

Ceylon Literary Register.

Supplement
to Daily
"Observer."

VOL. V.—TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1891.—No. 28.

Price 12½ cents.
R4 per annum.

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

IN 12 CHAPTERS.

BY C. LEWIS,

Formerly of Ceylon.

(Continued from page 210.)

CHAPTER X.

But with these wandering thoughts of love and marriage floating in his mind, Lewis Crawford was not an entertaining addition to the breakfast party this morning, and Georgie pettishly averted her head when he wished her good-bye *pro tem*. Mrs. Le Marchant and Ellie went on a tour of inspection to the parrots and many other household pets, and Mrs. Nugent and Georgie were left to make the best of each other's society.

The girl was inclined to be dumb and sulky, but the older woman's manner of sympathetic inquisitiveness compelled her at least to speak when spoken to.

Mrs. Nugent's anxiety to gain information combined with her sensitive dread of lighting on any painful topic would have amused an outsider. Georgie only saw the evident admiration and overlooked the rest.

"How do you like Ceylon?"

"Oh, pretty well! It is very dull, I think. No callers, no dancers, no nothing."

"Ah! you have been used to a great deal of attention and gaiety, no doubt. Wait till you go upcountry, and I am sure you will not be left in solitude long!"

Georgie bridled. "I am told by" ("Mr. Crawford" she was going to say, but altered it to) "people, that there are no wall flowers in the island."

"Wall-flowers? Oh, at bal's you mean! If there were I don't think you would be one: a fresh young girl just out from home is always made so much of. Ah! I remember when I came out first."

Georgie did not seem eager to hear Mrs. Nugent's reminiscences, but hastened to lead back the conversation to herself. "I have brought out some pretty dresses, but my sister thinks they are almost too good."

"Your trousseau?" Mrs. Nugent said in a tone, looking unutterable pity out of her eyes; "ah, I know all, and feel for you so, dear!"

Georgie rather resented this, coloured, and hastily said, "I have a blue evening dress of this colour," touching her skirts.

"Oh, how lovely! How it must suit you!"

A pause.

"Perhaps you will let me see some of your pretty things by-and-bye? It is years since I saw many pretty gowns together."

"Yes, I don't mind," said Georgie. A longer pause!

What a fertile topic is that of clothes with women-kind! How many yards of talk would be done away with were women clothed in one conventional garment! It is always safe neutral ground for any woman to discuss with another, dress, fashion

material. It constitutes in fact part of woman's "shop."

"Don't you think Mr. Crawford is looking ill?" Mrs. Nugent wished to gain information in a new quarter.

"I don't know" (indifferently): "never saw him before."

"Ah, of course, he is a new acquaintance to you."

"Yes."

"I fear he has had bad news about his mother, poor young man. He is so devoted to her, he writes to her every mail; he helps her so much. He is so good-looking, don't you think so, distinguished-looking?"

"Yes," said Georgie yet more dubiously. But in her heart a frantic feeling of anger had sprung up. What right had Mrs. Nugent to infer that Mr. Crawford was merely an acquaintance? To tell her that he supported his mother? It was as good as inferring that he never could or would marry, and it is an intolerable thought to women of the Miss Gerard type that every man they meet is not a probable lover, or a possible husband.

Georgie covered her confusion by hastily going to the piano, and mumbling something to the effect that she really must do some practising now.

"You play, Miss Gerard? What a delightful resource you must find it! My husband is so fond of music, but unfortunately I have no ear for it, nor has my daughter."

The piano is one of the safest outlets for the feelings, but Mrs. Nugent little knew what feelings they were that gave fire and expression to Georgie's always brilliant, but hard execution! How she rattled up and down the keys, to be sure, what impassioned chords and trilling shakes she gave! Her not very musical listener was much impressed; and even more so, when Miss Gerard drew forth one of her drawing-room ballads and began to sing.

But hardly had she opened her mouth when there was a sound of hurrying feet along the verandah, and calls of "Boy!" and "Gertrude! Gertrude!"

For no novelty in the world would Mrs. Nugent forego her wifely obedience; she was almost too obedient.

"Oh! Miss Gerard, you will excuse my interrupting you, but I hear Mr. Nugent calling me; I must go to him, he may be ill again."

In the doorway stood a servant whom Miss Gerard understood to say, "Master wants lady directly," and Mrs. Nugent sped away with anxious terror to find her husband in a nervous frenzy.

"Gertrude! Can't you stop that detestable noise? I shall go mad if you don't. Call that music! Fireworks, tarantulas running up and down stairs! I knew that girl's singing voice would be harsh and screaming."

"Oh! Edward, Miss Gerard was playing beautifully!"

"Much you know about it! I cannot endure it, I tell you: stop the woman from annoying me if you can."

(To be continued.)

LANGUAGE OF THE VEDDAS OF
CEYLON.

By A. J. W., BATTICALOA.

Various opinions have been given out, from time to time, by different writers, about the language of the Veddas of Ceylon, to the vexation of readers and to the utter perversion of historical truth. Sir Emerson Tennent has given out the opinion that "their language, which is limited to a very few words, is a dialect of Sinhalese, without any admixture from Pali and Sanscrit."

Professor Schmidt, of the Leipzig University, who visited the Veddas last year, said: "Their language is similar in construction to the Dravidian language, but they have adopted a great number of Sinhalese words, which enabled him to hold converse with them by means of a Sinhalese interpreter."

Now it is admitted and explained that some of the Veddas have acquired a colloquial knowledge of the Dravidian and Sinhalese languages, by living in the neighbourhood of Sinhalese and Tamils, and by constant association with them.

These two facts, namely, the addition of Sinhalese words or the knowledge of the Dravidian language, do not prove anything about the mother tongue of the Veddas, which is different from both the Sinhalese and the Dravidian languages.

Some others are of opinion that the language of the Veddas is thorough Elu, and that it is the anciently-spoken language of the Island.

The writer hereof observes that all the opinions which, heretofore, had been started, respecting the nature of the language of the Veddas of Ceylon, are all so many effusions of mere fancy.

From about the commencement of the present century, the Veddas, who previously shrank from contact with other classes of the community of the Island, have had intercourse with Sinhalese, Tamils and Moors, who have been trading amongst them for honey, bees' wax, elk and deer horns. Some of the lowcountry Sinhalese runagates, and some Tamils as well as upcountry Sinhalese, finding an asylum amongst them in the wilds, have married Vedi-women, and have been living in their midst, leading a life of Veddas.

The offspring of these mixed unions is not only different from its mother-stock of Veddas as any other hybrid offspring, but naturally speak the language of the father and not of the mother. As for instance, the offspring of the Tamils of Pittalai and Walachena in Batticaloa district, by union with Vedi-women are thorough Tamils in habits and manners, and speak only the language of the fathers, and have lost all Vedi-features, which is the same in the case of the offspring of Sinhalese, born of Vedi-women. During this intercourse with the Sinhalese and Tamils, Veddas have acquired a thorough colloquy of both Sinhalese and Dravidian languages. These colloquial acquisitions of the Veddas are no additions to their native Vedi-language, which is entirely different from both. Some Veddas consequently speak half Dravidian, half Sinhalese, and half their native tongue, which mongrel dialect of the Veddas is often a misguide to persons who do not know the composition thereof.

There is no doubt but that as the Veddas come into close contact with Sinhalese and Tamils, by lapse of time, they will forget their mother tongue altogether, as is the case in respect to the Veddas of Maha Vedi-rata, Buttala Vedi-rata and Wellassa in Uva Province, which were the cradle of ancient Veddas of Ceylon, but where at present Sinhalese is the spoken language of those who formerly constituted verital Veddas of the places above-mentioned. It is this knowledge of the Sinhalese and Dravidian

colloquy that has recently led to facilitate conversation with the Veddas through medium of interpretation in Sinhalese or even Dravidian languages.

It is of importance, therefore, to trace accurately the native language of the Veddas, which has no alphabet, no grammar or any books of the language existing at present; it is generally believed that they never had any books, and that the Vedi-language was never committed to writing in any period of their history. Their language is as rustic and unpolished as the several dialects of Central India were anterior to the period of arrival of the Ariyans into India, nearly forty centuries ago. The pure language of the Veddas of Ceylon is entirely different from what has been remarked by historians, grammarians or philologists down to the present time. It is of threefold nature, being the most ancient forms of colloquy of either Maghadee or Pali, Sanscrit and Elu dialects that were spoken by the hill-tribes of Central India during the Pre-Ariyan era, and introduced into the Island simultaneously with the immigration of the aboriginal Veddas from Central India, then styled "the Rakshasas" by the Sanscrit historian, and synonymised "Yakko" by the Pali writer of the Mahawansa, signifying in both languages "archers" or "boysmen," or "hunters with the bow and the arrow." This is the correct exposition of the primitive appellations of "Rakshasas," and "Yakko" according to their primitive work in Sanscrit and Pali, applied to the hill-tribes of India, who lived by means of the bow and arrow.

The three dialects, therefore, it is to be understood, were as rude and uncultivated as the Indian hill-tribes were, who spoke the three dialects during the Pre-Ariyan era of India about B. C. 1900. There is no such language as *Elu*, which is a corruption from *Helu* (hill).

The proper name is Hill-Busha or the Helu-basha, "language of mountaineers."

Now, the origin and history of the language of the Veddas of Ceylon.

The Rámayana of the Sanscrit poet Valmika narrates to us that the aboriginal immigrants into the Island consisted of three bodies of colonizers, styled "Rakshasas," from three different hills or hilly localities in Central India, headed by their respective three chiefs, named, 1, Máliyaván; 2, Malee; and 3, Somalee.

These three chiefs at the head of the three Rakshasa tribes (Veddas) of colonizers, speaking three separate dialects, represented the three forms of dialects spoken by them and introduced into the Island.

1, Máliyaván and his body of colonizers represented the body of hill-tribes who spoke a dialect assimilating to Sanscrit. 2, Malee represented the body of hill-tribes who spoke a dialect of the primitive Maghadee or Pali; and 3, Somalee represented the third body of hill-tribes who spoke the Helu-basha or the hill-dialect.

Here it is to be observed that the name "Máliyaván" is Sanscrit, and signifies "a hill-dweller" or "a mountaineer."

Máliyavát is the name of the range of hills which formed the western boundary of "Arryavarta" or the habitation of the new comers, Ariyans, and is applied to mean the hills of Malva states.

Máliyaván, literally signifying in Sanscrit "a mountaineer," or "a hill-dweller," is the name of the aboriginal Indian Vedda or Rakshasa who immigrated into the Island with his body of colonizers from the hills of Malva state, where, at the period in question, the spoken dialect was a patois of Sanscrit. The Sanscrit "Máliyaván" is the collateral of the Dravidian "Malaiyan," "a moun-

taineer or hill-dweller." The root "Male" or "Mala" in Sanscrit and Elu, and "Malai" in the Dravidian language signifies "hill."

2. Malee. This name is the same as Máliyavan, signifying also "a mountaineer" or "hill-dweller," but it is quite another form of a separate dialect. It carries much affinity with the grammatical formation of the primitive Maghadee or Pali dialects.

It is therefore to be assumed, that the body of hill-colonizers whom the chief Malee headed, was the gang of hill-tribes who spoke a dialect of the primitive Maghadee or Pali. This body of hill-tribes is believed to have immigrated into the Island from the country in Central India named Baiganát or Baggánát between Benares and Calcutta, or the country of Bhills of Dandaka Forest. The ground for the belief is, that in the language of the Rock-Veddás of Ceylon, "Bagga" means identically "Vedda": and ná "country." Hence Baggánát is equivalent to "Vedi-rata" or the country of the Veddás.

The term Bhill is the same as the Sinhalese "Billo" (cannibals, kidnappers), applied in former times to mean Veddas of old, alluding to their anthropophagic character. Billo is a word of common use in old Sinhalese nursery, adopted as a word for frightening or quieting restlessly crying children. The dialect spoken by the second set of co-colonizers is, therefore, a primitive dialect of Maghadee.

3. Sómalee.—This third name of the chief of the co colonists, is a wrong transiteration of the original name given by the Sanscrit poet Válmika in the Rámáyana. There is no name of a hill or a locality in India to represent the name Sómalee. The name given by Válmika signifies a mountain, as the other two names are, whence the hill-colonists emigrated. The correct trans-iteration should be Simálee or Himálee, that is, "a dweller of the snowy hill," *alias* the Himalaiyan range of hills; of which there is not the least doubt entertainable.

For, in proof of the fact that some body of Himalaiyan hill-dwellers had settled in the Island simultaneously with the two gangs of colonists abovementioned and constituted the community of the Vedi-colonists of the Island, we find in the Rámáyana that when the celebrated Vedi-King Rávana obtained victory over his cousin Kuvera, he (Ravana) expelled from the Island Kuvera and his partizans, and drove the mbackto Himalaiyan range of hills whence they had immigrated into the Island.

The third gang of immigrant hill-tribes (Veddás) whom Simálee or Himálee headed, represented the body of Vedda colonizers from the Himalaiyan range of hills, who at the period in question, spoke a hill-dialect or Helu-basha, which is known in the Island under the name of Elu language.

Thus the three dialects of the three gangs of aboriginal hill-colonists *alias* Veddás account for the origin the three languages known in the Island—Sanskrit, Pali and Elu,—introduced by the Central Indian hill-tribes or Veddás, primitively styled "Rakshasas" in Sanscrit and synonymised "Yakko" in Pali, whose relics of antiquity are the modern Veddás of the Island. A more detailed account of the Rakshasas and Yakko (Veddás) will shortly be published by the writer hereof in his history of the Veddás of Ceylon.

As I have already stated, the language of the Veddás not having ever been committed to writing, and no books having ever existed, to trace and define their language, is to trace and define the primitive dialects of the hill-tribes of Central India, as they were spoken by them during the Pre-Ariyan era of India, which bespeak an antiquity of almost forty centuries, and extends as

unlettered era of the history of India as well as of Lanka.

The immigration of the aboriginal Vedda colonists of the Island is supposed to have taken place very soon after the arrival of the Ariyans into India, and some fifty or sixty years anterior to the celebrated Rama-Ravana war, the era whereof according to Sir William Jones is B. C. 1810.

As the subject now stands, the only satisfactory trace and description of the language of the Veddás is to be obtained from specimens of the three-fold dialects that are now spoken by verital Veddás, which alone points out to us the state in which those dialects existed in the Pre-Ariyan era of India and the Ravana era of Lanka B. C. 1810.

(To be continued.)

A COLLECTION OF NOTES ON THE
ATTACK AND DEFENCE OF COLOMBO,
IN THE ISLAND OF CEYLON:
SURRENDERED TO THE ENGLISH ON
THE 16TH OF FEBRUARY, 1795.

[Translated from the Original French of M. de La Tombe.]

PREFACE.

The following translation of M. De La Tombe's Notes on the Surrender of Colombo, will, it is believed, be found interesting. It is perhaps the first account of that event, coming from Dutch sources, which has been published in English.

Many of the names (though incorrectly spelt in several instances,) will be familiar to persons in Ceylon, and the events themselves will be recognised with interest by those who have hitherto known of them only by tradition. N.

Mutwal, July 8th, 1864.

The surrender of the Island of Ceylon to the English, and especially the capture of the Town of Colombo in which the Fort is situated, having given rise to different versions, I now publish some information regarding the Military operations which preceded this capture; in order that people may be able to judge to what extent they may place faith in the account of Mr. Percival, an English Officer, who, like a good Englishman, is far from allowing that treachery alone procured to his country the capture and occupation of this beautiful Colony.

These notes were furnished to me at Batavia and in the Island of Java, by several superior Dutch Officers who had been employed there, and formed, at that time, part of the garrison of Colombo. Their character and the conformity of their accounts, have convinced me of the truth of the notes with which they have supplied me.

ATTACK AND DEFENCE OF COLOMBO.

July, August, September, 1795.

After the capture of *Trinquemalaye*, the English marched towards *Batticaloa*, which they took without difficulty, and proceeded afterwards towards *Jaffnapatan*, where the Dutch had no troops left save some invalid officers and one company of sepoys; the Europeans and the Artillery having left and proceeded to Colombo. They had also recalled all the Malays who were in the *Vanille* and at *Manaar*; and thereafter were not otherwise occupied than in the defence of this place, which, had it been maintained, would, with the assistance of the King of Candia have facilitated the retaking

of *Trinquemalaye* and the other parts of which the English were then masters. They were anxious therefore, in *Colombo*, to make such defensive arrangements as circumstances might render necessary.

Two companies were placed in the ravelin of the Delft Gate.

M. Duperon, second Engineer, entrusted with the execution of the works, made on the outer side of the Galle barrier a *fleche* which shut out the lake, the road, the Galle-face and the sea.

They sent him four field pieces of 18, though they might have placed eight there.

They made a battery of two pieces of 8, outside the Delft Gate, which commanded the coast and the road of the lower town. They placed two pieces of 18 *à la bonnette* beyond the barrier, which shut out the esplanade.

They made another *bonnette* at the corner of the covered road, from the ravelin of the Delft Gate to the Powder Magazine, in which they placed two pieces of 18, which covered the lake along the esplanade; and they put up a fortress there, and raised the covered passage. All these works, as well as the others, were palisaded.

The side opposite the Government House, and which commanded the harbour, was furnished with small field-pieces of one, two or three pounders. They also constructed a large moat there.

A turf-covered battery was constructed to defend the landing pier. They placed three or four pieces of lesser calibre there.

They also caused a large quantity of *chevaux de frise*, fascines, gabions, stakes and poles to be prepared.

The fire-engines were put in order, the wells of the Fort repaired, and those on private property cleared. Amongst other things, they collected a large provision of water in the Government Gardens.

For these labours, the European and Malay Companies were to furnish seven men each daily. They were to receive, as high wages, six sous, two rations of arrack and a small loaf. They were to be under the surveillance and command of two of their own officers.

A large number of horned cattle was collected. Magazines were formed of dried fish, coconuts, arrack, oil, wood, &c. Private houses were rented for the purposes of magazines, and for the offices of the Company; their own places being employed to deposit the merchandize.

The prohibition on the Storekeepers against selling any provisions was renewed.

Private individuals who sought to take refuge in the place, were obliged to provide themselves with sustenance for six months; and the others conveyed their goods there, to save them from the pillage which they might have reason to fear when the English were approaching.

Upon the decision of a Council of the various Heads of Departments, which was held in the Governor's House, to consider the means of effecting an external defence, they caused to be cut down part of the trees and bushes of the Isle of Coconut Gardens, all the trees on the Galle-face, on the side of this island, and, among others, a part of the bazzars of the lower town, towards the seaside. They commenced also to break down the block of houses situated on the borders of the lake, as well as those in front of and behind the Cemetery, situated at the entrance of the lower town. They were undecided whether they should break down the lower town as well, as was formerly projected by Mons. Cipierre, an Engineer from Pondicherry.

The ramparts were furnished with cannons, mortars, small mortars, and all the supplies necessary for a vigorous defence.

The Powder Magazine at the Galle Gate and that which is situated at the Rotterdam Gate, were covered over with three layers of coconut trees, over which they put four feet of sand. Finally they raised buttresses on the ground from the angles of the bastions.

All the sailors were organized into a company, and exercised with field pieces. Three companies of Moors were also formed, who were to serve as coolies, either for the Company's work or for private individuals. They were commanded by the Battalion Officers. Companies were also thus formed of many of the Sinhalese dependents of the Dessawe, commanded by Serjeants or Corporals.

The Clerks of the Company also carried arms, and formed another company amongst themselves. They formed two Burgher companies, commanded by the brothers *Kulemberg*,* who engaged to maintain them during the expected duration of the siege.

In September 1795, there had been murmurings on the part of two companies of the Meuron Regiment, stationed at Galle. They were quieted by a few *coups de bâton* distributed by Major *Moitie*.

All the merchandize and effects of the company which were to be found at *Tut'corin*, were transported to *Colombo*. Some families came also to take refuge there. So they evacuated the place entirely, and the English took possession of it without firing a musket-shot.

In the meantime, there arrived from *Batavia* two merchant-vessels, which were, happily, loaded with rice and other provisions. They carried at the same time despatches to the Governor, which corroborated the alliance of *Holland* with *France*, and the news of the departure for *England* of the Stadtholder and his family. These vessels were to be immediately reloaded and despatched to the *Isle of France*; but the difficulty of finding coolies or slaves, or some other motive which no one can know of, retarded their departure.

The Governor would assuredly have had many means of maintaining this place and his other stations, and of saving an immense amount of merchandize from the unhappy result which followed; but he would not, as it seemed, profit by any.

M. *Cheniète*, Lord Lieutenant at *Trinquebar*, came during the month of August, and offered all the provision which they might require, in exchange for the products of the country. His offer was without effect, either because the season did not permit it, or that they could not agree about the price. He also offered to buy the two merchant-vessels which were to arrive, to put them under the Danish Flag, and to buy all the merchandize of the Company in order to load their vessels, giving Bills of Exchange on the Royal Treasury of Denmark, accepted by the Governor of *Trinquebar*. These proposals were not accepted.

Pierre Monneron arrived soon after from the Isle of France, with two vessels under the flag of *Typpo Saib*. His cargo consisted of Madeira and Bordeaux wines, which were nearly all purchased for the Governor. *Monneron* offered to convey to the Isle of France, to be warehoused, as much merchandize as could be purchased; but as no agreement could be come to as to the price, these offers were equally without effect.

A public sale was effected only of a few things of little value, which were to be found in the magazinè, and were likely to be spoiled.

In the meantime, the two ships which had first arrived were reloaded; but no one knew the nature of the cargo, nor the destination of the vessels. A question arose regarding the loading of the

* *Kulemberg*. (?)

Fidèle, which belonged to Monsieur the Governor *Van Angelbeek*, but sailed under the Danish Flag.

Information was indirectly received that the King of *Candie*, faithful to his ancient alliance with the Company, would offer his assistance in the defence of the Island; but it seemed not to have been convincing, and was rejected, because (it was thought) he would favour the English.

All the spices which were found at *Kelpeti*, *Chileau*, *Nigombo*, *Kaliture*, *Galle* and *Mature*, were transported into the storehouses of Colombo, which were regarded as the only place which they could defend. Much of it was left at *Galle*, which the want of means did not permit of being conveyed.

During these preparations, the money changed in value.

The *Roupie*, ordinarily worth five escalins, rose to ten; the *Piastre*, from ten escalins and three sous, rose to twenty; the *Ducaton*, from thirteen escalins and two sous, rose to twenty-five; the *Pagoda*, of *Tutocorin* or *Porto Novo*, from seventeen escalins, rose to twenty-eight; the *Star pagoda* and others of twenty rose to thirty-two. Florins and copper money were becoming very scarce.

Two English Frigates having commenced cruising before *Colombo*, an officer and a detachment of Artillery were ordered to betake themselves every evening to each of the batteries on the sea-side; but they were forbidden to fire under any pretext, without an order from the Governor,—a circumstance which naturally raised a suspicion amongst the officers who had received the order.

The Governor having resolved to go to *Galle* for (as they said) some secret business, and not having gone there on account of indisposition at *Kaliture*, he had an interview with the Commandant of the former place and Colonel *Sangle*.

On the Governor's return, he caused the field-pieces of 18 and 24 of the *Leyden Bastions* and *False Bay*, to be tried in his presence. They carried the whole volley nearly to the mouth of the river at *Grand Mutual*. They were pointed afterwards over the *Fish Bazaar* and *Kortboom*. From the *Utrecht Bastion*, they essayed with the mortar to throw stones to the *Galle Gate*. In short they made preparations for a most vigorous resistance.

The English came by land, and very slowly, from *Jaffnapatnam*. The Governor was not ignorant, either of their force, or of the kind of troops of which it was composed. He had been informed of all the arrangements at *Madras*, touching the Island of Ceylon. He had received this information from *Trinquebar* and from *Madras* itself.

The English army was composed of sepoys, partly levied in haste at *Madras* amongst the coolies of the country. A rumour spread that it consisted of ten thousand men, and that the enemy had raised, amongst others, on the coast of *Madere*, a corps of bandits who would be scattered abroad throughout the environs of Colombo, to plunder.

They recalled to mind then that there were troops at *Kalpeti* and at *Chileau*; but the Chiefs of these two stations had taken the start in quitting their post, and had left their command to the Company's Book-keepers. At this instant, Captain *Lamotte*, commanding the Malay battalion, was sent to meet the enemy with some companies of his corps; but with orders to retreat as the enemy advanced; and he finally came and posted himself in a position to defend the passage of the *Kaimelle* river. On intelligence received that the armed *Kandians* were coming in great force to unite with the enemy, and that they would convey provisions, he received orders to retire to *Nigombo*, and from thence to return to *Colombo*.

They caused all the bridges on their route to be destroyed, and cut up all the roads, to obstruct the passage of the enemy's Artillery: nevertheless the English came and established themselves at *Nigombo*, (which the *Opperhoofd* had abandoned;) and here they anchored their men-of-war and transports.

Four pieces of ordnance of eight pounds had been placed in the *Passebetaal* road, but orders were afterwards received to remove them.

The English Major, *Agneau*,* who had once before summoned the Governor of Colombo, *Van Angelbeek* to surrender the place, and to put himself under the protection of the English flag, came and made a second summons, and remitted to the Colonel of the *Meuron* Regiment letters from his brother, and offered him the brevet of Brigadier, if he would pass over to the English Service, which he accepted, and which seems to have been agreed upon beforehand; for he announced at the same time that the whole of this Regiment passed to the same service with its Colonel, and he so claimed it. This treason happened to be the most inopportune, because the European garrison was inconsiderable. This Regiment was composed partly of Frenchmen devoted to their country, and of *Hollanders*, our allies, on whom dependence might have been placed.

The English Major had arrived in the Frigate *Heroine*, but he had quitted it when at a distance, and caused himself to be conveyed ashore alone in a canoe. He came down to the Hotel, where they had placed, hard by, for form's sake a Serjeant of patrol. He remained several days, and ate daily at the Governor's house, from the balcony of which he could easily examine the preparations which they might make. Though it seemed as if they would refuse the protection of the English Flag, yet the *Meuron* Regiment had permission to go, and the Dutch Governor himself hastened them on; for, as they could not procure ships for their transport, he furnished them with the Company's *chaloupes* at twenty roupies a piece. *Pierre Monneron* also freighted one of these vessels as a transport. Colonel *de Meuron* desired to remove his field-pieces, but they were refused him, seeing that they properly belonged to the Company. The French of this Regiment, when many had finished their leave-taking, demanded to be allowed to remain, observing that they were not engaged save to serve the Company; but they were all forced to depart, on the promise that they would be allowed their furlough immediately after their arrival at *Madras*. A good portion of them now deserted.

Captain *Zuelf*, Adjutant of the Regiment, received orders from the Governor to go to *Galle*, to direct the embarkation of the two companies which he would find there.

Finally, by agreement between Colonel *de Meuron* and the Governor, the sick who were not able to follow, remained in the Dutch Hospital, and were cared for as being yet in the service. At the moment of the departure of this Regiment, the Council passed a resolution to abandon *Galle*, and to defend no other place save *Colombo*. Consequently they recalled all the Artillery and ammunition; and Colonel *Hugues*, who was to be there with one company of the *Wurtemberg* Regiment, was ordered to return. He remained however for two days at *Kaliture*, until the former Regiment had totally embarked.

The Malays, the Artillery, three officers, and the sailors of the corsair vessel *Le Mutin*, who were to be at *Galle*, were also ordered to return to the town.

It was at this particular time that the frigate *L'Heroine*, which had been cruising before this fortress, came and anchored opposite *Barbarin*; and some armed sailors, coming ashore, caused much terror, taking provisions, and knocking down coconut and palm trees to take the fruits. The officer who commanded them, ordered the postmaster, who was an invalid corporal of the garrison of *Kaliture*, to keep beef and wood ready for the morrow, which he promised to pay for. He then returned to his vessel. This corporal promised all, but he gave information of it to the Commandant of *Kaliture*, and sent on to him three English sailors who had remained on shore. These were sent to the Governor of *Colombo*, who had them put in prison, together with a deserter from *Trinquemalaye*, who had arrived from *Jaffna*.

They had already placed at *Bentote*, beyond *Barbarin*, a company of Malays, commanded by Lieutenant *Driberg*, to guard the entrance of the river and the sea-shore, and one at *Pantre*, on this side of *Kaliture*, for the same purpose, under the command of Lieutenant *Vogle*.

As soon as they were at *Bentote*, an order was despatched to this officer to betake himself without delay to *Barbarin*, to oppose the landing of the enemy. He was to have with him a company of Singhalese. At night, they lay in ambush with the Malays behind one of the Company's houses, situated hard by the landing-place and behind a neighbouring magazine. The Singhalese, as natives of the country, lay under the coconut trees.

The English did not fail to come in the morning, according to their promise. They had four *chaloupes* and one boat to take the meat and the wood which they had demanded of the postholder. They came on shore, armed and commanded by Marine officers. Scarcely were they landed, when the Malays, impatient to fight them, fired and advanced on them. The English, surprised at this reception, threw themselves precipitately into their canoes, and defended themselves by firing at random. A Lieutenant of the Frigate and several sailors were killed, and many wounded. The Malays, having thrown themselves into the sea, captured a canoe and several muskets and sabres. The whole were sent to *Colombo*, and the value of the articles was divided among the captors. Three Malays only, of whom one was a sergeant, were killed, and some of these and of the Singhalese wounded. These last also bore themselves very bravely. This little affair showed the enemy, that the Indians of the Dutch Company's Service were determined to defend themselves well. This was also the only time that they attempted a landing.

(To be continued.)

DAYS OF OLD IN CEYLON.

(From the "Ceylon Government Gazette.")

(Reprinted from the "Colombo Journal" of 1833.)

In obedience to instructions from the Right Honble the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Honble the Governor is pleased to direct, that the following extracts of two despatches, dated May 1826, and March 1832, be published for general information.

By His Excellency's command,

Chief Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December, 31, 1832.

P. ANSTRUTHER,
Dep. Sec. to Govt.

Extract of a despatch from the Right Honble the Secretary of State, dated May, 1826.

"The Secretary of State cannot send any satisfactory or conclusive answers to any communications

which may be addressed to him, unless such communications are made known to the Governor in the first instance, in order that he may be enabled to offer such explanations as the case may admit.

In all cases where this Regulation has not been complied with, there will be no other alternative but to send such communications back to the colony; with a view to the Governor having an opportunity of reporting upon them; until he has done which, the answers must be postponed.

In promulgating this Regulation to the inhabitants, you will, however explain to them, that it is by no means intended to debar any person from sending any complaints he may think proper direct to the Secretary of State, but to apprize the inhabitants of the course which such complaints must take before an answer can be given; still less will there be any objection to their apprizing the Secretary of State of any communications which they may have presented to the Governor for the purpose of being transmitted home, or to their forwarding duplicates of them to the Secretary of State, the object of this instruction being that in any complaints which may be preferred against the measures of your Government, His Majesty's Ministers may have before them, at the same time, any explanations which the Governor may have to offer on the several points to which these complaints may refer."

Extract of a despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, dated 3rd March 1832.

"It is by no means my desire to preclude, or even to discourage, the free resort of all His Majesty's subjects to the highest authority in the state, for the redress of any grievances under which they may deem themselves to labour, provided they pursue the course of communication, which justice, and fairness to all parties concerned, as well as convenience and regularity in the despatch of public business, render it necessary to prescribe.

"The Governors of His Majesty's colonies are the authorities to which any of His Majesty's subjects, being in those colonies, should have recourse, in the first instance, for the correction of any evils, under which they may conceive themselves to suffer. If the Governors are merely made the medium for transmitting documents to the Secretary of State, one of their most important functions, and the practical utility of their offices, are altogether superseded. It is their duty to receive with attention all representations properly and respectfully addressed to them; and to take such decisions upon them as may appear to the best of their judgment to be just; or if the matter be, from its nature, or from its importance, such as they do not feel themselves authorised to decide upon, to refer it, with their opinion and report, to the Secretary of State. If, on the other hand, although they feel themselves warranted in proceeding to a decision on their own judgment, their decision is not satisfactory to the parties concerned, it is their duty to receive the remonstrances, which shall be respectfully addressed to them by those parties, and, if requested to do so, to transmit them to this office, always, however, accompanied by their opinion and report. If the parties should be desirous, for additional security, to transmit to this office duplicates of the communications which they may have made to the Governor, they are, of course, at liberty to do so, though it would seem to be superfluous precaution, and one which is not unattended with inconvenience. But they should understand that the subject of such duplicate papers will not be taken into consideration until the originals shall have been received from the Governor, accompanied by his report, or until such a period

of time shall have elapsed, as shall have afforded to the Governor an ample opportunity of considering and transmitting them. It must also be understood that, should the letters transmitting the duplicates, contain any comments upon the subject matter of them, or anything beyond a list of the papers enclosed, it will be necessary, with whatever reluctance, to delay the consideration of the whole, until the additional matter shall have been referred back to the Governor for his report.

The method, which has been frequently adopted by memorialists to the Government of addressing their memorials direct to this office, and only sending copies of them to the Governor on the eve of the departure of a vessel sailing for England, is obviously calculated, if it were permitted to have any effect, to preclude the Governor's exercise of his proper functions. There can be no occasion to make any reference to the Secretary of State, until it shall have been ascertained that the Governor is unable or unwilling, or slow to take the measures desired by the memorialists, or to forward, if necessary, their representations.

True Extracts.

P. ANSTRUTHER,

Dep. Sec. to

THE RIGHT HONBLE THE GOVERNOR is pleased to give notice that GRANTS OF LAND will in future be made to Natives without restriction as to extent, provided that the applicant shall in all cases give satisfactory proof that he is possessed of the means of bringing the land into progressive cultivation. It is however to be understood that the neglect of the grantee to execute this purpose within such time as may be mutually agreed upon, will subject the Grantee to the forfeiture of a part or the whole of his Grant according to the degree of omission. The fact of non-cultivation to be decided by a Jury as provided for in the Grant.

By His Excellency's Command,

Chief Secretary's Office, (Signed) P. ANSTRUTHER,
Colombo, 28th December 1832. Dep. Secretary.

REPORT ON THE CANAL FROM ELLEHARA NEAR MAITELLE TO MINNERY AND THENCE TO GANTALAWA NEAR TRINCOMALIE.

BY MESSRS. ADAMS, CHURCHILL AND BAILEY.

(Continued from page 216.)

The artificial bund by which it is retained, is a mile and a quarter in length, about 50 feet in height, with a base of from 150 to 200 feet. Its inner side is faced, the whole way, with loose boulders, to protect the embankment from the action of the water. Two stone sluices or aqueducts, at different sites and levels, each with two watercourses, separated from one another by a stone partition, are constructed underneath the bund; and the streams they supply, uniting at a short distance, flow for 12 miles into Tamblegam Bay, which is close to the harbour of Trincomalie. The high road to that Port from Kandy, runs by Kandelly, rendering the tank easily accessible; by Tamblegam Bay it is 21 miles, by the high road 25, from Trincomalie. With the exception of the sluices, the bund may be pronounced in a perfect state. The immense stones that formed the upper sluice have fallen in, nevertheless, the water percolates through them, and affords an ample stream for the greater part of the year, but in the dry season it sinks below the level of the outlet.

The lower sluice is about 12 feet below the surface of the water, when the upper one ceases to run. It has never been uncovered, and on the whole may be said to be in order, excepting that part of the water escapes out of the side close to the lower end of the watercourse. The stream is always full, however, and the sluice no doubt will perform its part for many years to come.

There are two other sources of contribution to the main Tamblegam stream or river; one proceeding from the small tank of Winderasen, two miles to the north of Kandelly, and about three square miles in extent, which affords, for more than half the year, no inconsiderable supply, and the other from the spill-water or waste weir of Kandelly, which never the water rises excessively in the height of the rainy season.

But the reason, above all, why Kandelly offers greater advantages than any other tank, is, that, whereas population is wanting in the vicinity of almost all large Paddy fields, worked by a considerable number of natives, are to be found on the banks of the Tamblegam river. The only experiment, therefore, needed is the improvement and extension of what now exists as a nucleus.

There are two settlements at present earning their maintenance by the help of the water of the tank: Kandelly village is close to the bank, and Tamblegam village is situated on the Bay of that name. The former is but 25 ammunams or 50 acres in extent, with about 30 families, and is almost wholly private property. The latter is 2,500 ammunams or 5,000 acres, all cleared and ready for planting, with a rich soil returning fifteen-fold; and the population is between 300 and 400 families. More than one-tenth of the area is scarcely ever under cultivation at the same time. Yet with these fine fields close at hand, Trincomalie has been known to be half starved at times, for want of rice. On one occasion, within the last two years, when there was a great deficiency in the town, the authorities proceeded out of necessity to seize by force all the grain to be found in the neighbouring villages; giving however, ample remuneration to the owners.

The point to which I would beg particular attention is, that out of these 2,500 ammunams, 1,000 are declared by the Wannia to be the property of the Crown. At one time or another they have all been cultivated, though now they are rarely touched. If offered for sale, I am assured the land would not fetch 15s per acre, even if purchasers could be found to invest, the population being too scanty for an increase of cultivation. But I am persuaded, that if the Government would undertake to divide the area into allotments of two ammunams each, which is about the extent that one man and his family will be able to work, allow them to be held for three succeeding years after the first (which should be rent free) on the small tax of a tithe of the produce, and at the expiration of that period sell them on regular titles, with the right of pre-emption to the then occupants, no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining the necessary amount of population. Should it, however, be found that the people of these parts, reduced as they are to the extreme of poverty, are not in a position to avail themselves of such an offer on the part of Government, being without the means of purchasing buffaloes, or implements of husbandry, or of providing themselves with food during the first year of occupation, I would respectfully suggest the proposition, that advances of £1,350 confined to 100 men or families, might be made for these purposes, to be repaid to Government, in four years in the manner detailed in Appendix.

If this scheme were to answer, a second batch of 100 might be, in like manner, accommodated, till the whole 1,000 ammunams, sustaining 500 families, were under cultivation.

No outlay beyond the advances would be required, for the bund and sluices of the tank need no repair. Sufficient water flows at present from them for the irrigation of 1,250 ammunams, allowing, according to Col. Cotton's estimate, 7,500 cubic yards for the irrigation of each acre, and taking the tank at its

smallest extent, of about three square miles, with an average available depth of six feet.

The only requirement is, the clearing of the jungle over the sluices, and this should be done forthwith, whatever the future intentions of Government may be with regard to Kandelly. Nothing but the gradual expansion of the roots of the trees, aided by the force of running water, could have availed to displace the huge stones of the sluice. Those which capped the lower ends of the watercourses are, from their dimensions, nearly six tons each in weight; one is spilt, and the other thrown down.

Looking beyond the time when these Crown fields may be brought into cultivation, in the manner described, there is no reason why nearly the whole of the land bordering on the Tamblegam river, should not ultimately be laid out, sold, and turned to similar account; to the extent of half a mile on each side, and for the whole distance from the Tank to Tamblegam, constituting an area of between 3,000 and 4,000 ammunams. In the event, however, of Government considering it worth while at any future period, to carry this idea into practice, it will be essential to husband the supply of water in the tank, and regulate its discharge. Since more than treble the quantity would then be required, none should be permitted, as now, to run to waste, in the wet season. But, for this purpose, new sluices would be necessary. The old sluices are defective, and to repair them would be expensive and troublesome in the extreme. The very removal or shifting of the enormous stones would be of itself a work of the severest labour and considerable time. I should, therefore, be disposed to recommend the adoption of new sites for the sluices, allowing, till their completion, those now in operation to perform what services they could. The coffer dams would involve less trouble in their construction, and instead of stone watercourses, it would be preferable to substitute large cast iron pipes, of about three feet diameter. Such might be laid without difficulty, and the trees would not injure them. They should be furnished with sluice doors at each end, and a competent person should be appointed to have them in charge.

I cannot conclude this latter without stating, that I was accompanied at Kandelly and Tamblegam, by Mr. Birch, without whose intelligent aid and knowledge of the country and language, I should have been at a loss to pursue any inquiry into the subject of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

The Commanding
Royal Engineer,
Colombo.

Your most obedient Servant,
CHAS. SIM,
Capt. Royal Engineer.

APPENDIX.

Advances to be made by Government.

Food for 100 families for one year at 6 ammunams each, being at the rate of 12 Bushels for 4 people=600 Ammunams at 15s.	450
100 Pairs of Buffaloes at £6 per pair	600
200 Ammunams of seed Paddy at 15s.	150
Cost of laying out the allotments, implements, &c.	150
	£1,350

Recoveries.

First year—nothing	Am:
Second year—One-tenth of 30 Ammunams	3
Buffaloe hire	2
Repayment of one-third grain advanced, with interest of 50 per cent., which is the custom of the country, say	3
	8
Third year	Do. 8
Fourth do.	Do. 8
	24 at

15s. = £18. + 100 = £1800,

By the fourth year, Government would be repaid the grain advanced, as well as the cost of the Buffaloes. The margin of £450 will be ample to cover all contingencies, such as the death of buffaloes, deficiency of crop as estimated, &c.

Probable income to settlers from two Ammunams.

First year	{ It is supposed the Ammunam will produce 7½ fold only, 2 Ammunams will therefore return 15 Ams. at 15s. £11 5 0 Am.
Second year	
	{ 2 Ammunams will return 30 Deduct for Govt: 8 for seed Paddy next year 2 ————— 10 20 Ammunams at 15s. 15 0 0 Do. Do.
Third year and Fourth year	} (To be continued.)

THE REVIEWER.

The appearance of the pamphlet* issued by the Decimal Association at this juncture is significant, and perhaps the more so that it adduces no new arguments in favour of the change, but is content with a concise restatement of notorious facts. Perhaps the most striking and practical fact is that which points to the time and labour wasted at school under the old system. The only practical difficulty in the way of a change is want of concurrence of opinion as to the most suitable unit. The probabilities are in favour of the adoption of the metrical system of weights and measures and decimal coinage based on the present sovereign with the 2s. piece or florin divided into 100 cents or farthings. According to the table in Appendix V., England and its great dependencies, India and Australia, are about the only countries without a decimal system of coinage. Advance Australia and show the way.

* Decimal Coinage, Weights and Measures Popularly Explained by Sir Guiford Molesworth, K.C.I.E., Consulting Engineer of the Government of India for State Railways, and Mr. J. Emerson Dowson, M. Inst. C.E. Revised and Issued by the Decimal Association, Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E.C. (Kenric B. Murray, Secretary.) 1890. Price Sixpence.

Advertisements.

GUIDE TO COLOMBO, With a Map. To which is added a Compendium of Useful Information for the Traveller and Resident. By G. J. A. SKERN. Second Edition. R1.50; postage 5c.

The Buried Cities of Ceylon.

A GUIDEBOOK to Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, with chapters on Dambulla, Kalawewa, Mihintale and Sigiri, with Lithographed Plan of Anuradapura. By S. M. BURROWS, M.A., Oxon., Ceylon Civil Service. Price: Stiff Paper Cover R2, Boards R2.50; postage 8c. Ceylon Observer Office.