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[In an early issue will be given a tale entitled "A Legend of Rangala," by Alfred H. Duncan.—ED. L. R.]

LANGUAGE OF THE VEDDAS OF • CEYLON.

By A. J. W., BATTICALOA.

(Continued from page 219.)

From specimens alive of the language that is now spoken by the Veddas, we are to form our judgment on the nature and construction thereof, and the affinity which the three dialects, in their primitive rude and unpolished state, bear to the existing grammatically elaborated languages of Sanscrit, Pali and Elu. Any comparison of the latter with the former will only point out the difference there naturally exists between rusticity and refinement. Viewing with a grammatical eye the colloquial language of the Veddas, I have to observe to the reader, the general order and arrangement of words in a phrase or its construction is analogical to the Sinhalese language, which, as it is spoken, is a compound derivative of the three dialects in question. In proof hereof, I adduce the following Vedi phrases:—

| | | | |
|-------|--|----------|---|
| Vedi. | Topi | kottaka | mitagachchannei? |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | or |
| | Topi | kobbada | mitagachchannei? |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Sin. | Topi | kotanada | yanne? |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | or |
| | Topi | koibada | yanne? |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Eng. | Where are you going? | | |
| | 2 | 3 | 1 3 |
| Vedi. | Man | gama | ellata mitagachehanemeyi. |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 4 |
| Sin. | Man | or mama | gedara dihavatai yanne. |
| | 1 | 1 | 2 3 4 |
| Eng. | I am going towards home (and nowhere else) | | |
| | 14 | 4 | 3 2 |
| Vedi. | Depatullan | pojjak | metta ennawaro. |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 4 |
| Sin. | Bat | tikak | mehata or metanata ennawaro or ennawarella. |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 3 4 |
| | | | 4 |
| Eng. | Bring here little rice. | | |
| | 4 | 3 | 2 1 |
| Vedi. | Otta | hipaga | boma boma kata metapallot mai |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 6 7 |
| | | | 8 |
| | | | 9 |
| | | | 10 |
| | | | 11 |
| | | | 12 |
| | ichata—kikkige | botun. | |
| | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Sin. | Otna | hipagana | bohoma bohoma kata— |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 4 5 |

metakan deduwot mage poroketiya ussa tope
6 6 7 8 9 11-12
isata kotan bellige kollo.
13 10 14 15

Eng. If you sit on your haunches there and talk
6 2 1 6
too much impertinently, I will lift up my
3 4 6 9 7
hatchet and cut your head (strike your head)
8 10 11-12 13
you bitches' sons!
14 15

Without multiplying instances any further, I subjoin a glossary of Vedda words, specimens of the three forms of colloquy of the Veddas, and three lullabies of the most ancient pattern in use, which disclose to us most ancient words of the language to be philologized by erudities in the primitive dialects of the hill tribes of Central India.

Glossary of words in use amongst the Rock or Jungle Veddas:—

| English. | English. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Elephant ...Mola | Mongoose ...Botadaruwa |
| | Do female...Botadaruwee |
| | Monkey ...Botakuna |
| | Wandego |
| Elk ... | Pole-cat ...Urulanuwa |
| | Squirrel (large) Rukkasa |
| | Do female...Rukkasee |
| | Porcupine ...Loma |
| Do female...Eliwakkee | Do female...Lomee |
| | Squirrel (small) Irukata |
| Buck ...Hulijju | Do female...Irukatee |
| | Wild-cat .. Etika |
| | Jackal ...Narikowa |
| Do female...Hulijjee | Peacock ...Mottala |
| | Cheetah ...Polechcha |
| | Badahandaya |
| Boar... ..Dola | Do female...Polechchee |
| | Badahandee |
| Sow ...Dolee | Alligator ...Geta Munda |
| | Geta Muda |
| Bullock ...Gow | Man ...Mina |
| | Woman ...Genee (Greek |
| | gunee) |
| Cow... ..Gawee | Old man ...Buda (Hin- |
| | dustanee) |
| | Old woman...Budee (Hin- |
| | dustanee) |
| Bear ...Walu | Hotee |
| | Young man Kekula |
| Do female...Welinee | Maid ...Kekulee |
| | Boy ...Peta |
| Wild buffalo Walmanna | Girl ...Petee |
| Do female...Walmaunee | Infant ...Pettulla |
| Domesticated | Father ...Piya |
| female ...Gammanee | Mother ...Mo |
| Do male ...Gammanna | Mowee |
| Miminna ...Lemba | Axe ...Morankechcha |
| Do female...Lembee | ...Poropechcha |
| Red deer ...Lamba | Sky ...Dewula |
| Do female...Lambe | Sun ...Radagana |
| Wild cock...Leluma | Mannai |
| | Ekabota |
| Do hen...Lelumee | Moon ...Handu |
| | Star ...Tarakai |
| | Water ...Diya jala |
| Iguana ...Munda | Diya gengula |
| Do female...Mundee | |

Words peculiar to Tala-Veddas (who live in glades or extensive plateaus).

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Elephant ...Mahagaya | Fire ...Gini |
| Elk ...Gona | Agini |
| Deer ...Muwa | Wind ...Hulan |
| Bullock ...Gawa | Wataya |
| Buffalo ...Meewa | Earth ...Patawiya |
| Do.(she)...Mee-den | Butala |
| Boar ...Ura | Sky ...Ahas |
| Sow ...Eree | Akas |
| Red-deer ...Aluwa | Sun ...Suriya |
| Iguana ...Goya | Iru |
| Rat ...Aduwa | Moon ...Handa |
| Miya | Chandra |
| Do female ...Aduwee | Star ...Iaru |
| Jackal ...Hiwalu | Red color ...Lepe |
| Nari | Ratpe |
| Dog ...Kukka | Ratu |
| Bitch ...Kikkee | Black ...Kalu |
| Cat ...Bilalaya | Kalupe |
| She Cat ...Billee | White ...Kiripe |
| Cheetah ...Diya | Hudupe |
| Do female ...Dee den | Green ...Kolape |
| Father ...Piya | Blue ...Nilpe |
| Mother ...Mo | Ahaspe |
| Mowee | Beef ...Geri mas |
| Mow | Monkey flesh Wanduru mas |
| Axe ...Poroketya | Deer flesh ...Muwa mas |
| Water ...Diya Jala | Crow flesh ...Kaudum mas |

Personal pronouns are of two forms—Rock-Veddas:—

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| I ..Man botai | I ..Man or Mam |
| Thou ..To-botai | Thou ..To |
| He ..E-botai | He ..Ekai |
| We ..Api-botun | We ..Api |
| You ..Topi-botun | You ..Topi |
| They ..E-botun | They ..Ewun. |

Possessive Adjective Pronouns:—

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Mine ..Mai | What? ..Munnada |
| Mage | Moka |
| Thine ..Taye | Which? ..Koi ekada |
| His ..Uge | Koka |
| Her ..Ege | Who? ..Kowda |
| Our ..Apage | When? ..Kawara |
| Api-ettanne | Kawada |
| Yours ..Topei | Koi dina |
| Topi-ettannai | Where? ..Kobbada |
| Theirs ..Unne | Kottaka |
| E-ettanne | Here ..Mettaka |
| E-botunne | There ..Attaka |
| That man's ..Ara botage | There and |
| This man's ..Me botage | Here ..Ottai mettai. |
| Which one? ..Muna kada | |
| Muna botada | |

The Mudubada or Sea-coast and Tala-Veddas' colloquy is nearly the same. The Sea-coast Veddas' colloquy is of a quicker and more concise articulation than either the Rock or the Tala Veddas.

There is great difficulty in tracing the origin of the colloquy of the Rock Veddas, most words not carrying analogy to Pali, Sanscrit or Elu.

Bota is Hindustanee, derived from Beta equal to Petiya or Peta or Kolla of the Sinhalese.

Specimens of colloquy of the Rock Veddas:—

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Mai loba Hura | My dear Hura.* |
| Mai loba nenai | My dear cousin (female) |
| Mai loba masinai | My dear cousin (male) |
| Mai akka | My elder sister |
| Mai naga | My younger sister |

* Hura. This word seems to have been adopted by the Veddas in the most primitive period of their history, proving to us that distinction of castes was not known amongst them either in the primitive, or in the modern period, of their history. This fact helps to date their immigration into the Island to have taken place prior to the invention of castes by the

Mai loba Hura topa kottaka mitagachchannei? My dear Hura, where are you going? (literally change place.)

Man gama ellata mitagachchanne meyi or mitgannemeyi.

I am going towards home (and no where else). Hure, api gama ellatta mitagachchanne meyi.

Hura, we are going towards home (and no where else).

Mai badagala indinne berimai. I am hungry. (I cannot bear the fiery sensation of my belly.)

Depatullan pojjak dipawu.

Give out a little boiled rice (bat).

Badagala indinne berimai, wewulannemeyi

I cannot bear feverish sensation, I am trembling.

Vidanakarayata kela erapawa mata awesadak karo. Send word to the Vidan to administer a medicine to me.

Wechcha watannai.

It rains (rain falls).

Dewula boma boma gorapi.

The sky thundered very much.

Wechcha boma boma hala elapi or watapi.

Rain has fallen very heavily. (The sky has dropped or caused to fall very much rain.)

Wechcha boma boma hala eladdin man mettaka wetiragu nidigatten ettatat mekota mai poropechcha enanchcha palago.

When it rained heavily I lay down here and slept: in the meantime, this fellow fled away, taking my hatchet.

Kataragama Deiya Chakki, poropechcha man dekhewat kodoi, topi munnada me musa palanne.

God Kataragama (Skanda) is witness. I have not even seen the hatchet, what lies are these that you utter? (burst open).

Man kane me-lak edapalannai gachchannemeyi

I am going to cut down (a beehive) copse-honey.

Ape dekaiyak kobbada mitagachchapo.

Two of our party have gone out somewhere.

Dunnugaha karewaturaga attakin mitagachchape-man dekhem.

I saw them go in there with the bow strung in the shoulder.

Dunugaha karewaturaga nikemma mitagachcho.

Ariyan-Brahmans of India. Amongst the Veddas, the term "Hura," seems to have been adopted to convey the highest degree of respect, in their form of address to a second person. The etymological meaning of "Hura" conveys identity of blood descent.

In the primitive days of India, that is prior to the invention of caste distinction, there was no superiority of blood-descent nor was it recognized as a distinction of rank or the standing of one. Equality of blood descent was considered as the highest honor entertainable of one: whilst inequality of blood descent was looked upon with the same spirit of detestation, as low caste, as at present. Equality of blood descent both on the side of the father and mother, of the same stock or clan, was recognized as the highest honor, which in Sanscrit, is expressed by the term *Aurasa*, and in Sinhalese *Ureda*, meaning "legitimately born of the same stock, paternally and maternally," whilst, one, illegitimately born, *i. e.*, from union of unequal, clan-blood, was recognized under the degrading appellation of "chandala" (love-broken), *i. e.*, "a low hybrid born man," or "an outcast," not meriting love or affection, hence honor.

The western Ariyan word "Sir" seems to bear great affinity with the Eastern Ariyan "Sri," derived from the most primitive root, "Hura," of the ancient Indian hill tribes or Veddas. *Hura*, *Sura*, *Sure Hure*, *Suri*, modified into *Sri*, and adopted by the Western Ariyans as, "Sir," "Noble" or "Excellent." The address to the late Sir Henry Ward by an old Vedda was, *Hudu Hure*, "White Noble," or "His Excellency of the white race." There is no other word than this in Vedi language, to convey idea of "Nobility" or "Excellency."

They went away empty-handed, having strung the bow on the shoulder.

Gawarek uchcha mitagachcho.

They went on carrying an elk.

Eka badahandaya edapala ekek-uchcha mitagachcho.

It is one killed by a cheetah—they went away carrying it on.

Velangaha bada bajja hondu bariyek uchcha mitagachcho.

They carried a boar shot down with the arrow.

Mettaka mitagupawu.

Come here.

Nuga malrusiva dakhina kalma dunugaha karewaturaga mitagachcha. Kala loba gawarek dekhem.

I went on with the bow strung on my shoulder until the beams of the sun gleamed and saw a fine elk.

Welangaha bada bajja hitikala kobbado mitagachchapo.

When I hit it in the belly, with the arrow, it got away somewhere.

Beluwa ettakama or ettama edapeligo indinnai dekhem.

On looking for it, I found it lying stretched in the very same place.

To bota mettu hipaga indinne gamata tadakarapawu.

You fellow (young man) are sitting down here—run home.

E kodoi kobbabo mitagapawu.

Or go away anywhere else.

Otta hipaga topi munnada metapallanne!

Sitting on the haunches there what are you chatting on!

Otta hipaga mokat metapallot ata uchcha gan tata.

Sitting on your haunches there, if you talk anything impertinently, I will lift my hand and strike you.

Mata mitagachchanna berimai—mettama hipaganne meyi.

I cannot go—I will sit on my haunches, in this very place.

Ottai mettai mibagannai api ettanda berimai.

We cannot move about there and here.

Otta hipaga boma boma kata metapallot mai morankechcha enanchcha kotan topi botunne ichata—kikkige botun.

If you sit on your haunches there and talk too much impertinently, I will lift up my hatchet and cut you on your head, you bitches' sons.

Colloquy of Tala (glade) Veddas.

Indinnama be, wataga radagapi,—ai-amma—ai-amma.

I cannot be (I cannot bear) I feel pain in my back-bone, oh! mother—oh! mother.

Re mejjama bopata radagapi—diyakatak bonna kode.

At midnight my chest gave a burning sensation. I had not a mouthful of water to drink.

Re-mejja mai gamata kobo awe hora ganna kela.

Midnight, someone came to rob my house.

Diya pojjak genewee kela kela heti lala indinnemeyi.

I am wearied having often and often ordered to fetch up little water.

Diya pojjak apa meja kodoi.

We have not a drop of water with us.

Diya pojjak ma-ella kodoi.

I have not a drop of water with me.

Topa enna man yannemeyi.

By all means, I shall go taking you with me.

Mai kekula—enna randa randa kotabel in tindu.

wennema kodoi-labu kudikkuyata diya pojjak lagana late gagama kotalama belin nimak kode.

Taking with me my young men, I tried trudging on, resting at intervals. I find there is no end (of my journey). Having put little water into my calabash, and applying the same to my mouth, I tried trudging again, there is no end of it.

Disakaraya apa ella awu-kata mokabo wego nedanei.

The Disawa (Ratemahatmaya) is come amongst us—don't know what will result and to whom.

Disakaraya apita ravanna epa.

Ratemahatmaya, do not be provoked with us:

Topenna nam munada?

What are your names?

Meki mai Walli—meke mai Etanee—meki mai Kalu—meki mai Handunee—ara Sellee—e mai Lamee.

This is my (daughter) Wally—this is my Etanee—this is my Kalu—this is my Handunee—that is Sellee and that Lamee.

Itin man kata kenne?

Now then to whom shall I complain?

Karan pojjak genennai kelai awe—hudu pora netta nedennai kennan.

I came to fetch up little salt—they say they will not give without white slips (rupees).

Man munada karan?

What shall I do?

Mai amma ella giyen badata lannamunat nudunnar.

I went to my mother to fill my belly—nothing was given.

Mai nena ella giyen bada pojjak nimala ewapu.

I went to my cousin—she sent me away having appeased my belly, little.

Colloquy of the Mudubada or Sea Coast Veddas.

Topa kota yane?

Where are you going?

Tope nam moka?

What is your name? or what is thy name?

Api gama ella yane.

We are going towards home.

Wechcha ennan wigata api gan ella yanen.

Rain is coming—we go quickly to the house.

Tope gangoda nama moka?

What is the name of your village?

Apa gangoda nama Kaluvankeni.

The name of our village is Kaluwankeni.

Topava kata api danne kodi—or topana kata apita nedanei.

We do not know your language or we do not understand your language.

Topi Madakalapu kimata yanne?

For what purpose are you going to Batticaloa?

Topi Madakalapu kimata awe?

For what purpose have you come to Batticaloa?

Apita kema hani bomai: bata kodihoya awe.

Food is very scarce to us—no rice—came in search of it.

Meda ape hen okka merigo, wechcha nettata.

This season of the year, all our chenas have failed from scarcity of rain.

Iringu—kurakkan kodi—goya miminna kodi—kudu mechchan kodi—kannamokat kodi—ape peawu miyattmoka karau.

No Indian corn—nor kurakkan—no iguana and miminna—no fish—nothing to eat—our young ones shall die—what is to be done!

Meda topi apa bada rekapawu.

This year, you protect our bellies.

Gamata tadakarapawu pechcha—wechcha watanai.

Boy run home—rain is falling.

(To be concluded.)

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.]

(Continued from page 236.)

A quarter of a league further off, in going up towards Grand Pass, was the *Tavel* Company.

On the road there was a small house, occupied by an invalid Corporal, appointed to examine those who passed the river. He had with him five Singhalese fishermen in charge of ferry-boats, who ran away on the arrival of the detachment.

The officers placed themselves on the verandah of the Postholder's house, and the soldiers under the trees facing the road. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, Major *Vaugine* received orders to return to the Fort with one company of Grenadiers and one of Malays. He remitted to Captain *Legrevisse* a copy of his instructions, and thereupon gave up this position, and requested Captain *Mittemann* to take up the command of his company. He went afterwards to *Mutuaal*, where he was apprised the enemy would effect a landing.

On the 7th of February, Captain *Legrevisse* received orders to send to the Fort another detachment of Malays to assist at an interment; and the same day they sent him an officer, a serjeant, a corporal and a private of the Artillery, with six pieces of ordnance of four pounders, mounted on marine gun-carriages. They placed them to the right and left of the troops opposite the Pass. They constructed platforms, with branches of coconut trees and sand, and a hut of coconut branches to deposit the provisions in. *M. Legrevisse* then sent a patrol as far as *Grande Passe*. The serjeant, who commanded it, reported that the English were on the other bank of the river. In fact they perceived, on the night of the 7th or 8th, a great many men on that bank, with fires, seemingly searching for a road to lead them to the mouth of the river.

At daybreak they heard the drums announcing the marching of the enemy; in the forenoon they passed some Sepoys who were coming from the mouth of the river: one part marched in column. The spies gave notice that the enemy were coming from *Nigombo* with artillery.

Captain *Legrevisse* received at the same time the Governor's order not to cross the river, but to stop in the position which he was occupying.

In the afternoon there came four English Officers, who examined the post with spy-glasses; and on the following night, going up the river, they fired six cannon shots across the garden, probably thinking that the troops might be encamped there.

Captain *Winkelmann* of the Wurtemberg Regiment came from his place at *Grande Passe* with a strong detachment, and established a post over a large rock situated hard by the mouth of the river.

Captain *Legrevisse* intended, in case of a retreat, to go up this river again through the gardens, as far as the country-seat of *M. Tavel*, and from thence either join the detachment of Captain *Winkelmann*, or betake himself through the wood to *Colombo*, if he could not remain at *Mutuaal*, to which place he had that evening received orders to retire. On the 9th of February, he placed his company at the entrance of the wood which leads to *Colombo*. The Sepoys were closed by, and the company of Malay Cavalry in a garden on the road which leads to *Passe-Betaal*.

The village of *Mutuaal* was abandoned. At five o'clock in the evening, the enemy crossed the river at *Passe-Betaal*. The sous-lieutenant *Deville*, after having fired on them with his artillery, threw his field pieces into the water, and the bombardiers having withdrawn to *Grand Pass*, he went with those who remained there, and rejoined Captain *Legrevisse*.

The order to retire to *Korteboom* came subsequently. Captain *Legrevisse* proceeded thither by a small footpath in the wood, the road being obstructed by fences; he hurried over the road, and past Captain *Mittemann* and his detachment at the entrance of the wood which leads to *Mutuaal*.

Captain *Winkelmann* was ordered to withdraw from *Grand Pass*, where he had been turned by the enemy. Lieutenants *Bockmann* and *Vogle* advised him to go to the carvate breuque, and in case they should hear the report of cannon from the *Mutuaal* coast, to re-enter the Fort after having communicated the above mentioned order to Captain *Mittemann*.

On the 11th, the soldiers being without victuals, settled themselves in some deserted huts, and Captain *Legrevisse* took the command of Captain *Mittemann*, who had received through Major *Prosalot* the order of the Governor to retire quickly from thence.

At noon, an English Cutter came very close to land to examine and sound the bay; the Fort allowed her to approach without firing a single cannon-shot. Captain *Legrevisse* then made his troops re-enter the wood to save them from the broadside of the ship, which would not have lost the opportunity of sending it to them. After having tacked about for some hours, she resumed her position, at a distance.

Captain *Mittemann* returned in the afternoon, with orders to retire into *Malabar Street*. He placed his detachment there in a garden surrounded by walls, and within a little distance of *Korteboom*. Captain *Legrevisse* placed his detachment so as to guard the street, below which was the sea, as well as the foot-path to *Grand Pass*. A soldier of his company, whom they had reproached with having quitted his post, determined either to punish himself or to clear himself from the imputation, blew out his brains.

An English Frigate having approached the Dutch vessels which were in the harbour, Messieurs *Houline*, *Pabst*, and *Kuyper*, officers of Artillery, fired up n her, and were instantly put into the *Mait* Guard, for having done so without the Governor's order.

A Quarter-Master, coming from *Passe-Betaal* to *Grand Pass*, assured Captain *Legrevisse* that the English had all crossed the river, that they were in the garden of the Minister *Giffening*, and that they would repair that very evening to *Mutuaal*.

On the 12th, at three o'clock in the morning, Monsieur *Raymond*, late Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment of *Luxembourg*, came voluntarily to *Colombo* with two Malay companies to join *Legrevisse*. The latter took advantage of this reinforcement to make a sortie.

Having effected an entrance into the wood, he took a cross path; but he had hardly made a few steps when they cried to him "*Ver daw?*"* (who comes there?); and although he answered "*freind*" † (friend,) he received, on advancing, a discharge of musketry, which killed two men of his company and many of those of the Malays; he had besides many wounded, and amongst others Monsieur *Raymond* himself, who had the bone of his right

* *Qu? Wie's daar?*

† *Qu? Vriend.*

thigh broken. On answering, the fire ceased, and he sent to reconnoitre immediately, and could discover nothing.

In the meantime, a portion of his company and the Malays were to repair to *Mutuaal* along the sea-shore. Soon after, he heard from the captured, who were with the enemy, that they would be there in great numbers. He instantly betook himself thither with the rest of his troops; but the enemy who had already hastened thither, fired case-shot with field-pieces across the wood, and Captain *Mittemann* having refused to support them, could not even turn the enemy fairly into the road. As they had seized upon the communications with *Grande Passe* with superior forces, this brave officer was forced to retire across *Korteboom*, where Captain *Mittemann* then was. The position of the latter was unfavourable; he turned away from the sea, and presented his left flank towards the wood, and gave M. *Legrevisse* the order to withdraw, he remaining alone in this position. M. *Legrevisse* effecting his retreat through the wood, perceived towards his right a detachment of Malays and of the Wurtemberg Regiment, who were coming from *Carvate Breuque*, and who falling in with him on the Colombo road, took up a position towards the right. At the same instant the enemy debouched across the road, and vigorously attacked the troops of these two Captains, who were repulsed and obliged to retreat as far as the Kayman's Gate, having been abandoned by the Sepoys. They were very glad when the enemy satisfied themselves by taking up their station at *Korteboom*. Such was the only little serious affair which took place before the reduction of Colombo. M. *Legrevisse* found at the Kayman's Gate, placed under his orders, and to resist the enemy, should they approach, three companies of the National Battalion, the Grenadiers, the companies of Captain *Thirback* and Captain *Hoyer*, as well as a detachment of Artillery. He stationed these troops at all the avenues, and his own detachment towards the sea-shore in an old battery of the Portuguese, although it was partly demolished. Shortly afterwards, Lieutenant Colonel *Cheder* came to take command of these troops. The enemy however assembled in great force at *Korteboom* within their sight.

At noon, Captain *Legrevisse* received orders to re-enter the Fort with his detachment, and the rest of the troops successively received the same order. They then shut the Kayman's Gate, and placed a Malay Guard there.

On the 13th, all the gates of the Fort were shut, and the bridges raised. The *Legrevisse* Company were entrusted with orders to keep the ravelin of the Delft Gate.

Myn Heer *Stuysken*, Director of Surat, having returned to Colombo, for the benefit of his health, wrote to Colonel *Stuart*, the Commander of the English Army, for permission to come out of the Fort with his family. It was accorded to him, and he withdrew into a country-seat on the *Grande Passe* road. Colonel *Stuart* offered the like permission at the same time to the ladies and private individuals, who might desire to take advantage of it.

The enemy came then to take up their post in Malabar Street, opposite the old Portuguese Battery at *Volsendanne* at the *Dessavonie*, and beyond the lake.

Captain *Legrevisse* was entrusted with the defence of the barrier of the ravelin of the Delft Gate, up to the powder-magazine at the Rotterdam Gate. He had gunners at the barrier, under the command of an officer, as well as at the ravelin, at the *bonnette* of the covered way from the powder-magazine, and in the powder-magazine itself.

On all the batteries, and from within the fortress, port-fires were lighted all night, to ascertain what was occurring on the Esplanade, in the Low Town and in the Roadstead. A strong detachment of Sepoys, under the command of an European Serjeant patrolled the Low Town; and was ordered to go as far as the Kayman's Gate. It went out over a drawbridge communicating between the ravelin and the sally-port of the powder-magazine. On the other side, the English corresponded with each other all night from their ships at *Korteboom*; they having lighted fires along the coast.

On the 14th of February, about an hour after noon, an officer of the enemy (Major *Agneau*)* came to call a parley at the Kayman's Gate. The Governor being informed of it, sent him in a carriage his Adjutant General Major *Prosalot*, who returned together with the English Officer, preceded by an Ensign carrying the parley-flag and by a drummer. A Council was held in the afternoon, and they returned together in the evening. A rumour immediately spread that there was to be a suspension of hostilities for some days. In effect, the gates remained open, and whoever wished might sally out as far as Kayman's Gate. Hence a part of the Moors of the Artillery, and of those whom they intended to form into a battalion, took advantage of the opportunity to desert, under the pretext of going to see their families.

On the 16th of February, at six o'clock in the morning, all the troops, thinking—with reason—that they were to be betrayed, intended to revolt.

Several shots were fired from the Rotterdam Quarter, where there were two companies of the Wurtemberg Regiment. Shots were fired also from many other parts of the Fort, and principally from the barracks of the Water-Gate, where the Malays and the Singalese were stationed. These shots well all directed towards the house of Monsieur *Van Angelbeek*.

At the same time, Captain *Legrevisse*, who had received orders to attend with his company at the Main Guard, received a counter-order, that they were to surrender the fortress to the English; which they effected at 10 o'clock in the morning.

It was thus that the town of Colombo was given up,—the principal fortress of the Island of Ceylon. All the troops were so indignant against the Governor, that if the English Colonel had not sent him a detachment as safe-guard, the firing at his house and also in the interior of the Fort, would not have ceased, and he would certainly have perished.

As for the rest, the Governor himself felt,—too late,—the horror of his treason, and blew out his brains soon after.

The conditions of the Capitulation were that the Garrison should go out with the honours of War, arms and baggage, drums beating, torches lighted, and colours flying; that they should keep their Artillery, which would follow them, and that the officers should be allowed to carry their arms.

Consequently, all the garrison, having assembled on the Amsterdam Esplanade, issued out of the Fort thorough the Delft Gate, and threw down their arms on the Esplanade. All the Gates of the Fort remained open, and the officers had the liberty of re-entering it. The English European soldiers lodged in the barracks, the Sepoys in the streets, the officers under tents and on the verandahs of the houses.

On the morrow, the 17th instant, Colonel *Driberg* conducted all the officers of the Dutch garrison to

* Observe, that this is the same officer who came to parley so opportunely, to win over Colonel *De Meuron* and his Regiment.

the house of Colonel *Stuart*, who was to stay at the Governor's house. The English Colonel warned them that they would have to leave on the 20th for *Madras*; that two ships would be ready for that purpose, the one for National Crops, and the other for the Wurtemberg Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel *Raymond*, who had died during the night, of his wounds, was interred with Military honours.

Major *Hupner* and another Officer of Artillery, were nominated Commissioners for the surrender of arms.

The *Kandians*, to the number of the three or four thousand, assembled on the morning of the 16th at *Grand Pass*, on the right bank of the river. They sent an offer of their services to the English; but Colonel *Stuart* sent a reply that they would not be required by him, and prohibited them from crossing the river.

On the 17th, the Ambassadors of the King of *Kandy* came to the Congratulate the Colonel. The troops carried arms to receive them, and they were saluted by artillery on entering and on going out; but notwithstanding these honours, they complained that they had not been received as they would have been by the Dutch. Colonel *Stuart*, who received them at the Government House, without any particular ceremony, answered that they ought to be contented with it, and that it was according to the English custom. They withdrew little satisfied, and principally at not having received presents.

On the 21st of February the Dutch troops embarked, and set sail at night during the 21st and 22nd. Some days after, they set the Malays to *Tutocorin*, and from thence, by land, as far as *Madras*.

The sailors were taken to Bombay.

(To be concluded.)

BRITISH GUIANA.

BY SIR CHARLES BRUCE, K. C. M. G.

(LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AND COLONIAL SECRETARY.)

(From the "English Illustrated Magazine" for Feb. 1891.)

The imperial adventures of the sixteenth century gave the name of *Guiana* to that part of the continent of South America which lies between the *Orinoco* and the *Amazon*. The inland limits of the territory thus denominated were never definitely fixed, but geographers have assigned to it an area of about 700,000 square miles, almost equal to the combined area of France, Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Italy. From the earliest ages the spirit of romance has anticipated and the genius of commerce has sought to realise the discovery of a city of gold in a land of promise, and the marvellous adventures and narratives of the first conquerors of America created a robust faith in the existence within the limits of *Guiana* of "that great and golden city which the Spaniards called *El Dorado* and the naturals *Manoa*." In the year 1498 *Columbus* reached the mouth of the *Orinoco* and landed on the coast of *Paria*; and within the next three years the main outline of the shores of *Guiana* were traced by Spanish sailors. It was nearly a hundred years later that the settlement of *Guiana* as a commercial and imperial enterprise was designed by Sir *Walter Raleigh*, and his scheme of colonization brought before his countrymen.

It was on the 6th of February, 1595, that Sir *Walter Raleigh*, having "many yeares since had knowledge by relation of that mighty, rich and beautiful Empire of *Guiana*," departed from England, and on his return in the same year he published his *Discoverie of the Golden Empire of Guiana*. A passage in the play of *Othello* and many references in contemporary works prove that in an age of great enterprises, the "Discoverie of *Guiana*" was considered an event of magnitude. It was but natural that a land thus

reputed should become an apple of discord upon which the great maritime powers of Europe have left the marks of their teeth.

The vast territory historically included under the denomination of *Guiana* is now divided between the jurisdiction of three European powers—Great Britain, France, and Holland, and two South American powers—Brazil and Venezuela. It would far exceed the limits of my space to give, even in outline, a narrative of the political and commercial enterprises, which have led to the partition of *Guiana*, with boundaries still undetermined, between these powers. Nor would such a narrative be consistent with the design of the present paper, which is to give a comprehensive view of the present circumstances and prospects of British *Guiana*, prefaced by a brief historical sketch of the leading incidents connected with the colonization and occupation of *Guiana* by England.*

From the discovery of *Guiana* to the year 1668 the whole territory was claimed by Spain, England, Holland, and France; from 1668 to 1796 the three colonies of *Demerara*, *Essequibo*, and *Begeice*, which now constitute British *Guiana*, together with *Surinam* were under Dutch rule; from 1796 to the present time, with a brief interval, the three colonies have been under the Government of Great Britain. The publication of Sir *Walter Raleigh's Discoverie of Guiana* was followed in the year 1604 by an enterprise undertaken by Captain *Charles Leigh*, who attempted to found a colony in the river *Wiapoco* which he called "*Caraleigh*," but this scheme failed disastrously, *Leigh* himself and the majority of his people perishing within two years. In 1609, *Robert Harcourt*, of *Stanton-Harcourt*, in *Oxfordshire*, renewed the attempt and obtained from King *James I.* "Letters Patent for the planting and inhabiting of all that tract of Land, and parte of *Guiana*, situate between the Rivers of the *Amazones* and *Dessequebe*." Many "mighty crosses and grievous troubles" fell upon *Harcourt* and delayed the execution of this project. In 1617 *Raleigh* sailed on his last disastrous voyage, having been released from the Tower on his pledge to prove the truth of the statements contained in his *Discoverie of Guiana* as to the auriferous wealth of the country or to surrender his person on his return. It is said that the influential statesman who had shares in this venture offered to procure *Raleigh* a formal pardon for £700, but that he was dissuaded from availing himself of the opportunity by the advice of *Bacon*, who said: "Sir, the knee-timber of your voyage is money; spare your purse in this particular, for upon my life you have a sufficient pardon for all that is past already, the King having under his broad seal, made you admiral of your fleet, and given you power of the martial law over your officers and soldiers." On this expedition a part of *Raleigh's* force under *Keymis* landed on the *Orinoco*, and in an engagement with the Spanish *Raleigh's* son was killed with many others. The gold mines, on the discovery of which *Raleigh* had staked his reputation and life were not found, and he returned to England to end his adventurous career on the scaffold. The fate of *Raleigh* did not deter others from new schemes for the colonization of *Guiana*. In 1619 a grant of the land between the *Wiapoco* and the *Amazon* was made to a corporation of lords and gentlemen in virtue of which "that Honorable *Geot. Roger North Esquire* transported 100 of his Majesty's subjects into those parts and settled them in the said river of the *Amazon*, to the advantage (at this time) both of his country and his Majesty." This advantage was not permanent, and *Roger North* on his return was consigned to the Tower. The corporation however was reconstructed, and in 1627 a grant was made to a society of adventurers incorporated as the "Governor and Company of noblemen and gentlemen of England for the plantation of *Guiana*." The Duke of *Buck-*

* I desire to express my acknowledgments to Mr. C. P. Lucas of the Colonial Office for allowing me to peruse the proof sheets of a chapter on British *Guiana* in his forthcoming volume on the *Geography of the British Colonies*.

ingham was Governor, North was Deputy-Governor, and the grant included the "royal" river of the Amazon. Four ships and 200 colonists were sent out by the corporation, but in 1629 an attempt to convert the plantation into a Crown colony failed, and the settlement was gradually given up. Equally unsuccessful was another scheme promoted by Captain Marshall, who between 1627 and 1630 took out sixty people and settled on the river Coma at Paramaribo. In 1652 however the abandoned settlement at Paramaribo was recolonized with better success, and in 1663 it was granted to Lord Willoughby of Parham, at that time Governor of Barbados, who changed the Indian name of the river Coma to Surryham, in honour of the Earl of Surrey. Surryham in time became corrupted into Surinam, the present denomination of Dutch Guiana. In 1667 the settlement was taken by the Dutch. By the terms of the Treaty of Breda Surinam was, in 1668, ceded to the Netherlands, and in exchange New Holland, the present city of New York, became a British possession. From this time for over a century the connection of Great Britain with Guiana was suspended. In 1781 the colonies of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, which form the present colony of British Guiana, surrendered to a British fleet, but the duration of our supremacy on this occasion was brief, for in 1782 the colonies surrendered to the French. In the next year they were restored to the Dutch by the Peace of Paris. In 1796 the three colonies again surrendered to a British force, and remained under our Government till 1802, when by the Peace of Amiens they were ceded to the Batavian Republic. In 1803 they finally passed by capitulation into the hands of the English, though not formally ceded till the 13th of August, 1814, by a convention between Great Britain and the Netherlands, signed in London. The Dutch possessions in Guiana in 1803 included the four settlements of Surinam, Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo. Surinam, which was retained by the Dutch, was, as we have seen, an English Colony though a Dutch dependency; the other settlements were Dutch colonies. Since 1803 therefore by a singular eccentricity of fortune the English colony of Surinam has been held as a Dutch dependency, while the Dutch colonies of Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo have become a dependency of England. The dependency which thus passed under British rule consisted, at the time, of three colonies under two separate local governments. The colonies of Demerara and Essequibo were united under one Governor appointed by the Batavian Republic, and the colony of Berbice had its own Governor. The Governments were perfectly independent of each other; though the laws and customs of the colonies were nearly identical. It was not until 1831 that the union of the three colonies was effected under one governor appointed by the terms of his commission to be Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, comprising the Colonies of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice. The three colonies have since 1838 been termed counties.

The boundaries of British Guiana have never been finally determined. The treaty of Münster, which concluded a peace between Spain and the Netherlands on the basis of *uti possidetis*, only constituted a *modus vivendi*, so far as concerned possessions of which the boundaries were open to dispute. In ceding a part of her possessions in Guiana, the Netherlands could give only such a title as was obtained under the treaty of Münster, and to the present day the boundaries between British Guiana and Venezuela remain unsettled. The appointment of a joint commission to determine the boundary between British Guiana and Brazil, which is equally unsettled, was proposed not long ago, and will probably shortly be proceeded with. No difficulty is anticipated in the adjustment of this question. But the delimitation of our frontier has been the subject of a long-standing dispute with Venezuela. The limits within which the jurisdiction of the Colonial Government is at present exercised are defined to the north and east by the bank of the Orinoco and the sea, and extend from the right bank of the Amacura, a tributary of the Orinoco, to the river Corentyn, which

forms the boundary between British and Dutch Guiana. From the Amacura the inland boundary is determined by a line surveyed by Sir Robert Schomburghk, and known as Schomburghk's line. Her Majesty's Government have recently declared their intention to adhere to Schomburghk's line as a limit within which on the British Guiana side there is no territory admitted to be in dispute. It is very earnestly desired by the Colonists that a final adjustment of our claims to the westward of Schomburghk's line may be speedily arrived at. The area of the colony within Schomburghk's line is estimated at about 110,000 square miles. When the boundary question is settled it may probably be found that the area of the colony is not less than 120,000 square miles, the area of the British Isles. The area of land at present beneficially occupied does not exceed 150 square miles.

British Guiana consists of three belts; the belt of alluvial soil, the belt of forest, and the savannah belt. The inhabited and cultivated districts are limited almost exclusively to the alluvial land on the banks of the rivers and along the sea-coast between the mouths of the rivers. There is probably no part of the world which can boast of richer alluvial lands. They are formed by the detritus of mouldering hills and decrepit forests borne down by great rivers from the mountain ranges of the interior of South America. Guiana is the country of great rivers, and British Guiana, bounded on the north by the Orinoco, receives the waters of many smaller yet noble streams. The Barima is a tributary of the Orinoco, and the Barama and Waini pour their united waters into the sea not far from the mouth of that river. The Demerara, the Essequibo, the Berbice, and the Corentyn run nearly parallel to each other to the sea, and into them run many tributary streams of considerable size, the most important being perhaps the Massaruni and Cuyuni, which fall into the Essequibo. So vast is the amount of detritus carried down by the rivers of Guiana that the waters of the Atlantic are stained for a distance of over fifty miles from the shore. The belt of alluvial soil extends inland to distances varying from ten to forty miles, and consists in general of stiff clay impregnated with salt and decayed vegetable matter. Up to a very recent date the fortunes of the colony have depended almost exclusively upon the cultivation of a part of this alluvial belt, and its history and statistics are mainly a record of the beneficial occupation of an area not exceeding 150 square miles—the area of the Isle of Wight. The population of the colony does not exceed 300,000 souls. It consists of aboriginal Indians, Europeans, African descendants, and Asiatic immigrants.

The capital of British Guiana is Georgetown, a city with a population of about 60,000, and originally called Stabroek. Charles Waterton, who visited it in 1816, says, "Stabroek has been rapidly increasing for some years back; and if prosperity go hand in hand with the present enterprising spirit, Stabroek ere long will be of the first colonial consideration. It stands on the eastern bank of the Demerara, and enjoys all the advantages of the refreshing sea-breeze; the streets are spacious, well-bricked, and elevated, the trenches clear, the bridges excellent, and the houses handsome. Almost every commodity and luxury of London may be bought in the shops at Stabroek." In 1837 Georgetown was created a municipality under a Mayor and Town Council, and in 1842 was declared to be a city by the same letters patent which constituted the episcopal see of British Guiana and appointed Dr. Austin to be the first bishop of the diocese. Bishop Austin is now by date of consecration the senior bishop of the Anglican Communion throughout the world. The mayor and town council have always worthily maintained the reputation of Georgetown, and have realized the expectation that Stabroek would be a place of the first colonial consideration. The principal streets of the city run parallel to the river Demerara, which is here about a mile and a-half wide. Business is chiefly carried on in Water Street. The rear of the premises on the west side

of this street open upon the wharves of the river bank, which during the time of the sugar crop present a very lively appearance. The principal residences are in the streets running parallel with Water Street. The cross streets are laid out with regularity and uniformity at right angles to the main thoroughfares. Down the centre of the main thoroughfares run trenches covered with the broad leaves and bright flowers of the Victoria Regia, and bordered by slopes of grass. On each side run wide carriage roads. The dwelling houses are generally of wood, two stories high, and raised several feet above the ground on brick pillars. They have wide galleries or verandahs shaded by jalousies or hoods. The better class of houses stand in compounds or "lots," with separate outbuildings for kitchens, servants, and stables, and are surrounded by gardens brilliant nearly all the year round with magnificent flowering trees and beautiful-leaved shrubs. The public and private gardens of Georgetown are of incomparable beauty as exhibiting in close combination the splendour of many tropical trees which in their native forests are only found as widely separated spots of colour.

The most important edifice in the city is known as the "Public Buildings." Here are grouped the principal Government offices and the Chambers of the Legislature. The cession of the Dutch possessions in Guiana to Great Britain did not disturb the fundamental laws of the Dutch scheme of colonization either as regards the political constitution of the colony, or the tenure and duties of property. The political constitution of the present day is essentially the constitution of our Dutch predecessors. Among the many constitutions of our colonial empire, its distinctive character lies in the separation of the powers of legislation and taxation. The legislative power is vested in the Court of Policy, a body consisting of the Governor and four official members appointed by the Crown, together with five elective members. The elective members are chosen by the Court itself from a double nomination made by a body called the College of Kiezers (Electors). This College consists of seven members elected for life by the votes of duly qualified constituencies in the electoral districts into which the Colony is divided.

The Court of Policy prepares the annual estimates of expenditure, but has no power of itself to sanction the expenditure of public money or to impose taxation. These privileges belong to the Combined Court, which consists of the members of the Court of Policy combined with the members of another body termed the Financial College. This College consists of six members called Financial Representatives, elected by the same constituencies as the College of Electors, but holding office for two years only. The Combined Court is assembled once a year by proclamation, and the order of the day is to consider and discuss the estimates prepared by the Court of Policy. The estimates having been passed, the members of the Court without the Governor sit as a Committee of Ways and Means. The resolutions of the Committee are passed in Combined Court, and the requisite ordinances introduced to give them the effect of law. The Session of the Combined Court is then closed, and the senior elective member of the Court of Policy vacates his seat. He is eligible for re-election. Various schemes for the reform of this constitution have been proposed during the last fifty years, and a project of reform is now under consideration. It is possible that before the end of the year the present constitution of British Guiana may have given way to a new political system. It will be convenient here to state that in the last assembly of Combined Court the estimate of expenditure for the current financial year was fixed at about £500,000, and the Ways and Means provided are anticipated fully to cover this amount. The principal sources of revenue are import duties of Customs, spirit duties, and retail spirit licenses. In one form or other spirituous drinks contribute about one-third of the total revenue of the Colony.

Not far from the public buildings are the law courts. The present edifice was opened in the year of Jubilee and affords ample accommodation. It is worthy of the capital of an important colony. The civil law of the

colony is the Roman-Dutch law modified by Orders in Council and local ordinances. The criminal law is assimilated to the criminal law of Great Britain.

There are many churches in Georgetown; for the people of British Guiana are essentially church-goers. The difficulty of securing a solid foundation for stone structures is so great that nearly all buildings are of wood. Among the churches are admirable examples of the artistic combination of wood and iron in architecture. The Anglican and Scotch Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Wesleyans, are supported by a system of grant-in-aid. The distribution of this grant is fixed by a septennial law. It has been the good fortune of the colony that the clergy of all denominations have devoted themselves with brotherly good will to the practical duties of Christianity, and that consequently the community is singularly free from the evils of religious intolerance. The educational system is denominational and supported by grants in-aid. The annual public expenditure on education is nearly £30,000, of which about £20,000 are paid for primary education under the grant-in-aid system. The Queen's College in Georgetown, a government establishment, connected with the Cambridge Local Examination system, provides an excellent education at a very moderate cost to parents. For the encouragement of higher education, and to enable natives of the colony to qualify for professional careers, three English scholarships have been established. They are awarded by competition, and the test examination is the Cambridge Local Examination for Senior Students. The holders are bound to reside at an English University or to prepare themselves for a professional career under such conditions as may be approved by the Governor and Court of Policy. As educational agencies in a large and liberal sense may be considered the Museum and Botanical Gardens of Georgetown. The collections of the Museum are chiefly intended to illustrate the flora and fauna of the colony. These are well represented, and the Museum being under the control of a Commercial and Agricultural Society, aided by Government, the design of the institution to serve as a repertory of information in all things touching the natural history of the colony in relation to its agricultural, industrial, and commercial interests, is kept constantly in view. The Botanical Gardens, as a place of recreation, are one of the favourite resorts of the citizens. The Botanical Gardens of Ceylon, Mauritius, and other tropical colonies, have done much to aid agriculture by the introduction of new products, and there is no reason to doubt that the Gardens of Georgetown will in time compare favourably with any tropical gardens in the world.

(To be concluded.)

OUR REVIEWER.

In this new volume* of the Great Writers series, we have a very interesting *Life of Thackeray* in a small compass. Much in this little volume is published for the first time, especially that which relates to the earlier years of the great novelist. The book is the work of two authors. Mr. Herman Merivale is responsible for the first six chapters and the supplementary chapter, and he evidently has a most sympathetic appreciation for his subject. The remaining portion of the book is written by Mr. Frank T. Marzials, who shows us Thackeray in varied lights, so that the reader is enabled to form a fair estimate of this many-sided and great man. Mr. Merivale says: "The two key-secrets of Thackeray's great life, as I take it, were these, Disappointment, and Religion. The first was his poison; the second was his antidote. And as always the antidote won." Thackeray was thirty-eight before the first number of "Vanity Fair" was published. He was but fifty-two when he died. From first to last this book maintains its interest. The price is one shilling.

* "Great Writers."—Life of W. M. Thackeray, by Herman Merivale and Frank T. Marzials. London: Walter Scott, 1891.

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