the "Sea of Prakrama" was in the neighbourhood of Ellehara, and the remains of the bund across the river, and the vast size of the embankment between that place and Kondrowawe, leave on our minds the conviction, that, it was formed by the enlargement of the works first executed by Mahasen.

We are led to this conclusion by a careful examination of the gigantic embankments, in parts 80 and 90 feet high, and by as careful a study of the adjacent country, as our opportunities permitted. When the whole body of the river was diverted from its course, the waters, receding, must have spread themselves over many miles of flat or imperceptibly rising ground, to the foot of the Kondrowawe range of hills, and nine large

* Forbes' *Eleven Years in Ceylon*, vol. II., p. 95. Allusion is also made to the inscription at page 33.

† Mahasen is still regarded as the Deity of Minnery: his shrine is there, and is regarded as the most sacred in Ceylon.

‡ අනු (an offering) $\text{වට්ට$ (a plain.) [Rather, "the river plain," from *ganga*, river.—*Ed. L. R.*]

§ See Turnour's *Epitome of the History of Ceylon*, published in the *Ceylon Almanac* for 1833. Also Mahawanse, p. 237.

•|| See "Turnour's *Epitome*," and Note No. 1, at end of Report.

streams being turned by the embankment, a series of immense lagoons, extending from Ellehara to Kondrowawe, must have been the consequence.

Reference to the engraving No II. will show, that, in the first instance, the Canal was excavated to a deep pool in the river and that the bund built by Prakrama Bahoo, probably on the site of the former one by Mahasen, is at a considerable distance below the mouth of the Canal, upon a ledge of rock stretching nearly across the river. It is probable, therefore, that Prakrama Bahoo took advantage of the existing works to assist him in carrying out his own project.

The situation of the "Sea of Prakrama" has never, hitherto, been satisfactorily ascertained; Major Forbes indeed surmised, that the series of Lakes formed by this Canal, might be "the waters to which the vanity of a King gave his own name;" but he adds "that until this Canal shall have been traced through the Kondrowawe hills, the extent and difficulty of such an undertaking must excite doubts whether it were successfully accomplished."*

We have so traced it and have, we think, proved that Major Forbes' surmises are correct. In no other parts of Ceylon are there the remains of so many, and so extensive, lagoons, so closely adjoining each other. In no part of the Island is there, as far as we know, one continuous embankment, extending, without intermission, for 24 miles, and varying from 40 to 90 feet in height.

The "Sea" must have ceased at Kondrowawe, for, from the point where the communication branches off to Minnery and Giritella, the reduced proportions of the embankments, and the altered nature of the country shew, that canals, only, extended to Minnery, Gantalawe and Giritella.

We began on the sixth ultimo, by examining the commencement of the work at Ellehara, and taking the dimensions of the stone bund.

The Ambanganga is formed by the confluence, at or near the village of Ambene, of four or five considerable streams, taking their sources in the south and west parts of Matelle. Thence it is called the Ambanganga. A range of hills, commencing from a spur of the Laggalle mountains, extends in a northerly direction to the left or southern bank of the river, nearly opposite the present village of Ellehara. At a point where this range approaches within a distance of 200 yards from the river, a large embankment of earth, with stone revetments, commences, and extends for about 130 yards, terminating in a wing wall about 15 feet in height. Here begins the large spill-water, the length of which was probably about 90 yards, and from its extremity ran, at an obtuse angle, the great stone bund; this extended across the stream, until it joined an immense earth embankment, with stone revetments, averaging 60 feet in height, which still exists, and leads to the mouth of Mahasen's Canal.

The remain of the spill-water measure 76 yards in length. This brings us to the edge of the river, and it is evident, that it was continued for some 12 or 14 yards further, to the rocky foundation in the bed of the river on which the great stone bund was built. The breadth at the top, at its southern end, is 29 yards, and at the northern end, where it has been carried away, 33. Its height above the level of the water at ordinary seasons, is about 40 feet. It is built throughout of huge blocks of hewn stone embedded in chunam, which still remains in the interstices. The stones in the interior of the work were carved with figures, and evidently had formed part of a building of an earlier date. This is also observable at Kalawawet and Balawewe, works of irrigation in Nuwerakalawia, and also attributed to Prakrama Bahoo, which seems to prove that the larger

* Forbes, p. 33 vol. II. We had arrived at the conclusion, that the series of Lakes thus formed, was the Sea of Prakrama, before seeing Major Forbes' remarks; and were surprised at the coincidence, when at Pollinarua we read the passage which we quote above.

† Dasenkelliya or Dhaator Sena, probably formed this Tank A. D. 495, but Prakrama Bahoo is said to have improved and repaired it.

works of irrigation in Ceylon are of a comparatively modern date.

Great engineering skill is shewn in preparing the rock to receive the foundations of the large stone bund across the river. Upon the outer side these consist of a trench, cut into the solid rock, to receive the first layer of masonry: at a distance of 25 feet inwards is a continuous row of holes, 2 feet square, and about 3 feet apart, and sunk to a depth of about 3 feet; into these were fitted large stone pillars, the remains of some of which, broken short off, are still to be seen: one of them protrudes above the surface of the rock to the height of about 2 feet.

Parallel to this, and at a distance of 10 feet from it is another row of smaller holes, into which, also, pillars were fitted to form the inner edge of the masonry. From the angle in the centre of the bund, another row of holes extends, in a semicircular direction, towards the spill-water.

The annexed engravings will better explain what we have thus attempted to describe.

From the northern extremity of the stone bund, and nearly in the same direction, a large earthen embankment, faced with stone revetments, extends as far as the mouth of Mahasen's Canal—a distance of nearly half a mile.

The waters of the river, checked by these vast embankments, must have inundated the low lands lying on either side of the river, for a distance of about 10 miles, thus forming the largest of that series of lagoons which doubtless bore the name of the Sea of Prakrama. As a proof that these low lands were so inundated gigantic koobooks, trees only growing in or near the immediate neighbourhood of water are now to be found, far above the height to which the river overflows its banks.

At first sight it would appear, that here the river naturally divides into two channels, the one being very much larger than the other; but on closer inspection we have come to the conclusion, that what appears the smaller branch was, in reality, the mouth of Mahasen's Canal, leading into a deep pool in the bed of the river, which with a bund very much smaller than that, of which we have described the remains, would have afforded a sufficient supply of water for the purposes for which it is said to have been formed.

Prakrama Bahoo, however, having conceived the idea of forming his "Sea," constructed the bund we have described, at a point where he could obtain a good rocky foundation, and could easily connect the high ground on either side of the river. We were led to the conclusion, that what now seems a smaller branch of the river, is artificial, and was the excavated mouth of the canal, by the facts of its banks being rocky and precipitous, and very much higher than the land on the south side of the river. This channel, therefore, could not have been formed by the natural course of the water.

At a quarter of a mile from the mouth of the canal, the rush of water appears to have breached the bank through which the stream now flows, and joins the river at some distance lower down. There are here some hewn stones scattered about, which are evidence of the remains of the embankment: from this point, therefore, the bed of the canal is quite dry; a very small stream only, in a slightly different direction, being led to the fields now existing at Elleharra.

From the same spur of the Laggalle mountains, to which we made allusion before a range of hills extend in a north-easterly direction, through Kondrowawa, to within half a mile of the Minnery Lake. The Ambanganga, having received the water of several other streams, intersects these mountains at the village of Ambene, and flows down to Ellehara, a distance of about 14 miles.

To conduct the water of the Ambanganga to Minnery, and to divert the streams falling from this range of hills, this wonderful embankment, which extended, without intermission for 24 miles, was constructed. Its height, as before mentioned, varies from 40 to 90 feet, but taking its average at 50 feet, it must have contained more than 3,800,000 cubic yards of earthwork, which with the masonry, would have cost, at the present rate of labour, not less than

£200,000. This only includes the works from Ellehara to Kondrowawe. The range of hills to which we have alluded, are at some places, at a distance of several miles from the embankment, and the ground, intervening between it and their base, being flat, or rising with an almost imperceptible slope, was submerged. In other places, the small spurs of the hills approached so near the embankment, as to form a series of canals connecting the lagoons, which the receding hills enclosed. Of these lagoons, the largest was that at the stone bund across the river, where the hills forms a large amphitheatre: eight others, connected by as many canals, covered the intervening space above the embankment, between Ellehara and Kondrowawe.*

From the point at which the waters of the river have breached the canal, the embankment continues, about 50 feet high, to the present village of Ellehara. At a distance of about a quarter of a mile from the commencement, advantage has been taken of a flat rock to form a spill-water of about 70 feet wide, with wing walls 15 feet high. This was evidently as a safeguard for the overflow of water in the great lagoon, which, over this spill-water, returned to the river.

Mr. Turnour, in the Ceylon Almanac for 1833, quoting from Mr. Brooke's notes, mentions, that at the commencement of the canal, or about 300 yards from the Ambanganga, a basin has been cut, about 300 to 400 yards in circumference, said to have been excavated when the canal was made, and no doubt was originally a harbour for boats passing up and down. He adds, it has also had a communication with the canal.† We could find no trace of this basin, and think that Mr. Brooke must have mistaken the spill-water which we have described, as the communication to which he alludes.

The present village of Ellehara is situated at about two miles from the mouth of the canal; the fields lie below the embankment, and are still cultivated by means of the water of the Ambanganga. Most of the houses, however, are now upon ground formerly part of the site of the great lagoon. A sluice through the embankment still conveys the water to the fields. The name of the village proves that its existence commenced subsequent to the formation of the canal.‡

The few houses which yet remain occupied in this once extensive village, are wretched to a degree; and from the number of ruined and deserted huts, and traces of sites of former dwellings, there is no doubt that the place was once very flourishing; even when Mr. Brooke passed through it, about 23 years ago, it contained 50 families, which number is now reduced to 10.‡

On the 7th leaving our camp at Ellehara, we set out to commence the exploration of the canal towards Kondrowawe. A road traced towards Batticaloa is cut for three miles, at no great distance from the embankment. Two considerable streams, the Kangatoo Oya, and Kerandegalle Ella, which were once checked by the embankment, have breached it; the first about half a mile, and the second at about two miles from the village of Ellehara. At about a mile and a half from the last breach, stands a gigantic Tamarind tree, on the top of the embankment. This tree, which measures 26 feet 2 inches in circumference is called the Orubenda Siembalagaha. § Tradition has it, that boats stopping there on their transit up and down the canal, were fastened; and the natives point out some scars near its root, which they say are the marks of chains and ropes. || It

* See Note No. 2, at end of Report.

† $\text{අලු} \text{අලු}$ a canal, $\text{අලු} \text{අලු}$ to turn.

‡ Mr. Brooke erroneously places Ellehara at a distance of only nine miles from Nalande. Its distance however, is about 19 miles.

§ $\text{මරු} \text{මරු}$ $\text{අලු} \text{අලු}$ $\text{අලු} \text{අලු}$ "The Tamarind tree to which boats are tied."

|| If the wounds penetrated the bark of the tree, which they doubtless did, and reached the wood, Mr. Thwaites, the Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradenia, informs us, that their marks would never be effaced; and that, were the

is worthy of remark, that there is no other tree near it at all approaching it in size, and it is evidently a tree of very great age. We have found the traditions regarding the canal so consistent throughout, that we cannot help laying some stress on this legend, for we have the most satisfactory proof, from the size of the embankment, that the line from Kondrowawe to Ellehara was navigable. This tree stands at the end of the second large lagoon, and near it are the foundations of some building on the embankment, which was, at this point, about 90 feet high.

In consequence of the high lands approaching the embankment, a canal extends for a mile into the next lagoon, which begins at a spot where the Hirettia Oya enters it, and after flowing along the embankment for a short distance, breaches it, and flows down to the river. About half a mile further on, it is again breached by the Bakamoonoo Ella. From this point, half a mile of canal leads into another large lagoon, along the base of which the embankment extends for two miles, when the natural high land approaches, and forms, with it, a canal, which extends half a mile to the Kottapitiya Oya, which has breached the bank. The lateness of the evening here obliged us to return to Ellehara.

We now found considerable difficulty in obtaining any one who would undertake to guide us to Kondrowawe: for, though many had crossed the embankment at different places, no one had ever gone along it; and the distance and difficulties of the route were greatly exaggerated by the people, from their utter ignorance of it, and their fear that no water might be found by the way. The country between Ellehara and Kondrowawe is now an almost impenetrable jungle, nearly destitute of water, at this the dry season, with only the site of a deserted village here and there.

Having at length succeeded in obtaining a hunter from Kondrowawe, who undertook to guide us, although he admitted that that part of the country was very imperfectly known to him, we dispatched our large tent, horses, and all the baggage we could spare, by the known road, which is a very circuitous one, to Kondrowawe, and on the morning of the 9th, taking with us only a small tent, supplies for two days, and as much water as we could procure gourds to contain, we started to prosecute our trace as long as daylight lasted. We quickly walked over the ground which we had chained the day before, and recommenced our survey from the Kottapitiya Oya. While breakfasting, we imprudently sent on our guides and catty-men, with a view to expedite our work, and lost some time from having missed our way, the high banks of the Oya misleading us, as they closely resembled the embankment which was hidden from us by the thick jungle, but which we afterwards found, left the river at a sharp angle. On regaining the embankment, we found that it gradually increased in size till it averaged, for many miles, 80 feet in height. For nearly three miles we found it without a breach, and it was evident, from the absence of jungle immediately above it, that in the wet season a considerable quantity of water collects along it. Here the lagoon must have been very extensive, as the base of the hills is four or five miles from the embankment.

A little further on we found it breached, in two places, by a considerable stream, the Kerewanahoena Ella, which rises in the Kondrowawe range. For about three-quarters of a mile, a canal connects his lagoon with the adjoining one. Evening was by this time closing in, and as we found that much of our supply of water had been drunk by the coolies to whom it had been entrusted, it became necessary to seek for camping ground at some reasonable distance from a spring. Our guide, who had hunted over this part of the canal, undertook to lead us to a plain about a mile from the Ella, at about two miles from which

bark over the wounds removed, it is very probable, notwithstanding the lapse of time since they were inflicted, that traces of the injury to the wood would be visible.

there was a spring. We then sent our coolies to pitch the tent and bring water, while we continued our survey as long as light permitted. We ceased chaining at a large rock spill-water, and it being too dark to take its dimensions, when, we were guided to our halting place.

Early on the 10th we returned to the spill water. We found it a sheet of smooth rock, about 12 feet in height, 110 feet long, and 110 in breadth. At one end of it is a channel cut through the solid rock, 7 feet deep, 6 feet wide, into which sluice gates evidently fitted, for the irrigation of the fields below. Wing walls rose at either end, about 20 feet above the level of the spill-water. Below the spill, and outside the large embankment, is another embankment, of considerable size, which apparently was for the purpose of protecting the fields, immediately below, in great floods, as well as for conveying the water to other parts of the country for the purpose of irrigation. We regret that we had not time to explore this branch, below which, we were informed, lies a vast plain, called Patambegala Ella. Dambonoo, where, doubtless, were formerly the fields irrigated by this sluice.

Opposite to the spill-water, and continuing parallel to the embankment for a considerable distance, we observed, at about 100 feet from it, a small earth bank about 6 feet high which may either have been intended to regulate the flow of water over the spill, or to confine it in a canal, in the dry season, for the purpose of navigation.

At about two miles from the spill-water, the lagoon terminates in a canal cut through rock, for a distance of about 200 yards, and about 80 feet in width; at the end of which the embankment is again breached by a stream, now called the Attanahade Ella. Two other breaches occur about a mile further on caused by the Megolle Ella. One of them, probably, is at the spot where the sluice for the irrigation of the fields of the now deserted village of Oulpoteramie existed.

The high ground here approaches the embankment, and a canal, for about three quarters of a mile, extends to the site of the deserted village of Talacolepitiya, the fields of which were formerly irrigated by the water of Pecolom, a large Tank situated about 4 miles west of the embankment. This village was deserted 25 years ago, and a few fields are still cultivated by the people of Kondrowawe, below the great embankment, by the water which escapes from the ruined tank in the rainy season, in a stream called the Radawigi Oya, which has breached the embankment just beyond Talacolepitiya.

We now approach the plains adjoining Kondrowawe, and owing to our guide's ignorance of the country, and the thickness of the jungle, again wandered from the embankment, which however, after some hours' search, we regained, about a mile and a half from the village of Kondrowawe, where we met our people whom we had sent by the road, and breakfasted. Here there is still a considerably larger tank about the embankment and at a higher level than the canal. This apparently was fed both by streams falling from the hills, and from the water of Pecolom tank. It is separated from the canal by a large embankment. Having ascertained that the spot at which the canal branched off to Minery and Giritella was two miles further on, we proceeded thither, and there encamped for the night.

Between the village and this point, we passed two sluices, long disused, but originally for the purpose of irrigating the numerous fields once existing below the embankment. The first of these penetrated the embankment at a spot where advantage had been taken of a natural rock to form a spill-water, which is singular from the fact of its having two levels. The entire breadth, including both spills, from wing-wall to wing-wall, is 200 feet. The lower spill-water is about 8 feet from the present bed of the canal, and measures in breadth about 50 feet; the level of the higher spill-water is about 10 feet higher, and was 150 in breadth, and through it are two sluices, nearly at the level of the canal, each two feet square. The length was nearly 200 feet. Large

waste plains are described as lying below this water, once, doubtless, rich Paddy fields; and the natives described an embankment similar to that which we had observed at the other spill-water. This, however, we had not time to explore.

The second sluice was so dilapidated, that we could not distinguish its plan. There was, evidently, no spill-water here, and the natives could give us no information concerning it.

The direct line of canals and lagoons from Elehara terminates beyond this sluice, in a stone spill-water, at a short distance above which branch off two canals, the one on the right, leading to Giritella Tank, and that to the left, said to lead to Minnery. The spill-water at the extremity of the canal consists of a solid mass of masonry, 112 feet in length, and 56 feet in breadth, and like the one which we noticed before, is at two different elevations, the lower one having a breadth of 20 feet, and the upper of 36 feet. The level of the one is about four feet above that of the other. The masonry of this spill water is bonded together in a very peculiar manner, combining every possible mode of presenting resistance to the flood of water over it. The inner faces of the embankment here were protected from the action of the water by strong wing-walls.

The distance from the mouth of Mahasen's Canal to the spill-water is about 24 miles.

On the morning of the 11th, we sent our tents and people direct to Minnery, by the native path, and having obtained a guide who undertook to bring us by the Canal to that place, we proceeded with our survey, preferring the main branch to Minnery to the smaller one to Giritella. After chaining for one and a half miles, we found that the direction of this canal bore considerably to the westward; and after some hesitation, our guides confessed that they had never been there before, and that they now believed that this canal led to Pecolom, instead of the Minnery, the only connection with the latter place being, they averred, by means of a sandy stream called the Talawatura, which conveyed the surplus of the great canal over the spill-water.*

As we had sent all over baggage to Minnery, and could form no idea of the distance to Pecolom, we were reluctantly obliged to abandon the exploration of this canal, resolving, however, to return, in the first opportunity and satisfy ourselves as to its direction. We accordingly left the canal before one of its breaches, and following the Talawatura for a considerable distance reached Minnery Lake through the old Tank of Katukaliawe.

Fever brought on by exposure, compelled us to halt here the whole of the following day, and on the 13th we proceeded, through Giritella, to visit the ruins at Polliura. Here we remained for three days, as we were all suffering more or less from fever, and on the 17th we returned, passing through the village of Minnery, and encamped between the outlets of Gantalawe and Kowdella canals. These outlets were for the escape of the surplus water of the Minnery Lake; the lower one, which is called the Mahawana, conveyed the water to the once enormous tank of Kowdella; the upper, or Aga'awana, led the water to the Gantalawe or Kandelly Tank.

We chose the latter, as it was the principal work, and on the morning of the 18th, under the guidance of an intelligent Weddah, we commenced tracing this canal, the course of which, except for the first three miles, has never before been explored. At the Waddah village of Rotewewa we found the people most primitive. They have been settled here from a very remote period, and said, that once they owned all the adjoining lands. This village, and that of Potane, they told us, are presided over by a Weddah chief, who bears the title of the Rangdom, or the "Golden bow," unfortunately for us, this Chief was from home on a shooting expedition, and we had not an opportunity of making his acquaintance, but we saw his quiver, full of arrows, which he had left behind.

* See Note No 3, at end of Report.

Leaving our tent and people here, we proceeded to inspect the great breach in the Kowdella Tank, which we were informed was only two miles off: the distance, however, turned out to be at least six the path lying through part of the bed of the Tank, now a vast forest. The walk, fatiguing as it was, well repaid us, for nothing could have given us so good an idea of the immense size of the Kowdella Tank, as the view of this, the principal breach in it. The Gal Oya has breached the embankment of Kowdella, where the river had been dammed across, at a point where two natural hills approached its banks. These are not less than 90 feet above the present level of the water. The breadth of the breach cannot be less than 200 feet at the top; the bottom of the breach is now a large and deep pool of water, in which we saw several huge alligators. We had not time to go on to examine the stone bund, which has already been described by Mr. Bertolacci and Dr. Davy*.

We returned to Rotewewa for breakfast, and afterwards followed the canal for three miles further on, where the Gal Oya has breached it. At about a quarter of a mile up the river, we found the ruins of a palace, said to have been built by Mahasen, which is now called Nana Morella Maligawa, and encamped in a plain adjoining it.

Having now ascertained that the course of the canal, from Minnery to Gantalawe, lay at a higher level than the Kowdella Tank, and not through it, as supposed by Mr. Turnour,† and having found that the difficulties of proceeding along the bed of the canal were so great, as to render it probable that cutting our way through the dense jungle would occupy more of our time than we could spare, we struck from this point on the morning of the 19th, to the high road to Trincomalie, which we reached at Gal Oya rest-house.

We continued along the high road towards Gantalawe, and came again upon the canal, where it crosses the road, near Kitooloua, at the point noticed by Lieut. Acheton.

That Officer observes, "About 4 miles from the Tank of Dastalawa or Kandalla, the road crosses a canal from 20 to 30 feet broad, formed by an immense embankment thrown up on the lower side.

This canal is said to be supplied by the waters of the Ambanganga, that river being dammed up and turned into this channel at Ellehara feeding the Tanks of Minnery and Kowdella, in its course to Dantalawa." (See Ceylon Almanac for 1833, p. 281.)

The tradition of the origin of this canal was correctly given to Lieut. Acheton, but he seems to have fallen into the same mistake as Mr. Turnour, in supposing that it passed through Kowdella Tank in its way to Gantalawe. We continued our journey to Kandelly, but found that there the tradition had become very faint and vague, in consequence of a Malabar population having superseded the Singhalese. The following morning we went to the Tank, but as our time was too limited to admit of a lengthened search, and in the absence of native information to guide us, we could not ascertain, with any degree of certainty, the point at which the canal enters it. An old man, almost the only one who appeared to have ever heard of the canal, pointed out to us a sandy river, which, he said, he always understood was the point where the canal came in, and near it we thought we could trace the remains of an embankment.

We do not, however, regard our failure at this point, as a matter of any importance, as the existence of a range of hills on the western side of the road, extending from the place at which the canal crosses it, to the Tank, renders it impossible that it could have led any where else than to Kandelly. We were informed by the villagers that an embankment exists, leading from Gantalawe Tank to Indiriweve, a Tank a short distance to the north.

* See Ceylon Almanac for 1833. App. p. 275.

† See extract from Mr. Turnour, in Mr. Brooke's Journal, p. 57.

We now returned to Gal Oya, and determined to complete the link between Kowdella and Minnery, which we had lost by the misrepresentations of the people of the former place. We proceeded through Se-giri to Pecolom. To judge by its embankment, which is the largest we have seen, Pecolom must have been one of the most considerable Tanks in this neighbourhood, inferior only to Minnery and Kowdella. The rivetments were continued nearly to the top of its embankment, proving that its depth must have been very great. We ascertained that this Tank was filled by the Kari-Oya, a large stream, a most deserving the name of a river, which rises in Nuweregalla Kandy, in the north-east part of Matale, and is divided from the Ambanganga by the Kondrowawe hills. It flowed into Pecolom, and thence a part of its surplus water flowed, through the Mada Horowe, or low level sluice, where it has broken the bund, to Minnery: and the remainder escaped through the Goda Horowe, or high level sluice towards Kondrowawe irrigating Meegahawelle, Talacolapitiya, and other tracts of lands, and eventually falling into the Ellehara canal. The Goda Horowe still exists, and the water collected by the ruined embankment in wet weather, flows down in a large stream now called the Radawige Oya, which as we before mentioned, breached the canal embankment near Talacolapitiya.

From Pecolom we proceeded to Kondrowawe, a distance of about four miles, and having brought with us guides, in whom we could place greater reliance than in our former ones, we commenced, on the 22nd, to follow out the canal towards Minnery, which we had formerly been obliged to abandon. Having satisfied ourselves that the canal, most probably, did lead to Minnery, we started on the morning of the 23rd, having sent our horses by the path to the village of Ihekoolowalia, on the banks of that lake, and surveyed the canal into the village tank, which is separated from Minnery by its embankment only. The distance was five miles, and the canal was found to be much smaller and less perfect than any we had previously surveyed. The numerous breaches are to be attributed to the close proximity of the hills. The greater part of it is excavated, instead of being embanked. Not far from the point where the canal enters Ihekoolowave, we found a stone breakwater, dividing the stream. We followed the larger and lower branch, having gone along the other one for a short distance, and found it very indistinct and at a much higher level. We consider that this branch was simply for the escape of surplus water lest the swollen stream of the canal should destroy the embankment of the Tank, which is not far from the point at which it enters it.

(To be continued.)

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