

## Literary Register.

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Price 12½ cents.  
R4 per annum.RALPH BLAKE, THE YOUNG  
ARTIST.

By ALFRED H. DUNCAN.

*(Concluded from page 290.)*

Gradually the mother and son fell into their old ways, and everything seemed to be just as it was before Ralph's severe illness; but a determination had taken possession of the young artist to make a name for himself, as he felt sure that his mother had set her heart on his becoming famous, and he was, in the quietness of his own room, striving to produce a picture such as he could, with credit, and send to the Royal Academy in London, with some hope of its being chosen to fill a place on those overcrowded walls. Days, weeks and months rolled by, and still he was not satisfied with his work; he altered it, he filled in, he rubbed out, yet still he found room for improvement; but as the time was drawing nigh for the entries to be made to the London Exhibition, he determined to get his mother's opinion of his work, by showing it to her, for, as yet, she was unaware of any such picture being in progress, or any such design having entered her son's head as to exhibit at London. Accordingly he asked her, one morning, to come into his bedroom, which was also his studio, and then he told her that he wished her to give her opinion about a picture which he had been doing, and which he thought must now be considered as finished. He then drew aside the curtain, from before his easel, and showed his mother her own likeness, as she had appeared to him, standing by the window of that very room, so well and so beautifully done, that Mrs. Blake gave a little cry of pleasure, and then, turning round, she put her arms round Ralph's neck and kissed him again and again. That she praised it goes without saying, and Ralph made all due allowance for a mother's pride in his work, and was not carried away by her exclamations of delight, but as she began to criticize the work calmly, he saw that she was speaking on a subject about which she was well acquainted, and he was pleased and flattered at the highly complimentary remarks which his picture brought forth, even although the criticism came from the lips of his own mother, who would naturally be inclined to praise rather than to blame. When Mrs. Blake heard what her son's intentions were in respect of the picture, she demurred at first, but, seeing that he had set his heart on sending it to London, she said nothing more in opposition to the scheme, but, on the contrary, did everything in her power to assist him in getting it framed, packed and sent off. After the picture had been despatched, Ralph became unsettled and restless, could not take up his brushes with any hope of doing good work; derived no pleasure from his books; and even the long rambles over the hills, which he was in the habit of taking, seemed to have lost their charm,

until one day, when a letter reached him announcing, that it had been decided by the hanging committee that his picture was to find a place on the walls of the Exhibition Gallery, and, as it turned out, it got a remarkably good position on the line. Ralph was beside himself with joy, the more so as it had been arranged between mother and son that he was to go to London himself, in the event of his picture being selected by the Committee as worthy of a place. Mrs. Blake and her son held many conversations about their future prospects, should the art critics treat Ralph's picture kindly, and as to what it might lead to in the way of orders from those who were able to pay well for work such as they desired. Mrs. Blake prophesied the greatest success, and cheered her son up with her unstinted praise of his work and the good fortune that its appearance in London would undoubtedly bring in its wake. But Ralph, cautious and less sanguine than his mother, declared that it would be probably stuck up in a corner, out of sight of everyone, would be ignored by the art critics entirely, and would be returned to him at the close of the Exhibition, as utterly unknown to the world at large, as if it had never left his bedroom. The Academy had been opened to the public for some days before the young artist arrived in London, and the daily papers were teeming with descriptions of the various pictures on exhibition, and Ralph, having washed off the stains of night travelling and changed his clothes, entered the coffee room of the hotel in which he was staying, and, taking up the newspapers, glanced through them and read, to his unspeakable joy, that his own picture was considered to be one of the pictures of the year. There was nothing but praise of his work in the columns of the various papers that lay on the table of the room, and allusion was made, in several places, to the dense crowd that stood around it all day long, so that it was with much difficulty that anyone could get a proper view of it. He procured copies of these papers and forwarded them to his mother, as he knew how much it would please her to read these paragraphs, and then, having finished breakfast, he hurried off to the Academy, which he reached shortly after the doors had been opened for the day, and therefore before any great crowd had collected. He at once went to see how his own picture had been hung, and was highly delighted when he saw the favorable position which it occupied. And yet he was far from satisfied with his work, for he now saw many little alterations that he would gladly have had an opportunity of effecting, mere trifles in their way no doubt, but sufficient to make him regret that he had not observed them sooner, and caused him to resolve never to exhibit a picture again, that he could, in his own opinion, possibly improve. Presently some straggling visitors began to arrive, and amongst them came a tall, aristocratic-looking gentleman, who walked slowly round the room, glancing at the pictures, and occasionally referring to his

catalogue, until, struck with one that was hanging near that of Ralph's, he drew back, and, seating himself on a couch, put on his eyeglasses and began to look leisurely at it. Presently his eye rested on the picture done by our hero, and, giving an exclamation of surprise, he arose, strode in about and gazed long and earnestly at it. Then he caught sight of two lines which Ralph had painted, very neatly, in the corner, and which constituted the only designation that the picture had, although in the newspapers it was always referred to as "Olden Dreams," and he read them, half aloud, to himself:—

"Oh! I see them sinking, sinking slowly,  
Those olden dreams, so pure, so holy."

"Most extraordinary likeness," he muttered. "Artist's name Blake too; must certainly find out who he is, and will endeavour to buy this picture." Ralph, having overheard these remarks, thought he might take the liberty of introducing himself; so, stepping forward, he apologized for the liberty he was taking, but added that, as he had inadvertently overheard the remarks which the gentleman had made to himself, he hoped he might be pardoned for introducing himself as the artist who had painted the picture, and which had attracted his attention. The gentleman bowed and said that he was very glad to make his acquaintance, adding that, if Ralph was disposed to part with his exhibit, he would willingly purchase it, as it reminded him of one, long since dead. Ralph replied that the picture was intended to represent his own mother, as indeed she had been utilized by him as a 'model' for most of his paintings, because he could not afford to engage a professional one. The gentleman, who gave his name as Sir Edward Walpole, smiled and said that the 'model' appeared to him to be a good deal better than any professional one, and, having persuaded Ralph to name a price for his picture, the bargain was closed, and the two adjourned to Sir Edward's club, where they partook of lunch and cemented their friendship with some dry champagne. In the course of the next few days Sir Edward gave Ralph a commission to paint several pictures for him, in fact gave him to understand that he would be kept pretty busy for some time to come, before he could complete the order, which appeared to Ralph to be simply the realization of his mother's hopes and prophecies on his account. On one occasion Ralph showed Sir Edward his portfolio of water-coloured sketches of the scenes around his Scottish home, which so charmed the worthy baronet, that he announced his intention of accompanying his young friend to Scotland, which country he said he had as yet never visited, and to see which he appeared suddenly to have taken a violent desire. Ralph, who had formed a strong attachment to Sir Edward, was delighted at the prospect of having him for a travelling companion, and wrote in great spirits to his mother about the success which had attended his visit to London, and which was entirely due to his newly-made acquaintance, who had constituted himself his patron, and had not only bought his exhibition picture, but had given him an order for several others at remunerative prices. He then added:—"I don't know anything about him except that he is Sir Edward Walpole, and owns a property in one of the midland counties,"—and, when she read this, poor little Mrs. Blake gave a great gasp, pressed her hand to her heart, and said: "Oh! no, no, it cannot be he, the sea never gives up its dead; it must be someone belonging to the same family, one of those who cast Edward off, because he married a commoner's daughter."

The news of Sir Edward Walpole's intimacy with Ralph seemed however to excite the widow

very much, and, when she heard that he was to accompany her son in his journey north, she got into a most fidgetty state of mind, such as no one had ever seen her in before. Ralph's movements being somewhat erratic, he sent no word to his mother as to when he thought it likely that he would be returning home, but one fine afternoon the train steamed into the station of the village in which Mrs. Blake lived, and Sir Edward and Ralph stepped out on to the platform. The former went off to the hotel, having told Ralph that he would call in the evening, after mother and son had had some time alone with each other, and, soon afterwards, Mrs. Blake had her boy folded in her arms, and was lavishing all a mother's tenderness upon him. Of course they had much to tell each other, and everything was forgotten except that they were once more united, and it was not until they were sitting at the table, after having finished their tea, that they were reminded of Sir Edward's promised visit, by the girl coming in from the shop and saying that a gentleman wished to see Mr. Ralph. The latter quickly stepped outside and drew his patron into the sitting-room, apologizing for the smallness of their accommodation, and then turned to introduce his visitor to his mother, but these two, with one long searching stare at each other, exclaimed "Mary," "Edward," and were locked in a fond embrace, whilst Sir Edward rained kisses on the pale face of his wife, who had fainted. Ralph stood petrified, till his father, turning round to him, said, "Get water, Ralph, your mother has fainted, my boy." Then he guessed all, and in the shortest possible time he procured the water, and soon had the pleasure of hearing from his mother's lips that his patron was no other than her husband and his father. Shortly afterwards Ralph made the excuse of wishing to see his studio and to unpack his portmanteau, and so left his parents together, for he felt sure that they must have much to say to each other. Sir Edward soon told his story,—how, the ship in which she had sailed having gone down, as was supposed, with all hands, he and another passenger succeeded in keeping afloat until they were picked up by a Spanish vessel, and were landed in one of the South American republics. There they got mixed up in an insurrection which was then raging, and which resulted in five years' imprisonment for each of them. On his being liberated he at once returned home, but could hear nothing of his wife and child, although he had advertized in various papers, and made every effort to trace out their whereabouts, and finally, concluding that they must be both dead, he settled down to a quiet country life, he having fallen heir to the title and estates of his ancestors, through the deaths of his uncle and cousin. Mrs. Blake—or Lady Walpole as we must now call her—told her story also, and how she had taken her maiden name again, when she determined to keep a shop, for the purpose of earning a livelihood. The husband and wife, after so long a separation, had much to say to each other; but as the burden of their conversation concerns no one but themselves, I need not repeat it here: suffice it to say that Sir Edward was proud to think that his son had risen, by his own exertions, to the position which he now undoubtedly was entitled to, in art circles, and only longed to get his wife and boy away from the life which they had so long led, away to that lovely English home which was awaiting them, and where they would again take their place in the ranks of that society which by nature they were intended to adorn. It was decided therefore, in order to avoid publicity, that she should quietly sell off her effects, letting it be understood in the village that she was going to reside in England so that her son might be nearer his work

as he was desirous of taking up his residence in London. It was known that Sir Edward was the purchaser of Ralph's picture, and that he had determined to act as patron to him, so his frequent visitations at the shop of the supposed widow created no surprise to the villagers, who one and all honestly regretted that Mrs. Blake and her son had made up their minds to reside anywhere except in their midst, for they had a very strong regard for the widow and Ralph, and were unceasing in their expressions of sorrow at their approaching departure. Settling up Mrs. Blake's affairs, and disposing of her stock-in-trade, did not occupy much time, and soon afterwards, Sir Edward and Lady Walpole and Ralph left by train for their family seat in England, where they now reside, Ralph still occupying himself with his brush, he having become a regular contributor to the National Exhibition.

THE END.

THE VOYAGE OF FRANÇOIS

PYRARD.

In vol. IV (p. 4) of the *Literary Register* we noticed the first part of vol. II of the translation of this work made for the Hakluyt Society by Mr. Albert Gray, with the assistance of Mr. H. C. P. Bell; and we have now to perform the same pleasant task with regard to the second part,\* which concludes the work. But, before proceeding to do so, we think it right, in justice to the old French traveller (and also to his able translator), to say a little more than we did regarding Pyrard's full and most interesting description of Goa and of the manners and customs of the Portuguese,—the former a magnificent place at the time; while, as to the latter, "manners bad, customs abominable," would not be far amiss. The first nine chapters of the second book, comprising about half of the first part of this volume, are devoted to Goa and its neighbourhood, the subjects of the chapters being as follows:—

Chapter I. Arrival at Goa, and description of the Hospitals and Prisons there.

Chapter II. Description of the Island of Goa, the chief Inhabitants, and Lords.

Chapter III. Of the city of Goa, its Squares, Streets, Churches, Palaces, and other Buildings.

Chapter IV. Of the Markets, Slaves, Money, Water, and other remarkable things at Goa.

Chapter V. Of the Government of Goa.—Of the Viceroy, his Court, and magnificence.

Chapter VI. Of the Archbishop of Goa, the Inquisition, Ecclesiastics, and Ceremonies observed there, with other Occurrences.

Chapter VII. Of the Exercises and Games of the Portuguese, Metifs, and other Christians at Goa, their Dress and Manner of living, and of their Wives.

Chapter VIII. Of the Portuguese Soldiers at Goa, their Manner of life and taking ship.—Divers Expeditions, and the Order observed by them in war.

Chapter IX. Of the kingdom of Dealcan, Decan, or Ballagate, and the Neighbourhood of Goa.

In the first chapter Pyrard gives a very full description of the hospital, in which he was a patient on two occasions. He says of it:—

This hospital is, as I believe, the finest in the world, whether for the beauty of the building and its appur-

\* The Voyage of François Pyrard of Laval to the East Indies, the Maldives, the Moluccas and Brazil. Translated into English from the third French edition of 1619, and edited, with notes, by Albert Gray, formerly of the Ceylon Civil Service, assisted by H. C. P. Bell of the Ceylon Civil Service. In two volumes.—Vol. II, Part II. London, Printed for the Hakluyt Society, 4, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W. C. M.DCCCXC.

tenances, the accommodation being in all respects excellent, or for the perfect order, regulation, and cleanliness observed, the great care taken of the sick, and the supply of all comforts that can be wished for, whether in regard to doctors, drugs, and appliances for restoring health, the food that is given to eat, or the spiritual consolation that is obtainable at any hour.

Mr. Gray in a note says:—

The Royal Hospital of Goa was certainly a splendid institution, and this account of it is the best extant. Linschoten mentions it without detail (i, 237); V. le Blanc says it excelled that of the Holy Ghost at Rome, or the Infirmary of Malta. It was founded by Albuquerque, on the capture of the city, and was the care and pride of successive kings and viceroys (see numerous references to it in the *Liv. das Monç.* and the *Arch. Port. Or.*). No doubt the order and regularity, the cleanliness and good living, readily won the admiration of a traveller who had gone through so much as Pyrard; these were provided under an elaborate code of rules (given in the *Arch. Port. Or.*, Fasc. 5, No. 838). There was, however, something radically wrong in its management, and our author curiously mentions below the frightful death-rate at this time, without casting any reflections on the authorities.

In connection with this subject we may mention that Heydt, writing some 130 years later, spoke very highly of the manner in which the hospital in Colombo was managed, surpassing even that at Batavia. The prison in which Pyrard was incarcerated was, however, anything but a desirable place of abode; and he perpetrates a pun in writing of it, saying that it was "called the *Salle*, and not without reason; for it is the most foul and filthy [*sale*] place in the world, as I believe." The detailed description of the town of Goa is most interesting, and makes one wish that we had such a description of Colombo as it was in Portuguese times,—though, of course, Colombo was an insignificant place in comparison with the capital of Portuguese India.

But we must pass on to notice the second part of vol. II, which contains the concluding portion of Pyrard's travels; his Treatise of Animals, Trees, and Fruits; his Advice to those who would undertake the Voyage to the East Indies; his Dictionary of some Words of the Maldivian Language; and an Appendix, in which Mr. Gray has collected a mass of curious and interesting information regarding the Maldives. The author's travels occupy only five chapters, descriptions being given of the voyage round the Cape, St. Helena, Brazil, and Pyrard's return to France. Pyrard says that the lashing of a ship in a storm (what is termed in the English translation of the Acts of the Apostles "undergirding") "is called *Vater*." Mr. Gray in a note says:—"Perhaps the Fr. *bâter*, to put a pack-saddle on an animal; the word is not given in Jal's *Gloss. Naut.*" It is possible that the word may be from the Dutch *vatten*, to seize. In describing the products of Brazil Pyrard writes:—"There is a kind of rice, like *maiz* or Turkey wheat; but it is only given to cattle." To this Mr. Gray appends the following interesting note:—

No doubt maize itself; the passage is curious as showing the effect of an erroneous nomenclature. Maize—the plant as well as the name—is indigenous to America, and was unknown in Europe before the discovery of the New World. It was introduced into the several countries of Southern Europe and took divers names, the most widespread being that given by the French, *blé de Turquie*. The first occurrence of this name is in Ruellius, *De Nat. Stirpium* (1536). By the end of the century people had grown up to regard it as Turkish wheat; and Pyrard, when he goes to Brazil, finds "a kind of rice like *maiz*." De Candolle notes some of the other erroneous assignments of origin: thus, in Lorraine, maize is called Roman corn; in

Tuscany, Sicilian corn; in the Pyrenees, Spanish corn. In Sicily, as in England, it is more correctly called Indian corn.

The Treatise of Animals, Trees, and Fruits, comprises twelve chapters; and the information given is wonderfully accurate on the whole. With reference to a note on p. 346, we may state that the cost of keeping an elephant in Ceylon seems to have increased considerably since Sir Emerson Tennent wrote. The removal of the tortoiseshell by fire from the living reptile, as described on p. 349, is we believe, still practised in Ceylon. The crab with the huge claws spoken of on p. 351 is, we should imagine, *Burga latro*, which infests the Cocos Islands and extracts the kernel of the coconuts. Regarding cinnamon Pyrard writes:—

Cinnamon grows only in the Island of Ceylon, and there in so great abundance that the most part of the country is covered with it,\* as ours here is with under-wood and forest. The tree is like the olive, the leaves like those of the laurel; it bears a white flower, and a fruit like a ripe olive. It has two barks; the first is worthless, the second is the true cinnamon, which is stripped on the tree, and allowed to dry there; afterwards, when dry, it is gathered. In other two or three years it grows again, without the tree suffering any harm.†

This tree will not grow without being planted. In that country is so great a store of cinnamon that a pound of it is worth on the spot no more than six deniers.

Of the coconut palm and its products Pyrard gives a very full description; and Mr. Gray in his notes utilizes information from the *Ceylon Observer* and *All about the Coconut Palm*. We cannot understand Mr. Gray's statement that the coconut palm "was not known to the writers of the *Mahavanso*." The palm is referred to; though, according to Tennent, the fruit was not apparently used for food in the earlier times. Pyrard's list of Maldivian words, with the modern equivalents and the notes (in which Mr. Bell has had a large share), is a *bonne bouche* for philologists. (When are we to have a regular Maldivian dictionary and grammar, Mr. Bell?) The "Note on the Maldivian Numerals" is also very interesting, with its description of the dual system of counting (decimal and duodecimal) in use among the islanders. The Maldivian chart of Ceylon and the South of India is a great curiosity. In it our island is divided by a channel running from north-east to south-west, with an islet in the middle (? Kandy). The reason, no doubt, is that suggested by Mr. Bell, viz., that "finding a river-mouth at Colombo, and another at Trincomalee," the Maldivians "thought that Ceylon was intersected by a sea channel, such as divides their own atolls." The Appendix contains:—

A. Early Notices of the Maldives. B. Notices of the Exiled Kings of the Maldives. C. The History of Kunhali, the Great Malabar Corsair. D. List of Kings of the Maldivian Islands since the Conversion to Mahomedanism. E. Dedicatory Epistle to M. Guillaume.

\* A mistake: the cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum*) grows only on the western coast of Ceylon, between Chilaw and Matura, and chiefly in a small area around Colombo. The author probably argues from what he saw of the cinnamon gardens of Colombo. For a full account of the history of cinnamon as an article of commerce, see Flücker and Hanbury, *Pharmacographia*, p. 467.—[Mr. Gray's note.]

† This may have been the former method of gathering the bark, but it is not the modern practice. The finest growth of bark is that of the younger shoots of about three years. The branches of this age are lopped, and the bark then removed in strips (see full accounts of the cultivation and preparation in Percival's *Ceylon*, p. 340; Cordier, *Ceylon*, ii, p. 405; Thunberg *Travels*, iv, pp. 194-204).—[Mr. Gray's note.]

This part is illustrated with two curious facsimiles, from the Ressende MS. in the British Museum, of the Attack on Male by the Portuguese under Dom Ferreira Belliogo in 1631, and Kottakkal, the Town and Fortress of Kunhali, the Malabar Corsair. From the Early Notices of the Maldives we hope to extract in future issues. The work closes with an admirable General Index. Altogether, this translation of Pyrard's voyages is one of the most valuable of the Hakluyt Society's issues, and reflects the greatest credit on Messrs. Gray and Bell.

### THE LATE MR. F. C. GRENIER ON SLAVERY IN JAFFNA 50 YEARS AGO.

The male slaves in the district of Jaffna are of about 40,000 in number, those of the female sex it is presumed are about 20,000.

The slaves are considered as movable property, and form a part of the dowry given to females of Chitty, Vellales, Madepallies and of other superior castes; there are slaves of three different castes as existing at present, viz., Covias, Naluas and Pallas; these slaves could be sold and alienated at any time by their owners,—in some instances children follow the conditions of their mothers, but some do not, and try to deny their ever being in a state of thralldom; and to forward this, their object of denial, they emigrate to some remote countries by way of taking a flight without their owners' knowledge, and there they pass under Madapally caste, and after the lapse of several years, their original denomination, namely slaves, eventually becomes extinct.

When the owners of slaves die, the slaves are divided together with other property, but where a division cannot be effected in equal shares amongst the slaveholders, one or two of the heirs take the whole of the slaves and make good to the other partners by giving their lands or money to the full amount of the value of the shares of such partners as have made over and assigned their shares.

The marriages of slaves are equally as valid as that of their owners. When a slave of either sex is sold out and out, the partner in life of such slave cannot be separated; and where it so happens that the husband and wife are the slaves of two different owners, and they both are sold, the sale must be effected by both the owners. There are instances of one of the couple only being sold, in which case separation does not take place, say where a wife is only sold, the husband, notwithstanding a different owner, has property in him, is permitted to live with the female slave so sold.

The children of slaves are separated at any time from their parents without reference to their age.

Some owners treat their slaves very kindly, but some even go to the extent of tying their slaves to trees and flogging them.

The whole of the time of slaves is at the command of their masters, excepting on some particular holy days, or on those occasions appointed for the celebration of marriages amongst them, when their owners allow them leave of absence from their employment, but this loss is made good to the owner by the slaves wishing to be absent for a stated time doing double quantity of business for 4 or 5 days anterior to it, viz., by going to the owners' work at an earlier hour and leaving it at a later hour in the evening; but there is one thing to be stated in justice to the

owner, that he (the owner) presents the slave on the occasion of his or her marriage, cloths and edible things as a token of his attachment to the slaves, but this mode of manifestation of kindness does not prevail amongst all owners of slaves, but only amongst a very few, say one in ten.

The slaves are employed generally in any work their masters feel inclined to order them to do, their time is not confined to any particular work, neither have they any stated time for rest, they are engaged in working for their masters indiscriminately on week days and Sundays.

Some slaves are fed and clothed by their masters, viz., those who do not get payments for the work done to them, and such slaves are permitted to live on a part of their master's land and to cultivate the remaining portion of it giving their master a share of the produce for the ground, and the residue of the produce is appropriated by the slaves for their support and that of sickly and aged slaves, provided the slave who cultivates the land is a member of the family of the aged and sickly slave; in some instances the slaves partially support and clothe their masters, when the latter are in an indigent state. Some unjust masters, finding their slaves in good circumstances, claim support from them, and where a slave refuses to furnish it, the master threatens to take him to far countries and to sell him there. This threat overpowers some coward slaves, and induces them to grease the fist of the threatening master with something to satisfy his want only for that occasion. When a Palla or Nallua slave has been going with the palanquin of a gentleman, and has received his hire for it, the august master, the moment such a slave returns home, goes to and threatens him to sell or otherwise dispose him, for the purpose of getting something of what the unfortunate and poor slave earned. This barbarous and unjust treatment on the part of the masters is happily becoming gradually extinct, and is entirely owing to our just and impartial British Government.

I am not aware of an instance where an estate escheated to the Government, or where slaves were seized under a writ for private or public debt; and it is nothing but right that slaves forming a part of the debtor's property should be sold, provided the other property be insufficient to pay the debt.

Slaves of all the three castes, viz., Palla, Nallua and Covia are employed in cultivating lands, and in doing domestic services without distinction, but for cooking the master's food and rendering other culinary services, the Covia slaves are only held by the master, who goes even to the extent of having a woman of Covia caste as a mistress of the house. She by time gets children by such a master, and he out of charitable feelings gets an entry of his marriage with the Covia woman registered when he is confined to his death-bed. This measure is resolved to with two views, one is, the master thinks that he will get to heaven; perhaps he is influenced to form this opinion by the reminiscence of what is said in the Apostolic work: "Whoremongers shall not get to heaven," and the other is to prevent the children from being called "*Vaisy Mahan*," or children born out of wedlock. It is right to be observed that this way of living prevail only amongst a very few men who are not married, or who are become widowers.

Slavery is an affair of caste, and was introduced in the time of the reign of Tamul Kings upwards of a thousand years.

\* These are the only two classes of slaves who carry palanquins.

Slavery certainly tends to degrade men and women of slave caste in every respect.

The natives who have Christian feelings would reckon the measure of abolishing slavery to be very salutary and a charitable institution.

Instead of the present Ordinance No... of the year....., should Government pass an Ordinance stating that persons (men and women of the three classes of slaves, namely, Pallas' Nalluas and Covias) wishing to obtain their freedom, should work on the Government roads now contemplated to be opened in the province of Jaffna for a limited period of two years, receiving a sum equal to half the hire which would otherwise be incurred by Government for the road, it would soon have the desired effect of abolishing slavery completely. This measure is similar to what was adopted as far back as about 1821 or 1822 by the late Governor Sir Edward Barnes, who published a notice that persons who wished to be liberated from slavery and obtain their manumission might employ themselves in digging the canal at Chilaw for inland navigation, which offer was readily availed of by many persons, who on the expiration of the time named in the notice, it is believed, worked out their freedom and that of their family.

### COCONUT SUGAR.

Hyderabad Estate, Batticaloa,

November 27th, 1849.

Messrs. Lemarchand & Co., Jaffna.

Gentlemen,—I am in safe receipt of your favor written in reply to the questions addressed to you, and I beg to offer my very best thanks for the same, conveying as it does, much new and valuable information about the subject which is now occupying a great deal of my attention. I neglected writing till I could more satisfactorily give you a kind of result of our trials, and from which I hope you may draw the same conclusions that I have. As for the palmyra toddy, I consider that at present the most important affair in Jaffna, and only wish I could have a chance to try what could be done, I myself think that the fact of the season beginning and ending in 3 or 4 months a great advantage indeed. I make no doubt that the paane could be purchased from the natives at a remunerating price, and that they would get to prefer so selling it, to making that abominable compound, which they do now. I have proved that paane can be brought always in all seasons, in the hot sun or rainy weather, in the land wind or monsoon, 5½ miles in chatties on coolies' heads, not reaching me till 4 p.m., and yet not suffer any deterioration whatever, and that from it, however highly limed it may be, a most superior quality of muscovado sugar can be made. The weather is now so very rainy that I can do nothing, but when it clears a little, I will try and get some more and make you a sample. Even that excellent sugar you sent me deliquesced considerably on the way, and I am afraid that mine, being still only muscovado, would do so entirely, still I chance a few grains in this letter. Our experiments are not yet sufficient to determine precisely whether bark or lime would be used; but in consequence of a recent discovery I am inclined rather to the latter, as there is then no risk of fermentation taking place. This day a paper on the subject, with samples, goes to the Asiatic Society, whom I have requested to have a full report thereon made and sent to the papers. I have little doubt they will do so, and then you will see the whole detailed, as far as we have yet gone.

I am curious to hear what the Jaffna planters say, and if they have tried it as yet on any of their bearing trees; also, if they anticipate that we shall have any difficulty in obtaining toddy-drawers. A friend writing from India affirms that we shall not, but number can be procured from Mysore,

My brother has made a very fair trial on two small trees having tried them 2 months, (7 paales were cut altogether on the two trees; 8 might have been cut, but one was left in the middle of the experiment, and now he is letting the trees run to nuts, as a further proof, each proceeding paale was uniformly larger than the one before, and yielded more toddy.

The last cut trees yielded the most. A paale will run 40 days' cutting twice a day. With lime, the toddy may be taken down once in 24 hours, and in the evening the paale only stirred. The first 30 days the two trees yielded on an average  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pints each per day. The second 31 days they gave  $4\frac{1}{2}$

2)7 $\frac{1}{2}$

$3\frac{1}{2}$  average.

But it is a question whether the first month should be counted. Thus a tree seems to be able to acquire as it was a *habit* of giving toddy; and probably the more it is cut the better. The paales which have come out since have abundance of nuts now on the flower stems, adding the 1<sup>st</sup> for the paale nuts cut we have, on the average of the two months about 180 gallons per annum from a tree, and taking the second month, over 200 or rather exactly 200. I am sure this is much more than any one expected. In all the processes I see no difficulty which may not be overcome, or rather which has not been overcome, and on the first December we hope to start, with 50 trees, but that depends on whether we can get a certain pail made.)

I have only further to say that if any planter in Jaffna wishes for information or any particular point which I can afford, I will do my best to afford it him. I dare say they already number among them some sugar planters. I have a book by a Mr. Whitehouse of Jamaica. Is he any relation to your son-in-law?

But it is possible, as I am acquainted with most of the late discoveries, &c., or rather improvements in the art, that something may occur, if they really wish to try and if in time for next palmyra season; if anyone thought seriously of it, I would be willing to come to Jaffna (if could get leave) and assist them to erect any works necessary or forward any plans or sketches of the same on remunerating me a trifle for the loss of time. There are some things particularly needed by this paane (as it seems now) rather different from what is necessary in the case of cane juice; but, if any one procure and boil some paane, they will soon see it. As our paane averages 9.5 Beaume, there is no fear but every gallon will yield a pound of muscovado sugar, and my trial leads me to think that  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. may be looked for. None of my experiments have been quantitative ones; it cannot be done in open earthen chatties.

As to the refining of the Jaggery, it can be done; and I have done it, but how much better to act on the raw material! Notwithstanding, when the season opens, I will ask you to buy and send me some for a trial on a large scale, say, perhaps, a ton. I will advise you of this.

Meanwhile, please make this quite public. I shall have no secrets, though of course the practical part of the business can never be explained, it must be seen and experienced. The cost of apparatus, however, will not be very great. If any one is going to set about it as I said in time for the palmyras, they should lose no time.

A few lines in acknowledgment will be esteemed a favor. Please tell me if the sample arrived at all presentable, and, if so what the sequel is priced at? If it is really in good condition when you get it, Perhaps you would let Mr. Dyke see it? Perhaps you have heard also something or other new on the subject since. By-the-bye, you omit to say which sized baskets are sold 300 for a shilling. I should like to know the nett weight (minus baskets) of a given number of baskets, their size, and price. You do say 8 to 10 baskets one pound weight, but not which kind size is here specified. We have not got to make such good sugar, I think when Capt. Reddie was here; this is made by a new process discovered lately.

With many thanks, I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours, faithfully,

(Signed) J. GLANVILLE TAYLOR.

## CEYLON BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

ADDRESS OF DR. KYNSEY, C.M.G., P.C.M.O. &c.

(Concluded from page 296.)

Disinfection is of such practical importance in the suppression of infectious diseases, and has been investigated with so much scientific accuracy during the last few years, that it will not, I hope, be considered out of place if I briefly bring before you some of the most recent results on the subject. In Professor Crookshank's words "there is no wider field for research than the determination of the real effect of disinfectants and antiseptics. Painstaking and laborious as the researches are which have been hitherto made, the subject is so beset with fallacies leading in some cases to totally erroneous conclusions that it is not surprising that one meets on all sides with conflicting statements."

Again, he says, that a knowledge of disinfectants is necessary "to the Sanitarian in preventing the spreading of disease and in the disposal of putrefactive matter, to the Surgeon who is anxious to exclude micro-organisms during surgical operations, and to arrest in wounds the development of bacteria which have already gained an entrance, to the Physician in the treatment of microparasitic diseases." There can be no doubt of the usefulness of this knowledge to the two former, but to the Physician who has to deal with micro-organisms circulating in the blood, I am afraid Koch's researches leave us little ground to hope for favourable results from their internal administration. Koch has stated that to check the growth of the anthrax bacillus in man twelve grammes (nearly an ounce) of iodine should be constantly in circulation, and that the dose of quinine necessary to destroy the spirilla of relapsing fever would be from twelve to sixteen grammes. The difficulties which beset the study of the effects of disinfectants are due in great part to the fact that some few only are destructive to spores, others are destructive to the micro-organisms but not to the spores, and many are only inhibitive or antiseptic, simply preventing their growth without destroying them. Those which are destructive to spores are moist heat over  $100^{\circ}$  C., or dry heat at  $140^{\circ}$  C.  $1\%$  chlorine gas in moist air, mercuric chloride one part in 1,000 of water, carbolic acid 1 in 20, and potassium permanganate 1 in 20. It is to Koch we owe our accurate knowledge of the value of dry and moist air as disinfectants or germicides. Bacteria and spores were subjected by him for a certain time to known temperatures in hot air chambers, and were then transferred to a nourishing soil, or animals, were inoculated. The results he arrived at were as follows:—

### I.—In dry air.

Sporeless micro-organisms at a little over  $100^{\circ}$  C. are destroyed in one hour and a half.

Spores of bacilli require three hours at  $140^{\circ}$  C. If enclosed in pillows and blankets exposure at the same temperature for three or four hours is necessary.

Spores of fungi require one and a half hours at  $100^{\circ}$  to  $115^{\circ}$  C.

### II.—Steam under pressure.

In hot air four hours' exposure to a temperature of  $130^{\circ}$  or  $140^{\circ}$  C. brought the temperature inside a roll of flannel to  $85^{\circ}$ , and the spores were not injured. Exposure to steam under pressure at  $120^{\circ}$  C. for one and half hour raised the internal temperature to  $117^{\circ}$  C., and killed the spores, thus proving the superior penetrative power of steam heat. Dry heat of  $100^{\circ}$  C., moist heat of  $90^{\circ}$  C., simple drying, ferric chloride, boracic acid, and weak solutions of quinine, mercuric chloride, and carbolic acid will destroy most microbes, but will not destroy their spores.

The following substances in parts per million of dilution will prevent the growth of micro-organisms: mercuric chloride 3, oil of mustard 30, salicylic acid 666, potassium permanganate 714, carbolic acid 1,200, quinine 1,600.

In the practical application of disinfectant substances, the following facts have been established:—

1.—Lime from its power of absorbing sulphur compounds and other offensive gases is useful for disinfecting street drains, in the removal of dead bodies, and in mortuaries and burial grounds.

2.—The acid sulphates for deodorising excreta and manure.

3.—Sulphur fumigation and hot lime washing for the disinfection of rooms followed by free aëration.

4.—Hot dry or hot moist air for the disinfection of clothes.

5.—Hot baths with strongly alkaline soft soap, the body to be afterward anointed with oil, or oil and carbolic acid (1 to 50) for the disinfection of persons who have recovered from an infectious disease.

6.—Solution of chloride of zinc (1<sup>o</sup>/<sub>o</sub>) for the disinfection of furniture.

I need hardly point out that to carry out disinfection in a thorough manner, the inhabitants of an infected house must leave it for a time, and to enable them to do this, a house of refuge should be provided in each infected centre. In a perfect system of infectious disease prevention, the following course should be followed:—

1. The removal of all cases of infectious disease to hospital where they should be kept until they are in a safe state for discharge without any danger of infecting others. Before discharge they should have had several baths, be well washed with soft soap, and provided with clean clothes.

2. The removal of all persons who have occupied the infected house to a house of refuge where their clothes and bodies should be disinfected.

3. The thorough cleansing and disinfection of the infected house, and its contents, after which free aëration by leaving the doors and windows open and, if necessary, removing a portion of the roof. In attempting "to stamp out infectious diseases, we must remember that owing to the complex conditions of civilization, to the sentiment of humanity as well as to the affections of the family circle, it is obviously impossible to obey the harsh if wholesome dictates of science. In the abstract such recommendations are logical and reasonable; in their application to the prevalent conditions of human life they will fail by their own impracticability."

The late Professor De Chaumont used to state in his lectures that a nation passes through several stages in its hygienic history. First, the stage of absolute savagery not much removed from animals; second, the supernatural stage in which disease is looked upon as the direct act of an offended Deity; third, the rational period in which disease is attributed to physical agencies capable of investigation and of being dealt with scientifically. I am afraid in some of the towns, and in most of the country parts of this island, the people are only in the first and second stages; still fifty years ago sanitation was not so much advanced in Great Britain as it is in Ceylon today. Thirty years ago students were never taught the principles of hygiene. When I joined the Army Medical Staff in 1863, I was unable to obtain a text-book on hygiene, which was one of the subjects taught at Netley, indeed the only school where it was taught in those days, by my revered friend, the late Professor Parkes, and I well remember with what surprise I studied the syllabus placed in my hands when I saw that I had to learn such subjects as water and its impurities, air, cubic space and ventilation, drainage and the removal of excreta, food and its adulterations, disease and its prevention, for I was only up to that taught how to try and cure it. Now hygiene is taught in every school of medicine as part of the ordinary course. Fifty years ago no one thought impurity of air, water, and soil did any harm. Vaccination was not general, sanitary legislation was almost unknown; there was no registration, consequently no vital statistics. The money borrowed in England alone during the past fifty years for sanitary improvements amounts to upwards of 150 million pounds sterling, and that this money has been well invested is proved by the largely increased average duration of life.

The mean duration of life—i. e., the expectation of life at birth—was in round numbers by Price's Northampton Life Tables corrected (1762) about thirty years, by Milne's Carlisle Table (1789) thirty-eight years, by Farr's English Life Table No. 1 (1841) forty-one years, and by Dr. Ogle's New English Life Table (1870-80) forty-three years; it is now considerably longer. The yearly death-rate of London, which closely approaches the average English death-rate, was 50 per 1,000 in the past century, has steadily diminished until it reached 22.4 in the ten years 1871-80, 19.3 in the five years 1881-5, several districts having a death-rate below 15 per mille. In the Registrar-General's report for 1889 just reviewed in the *Lancet*, I learn that the birth-rate was 30.5, and the death-rate 17.9 per 1,000, 17.8 in the previous year being the lowest English death-rate on record. The country rates ranged from 13.7 and 14 in Sussex to 21 in Lancashire. Similar results can undoubtedly be attained in Ceylon by increased attention to sanitation, particularly by the introduction of a pure water supply into those large towns which are still without one, and by improvement in the food supplies of the rural population. The introduction of a pure water supply into Colombo and Kandy has practically abolished outbreaks of cholera, and the same result will be attained in Jaffna and Galle by a similar measure.

The figures just published of the charitable donations in London make one wonder and think as they show how readily the wealthy in England fulfil their duties. In 1888 £340,000 were left in charitable donations in London alone, in 1889 £330,000, and in 1890 £769,000. The wealth of Ceylon is of course not to be compared with that of England, but it is painful to contemplate how much wealth there is here amongst us, and how little is done by those who are able, but not willing to assist their poorer neighbours. In this connection the Medical Department has lost a true friend and liberal benefactor by the death of Mr. Charles de Soysa, and I am sure you will all join me in deploring the accident which deprived his fellow-countrymen of such a kind-hearted and generous gentleman.

I am afraid you will feel that this Address has been unnecessarily prolonged, so that I will only detain you to point out what I consider are the desiderata for improving the sanitary condition of the country and the well-being of its inhabitants:—

1.—I should like to see a comprehensive Public Health Act introduced, which would embody all the Ordinances relating to the health and sanitation of the towns and villages of Ceylon.

2.—The introduction of a pure water supply into Jaffna, Galle, and other towns, which are at present dependent upon surface wells.

3.—An improved system of drainage in our large towns, with the introduction of a proper system of conservancy.

4.—There should be in each Government Agent's Kachcheri a sanitary report on the state of each town and village in his Province, giving the population, births, deaths, state of vaccination, water supply, drainage, food supply, and conservancy of each, compiled under the supervision of the Colonial Surgeon, and corrected from time to time.

5.—The Sanitary Department of each Municipality and Local Board should be placed under the Colonial Surgeon and Medical Officer of the station, who should be made responsible for their proper working.

6.—A system of registration for qualified medical men should be established, and an Ordinance introduced prohibiting any unqualified person to practise medicine.

7.—The vital statistics of the Colony should be published weekly for the large towns of Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Kurunegala, Jaffna, Negombo, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and monthly for minor towns.

8.—That as one of the means of preventing the concealment of disease, no corpse should be allowed burial in Colombo, Kandy, Galle, or Jaffna, without the previous production of a certificate from a duly qualified medical man, stating the cause of death.

It is notorious when an epidemic of cholera or small-pox prevails, the cause of death of cases which have been concealed and proved fatal is returned under some vague term as "fever," "diarrhœa," &c.

9.—There should be a Veterinary Department for the study of the diseases of animals. I believe much loss in the country districts could be saved to farmers by timely treatment of sick cattle, and by early destruction when they are suffering from contagious disease.

Now, gentlemen, I have to perform a very pleasing duty, and that is to hand over to my old and much respected friend, Dr. Loos, the Presidential Chair, and to express the hope that his year of office may be a most successful one. If I may be permitted in the presence of Dr. Loos to express my opinion of the chief characteristic of his blameless and active life, I would say that it is a denial of self in his efforts to do good without looking for favour or reward, and an absence of desire for popular applause. In the simplicity of his life, and his extreme charity towards the feelings and failings of his fellow-men, who may perhaps differ from him, he has shown an example which we all should follow. I am afraid, I have not been as active a President during the past year as I should have been; but in asking your forgiveness, I know you are all aware what a busy life mine is, so busy that I have not been able from pressure of work to revise this Address. Believe me, if I have gained your approbation in anything I have done in the past, I am satisfied and desire no more. In my duties I am always reminded of the 77th aphorism of the *Novum Organon*:—"When the populace applauds us, we should ask ourselves what fault we have committed."

Dr. Kynsey then vacated the chair; and Dr. Loos, in assuming it, said that before he permitted any other gentleman to speak, he wished to express his thanks to Dr. Kynsey for the very kind remarks which he had made about him. Dr. Kynsey had given him, he was afraid, a very much better character than he deserved, but he looked upon it as a token of Dr. Kynsey's good-will and favour towards him, and he was very thankful for that. He wished also to express his deep obligation to the members for having elected him as President for the coming year. As he was not resident in Colombo, he feared he should not be able to serve them as much as they had a right to expect of him; but it would be his purpose and duty to promote the objects of the Association. He should have been prepared to say something to the Association in the form of an address if it had been necessary, but he was glad, after the interesting address just given them, to say that it was not needed. He could speak to them a good deal on the subject which Dr. Kynsey had chosen, which was one of very great importance at the present time, but that gentleman had done it far better than he could have. He hoped the address would be printed; it was one to be read and pondered over. He had traversed over such an extent of ground that he (Dr. Loos) would not be able to comment upon it unless he had taken notes; but he might tell them that 40 years ago in 1852 and 1853 it had gone abroad that inland quarantine—the isolation which Dr. Kynsey had spoken of—was a great hardship upon the people, and there was a great feeling against inland quarantine. It was taught that all this private isolation was a farce and that going to hospital was a hardship upon the poor. A committee was appointed; and the result was that quarantine was abolished and vaccination was substituted. He was then in medical charge of the Pettah hospital, and there was a very serious outbreak of smallpox. They had a journal at the time, and there were two able men writing a great deal about sanitation. Boards of Health were new then. A Board was established in Colombo, and sanitation was considered everything. It was not thought necessary to isolate the patients, and they were in great danger of cholera raging too. He himself, being a conservative, took upon himself to write several times against this view and pointing out that isolation was necessary. He wrote under the signature of *Audi Alteram Partem*. Now, what he

saw was that quarantine had revived. History thus repeated itself, and what he had advocated had come to pass again. With regard to vaccination, it was now carried on by the department with vigour and efficiency. For several years he vaccinated himself and when in outstations their lymph was finished or exhausted they had to send and get some more lymph at their own expense. (Laughter.) The rule was arm to arm vaccination, and there were no capillary tubes at that time. Of course there were ivory points; but if the lymph failed they had to send to some distant station for a subject, and the subject travelled at their expense. (Renewed laughter.) They could not keep up spurious lymph it must be genuine lymph. Concerning humanized lymph, he had the greatest faith in it. It was as good as when Jenner introduced it; and certainly there was no question about it, after lengthened experience, that vaccination was a preventive of smallpox, and that there must be revaccination, for the prophylactic power of vaccination passed off. There were several other matters, but he did not want to trouble them further by reference to them. Dr. Kynsey had delivered a very able and interesting address. He had been highly gratified with it. He thought he had dealt with the subject so that it would not only do them good, but he hoped when the matter was published, it would be appreciated beyond the range of the profession. (Applause.)

Dr. ROCKWOOD proposed a hearty vote of thanks to their late President for the very interesting and instructive address he had just delivered, and also for his valuable services during the past year.

Dr. VANDERSMAGT seconded the motion with great pleasure, and it having been spontaneously adopted,

Dr. KYNSEY said he was extremely obliged to them for their vote of thanks. He had not done nearly so much as he should have done, and he hoped that he might be a more active member during the coming year than he had been as their President. (Applause.)

The meeting then terminated.

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