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## A LEGEND OF RANGALA.

BY ALFRED H. DUNCAN.

Two years in a merchant's office, in Colombo, had more than satisfied me that quill driving was not my *forte*, so I concluded to give it up, and turn my attention to the more healthy pursuit of coffee planting. Accustomed as I had been, for upwards of 13 years, to the free life of a squatter in New Zealand and Australia, where my days were spent almost entirely in the saddle, and where I breathed God's glorious oxygen unpolluted by the smoke, the dust and the general filthiness so characteristic of all cities, sitting at a desk early and late did not strike me as being the most enjoyable way of passing the best years of my life away, and so I was easily persuaded to throw over mercantile pursuits and accept the lucrative and honorable post of *Sinna Durai* on a coffee estate in the grand old district of Rangala.

Now don't let the young bloods who own, or superintend, estates in the younger districts run away with the idea that I am joking, when I call our district a grand old one, for such indeed it was, and, at the time of which I write,—1875,—in no other district save Uva, the Knuckles and Dumbara could coffee trees have been seen such as ours were, nor, save in those districts already mentioned, were there coffee fields that had given so many hundred-weights per acre as in this same Rangala *pakkam*. Ten years previous to this date—in 1865—I had spent Christmas day with that genial old planter Charlie Caulfeild in Kellebokka, and, after leaving his hospitable bungalow, I had gone through the Valley, the Knuckles, and down through Rangala to that centre of commerce—Udispattu,—and I remembered having been so delighted with the scenery of Rangala, that it pleased me to think that my start as a planter was to be made in so lovely a district. Having made all my arrangements, I was just on the eve of departing from Colombo, when I spoke to my Sinhalese appu about my intention of giving up town life, and asked him if he felt disposed to go with me to a coffee estate. He had been for some time in my service, and was unwilling to leave me, but the idea of a country life did not appear to be one after his heart, and he stood irresolutely turning about a clothes-brush which he held, and neglecting to use it on the garment in his other hand. At last he said, "What district is master going to?" "I am going to Rangala," I replied; and, no sooner had I said this, than a change came over him at once, and he said, "Then I will go with master; I long time have wanted to go to Rangala." I did not take any special notice of the remark at the time, as I thought it was just the usual style of talking indulged in by native servants to their masters; but some months afterwards, when I had become used to my work on the estate, the appu confided to me the reason why he had desired to visit the Rangala district, a desire which was the outcome of a legend which he had heard many years previous to this.

From this legend I gathered that the literal meaning of the word Rangala is "gold stone," and that there existed, in this district, a stone which shone at certain seasons, according to the age of the moon, and the position which it occupied towards certain stars, and this luminous stone acted as a guide to anyone who would follow it up, leading him on to fortune; but whether the fortune consisted of the shining stone itself proving to be pure gold, or whether it merely indicated where veins of the precious metal were to be found, the appu could not say. But this was not all. It appears that it was not given to everyone to see this marvellously brilliant stone, only those whose nativities had been cast so as to show a good horoscope were capable of seeing it, and my appu had been careful enough to have his own nativity cast, and had thereby ascertained that he was one of the fortunate few who would be able to see the shining stone should opportunity offer. Of course I could quite understand why the moon had to take a principal part in the legend, as I was well aware that the native races, in the east, aver that the influence of the moon excites the passions, and for this reason, the wizards and magicians prefer to perform their ceremonies by moonlight,—the night before full moon for preference,—as they are thus rendered more effectual. Hence the part which the moon was given to play in the legend of Rangala. However, two or three years glided by without any word of the gold stone having been discovered, although my appu never ceased from making enquiries of the natives in the village about it, and from searching, high and low, during the time of full moon, to see if anything would turn up to assist him in the object he had in view. At this time I was in charge of Rangalla and Madooltenne estates, and I had living with me, as *Sinna Durai*, a young fellow, now a leading tea planter in one of the younger districts, but who, at that time, was devoting his attention to the study of Tamil and the mysteries of the checkroll book. We were sitting together in the verandah one bright moonlight night, talking of that happy time when we each expected to be proprietor of a little place of our own, unencumbered with mortgages, unvisited by a V. A. and unsat upon by any Colombo Agent, when, without the usual deference so habitual in my worthy appu, he burst upon us through the dining-room door, his hair dishevelled and hanging down his back, his eyes flashing and his face flushed with excitement. I raised myself from the long-armed chair, in which I had been reclining, at the untoward appearance of my major-domo, and my *Sinna Durai* softly reached forth his hand and grasped a soda water bottle, it being the only weapon he could conveniently lay hold of, to defend himself with, in case of attack. But our precautions were needless, for the appu was not insane but only excited, and he exclaimed, "Oh! master, come and see, I have found the gold stone of Rangala, come, come." We jumped to our feet, and hurried out of the verandah, through the garden, and down the road leading to the store for a short distance.

Then, halting, the appu pointed away up to one of my high fields, which was bounded by a perpendicular cliff running up to one of the highest peaks in the district, and said, "Look, master, can you see it? My own horoscope enables me to see it distinctly, away above the coffee in *Peria Cooleratimalle*; but can you see it, master?" I was utterly amazed as I gazed in the direction indicated, for there I saw shining clearly in the centre of the dense dark jungle *chedi* of the steep cliffs, a brilliant sheen quivering in the pale light of the moon. My *Sinna Durai* saw it at the same time, and gave an exclamation of surprise, adding a remark which could scarcely be set to sacred music. The appu again asked me if I could see the light, and I said, "See it, I should think I can; whether my horoscope is a good one or a bad one, I can see that light, which appears to me very like a lantern in the hands of a Sinhalees coffee stealer; indeed, I would have no hesitation in saying that it was so, did I not know that there is not a bean of coffee on the bushes of *Peria Cooleratimalle*, and also that light is higher up the hillside than where the coffee is." After looking at it for some time, and making sundry observations on the subject, we got a few sticks, and placing them in certain positions, we fixed them so that, by looking along the top of them all at once, we could just see the spot where the light was shining, and this we concluded would enable us by daylight to fix the exact spot where the light was. Next morning the first thing we did was to go to our stakes and satisfy ourselves of the exact position where we had seen the shining light on the previous evening, and then, taking the appu with us, we started uphill through the coffee bushes, till we stood under the very spot which the stakes had indicated; but as it was about 100 feet overhead, we found we could not reach it without making a *détour*, which we accordingly did, through the coffee on the neighbouring estate of Battagalla—now called Duckwari—and up the end of the jungle-clad range. It was a trying and most prickly climb, through thorns and over boulders, but, at last, we found ourselves about 30 feet over the spot we sought to reach; and after much trouble and tearing of our everyday garments—made out of the best white cumblies which Messrs. Keir, Dundas & Co. could supply—we stood on a ledge of rock, and looked stonily into each other's faces. My *Sinna Durai* gazed at his torn and bleeding hands, and muttered something that was exceedingly plain English. I myself, with thunder in my eye, looked from the rock to my appu and back to the rock again, whilst that worthy victim of misplaced confidence shrunk back, as if dreading that the two *durais* would proceed to deal summarily with him, and his eye wandered over the brink of the ledge, as he appeared to be calculating the chances of the amount of grievous bodily harm which he would sustain, in the event of his being shot out into space and landed amongst the healthy and well-pruned bushes of the *Peria Cooleratimalle* below. And why? My readers, you may well ask, why this digression! The reason is obvious: we had discovered not a gold stone, but a small stream of water trickling over the rock, which was covered with green shiny moss, and which, no doubt, had materially assisted the moon to play the trick upon us which had induced us to undertake such a wild goose chase. We sadly turned about and retraced our steps, and were thankful when the bungalow was reached, where we partook of a refreshing drink of Bass's beer bottled by Stone, and gave strict orders to the appu to say that we were not at home, should His Excellency the Governor or any of the members of the Legislative

Council call; and also to send a cooly off post haste to the Bourse of Udispattu to engage a tailor to come at once to repair our torn garments. The appu never after that alluded to the gold stone of Rangala, and his faith in nativities, horoscopes and the nights before full moons received a severe crusher; for, although he was with me for years after the events I have related, he never sought the haunts of the village *vedarala*, the priest of the neighbouring *Sami* house, or the knights of the district *Tivali* round-table, in quest of information whereby he might enrich himself by necromancy.

## A VISIT TO NEW ORLEANS.

(By a Ceylon Planter.)

New Orleans is quite the most interesting town I visited when in America. Not only is it of considerable antiquity, as far as American towns go, but both commercially and historically its reputation has never flagged, and at the present day, as of yore, it practically holds the monopoly of the Gulf export and import trade. Since the completion of the Southern Pacific and Texas Pacific Railroads, connecting her with San Francisco and the Pacific ports, much additional traffic has been brought to her gates. Two, if not more, lines of steamers now run from England and Europe, booking cargo and passengers direct for California via New Orleans. In company of most American towns and States, New Orleans has a "soubriquet." She is called the "Crescent City," and no one who views the city as I did from the top of a lofty building can fail to see the reason, for the city is divided into two pretty equal parts by the giant Mississippi, which makes a magnificent crescent-shaped curve right through the heart of the town. New Orleans rests on the mud of its river. Nowhere in the city is the water further than 18 inches from the surface. How then is the city founded? Most of its houses are of wood (frame houses they are called), and they therefore need little or no foundation, but the many stone and brick buildings in the city rest on piles of well-seasoned Cypress wood. Cypress abounds in all the Southern States, and is a most valuable and lasting timber. When digging foundations in New Orleans these cypress logs have been found deep down in the mud where they had been deposited by the river ages and ages ago, and yet the wood was still sound and fit for use. New Orleanists for this reason affirm that their city, if not exactly founded on a rock, yet is practically a permanency. Their Custom House, however, is an exception. It is a magnificent marble and granite building, very solidly built, and so determined were they that there should be no chance of subsidence, that they put down a three-fold quantity of cypress piles as foundation, but all to no avail, for several big cracks have appeared in the walls, and where it will end no one knows. I forget how many cubic feet of timber were used in this foundation, but it was some enormous and astonishing figure, and just don't Americans enjoy getting hold of a thumping big figure and bragging about it! All stone used either for building houses or paving the streets has to be imported, for beneath you there is nothing but mud, mud, mud: in fact the cray-fish from the river work their way through it and come to the surface in the most unlikely spots, in fact wherever a crack may be handy. It is not uncommon to see boys fishing for cray-fish down a hole in the ground with a bit of beef at the end of a string. The river from frequent deposits of silt has raised

itself 5 ft. above the level of the country, and is only kept within its banks by means of embankments extending for many miles. These are called "levees," and during flood time they are manned by thousands of men on the watch for accidents. The way the bar at the mouth of the Mississippi was cleared was clever. A bund was thrown partially across the stream and the current centred into one channel. Through this it went with such increased velocity that all deposit was speedily swept away to sea before it. By thus controlling the current they were able to get rid of as much of the bar as they wanted. On each side of the city roadways are cut enormous drains, 2 ft. wide by 2 ft. deep, bridged every now and again by planks. When it rains, these drains become speedily full, and if it rain for any length of time the streets are soon under water. It was funny to see the drain water running, not towards but away from the river, the outlet for the flow from the city being a lake about 4 miles away near the sea. Prior to the great civil war New Orleans was a very hot-bed of yellow fever, cholera, *et hoc genus omne*; and little wonder, for the town was in a most insanitary condition. There being no slope to the surface of the ground, Nature could not by means of a copious rainfall assist in keeping the city clean, so it grew dirtier and dirtier, and more and more unhealthy, till the Confederate General Butler, whose army was then occupying the place, determined to see if he could not do something. He first of all put on his soldiers to scour the streets, much to the indignation of the inhabitants. The abovementioned big roadside drains were then cut and flushed with water from the river. The town being under martial law, the General insisted on the citizens adhering to his sanitary arrangements; and what is more, all ships that could not show a clean bill of health were rigorously quarantined, much to the immediate amusement of the inhabitants, who had never heard of such an idea before. But strange to relate that summer no cholera or yellow jack came, New Orleans escaping, for the first time in its history, the yearly visitation. Could the old General, hated Confederate though he was, be right after all? They were latterly forced to acknowledge he was, and have mended their ways since. Still, the town is not a very healthy one, and during my visit there I was assured that out of its 240,000 inhabitants, 40,000 were suffering from influenza, known all over America as the "grippe." No drinking water is obtainable except what falls from the skies. Every drop of rain is preserved and carefully stored in large tanks, one of which is attached to every dwelling. Prior to Christmas 1890 no rain had fallen for two and a half months, and most people were very short of water, only those who had very big tanks having any to spare. On Christmas Day, however, it rained very heavily, the streets becoming ankle-deep in the course of ten minutes, and everyone's wants were speedily satisfied. New Orleanists are very proud of Canal Street, their principal thoroughfare, though in my estimation it is only comparable to a second-rate street in a European capital. Here, in the afternoon of a fine day, the most extraordinary medley of nationalities ever seen together can be found. Italians are here in great force, and their fierce tempers and vindictive political and secret societies have given the authorities much trouble in recent years. They are mostly the scum of Italy, the average capital owned by many thousands of Italian immigrants on landing at New Orleans during the last 4 or 5 years being only 8 cents (or 4d stg.) per head. The various nationalities here keep pretty much to themselves. Thus we have the French quarters, the German, American and Italian quarters, and the

negroes employed as domestics in these divisions of-ten know no other language than that of their masters. On account of the water being so near the surface, it is of course impossible to bury anyone underground. The dead are therefore built into brick "sarcophagi," which rest on the surface of the ground. The Jews, I believe, are the only denomination who object to this method of burial, so under the ground they go, whether into mud or water as the case may be. A rather amusing story was going the round during my visit, and had appeared in most of the papers. The negroes (I beg their pardon, the coloured population) are regarded with considerable contempt by nearly all Southerners, and New Orleanists are by no means behind the rest. It appears that in Carondelet Street, a most fashionable place of residence, a dwelling-house was for sale, and a coloured gentleman, who had sufficient means, purchased it. No sooner, however, did his aristocratic neighbours find that a "nigger" had come to live next door to them, than immediately all their noses were put out of joint. Such a thing could not for an instant be permitted, and as the only way out of the difficulty was to "buy him out," the interloping coloured gentleman was bought out at his own figure, which of course was quite a fancy one. Now what do you think that nigger did? Why, he banked his profits and went a little higher up the same street and bought another house, and squatted again, not only to the horror of his former but of an entirely new set of neighbours as well. Needless to say the nigger again "scored." For the second time he was bought out at a fancy figure, but this time only on the condition that he would retire from Carondelet Street. He is now, they say, on the lookout for more select neighbourhoods to continue his speculations in, whether in New Orleans or elsewhere. Without any exception I found more to interest me in New Orleans during a short stay than any other town in America, save New York.

THOS. DICKSON, JUNIOR.

THE AUTHORSHIP OF "THE  
BURIAL OF SIR JOHN  
MOORE."

To the Editor of the "Ceylon Literary Register."

SIR,—With reference to some correspondence you were good enough to publish in September 1889 concerning the original of the poem "Not a drum was heard." I beg to point out that the "Memoirs of Lally-Tollendal," by his son, were published many years before the birth of the Rev. Charles Wolfe, the composer of the English version of this poem. The French poem is contained in the Appendix to the work referred to, and was, I presume, published at the same time as the *Memoirs*, *i. e.* about 1754; in which case I think you will admit that the French can hardly be a translation or adaptation of the English. Seeing the French work advertised for sale, I applied for it, but it had already been disposed of. A full description of the book was given in a recent catalogue of second-hand books. I should be glad to hear what comments you may have to make regarding this information, and I shall not be disappointed if my contention is found to be incorrect, as I have no wish to unfairly deprive a countryman of his laurels, and present them to a foreigner, if one who is more a Breton than a Frenchman can be so termed.—Yours truly.

G. G.-C.

[If the facts are as our correspondent states, it is strange that all Wolfe's biographers should be silent on this subject. "G. G.-C." should write to *Notes and Queries*, through whose columns he is sure to get a definite answer to his inquiry. We adhere to the opinion previously expressed—Ed. L. R.]

*THE OLD "CINNAMON DEPARTMENT"  
OF THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT.*

(From the "Colombo Observer," No. 159 of  
Thursday, July 8, 1841.)

To His Excellency the Right Honorable James Alexander Stewart Mackenzie, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Ceylon and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

The humble Memorial and Petition of the undersigned Native Chiefs, Headmen and People of the Mahabadde or Chalia caste, formerly composing the Cinnamon Department, and resident in the Western and Southern Provinces.

Most humbly sheweth,

That for a period of about two centuries there existed in this Colony under the European sway a department known by the designation of the "Cinnamon Department" or Mahabadde, comprising the whole of the Chalia, as well as a variety of other castes and tribes, including the Wellale under the immediate superintendence of the native chiefs and headmen of the Mahabadde, of different grades and ranks, such as Modliar, Mohandiram, Vidahn, Aratchy, and Canganie, all of whom were under the general direction of an European head styled the "Captain Cannella" or Superintendent of the Cinnamon Department. This Mahabadde is quite distinct from, and independent of, what is generally termed the "Corle" headmen, composed of Wellales and others, to them, subordinate castes of various denominations and classes, and superintended by their own chiefs and headmen of the ranks similar to those already specified under the control of the Dissawes of the several districts, nor have these two establishments ever been consolidated or conducted under the direction of the same head, or the one possessed a right to interfere with the other or curtail their respective privileges.

That notwithstanding the inferiority in point of numbers of the people of the Chalia caste, they having vied with and surpassed the Wellale in obtaining for their services and merits as a body important privileges and immunities which they have long held and enjoyed from the European Government in consequence of their deserts, an inveterate rivalry and jealousy have been engendered and fostered between the two castes productive of frequent strife and contention for precedence among them.

That by the sudden and unexpected abolition of the cinnamon monopoly (the policy of which measure it is not the province of the Memorialists to enter into) which took place in 1832, the said department was as a separate body of Chalias all but annihilated, and the Memorialists were placed under the sole control of the Government Agents of the several maritime provinces, by which means your Memorialists have already felt the influence of the Modliars of the Cutcheries (who are of the Wellale caste), which, however, they have endured in silence, cherishing the hope that their former claims and services would obtain for them a restitution of their rights and privileges, but now that the door of prospect of emulation, resulting from the jealousy and misunderstanding, and the perfect independence of the one caste from the other, which had up to that period subsisted between the two castes, has been closed upon the Memorialists in matters connected with their most important interests, and both overt attempts and clandestine subterfuges have been resorted to on the part of the Wellale headmen to thwart and defeat the Memorialists in their efforts to advance themselves and to intercept their prospects and lower their position in society, and thereby

plunge them into the gulph of degradation; but fortunately for such of the Memorialists as are resident in the Western Province, the authorities at the head of the public departments there, being gentlemen of long experience in the Civil Service of the Colony, from a due consideration of the universally acknowledged loyalty and faithful services which the Chalia caste has rendered to the British Crown, have not suffered it to sink at once into insignificance, but have allowed the headmen thereof to retain their situations and pay, while a contrary course has been pursued by the authorities in the Southern Province in regard to the headmen of the Memorialists' caste there, by the suppression of almost all their situations beginning with the most remote of their district, "Roone," in the district of Matura, of which the offices of Modliar, Mohandiram, Liana, Vidahn, Aratchy, Gamaralle, Cangany, Notary, and Police Vidahn, have been abolished, and the people of the Memorialists' caste put under the superintendence of the Wellale headmen, notwithstanding your Memorialists have been taught to believe by the present liberal system of the British administration in India that "no person by reason of his birth or caste should be considered ineligible to hold any office or exercise any right," yet your Memorialists have experienced the very reverse of this wise and judicious resolution in the present Mahabadde Modliar of Dadalle, whose district embraces the whole of Wellebadde Pattoo in Galle, and the situation of Modliar of the latter Pattoo having become vacant, the two divisions ought to have been fairly blended together and transferred to the Modliar of Dadalle if personal merits, economy, or the majority of the population of a caste were of any object in the eyes of Government, this latter Modliar being an old and meritorious servant of the Crown of full 35 years' standing, besides which owing to the paucity of the Wellale inhabitants of this Pattoo, the headmen in charge of it having been heretofore styled Corale and not Modliar. But such a salutary arrangement calculated to do justice to the merits of an old headman and give satisfaction to the majority of the Chalia inhabitants on the one hand, and to make a serving to Government on the other, was totally overlooked—nay, what was operated still more to the prejudice of the Modliar of Dadalle, the vacant situation of Modliar of Wellebadde Pattoo has been filled up by the appointment of a younger brother of the Attepattoo Modliar of Galle, an inexperienced youth, by which the district of the former was curtailed and transferred to the Pattoo of the latter, so that the district of the Dadalle Modliar being now limited to the single village of that name, containing no more than 40 or 50 houses, his situation has become a mere sinecure, and its suppression is consequently anticipated to the great mortification and disappointment of the Memorialists.

That while your Memorialists were thus left to grieve and lament on the loss of public employment, under the British flag, and the consequent deterioration of their condition so totally incompatible with the station which they have hitherto held in society, under the old system, they have been visited with another appalling calamity in the death of their much respected and venerable headman Andries De Abrew Wijesinhe Sanewiratne Rajepakse Maha Vidahn Modliar of the district of Wellitotte, a most populous district, and the residence of the best, oldest and most noble families among your Memorialists; and notwithstanding the filling up of the vacant situation by one of the members of their own caste was one of the primary objects of their wish and endeavours, and notwithstanding there was a number of candidates for

the vacant office, and many of them fit persons for the appointment, yet to the inexpressible regret and concern of the Memorialists, the situation alluded to has been abolished, and the district of Wellitotte transferred to the Wellale Modliar of Bentotte by this step, and your memorialists are grieved to say the fate of their caste in the Southern Province has been sealed.

That your Memorialists now turning their view from the Southern to the Western Province, where their caste is somewhat better off as yet, respectfully beg leave to represent that the Mahabade Modliars and their subordinate headmen of the districts of Wellisera, Mutwal and Caluamodere are still allowed to retain their offices and pay, owing perhaps to their proximity to the seat of Government, and being thereby placed beyond the exercise of undue influence on the part of the Wellale headmen, whereas in the Southern Province the position of your Memorialists' caste is indeed very unpleasant and disagreeable, the national interest of the Chalia caste being undermined and supplanted by the interference of influential Modliars of the Wellale caste.

That pregnant as the change in the condition of your Memorialists is with evil consequences to them, they humbly beg permission to submit that if it had taken place during the existence of the compulsory system in this colony, their fate would have proved worse in the hands of their natural rivals, the Wellales, but notwithstanding your Memorialists have now nothing to fear in the way of compulsion, yet the Wellales availing themselves of the depressed condition of the Memorialists in their hostile dispositions towards the Memorialists, and trample on their feelings by venturing their own triumph at the expense of the Memorialists who under the present circumstances would prefer the compulsory labour system to the degradations they now suffer, their mental pains being much more acute than their bodily sufferings.

That the Wellales have industriously endeavoured to impress upon the public mind that they are of a higher caste than the rest of the natives who would not feel aggrieved at being put under their authority, an assertion which is the inventful fancy of their own brains and a most absurd hallucination, for even under the Dutch administration when distinction of caste was most rigidly observed in the Colony, it was the uniform policy of the Dutch Government to select and appoint headmen from the respective castes and classes of the natives to exercise control over them with a view to gratify their feelings and preserve due order and subordination amongst them; but now at the present epoch when the trammels of caste are being cut asunder through the benign influence of the British Government, it is highly prejudicial and galling to the feelings of the rest to find that one single caste alone has obtained an ascendancy over them, thereby opening an avenue to the former to monopolize all the important and lucrative situations under Government, in a manner inconsistent with the spirit and tenor of the Royal Charter issued for the guidance of the insular Government, and rendering the benefit of education held out by the liberal British Government for the amelioration of the native population of this Colony useless and nugatory to your Memorialists.

That your Memorialists further desire to represent to your Excellency that from time immemorial the people of the Chalia caste have never been subject or subordinate to the Wellale headmen, but have enjoyed a greater portion of the privileges and immunities which both castes held and enjoyed from the European Government in this Colony. That the Singhalese are not Hindoos, but partly

Christians and partly Buddhists, who recognise no caste or class whatever in their respective creeds. The rank and grades of the population are known and estimated by the stations assigned to them respectively by the State, and under these circumstances nothing could be more painful to your Memorialists than to be compelled to yield submission to their rivals, the Wellales, the very idea of it being revolting to their inborn feelings.

That your Memorialists having hitherto served the European Government of the Colony in a very laborious but important branch of the public service under the supervision of their own chiefs, it is extremely painful to their feelings that they should now be abandoned to the hard fate of being stripped of Government employment and other honorary distinctions, and placed under the headmen of the Wellale caste who are naturally inimical to them.

That the case of the Memorialists is singular and unprecedented in the annals of the service no doubt can be entertained, for lately the Mahavidahn Mohandram of the fisher caste or Amblangodde in the Southern Province (a village not more than one English mile in length) departed this life, but the vacant office was not suppressed (as in the instance of the Mahavidahn Modliarship of the district of Wellitotte), but was shortly after filled up by the appointment of a member of the same fisher caste, so that if public economy be assigned as the reason for the abolition of the situations held by the natives, this last mentioned situation was the first which should have been suppressed instead of the Mahavidahn Modliarship of Wellitotte district where there is still a multiplicity of public service of different kinds to be performed. The numerous riots which have since taken place in the district as they understand reported by the District Judge of Amblangodde, is the consequence of the suppression of that situation, this district being more densely inhabited by the people of the Chalia caste than those of any other.

That your Memorialists further beg leave to submit to your Excellency that under the old system they from an anxiety not to appear themselves secondary to the Wellale caste, either in private or public, had the list of the native headmen of their caste inserted in the Ceylon Calendar quite distinct and apart from the former, and had with the same view got themselves excluded and exempted from the Regulation and Schedule of dress of the native headmen of the Singhalese districts, dated 19th August 1809, but since the Memorialists were put under the Government Agents of the several Maritime Provinces, the headmen of their caste in office have been placed both in the Ceylon Calendar and in their writings beneath all castes to their great grief and annoyance, but your Memorialists, far from presuming to throw reflection on the European authorities at the head of the public establishments on the present occasion, beg permission to say that the indignity and insult alluded to is entirely attributable in the humble opinion of the Memorialists to the Wellale headmen employed there.

*(To be concluded.)*

### The Buried Cities of Ceylon.

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

Ceylon Observer Office.

CEYLON BRANCH OF THE BRITISH  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

At the Medical College, Borella, on the afternoon of the 21st February last, the annual meeting of the local branch of the above Association was held. There attended, the retiring President, Dr. W. R. Kynsey, C. M. G. (Principal Civil Medical Officer), Dr. J. Loos (Kandy), President-elect, Dr. J. L. Vanderstraaten, President-elect for 1892, Dr. Rockwood, Dr. Vandersmagt, Dr. C. de Silva, Dr. Solomon Fernando (Treasurer), Dr. H. M. Fernando (Hon. Secretary), Dr. Lisboa Pinto, and Dr. Passe.

The minutes having been confirmed, Mr. H. M. Fernando submitted the following report for 1890, a task, he said, which devolved upon him owing to the absence of Dr. Macdonald from the Island:—

*Report of the Honorary Secretary, Ceylon Branch British Medical Association, for the year 1890.*

DR. KYNSEY AND GENTLEMEN,—Owing to the absence of Dr. J. D. Macdonald from the Island, the task of placing before you the report of the work done in the Ceylon Branch of the British Medical Association during the year 1890 has fallen on me, and I therefore have the honor to submit to you the following report:—

The financial condition of the Branch was found to be extremely unsatisfactory at the commencement of the year under review. All the members were in arrears of their subscription to the Parent Association for the year 1889, with the exception of those who remitted their subscriptions direct, and some had not paid their subscriptions even for 1887 and 1888. Under the circumstances a good deal of trouble and otherwise unnecessary correspondence were entailed upon Dr. Macdonald, the late Honorary Secretary of the Branch, in order to collect the arrears of subscription. I have however the pleasure to state that chiefly owing to the energetic and continuous exertions of the late Honorary Secretary only £29 2s. 6d. and subscriptions in advance for 1891 are owing to the Parent Association from the members of the Ceylon Branch at the present time. During the year 1890 there were held seven council and eight ordinary meetings of the local Branch. Mr. O. Heysberg and Dr. H. Marcus Fernando were elected members of the Branch during the year, and on the other hand one member resigned.

At the first council meeting held on the 4th January 1890, the order of procedure at monthly and annual meetings of the Branch was decided upon.

At the deferred council meeting held on the 9th of January 1891, the following office-bearers for the current year were nominated:—

1. *President*—Dr. James Loos, Kandy.
2. *President elect*—Dr. J. L. Vanderstraaten, Colombo.
3. *Vice Presidents*—Dr. Dias, Galle; Dr. Macdonald, Colombo.
4. *Honorary Secretary*—Dr. H. Marcus Fernando, Colombo.
5. *Honorary Treasurer*—Dr. Solomon Fernando, Colombo.

At the eight ordinary meetings held during the year, seventeen papers were read, the most notable amongst them being translations of Charlois' paper on Framboesia, of Dr. Sansoni's paper on Anchylostomiasis, and T. Crudeli's paper on Roman Malaria.

Demonstrations of several interesting pathological specimens, both macroscopic and microscopic, and clinical cases with exhibition of patients were held from time to time in connection with ordinary meetings of the Branch.

*List of the important Transactions during the year:*

1. Paper on Herpes by Dr. Huybertsz.
2. Case of Cardiac Disease by Dr. C. de Silva.
3. Case of Chorea by Dr. C. de Silva.
4. Head Injury by Mr. A. E. Weinman.
5. Translation of Dr. Charlois' paper on Framboesia by Dr. J. D. Macdonald.
6. Paper on a case of Parangi by Dr. G. J. Woutersz.

7. Translation of Dr. Sansoni's paper on Anchylostomiasis by Dr. J. D. Macdonald.

8. Discussion on Thymol Treatment by members present and President.

9. Paper on Sutures of Coir Fibre by Dr. E. E. Modder.

10. Pathological Specimens:

1. A liver abscess opening into vena cava by Dr. C. de Silva.

2. A hypertrophied heart by Dr. C. de Silva.

3. Aneurism of Pulmonary Artery by Dr. C. de Silva.

4. Sarcoma of lesser Omentum by Dr. C. de Silva.

11. A case of Parangi presented by Dr. G. J. Woutersz.

12. Papers read:

1. A case of Gunshot Wounds by Dr. R. C. Aldous

2. A case of Basal Meningitis by Dr. C. de Silva

3. A case of Abscess of Liver by Dr. C. de Silva

4. A case of Abscess of Liver by Dr. Huybertsz.

5. Pilocarpine in Deafness by do do.

13. Translation of T. Crudeli's paper on Roman Malaria.

14. Specimen of Cardiac Aneurism exhibited by Dr. C. de Silva.

15. Specimen of Gumma of Spleen by Dr. C. de Silva.

16. Discussion on Malaria by members present.

17. Paper on Fracture of left Parietal Bone with Hernia Cerebri by Mr. J. Amarasekera.

18. Case of Ovariectomy by Mr. W. Wijeysekere.

19. Case of Cerebellar Tumour by Dr. C. de Silva.

20. Exhibition of Microscopic Specimens of Tumour adhering to Cerebellum, Sarcoma, by Dr. H. M. Fernando.

21. Case of Heart Disease, patient exhibited by Dr. H. M. Fernando.

22. Specimen of Surgical Kidney by Dr. H. M. Fernando.

23. Notes on a case of Cerebro-Spinal Sclerosis by Dr. C. de Silva.

Dr. KYNSEY then proceeded to read the following address before retiring from the chair:—

If I consulted my own wishes, I should not occupy your time with an address, for the reason that I am sure I can tell you little that you do not already know; but as it is the rule of this Branch that the retiring President should deliver an address, I have pleasure in obeying the rule; but I must crave your forgiveness for what you will, I am afraid, consider the uninteresting nature of the following remarks.

First, allow me to thank those members of the Branch who contributed paper, exhibited cases and pathological specimens, and attended the monthly meetings during the past year. The details of what they did to render those meetings successful have been already read out to you by our Honorary Secretary, Dr. Fernando, and I believe you will agree with me that the subjects discussed and the cases and specimens exhibited were of a most interesting and instructive character. Our chief regret now is, that we had not more members to take part in our deliberations and to aid us with their advice, but this was unavoidable from the distance of the outstations, where most of the members live, and the varied duties and busy lives of all those residing in Colombo.

With the wide range of subjects embraced by our profession one would say there ought to be no difficulty in selecting a subject for addressing you, but the extent of this range is the very cause of my embarrassment. At the present time we are in the midst of an outbreak of smallpox severe for Ceylon; and as my predecessor in the Presidential chair was good enough to address you on the subject of infectious diseases, and the steps which the public ought to take to protect themselves against attack—to which you all listened, I have no doubt, with much attention—I need offer no apology if I take for the first part of my address to you, what you will permit me to call the scientific and practical aspects of smallpox and vaccination as supplementary to the remarks of Dr. Anthonisz before the members of this Branch, which I regret I had not the pleasure of listening to, and before the Legislative Council.

In his observations before the latter body he is reported to have spoken as follows:—

"Now we are in a position to meet this evil (*i.e.*, smallpox) and prevent it, thanks to Pasteur, who has successfully shown that one can escape rabies by careful inoculation. In like manner we are in a position to assure those who wish to take smallpox in a modified form and escape the severe form of the disease, and die of it, that their bodies could be protected from smallpox, and that when so they never will get smallpox, excepting in such rare instances when one gets a second attack of smallpox. We have positive facts before us to prove this, so that after careful vaccination a re-vaccination is made of lymph taken from the vesicles of a calf that has been inoculated with the virus of smallpox, and such a person may be said to be free from an attack of smallpox. This has been clearly shown at Brighton, and all those who have been vaccinated from lymph taken from vesicles of a calf that has been inoculated with smallpox escaped the epidemic of smallpox, where others differently vaccinated did not."

My much respected and learned friend had no doubt in his mind the experiments and practice of Thiele, Ceely, and Badcock of Brighton. A brief résumé of the researches of these gentlemen, with which you are all familiar, will no doubt interest you. Thiele, of Kasan, in 1839 obtained lymph from a case of smallpox, and placed it between two pieces of glass for ten days, fastening them together with wax. He then diluted the virus with cow's milk, and inoculated in the usual way. In ten removes the vesicles assumed the appearance of vaccinia. He called this process "Lactovarioline." It is evidently inoculation, not vaccination. This experimenter made several attempts to inoculate cows with variolous matter, and at last succeeded in producing a vesicle, from which he raised a stock of lymph which he passed through seventy-five generations (of cows), and vaccinated over 3,000 persons.

Ceely, of Aylesbury, inoculated a cow with smallpox, and produced a variolous vesicle which he used on children.

Badcock, of Brighton, succeeded in variolating 37 out of 200 cows. Thirty-three had perfect vesicles, from which he furnished lymph to 400 medical men, who vaccinated, it is estimated, 14,000 persons, besides 20,000 inoculated by himself. It is perfectly evident that the persons operated upon by Badcock and Ceely were not cowpoxed, but variolated.

Martin, of America, in 1860 inoculated a cow, and from it some children, with the result of causing a severe epidemic of smallpox.

I believed until recently that the experiments made by the Lyons Commission (1865), reported by Chauveau and others, finally decided this question. A calf was inoculated with smallpox, and it was transmitted through five others. In all six calves were operated upon. From the sixth calf ten children were vaccinated, with the following results:—

Every one of the ten took smallpox: six were confluent, one died, one gave smallpox to its mother.

You will find in the third number of Vol. III. of the Ceylon Medical Journal several extracts from various authorities on one side of this important question, all emphatically declaring the nonidentity of smallpox and vaccinia. But, on going further than the literature alluded to in the Journal, I discovered that the whole subject was re-investigated comparatively recently.

Chauveau in 1871 again experimented (*i.e.*, subsequent to the Lyons Commission), with the results of producing smallpox from smallpox inoculation, and cowpox from cowpox. He believes in the autonomy of cowpox—in other words, the impossibility of transforming smallpox into cowpox.

In 1881 Dr. Leonhard Voigt, Director of the Vaccine Institute at Hamburg, resolved to investigate the entire question afresh. "Though not doubting the correctness of Thiele's facts, he felt that his observations were somewhat wanting in scientific accuracy and precaution, but he was unwilling to believe, with the Lyons Commission, that Ceely and Badcock were deluded or dishonest, or, as the French school would have it, "both

fools and knaves." As the result of his investigations he believed he had beyond the possibility of dispute converted typical variolous lymph into a vaccine lymph of the utmost purity. Taking the virus from the pustules of a case of confluent smallpox in an unvaccinated girl, he inoculated four cows with it in succession. In the first three attempts he attained but partial success, the inoculations ending abortively, that is, producing papules but yielding no lymph. The fourth was more fortunate, a small vesicle appearing for a few hours. This he secured, and chose an ill-nourished, unvaccinated child under treatment in the hospital with itch to inoculate, as she was in imminent danger of smallpox which appeared in the same ward. Intense febrile disturbance with axillary bubo and nodules appeared as the result, but no truly variolous eruption. The child happily survived. Dr. Voigt continued his inoculations of the calves with lymph taken from one to another through fifteen successive generations with steadily increasing facility, the vesicles rapidly assuming the appearance of genuine cowpox. The lymph of the second generation he rejected; with that of the third he vaccinated four children, one twice without a result, the other three successfully. The fever ran unpleasantly high, and the axillary glands were enlarged, but there was, it is said, nothing abnormal in the vaccinations. He did not attempt further experiments until he had reached the eighth cultivation. This gave it is stated entirely satisfactory results. The lymph of the ninth and subsequent cultivations was employed without hesitation by the other surgeons of the Institute in their ordinary vaccinations, the appearances presented by the animals and by the children vaccinated from them being undistinguishable from those produced by Beaugency or other animal lymph."

Evidence more convincing than this it is impossible to conceive, and when I read it some months ago it came as a relief to my mind as settling long-disputed points. Every case of alleged spontaneous cowpox would be either one of accidental variation or of retro-vaccination. In pre-vaccination times, when smallpox was everywhere, the numerous opportunities for variolations made up for the difficulty of inoculating the cow, or we may suppose that the horse was more susceptible, and, as Jenner held, the cow was infected from the horse. Now retro-vaccination is the rule, mothers proceeding to milk the cows after attending to their recently vaccinated infants, and its absence in Ceylon could be explained by the fact that our milkers are always men. Voigt's results would also explain why vaccinia is protective against smallpox, being of course an attenuated cultivation. This subject is also of the highest importance in its bearings on the present and future practice of vaccination. There is in the minds of many an idea that humanised lymph has undergone enfeeblement in its passage through many thousands of infants. If Voigt's experiments were correct, there would be nothing more simple than to supply a fresh supply of virgin lymph by inoculating a cow with smallpox instead of waiting for spontaneous cases of cowpox.

Again, such lymph would remove for ever a danger which exists, although I believe to a small degree, *viz.*, the danger of imparting syphilis.\* My own belief, which is shared by most observers, is that lymph undergoes no diminution in its efficiency by cultivation in the human organism. But still, if Voigt were correct, extreme attenuation could always be corrected. I accepted Voigt's experiments until I read the most recent work on vaccination written by Dr. Crookshank, the distinguished Professor of Bacteriology in King's College, London, which you will find in our Library. He does not give Voigt's experiments in detail, but he states with reference to them as follows:—

"Voigt was misled by appearances in precisely the same way as Ceely and others, who have succeeded in reducing smallpox to the appearance of a vaccine vesicle. The true variolous character of the variola vaccine lymph, and the tendency in less early removes

\* Cory, out of 800,000 vaccinations, did not meet with a single case of syphilis.

to produce smallpox, is probably the reason why Voigt has abandoned its use in favour, as I am informed by M. Layet, of the ordinary spontaneous cowpox lymph from the vaccination station at Rotterdam."

Crookshank states "that it is not true that persons variolated must necessarily convey infection. This is only partially true, and is not necessarily the case, as is borne out by Badcock's lymph."

The question raised is a most interesting and important one, and I am certain will be still further discussed by experimenters; it will no doubt in the future be finally settled whether smallpox and cowpox are identical, or that one is a modified form of the other, both owning a common origin: that cowpox is in fact derived from smallpox, and that the refractory state induced by vaccination is carried by the inoculation of the disease itself modified by passage through another animal, or that vaccinia is a disease closely allied to smallpox. But so far as we are able to judge, their present characters are very permanent and distinct. Vaccinia has been passed through man for thousands of generations of the disease without reverting to smallpox. This, to my mind, is the most powerful argument against their identity, and I think we should act at present on the view that they are distinct and, that all the so-called vaccinations with smallpox are really inoculations.

On the question of the nature of the microbe of smallpox, I cannot do better than give an extract from Professor Koch's address before the 10th International Medical Congress at Berlin:—"But in several directions, and just in those where it was least to be expected, bacteriology has left us at fault, especially in the investigation of a number of infectious diseases which would appear to offer themselves as the readiest subjects for our examination owing to their notable infectiousness. This is particularly true of the whole group of exanthematic infectious diseases, measles, scarlet fever, smallpox, and typhus fever. For not one of these have we been able to get even the faintest clue to the nature of the specific organism to which they are due. Even vaccinia, which is always at our command, and can be so readily tested on the living organism, has obstinately resisted every effort to discover its special pathogenic organism, and the same is true of rabies."

He further on states:—"I am indeed inclined to the opinion that in the case of the diseases mentioned, it is not a question of bacteria at all, but of organised morbid agents which belong to an entirely different group of micro-organisms. And one feels all the more justified in adopting this opinion, since, as is well-known, peculiar parasites belonging to the very lowest group of the animal kingdom, the protozoa have quite recently been discovered in the blood of various animals, as well as in the blood of men suffering from malaria. We are not, indeed, quite sure of the evidence regarding these remarkable and most important parasites; and it is improbable that we shall advance much further until we are able to cultivate these protozoa outside the body in artificial culture media (as we do bacteria), or learn how to cultivate them under other conditions as natural as possible, so as to be able to study their biological conditions, mode of development, &c. If this problem should be solved, and there is no reason to doubt that it will be, then it is probable that a collateral branch of bacteriology will be developed embracing the mode of investigating pathogenic protozoa and allied micro-organisms, and we may hope that it will solve the difficulties surrounding those infectious diseases which have been mentioned, the etiology of which is still unknown."

At the present time it will not, I hope, be considered out of place if I recapitulate some practical points in connection with vaccination. Vaccination is manifested in two ways—first, it affords if successful a certain amount of immunity from an attack of smallpox; and secondly, if a person who has been successfully vaccinated contracts that disease, it is usually in a less severe form, and the mortality of such attacks is less. To put it briefly, vaccination tends to prevent death rather than attack. The

effect of successful vaccination, I believe, is never effaced; but the repetition of the operation in ten or twelve years is essential. It is of course the non-recognition of this fact by the public which has in a measure brought the operation into disrepute. The degree of protection afforded depends on the time which has elapsed since the performance of the operation and upon its thoroughness. In proof of this I am sorry to trouble you with statistics, for in Dr. Longstaff's words "mistrust of statistics is very general; on all hands one hears the remark 'you can prove anything by statistics.' The true and sufficient reply to this taunt is, 'without statistics you can prove nothing.'"

In Marson's well-known results of 5,000 cases the death-rate of those attacked by smallpox is seen to depend on the number of vaccine marks present; in other words on the area of surface involved in the operation. I here give you his figures:—

	Per Cent.
(1) Unvaccinated mortality ...	35
(2) Stated to be vaccinated, but no cicatrix...	23.57
(3) Vaccinated	Having one vaccine cicatrix ... 7.73
	Having two cicatrices ... 4.70
	Having three cicatrices ... 1.95
Having four or more cicatrices	0.55

The characteristics of good and bad scars have been very clearly given by that great vaccinator, and although defined nearly fifty years ago, are as accurate today as they were then. A good scar, he says, is distinct, foveated, dotted, or indented, in some instances radiated and having a well, or tolerably well, defined edge. A bad or indifferent scar or cicatrix is indistinct, smooth, without indentation, and with an irregular ill-defined edge. In Ceylon it is necessary, even before we consider whether a scar is good or bad, to decide whether the scar has been made by vaccination at all. I have no doubt at all in my own mind from the examination of the arms which I have made, that many of the marks in the position of vaccination marks are not vaccine marks at all, and that in consequence the operation is brought into disrepute when the possessor of such marks is attacked by smallpox. "No cicatrix should be returned as good unless there is foveolation; it is evidence that a person has been successfully vaccinated, that the vaccinia has run a tolerably normal course, and that it has produced some constitutional protective change. All scars without foveolation, from mere smooth, ill-defined, cicatricial markings on the skin, to the sharp cut deep scar with a raised and often livid centre, which is the result of ulceration of the vesicle, should be classified as bad."

I will just remind you of two facts: first, that if a person is successfully vaccinated within two days of exposure to smallpox, it prevents an attack; if within three days, the disease is modified and rendered less severe; and second, that in a community where the infantile mortality from smallpox is greater than the adult mortality from that disease, there is almost certainly defective vaccination. If you will note the age of those who have been attacked and who have died during the present outbreak, you will find, I am glad to say, that few infants or children have died: most of the deaths are above twenty. In former times the opposite was the case, so that one of the effects of vaccination has been to shift the mortality from infancy to mature age, and if those of mature age get themselves re-vaccinated, the mortality will be shifted altogether.

(To be continued.)

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