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

BY ALFRED H. DUNCAN.

On the bank of one of the largest rivers in the north-east of Scotland lies a village, so picturesquely situated, that it may be said to have no rival, in this respect, in the United Kingdom. The mountains which frown down upon it are covered with birch trees and Scotch firs, with here and there a peak towering up to such a height that only heather can grow on its weather-beaten sides, whilst the notes of the song birds, which enliven the woods beneath, give place, on those bare heather-clad peaks, to the shriek of the wild curlew or the "bick, bick-a-bick" of the startled grouse. The river which flows past the village is none of your dull, uninteresting, sluggish streams, but a fiery, sparkling, rollicking river, dashing on towards the sea at a pace which bids fair to beat the time record; cutting its way through all obstacles in its headlong course, and hurrying on, straight as an arrow, towards that insatiable ocean which swallows up every stream in its eternal embrace. The village green, which is of the smoothest turf, verdant, springy and beautiful, lies in front of the 'Red Lion' hotel, opposite which stands the church, whose bell peals forth every Sunday, calling the villagers to worship; and beyond that again, almost hidden by the huge trees which surround it, the mansion house of the lord of the manor, or, as some call it, the castle, rears its ancient turrets towards the sky. At the time when my story commences, there resided in this village one Mrs. Blake, whose business in life it was to attend to a small shop and to educate her only child, a boy of about twelve years of age. This was some years before the existence of School Boards and free education, and parents were, at that time, permitted to educate their children as they thought best, or leave them to struggle through life totally ignorant of the three R's, and enable to attach their names to either testimonial or cheque, except by the old historical method of making a mark. Who Mrs. Blake was, or where she came from, no one knew; she arrived, one fine summer morning, by the mail coach, and, shortly afterwards, opened her little shop and began to retail sundry articles, such as tape, needles, pins and buttons, and the various other goods essential to the happiness of all good and thrifty housewives. In this village the residents were, by nature, of an inquisitive turn of mind; and, it is needless to say, these were much exercised as to Mrs. Blake and her movements; but, in spite of all their inquiries and research, her history remained a closed book to them, and, although the more brazen-faced cross-examiners of the neighbourhood strove hard to find out, from the poor stranger herself, who she was, where she came from, and who her husband had been, she successfully baffled all attempts, and the gossip-mongers were obliged to be contented

with the bald facts that her name was Blake, that she came from England, and that her husband had been drowned at sea; but, whether he had departed this life in the capacity of a soldier, a sailor, a tinker or a tailor, they were unable to find out to their own satisfaction. They were a narrow-minded people who resided in this hamlet, few of them had travelled beyond the boundaries of the parish in which they had been born, and only one man—the postmaster—indulged in any such extravagance as taking in a newspaper; but this man, who was looked up to, by his neighbours, with respect and awe, in deference to his supposed consummate knowledge of the world, only allowed himself this indulgence, because the parish clergyman had agreed to share the cost of a weekly paper with him. Had they been a more worldly people who resided in the village, they could easily have guessed that Mrs. Blake was a lady, and that her present occupation was strange to her, for she had all the attributes so characteristic of good breeding in both man and beast,—the small feet, the fine ear, the haughty carriage of the head, the neat figure, and the general appearance which is always associated with the thoroughbred horse or the thoroughbred woman. When, added to this, I mention that Mrs. Blake was only thirty years of age, had a wealth of golden hair, and a manner so kindly, so bewitching, and so sincere, I think I have said enough to show cause why she so quickly became an universal favorite in the village, and how it was that the profits from her little shop continued to increase yearly. Her son, Ralph, was equally well liked, and, when the tourist season was in full swing, he was often sent for by the hotel-keeper, who was very fond of the boy, to act as guide to those artists who frequented the district in search of views of Highland subjects, and who were unacquainted with the principal objects of interest in the neighbourhood, or how to reach them. This employment was most congenial to Ralph, for he was passionately fond of the wild heather hills of his adopted land, and took great pride in pointing out, to strangers, what he considered to be gems in the surrounding scenery. As years rolled on he became more and more attached to the work, which seemed to stir up an artistic spirit within him, and with pleasure and attention he listened to the remarks on painting thrown out by those for whom he was acting as guide, until, at last, he began to handle a brush himself, and was to be found, nightly, working away in his mother's clean little sitting-room, sketching, and painting in water colors, whilst she sat by him, with her busy needle constantly at work, occasionally throwing out hints to him as to his occupation, for she herself was a very fair artist indeed, and, having been thoroughly taught, was able to convey to her son some of the instructions which she had received at school. In course of time Ralph began to show his sketches to some of the artists whose acquaintanceship he had made, and these encouraged and greatly

assisted him, by making him sit down, 'alongside of themselves, and sketch the same subject as they were doing, showing him in what he erred, and thus greatly improving his crude style. The florins and half-crowns which found their way into Ralph's pocket, for acting as guide, were carefully hoarded up by him, in the fond hope that, at no distant date, he might be in a position to purchase oil paints and canvas, articles after which his soul yearned, and at last, when eighteen years of age, an English gentleman, who was staying at the hotel, and who had been told that Ralph was in the habit of taking views of the neighbouring scenery, in water colors, called at Mrs. Blake's shop and succeeded in purchasing, for ten pounds, a very good assortment of sketches from Ralph's brush, and, with this money and what he had already saved, he was able to purchase canvas and oil paints, the objects of his highest ambition. And now a different life opened out for Ralph; early and late he was to be found at his easel, in his own bedroom, and the progress which he made was so marked that, at length, he consented to have some of his paintings exhibited in the shop window, for sale, and the public attention which these drew was of material assistance in helping the poor widow to dispose of her other wares. Ralph's sketches sold at what must be considered remunerative prices, as he readily got from two pounds to five pounds for small views of the favorite haunts of tourists, and, as a railway had now been opened to the village, the number of visitors—and consequently purchasers of his pictures—had greatly increased since the days of the old stage coach. No change worth mentioning took place in the every-day life of the Blakes for the next two years, but Ralph stuck assiduously to his work, and improved his style so rapidly, that his mother had long ago ceased to offer any hints or suggestions, knowing full well that he knew much more about what he was doing than she could tell him. Ralph, meanwhile, was striving to perfect himself in figure painting, for, to become proficient in that, was the dream of his life; and often his mother, who was the sole model from whom he painted, used to speak of the day when he should have become famous, and they should give up the little shop, leave their Scottish home, and go to London, and there live together in affluence, acquired by Ralph's industry. The dream was a pleasant one to Ralph, and caused him to work all the harder at, what he now was pleased to call, his profession, till, at length, the strain was too much for his constitution, and he was prostrated with a fever which had, at that time, broken out in the village, claiming its victims from amongst the more delicate residents. Ralph was weakened by over-work, and consequently fell an easy prey to the scourge, and, for many days, he lay between life and death, with his mother watching over him constantly, as only a mother can watch. A neighbour's daughter had been engaged to look after the shop, so that Mrs. Blake might be at perfect liberty to attend to the invalid, and everyone in the village strove, by kindly attention and assistance, to lighten the poor widow's burden, for well they knew that she was in dread that any day might be the one on which she would be left childless as well as a widow. One bright moonlight night, in the month of September, when the doctor had at length given up all hope of saving the life of his patient, and had told Mrs. Blake that her son was beyond his assistance, she was standing at the bedroom window, resting her head on the sash, and gazing absently at the crescent moon, as it sailed slowly over the heather hills, that would never more be climbed by the

son she was so proud of. The tears were slowly running down her pale, careworn cheeks, yet no sob or sound, that could in any way disturb the invalid, escaped her. She was thinking of that golden dream, which she used to cherish, of her boy as the courted artist of his day, sought after by the highest in the land, and she herself, happy only in his happiness and success; and now it was all over, and she had been rudely awakened to see her dream slowly sinking into the village churchyard. As she was thus engaged with her mournful thoughts, Ralph, who had been unconscious for some time, opened his eyes, and seeing his mother standing in the bowed and broken attitude which she had assumed, guessed easily what her thoughts were about, and with that effort which seems to come to so many when on their death-beds, and all seems to be over, he rallied himself, and in a steady voice asked his mother to give him a drink. She was at his bedside in a moment with a tumbler-full of pure spring water, and, after taking a long draught of this, he took her hand in his, turned round on his side, and fell into a quiet refreshing sleep. It was the turning-point of his illness, and next morning, when the doctor sent to ask if all was over, he was rejoiced to have a message sent back to him that his patient was much better, and he hastened round at once to the widow's house. Many weeks rolled by, however, before Ralph was convalescent, and during that time he only indulged in short intervals of work, and these intervals were spent, almost entirely, in trying to put on canvas the figure of his mother, as he saw her that evening, looking out of his bedroom window, the tears slowly stealing down her cheeks, and the crescent moon looking cold, pale and unsympathetic beyond.

(To be concluded.)

THE EASTERN SANATORIUM OF CEYLON.

The following notes on the Topography of Batticaloa are by the late Colonial Surgeon C. A. Kriekenbeek of the Ceylon Medical Service:—

The extensive district of Batticaloa is situated on the N. E. Coast of Ceylon and extends from the Virgelkangey river, which separates it from the district of Trincomalie on the North, to the Koe-moeken Aar (River) which is its Southern boundary, and separates it from the Hambantote district, including a portion of Sea coast of about 120 miles in length—on the west it is bounded by the Palatoes of Bintenne belonging to the Badulla district—Vellasa and lower Oova, from which it is separated by the Madoora Oya which forms the limit between the two districts—and on the East by the Sea. It is most thickly populated, and best cultivated along the sea coast and on the borders of its extensive and beautiful lake. Inland the villages are scattered and thinly populated, the country is mostly flat and almost wholly covered with jungle. In most places the forest is magnificent and yields several kinds of valuable Timber, such as Ebony, Satinwood, Halmanil &c., &c. During the S. W. Monsoon most part of the district is dry, but water is easily procurable a few feet below the surface. The heavy falls of rain during the prevalence of the N. E. Monsoon generally inundate extensive tracts of country to which the swollen state of the rivers which run through the district contributes. This renders the district unhealthy immediately after the cessation of the rains, and fever and bowel complaints prevail to some extent—the fever being generally of a mild Quotidian type easily yielding to

treatment. The bowel complaints I found equally manageable, and with the exception of the fatal cases of Cholera that occurred during the prevalence of an epidemic in December and January 1853-4, I can hardly recollect a fatal termination among the cases of bowel complaints which came under treatment. The soil along most parts of the Sea-coast consists of loose sand, but very far from being unproductive, for with the exception of small tracts called by the natives "Wemboo" it yields large crops of Paddy, Indian corn, fine grain, Cotton, Tobacco, Cocoanuts, &c., &c., and all the extensive Cocoanut Estates that have been opened within the last few years, and which hold out such promising prospects to their enterprising proprietors are all situated along the Sea coast.

The Island of Batticaloa called by the Natives Poeliantivo—(Tamarind Island) situated in the middle of the lake about 4 miles from where it opens into the sea, has been called with propriety "the Venice of Ceylon." It is three miles in circumference and entirely surrounded by water. A narrow strait separates it on the West and South from the main-land, and from another Island called Buffalo Island, and by the natives Periacalla. On the N. E. extremity of Poeliantivo stands an old square Fort built by the Portuguese in 1682—containing a two-storied house, which used to be the Commandant's quarters, an old Church, now in ruins, Barracks which are now used as Arrack Godowns and Stores. The Town of Batticaloa with the Cutcherry, the Court House, the Custom House, the Jail &c., &c. are all situated on Poeliantivo, the soil of which is Cabcock and the Water good and plentiful. It is cultivated with Cocoanuts, Jack, Areca-nuts &c; &c., and appears to be adapted to the growth of almost any tropical plant. Many other parts of the district have likewise soil similar to that of Poeliantivo—and the loose sand mentioned before appears to me to be nothing more than new beach, which has been thrown up year after year and upon which soil has gradually accumulated, and which has subsequently been brought into cultivation or grown up into jungle. The name of Poeliantivo appears to have originated either in the resemblance that the shape of this Island has to a Tamarind seed (Poelian-cotta—Tamul) or to the number and size of the Tamarind trees that are to be found upon it.

Next to this little island in importance is an Island of much greater extent called by the natives Paricollam—called also Buffalo Island. This is an immense paddy field of about 10 miles in circumference—and only a few feet above the level of the lake—by which it is likewise entirely surrounded. It has upon it 7 tanks artificially formed, in which rain water accumulates during the prevalence of the N. E. Monsoon and serves for the purpose of irrigation during the drier months. This immense tract of Paddy land at one time belonged to one individual, Pasqual Modliar—but it has subsequently been divided and sold, and is now possessed by several parties. During the prevalence of the S. W. Monsoon and after the removal of the Paddy crop the cattle from the surrounding villages are crossed over and left for pasture on this Island. This practice is equally beneficial to the owners of the cattle and soil, as it feeds the cattle and enriches the soil at the same time.

There are besides these, several other little Islands of no importance. One called Bone's Island from the circumstance of the Assistant Government Agent, Mr. Bone, having built a small Bungalow upon it and made it a place for occasional resort. It is pleasantly situated, just at the mouth of—what may be called—the Batticaloa river, as for one or two

miles the lake assumes all the characters of a river and opens itself into the sea over what is called the bar.

The Lake is one of the most beautiful in this Island and ought to rank first in extent in the list of lakes in Ceylon. It extends from Eraocr 8 miles North to Naypattymunue about 24 miles South of Poeliantivo, and is almost surrounded by a string of Villages, the existence of which is indicated by the clumps of Cocoanut trees. From it an extensive view of the hills in the Kandian country can be seen and on a clear day the peak of Namna Cooly Canda in the Badulla district is distinctly visible. The lake abounds with fish, prawns, shrimp and crabs, of excellent quality, so much so that the sea is very seldom resorted to for fish except in very calm weather. It is navigable for boats of 4 and 5 Tons from one extremity to the other and forms the principal means of communication in the district. Vessels of considerable tonnage from 30 to 40, go as far as Catankodiripo an extensive Moor village about 4 miles from the bar. The water is saltish during the S. W. Monsoon or dry season for about 10 miles, but during the prevalence of the N. E. Monsoon it is fresh throughout. The lake also rises during this season several feet above its usual level. There is a circumstance connected with this lake which renders it one of the wonders of Ceylon, viz. the singing shells with which it abounds. These shells resembling those of small snail attach themselves to rocks, timber or any solid substance that may be left in the water. During the stillness of night, particularly moonlight nights, they sing, or make a noise, in which three distinct notes are audible, resembling those of an Organ played at a distance. However interesting these shells may be to the romantic or to those who love the marvellous, they are very destructive to boats, so much so that nothing is proof against their attacks but a Copper bottom. The prevalence of these musical sounds and their source, have been doubted by all who have visited Batticaloa, myself included, until convinced by listening to them. I do not recollect having heard these sounds in any other part of Ceylon, and as far as I am aware they have not been described as existing in any other part of the world.

The existence of so large a surface of water renders the atmosphere of Batticaloa damp, but it has certainly not made it unhealthy. During the calm mornings which occur in the lull between the two monsoons, the surface of the lake is like a mirror and reflects the rays of the sun to such an extent as to render attacks of ophthalmia very prevalent.

In 1849 information having been given to the Justice of the Peace that the bones of a man belonging to the village of Oomeney in Bintenne, who was missing for some time, were to be found in the forest, I was requested to accompany the Justice of the Peace to institute a Medical examination into any remains that might be found. This gave me an opportunity of visiting the Bintenne country. Bintenne is divided into 12 Pallatoos, four belong to Trincomalie, four to Badulla, and four are included within the limits of Batticaloa and placed under the jurisdiction of its District Court, viz., Rogan pallato, Odda pallato, Ratto pallato and Palla pallato. These constitute an extensive tract of country almost entirely covered by magnificent forest, so much so that a journey from Lavaney to Oomeney, which take 10 hours travelling on horseback, may be performed almost entirely under the shade of high forest trees.

The population of the four Pallatoes is estimated only at 1,500 souls. Most of these are Veddahs having no fixed place of residence and not living in houses. They go about from one part of the

forest to the other encamping under trees and in caves. A very good specimen of a Veddah residence is to be found between the villages of Lavaney and Oomeney under a large shelving rock, called by them Galla-gedera or Stone house. The Veddahs keep dogs, and it was the bark of one which announced to our guide that the "Stone-house" was tenanted. From the dry bed of a river, where we stopped to breakfast, our guide took us through dense forest for about a quarter of a mile and brought us to the Galle-gadera (Rock-house). Here we met several Veddah-women and children, the men had all gone out in search of honey. Contrary to expectation the women were not more shy than other classes of natives. They all had their ears pierced like Malabar women and wore ornaments of brass and Iron—a coil of beads about the thickness of a man's wrist was worn round the neck and the cloth was worn as by the poorer class of Malabar women. There we found also bows and arrows, quantities of honey-comb gathered in earthen chatties and venison drying by a slow fire. On being requested to let us have a bow and arrow we were told that those belonged to the men, which of course signified that the women had no right either to sell or give them away. They gave us some honey-comb, and on being presented by the Justice of the Peace with a Rupee evidently did not know the use of it. The Veddahs live chiefly by hunting: Deer horns, Cattle bones, bees-wax, and honey are collected by them, and bartered for cloth, rice, salt, salt-fish, Coraken &c. to moormen from the village of Catankodiripo, who go to them with supplies for the purpose. They are very fond of beads and other such trifling ornaments and large quantities of wax, honey &c. are obtained from them by the moors in exchange for these articles.

Those among the Veddahs who live in huts are called village Veddahs—these engage in the cultivation of Paddy and other grain and in felling timber &c.

The Veddah country is mostly flat but as the traveller advances into the heart of Bintenne, the ground gradually rises and he comes among small hills. A day and a half's journey in a westerly direction from Eraoor, a village 8 miles north of Batticaloa brings one to the foot of the Oomeney mountain and to the village called by that name. This is a Veddah settlement and was once a Mission Station.

The climate of Batticaloa is much milder than that of either Trincomalie or Hambantotte. The constant interchange of land and sea breeze renders the temperature of the atmosphere much lower than it otherwise would be during the prevalence of the South West Monsoon, from April to October. The rains generally commence in October or November, fall heavily during December and January, sometimes continuing until February and the commencement of March. During the prevalence of land wind the temperature of the atmosphere rises very high—I have seen the Thermometer as high as 96° F. but I have never known it above 94° in Poeliantivo.

The district, excluding the Bintenne country, is divided into ten Pattoos, viz: Corle pattoo, Eraoor pattoo, which includes two large villages and a few small ones, Manmona pattoo, which may be said to be the principal one as including the Island of Poeliantivo, the seat of Government, —Erivil pattoo, including 4 large villages, Poratitoo pattoo, Carawaer pattoo which also contains 4 extensive villages, Sammantarre pattoo, Nindoor pattoo, Ackerra pattoo and Ponoa pattoo. About 20 miles North of the bar over which the lake opens into the sea is a beautiful bay, a safe

Anchorage for Vessels at all seasons of the year: this is called by the Natives Pasoooodah and known to Europeans by the name of Vanloo's bay. The Nator and several other streams open into this bay and a Canal of about 7 miles (projected but not carried out) from the Nator to the lake at Uraoor would render water communication with Batticaloa practicable during all seasons of the year, whereas it is now practicable only during the South west monsoon. About 60 miles South is another beautiful bay, that of Arrogan where large quantities of timber are shipped every year for Galle, Colombo, and the Coast of India.

The Population of the district is made up of Moors, Tamuls, and Veddahs—about two thirds are Tamuls and Veddahs and one third Moors—Europeans and their descendants forming a very small portion. Of 66,593 there are 34,916 males and 31,647 females—the number of births during the year 1853 was estimated at 3,027, deaths 1,193.

The Tamuls live mostly by Agriculture, the Moors by Commerce. Some of the latter are however engaged in the cultivation of Paddy, Indian corn &c. and large gangs of both hire themselves as day labourers on the Coconut Plantations—which are entirely dependent on the Coast of India for labour.

The extensive tracts of Paddy land in the district render the population independent of the Coast of India for rice. Large quantities of Paddy, Indian corn &c. are exported to Galle and Colombo annually. To these exports may be added deer horns, cattle bones, Bee-wax, timber and Copperah. The small quantity of Coast-rice imported at this port is for the Badulla Market, to which place it is conveyed on the backs of bullocks. The road to Oova being impassable for Carts, the trade between Batticaloa and Badulla is entirely carried on in this way. Large herds of loaded bullocks are driven by Moormen who convey Rice, Coconuts, Salt, Salt-fish, Cotton goods, Curry-stuff, Brassware &c., and bring back Coffee, which is exported at this Port. The Moors of Batticaloa are a most industrious race. In addition to carrying on almost the whole of the trade between Batticaloa, the Coast of India, Jaffna, Trincomalie, Galle and Colombo—they employ themselves in felling and conveying to Batticaloa almost all the valuable timber that is annually exported from this port. They are also engaged in felling and hollowing out large trees into canoes, some of which are very large. The smaller Canoes are used with an outrigger and ply about the lake in large numbers. The larger ones are used for conveying paddy, &c. from place to place; they carry sails and although very crank seldom upset. The canoes are mostly made out of a species of jungle mangoe, but there are other species of timber also used in the construction of them, viz Ranna, Tommacutto &c. all which are more scarce and durable than the Mangoe. The Moors, together with the weaver caste of Tamuls, are also engaged extensively in weaving cotton into table linen and other very useful white and colored cotton goods. The table linen is of superior quality and is I believe well known in most parts of Ceylon as superior to any thing of the kind manufactured in other parts of India. The Cotton used in weaving is not grown in Ceylon: but the twist is imported from India and most of the Batticaloa Towels, and Table cloths are woven with twist imported from the French Ports of Pondicherry and Karikal. The hand loom is the only one with which the Batticaloa weavers are conversant, but by two persons sitting abreast they manage to weave fabrics of 2½ and 2¾ yards in width. The Weavers' Village (Arapatto) is

situated about 3 miles South of Poeliantivo and although weavers are located in small numbers in other parts of the district this is the manufacture village of Batticaloa cotton goods as Catom Kadiripo is that of timber and canoes.

The prevailing diseases of Batticaloa are intermittent and remittent fever which prevail during the months of January, February and March—Ophthalmia, measles, chicken-pox &c. from April to August—dysentery and other bowel complaints during the next season from November to January. At one time this was a convalescent station for troops from Trincomalie. Owing to its unhealthiness compared with the district of Trincomalie and the adjoining one Hambantotte, it has I believe been called not undeservedly

“THE EASTERN SANITARIUM OF CEYLON.”

THE OLD “CINNAMON DEPARTMENT”
OF THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT.

(From the “Colombo Observer,” No. 159, of
Thursday, July 8, 1841.)
(Concluded from page 285.)

That the Ceylon Government has derived its chief revenue from cinnamon, and which article of commerce, was previous to the cultivation of the gardens entirely collected from the jungle and forests by the unwearied labour of the Chalias, and which was also the case in alternate years, even after the cultivation of the gardens and the incredible hardship and fatigue which they have invariably experienced in collecting the annual cinnamon investment for Government, were such that very many have fallen victims to their unremitting zeal and exertions in the service of Government, but now when their services are no longer required, they have been left to shift for themselves, their past labour being rewarded with a return which they deeply deplore, and which they humbly submit they do not deserve.

That your Memorialists beg leave to state that according to the legislative enactments of this Government, they are taught to believe that 10 years' quiet possession of a thing does constitute a prescriptive right in favor of the possessors, and thus if the privileges held and enjoyed by the Memorialists as well as by their ancestors for a period of upwards of 200 years are now withheld from and denied to them, what will be the case with their rising generation; what good can they expect from giving their children an education in the English-language, the means of which has now been so liberally thrown open by the Colonial Government towards the improvement of the natives in general.

That the Memorialists further beg leave to quote a passage of Your Excellency's answer to the address presented by the members of the Burgher community at Queen's House on Monday, the 16th December 1839, in accordance with the object of their Memorial—“A Government which knows no other distinction or preference among Her Majesty's subjects in the Colony, but what arises from high character and talents combined. To advance all ranks in the scale of mental intelligence, and to elevate the moral character of its citizens by extending impartial protection to all, and countenancing the deserving is among the most pleasing duties which attend the discriminating administration of its affairs by a paternal Government,” (Colombo Observer, No. 460, December 18th, 1839),—and to shew how far the feelings of the natives in general are now conciliated, the Memorialists beg leave to quote

Memorial which had been lately in circulation for signatures under the superintendence of a Wellale Modliar, and most numerous signed by all classes of people on the same subject as the Burghers, expect a few who hold higher ranks and still strive to monopolize high and lucrative situations for themselves.

“We, the undersigned Native inhabitants of the island of Ceylon, composed of Native Chiefs, resident merchants, free traders and others of different classes, callings and persuasions, with one feeling and sentiment, join hand in hand on this auspicious occasion, &c.

“It is true that some time ago, we heard it rumoured, that the civil and judicial services were thrown open to all classes of the natives of the island, and it is equally true that this gracious concession on the part of a liberal and enlightened British Government was not received by us with any other feeling than thorough confidence in the liberality of that Government, and we, therefore, anxiously looked to the realization of such an event, fraught as it appeared to us to be with incalculable benefit to ourselves, our country and to posterity. One year with another has however gone by without realizing those fond expectations we were thus led to form in consequence, of which as it is the common frailty of human nature, we had our misgivings, judge then of our feelings and the very agreeable sensation it created throughout the island, when we heard and saw it confirmed almost at one and the same time, that Your Excellency had been graciously pleased to elevate Mr. Hillebrand to the distinguished office of Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

“And it is he who with the spirit of an independent mind at a moment of temporary embarrassment, and when surrounded by religious bigotry on the one hand and prejudice on the other, threw down the barrier of caste and colour, and welcomed his fellow-creatures to an equal participation in the blessings of education and in the rights and privileges of British subjects.

“The blessings of education conducted upon an extensive scale under your patronage, without reference to caste but upon one general principle, that all who desire it should obtain freely is the precursor of a moral regeneration in the character and habits of our countrymen.”

Your Memorialists, therefore, most humbly and earnestly pray that Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to take all the foregoing circumstances into kind consideration, and grant, 1st, that although the “Rajacaria Service,” is now at an end, yet the situations of Modliars of their six divisions, viz. Wellisera, Mutwall, Calluamodera, Wellitotte, Dadalla and Roona or reducing the six districts into four or at least to two (one in the Western and the other in the Southern) may be kept up as a measure calculated, not only to uphold their relative importance, but also to represent their caste before the Cutcheries of the respective Provinces, in matters connected with their interest; of 2nd, in case Government is determined to retain only the Modliars of Pattoos and Corles, your Memorialists further pray that the boon of Modliarships may be open to all properly qualified persons without any distinction of caste, whatsoever, and that such of the Memorialists' caste as are eligible may be allowed to participate in these appointments; or 3rd, in case neither of the foregoing prayers be granted, your Memorialists still further pray that if under the existing system, headmen are no longer considered necessary in the Cories (owing to the introduction of the system of commutation of tythes, all the processes of the courts being executed by the Fiscal's

officers, and the services attached to the Agents' Departments being performed by contracts, temporary superintendents, overseers, &c. the existing system of native headmen in the Colony, which bears no analogy to any of those of the vast British possessions in India may be altogether abolished and replaced by an establishment of rural police, composed of trustworthy men of all castes, which your Memorialists as persons intimately acquainted with the wants of the people, humbly suggest as best suited to the present state of the country.

And your Memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 3rd April 1841.

The Right Honorable the Governor having taken into consideration the Memorial of the native chiefs, headmen, and people of the Mahabade or Chalia caste resident in the western and southern provinces, declares and wishes it to be fully understood that it is the principle of this Government to recognize no distinction of caste or colour, the only ground of promotion being talents and qualifications. It would therefore, in the Governor's opinion, be injurious to the public interests and would repress that laudable ambition, so desirable to raise up, of being duly educated and qualified for such trusts as the Memorialists refer to, were His Excellency to give countenance to the renewal of a system of headmen for any particular class. The appointment therefore of Corle headmen can and ought no longer to be given exclusively to Wellales, but must be conferred on the most fit and qualified, without reference to caste. The Governor hopes therefore, that in case of any vacancy, candidates from the caste of the Memorialists will be found as qualified in point of education and ability as to justify their being preferred to a Wellale or other caste. Indeed, His Excellency hopes that a system of rural Police will be perfected at no distant date, under which it will be desirable in his opinion that the functionaries should be elected by those most immediately interested in, and who will be affected by the due and proper performance of their duties.

By His Excellency's command,

(Signed) P. ANSTRUTHER,
Colonial Secretary.

(Editorial of the "Observer" Newspaper 18th July 1841.)

Chalia Petition.—The Memorial of the Chalia or Cinnamon Peeling caste—to the late Governor will be found by no means an uninteresting document to the European reader. The first thing that will strike him as most remarkable is the extraordinary contrast afforded by the cinnamon trade of the past and present times. Formerly the Chalia and several other castes were united in the Mahabade (which signifies Great Revenue) department for providing the Government with cinnamon. In those days too preserved gardens, which were kept in a high state of cultivation, did not supply a sufficient quantity of the spice for the demand, so that the jungles had all to be searched, when, as we have heard elsewhere, each peeler was obliged to bring in a certain quantity, or he received corporal punishment. But now Government cannot sell more than half—if so much—of what they expose at their monthly sales, and private cinnamon pays little more than the cost of peeling, whilst the preserved gardens are not of much greater value, and in many places of less than uncleared jungle land; the "Mahabade" gives employment to very few natives, and bids fair

less speedily relieved, to yield the smallest revenue of any staple export of the Island. Another topic worthy of remark in this Memorial is the acknowledgment that the institution of caste is opposed both to Christianity and Boodhism, to one or other of which religion the petitioners belong. Nay, they even scornfully contrast their own creeds with that of others, and assert that they are not indeed Hindoos who acknowledge such distinction. After such a confession, which by the way is nothing new, it is unquestionably the duty of a paternal Government and all its officials to discountenance in every possible manner this — upon the energies of the people. But it appears that the natives themselves have been so goaded by the effects of caste, particularly in the Southern Province, where it seems they have not been fairly dealt with in the appointment of Headmen, that they themselves have become advocates for the abolition of caste.

Though we may feel for the hardship which the Chalias have endured, it is gratifying to witness the result upon their feelings, so that they themselves now abhor what from time immemorial they have earnestly clung to.

CEYLON BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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

(Continued from page 288.)

In the spread of a contagious disease three conditions are necessary—the presence of the specific virus, personal and local susceptibility; and with regard to stopping its spread, taking smallpox as our example, isolation of cases in hospital in their own homes, and vaccination and re-vaccination afford in ordinary years a sufficient protection, but in what I may call severe extensions of that disease, a fourth condition is necessary, which is probably some condition which prolongs the life of the virus. Smallpox is always present in Ceylon, probably always present concealed in Colombo, but it only becomes formidable from time to time, and spreads all over the country to very widely separated places. Our friends, the Moors, no doubt are the carriers, but what puzzles an observer is, why in one year smallpox should spread, and in another it does not. The explanation to my mind is that there is an accumulation of susceptible adults, that is, of adults who have never been vaccinated or badly vaccinated in youth, or who have never had smallpox. They contract the disease, recover, and consequently get immunity or die off in an epidemic year; there is then a lull for years until there is again an accumulation of susceptible persons beyond a certain point, when the disease becomes again epidemic owing to the concealment of cases among this susceptible population. Smallpox would be a disease but little formidable in Ceylon, owing to its inhabitants being so well protected by vaccination, if the cases were not concealed. The disease has existed now for eighteen months, and we have only had 1,396 cases with 281 deaths in the whole Island. In Jamaica in 1887, with its 600,000 inhabitants, and the area of our North-Central Province, an epidemic of smallpox lasted twenty-seven months, and there were 8,612 cases with nearly 900 deaths. In Kingston, the capital, there were 2,135 cases with 405 deaths; 1 in 74 of all inhabitants of the island were attacked. In the city of Montreal in 1885, 2,500 persons lay ill with smallpox on a single day, and the total deaths during the outbreak were over 1,000. Compare these figures with those of any outbreak in Ceylon, and you will see how favourably our morbidity and mortality from smallpox contrast with other countries, due, I believe, to the energetic way vaccination is carried on.

There are a few points in connection with cholera in Ceylon worthy of your attention.

1.—It does not originate *de novo*, it is not endemic in any part of the Island, the initial cases can be always traced to importation, or they occur in persons connected with the shipping, or in persons who have been in communication with immigrants from India.

2.—Europeans are rarely, if ever, attacked.

3.—It only occurs in the sporadic form at elevations above 1,600 feet.

4.—The districts in which it occurs in an epidemic form (after its introduction from India) are those with a deficient and impure water supply.

5.—It only attacks the poorest and most miserable people who live in lowlying and overcrowded localities, the soil and air of which are saturated with all kinds of human and animal impurities.

6.—It is communicated without a doubt by human intercourse with diseased persons. The portability of the infection and its capability of spreading from person to person can be proved beyond the possibility of error.

7.—There is a certain periodicity about outbreaks which is difficult to explain. An epidemic occurs every 9 or 10 years. The disease is no doubt introduced, more frequently but owing to unsuitability of season or soil it does not spread.

8.—In each succeeding outbreak fewer people are attacked and fewer die, although the rate of mortality of those attacked continues about the same. In the early epidemics no one hardly received medical attendance from the paucity of doctors; in the present day it is unusual for anyone to die without having the opportunity offered him of European treatment.

9.—There is no disease where sanitary measures and disinfection are so successful in limiting its spread, and these would never fail in averting the progress of an outbreak, but for the fact that the early cases are almost invariably concealed.

It is a curious thing to note what a large part fear and panic play in the spread of an epidemic, how apathetic people are until there is the slightest danger of disease affecting their own family or interests. This was illustrated in the outbreak of 1889. A few sporadic cases of cholera occurred on one or two of the tea estates in the Dikoya district among immigrants recently arrived from India. The infection was possibly conveyed in the clothes of the labourers, which is, as we are all aware, by no means unusual. The late Chairman of the Planters' Association at once wrote to enquire what steps the Medical Department was taking to prevent cholera getting on to the estates. The reply he received from me was, I presume, satisfactory, as I never heard from him again on the subject, but Mr. Kelly's enquiries convinced me that the very persons who are loudest in protesting against our quarantine and other precautions would be the first to find fault if anything were left undone, to prevent cholera extending when their own interests are concerned. We all know the fable of the Dervish travelling over the desert, who met the cholera, to whom he said, "Where are you going?" The cholera replied, "I am going to Bagdad to kill 20,000." Some time afterwards the same Dervish met the cholera returning, and said, "You vagabond, you killed 90,000." "No, no," said the cholera, "I killed 20,000; fear killed the rest."

Cholera is essentially a "filth disease" encouraged by density of population and bad sanitation, and it sticks to the same localities in each epidemic in a wonderful manner. This is not peculiar to Ceylon, for Sir Douglas Galton says:—"So long as insanitary conditions remain, epidemics invariably haunt the same localities, and the first appearance of the cholera in Bermondsey in 1848 was close to the same ditch in which the earliest fatal cases occurred in 1832. The first case of cholera which occurred in the town of Leith took place in the same house, and within a few feet of the very spot from whence the previous epidemic of 1832 commenced its course. On its re-appearance in 1848, in the town of Pollockshaws, it snatched its first victim from the same room, and the very bed in which it broke out in 1832."

This all points to the absolute necessity of the most thorough disinfection of all houses where a case of cholera occurs.

By far the most important diseases we have to deal with are included under the term "fever." I have no intention of troubling you with the views held as to the nature of fever itself, or of enteric or continued fever in particular, beyond expressing by own belief that the latter is not a specific fever at all, but a fever secondary to some disease, or a badly-marked form of enteric. The fever, however, which concerns mostly the inhabitants of this island is of course malarial in origin, and it has often struck me forcibly what great attention is paid by persons apparently interested in the public health as to outbreaks of cholera and smallpox, which only occasionally cause destruction of life, while the mortality, amount of suffering, loss of labour and racial deterioration caused by malaria cannot be estimated. In Miss Nightingale's words:—"The mortality of fever is a mere trifle compared with the ravage fever commits in sapping the strength and vigour of the country. . . . The deaths must be multiplied by 50 or 60 to give the attacks." (*Life and Death in India*, 1874.) A man may die from an attack of cholera or smallpox, but if he recovers, as a rule, after a short time, he is none the worse. He may also die from fever, but if he recovers the attack he may still have to face the sequelæ: debility, anæmia, enlarged spleen and liver, with perhaps other grave complications which may incapacitate him for months or even for life from earning his living. Neither the Government nor the Medical Department has been indifferent to the subject of malaria. There are at the present time upwards of 150 dispensaries in the island where sick paupers are treated free, and those able to pay at merely the cost of the drugs. We have published in our *Medical Journal* an excellent translation, the only translation which has yet appeared in any country, of Tommasi-Crucei's lectures on Malaria, in which you will find the most recent views of the local conditions which favour its development with suggestions for its prevention. And in the same Journal you will find a translation of Laveran's articles on the Hæmatozoa of Malaria, which to my mind are conclusive in proving its microbic nature. The organism is not bacterial, but appears to be a micro-organism belonging to the protozoa, probably an amœba.

It is usually held, and I believe correctly, that malaria is inhaled in the air which is breathed, but many doubt that it can be conveyed by water. My experience in Ceylon convinces me that in malarious districts the use of impure drinking water is equally potent with impure air in causing outbreaks of fever.

Medicine can do little more than relieve the condition of those prostrated by fever. Free distribution of quinine no doubt lessens the number attacked in a district, but this merely mitigates the evil. It is too much to expect that malaria can be eradicated from Ceylon for years, ages perhaps; but we know that in countries where it formerly prevailed, parts of England for example, it has been eradicated; the suffering caused by it in this country can be at all events reduced by a persistence in the wise irrigation policy of the Government by which the food supplies are improved, and the people in the country parts provided with purer water for drinking and ablution purposes. But while a firm believer in irrigation as a means for the improvement of the health of the people, provided the water is not allowed to fall too low or stagnate, I should like to see in addition an effort made to provide the urban populations with purer drinking water. This question is of course an engineering one, but it seems to me an extraordinary thing if water cannot be diverted to the principal towns in the Southern Province from its magnificent rivers which are now allowed to be lost in the Ocean, or that the Peninsula of Jaffna should be without an abundance of pure water with its rainfall of between thirty and forty inches, a fall of 10 inches of rain yielding 226,170 gallons per acre.

I venture now to ask your attention while I make some general remarks upon the measures adopted in this Colony for meeting outbreaks of infectious diseases. These may be briefly stated as compulsory notification, compulsory removal to hospital, isolation or quarantine

in their own houses of patient and persons in attendance, or in houses of refuge, the disinfection of infected premises, and, in the case of smallpox, vaccination and re-vaccination.

Persons affected with a contagious or infectious disease are bound by law to report the fact as laid down in Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, but it is well known to the officers of the Medical Department how constantly this obligation is evaded, and how frequently cholera and smallpox are concealed until several persons are infected often in different parts of the Island from the first concealed cases. I know no act more criminal than this infection of innocent persons from concealed cases of disease. The great transgressors in this respect are the Muhamamedans, who, from ignorance and fatalism, offer the most determined opposition to the progress of sanitation and the eradication of disease, flaunting their religion in our faces whenever we attempt to interfere with them. What I may call the sanitary sins of this section of the community, who are very estimable citizens in other respects, cry loudly for reform, as they sow broadcast the germs of communicable disease, and their innocent neighbours are forced to share the results of their folly. The sanitary acts of even one individual may affect a whole community. How much worse then is it when a whole section of the population are guilty of this most abominable crime of spreading disease. The Moors, I need not remind you, are the petty traders of Ceylon; they travel constantly to India and over the country; their occupation brings them everywhere. They are usually not vaccinated, constantly exposed to infectious disease, constantly contracting it—their ignorance, indolence, and fatalism about disease allowing them to conceal it until irreparable mischief is the result. After the Peninsular war a Commission was appointed to consider what steps should be taken to improve the condition of the British soldier. The great Duke of Wellington was examined as a witness, and in reply to the first question put to him, as to what he would recommend for the British soldier, he stated he would ask that each soldier should have a spare pair of shoes; and in reply to the next question, he said he would advise that he should have a second spare of shoes, and nothing else could be got out of him. Now, if a Commission assembled in Ceylon for the purpose of recommending means for the suppression of infectious diseases, I would advise that the most stringent law should be passed to punish in the most severe manner all those who fail to report a case of infectious disease, and conceal it, and I would give the same reply to the second question. Like the great Duke's advice about the shoes for the soldier, my advice would be over and over again, "Take steps to prevent the concealment of cases of infectious disease, and to punish severely those who conceal." There are men amongst us, who ought to know better, who are constantly exclaiming that sufficiently active steps are not taken at first to deal with infectious diseases when they occur, forgetting or being ignorant of the fact that when the authorities in Ceylon—Municipal, Medical or Police—become aware of the existence of a case of cholera or smallpox, it is not one, but perhaps twenty cases have to be dealt with in the first centre of infection, besides cases in the newly-established centres from the migration of individuals from the first seat of disease. In my experience there is nothing more truly disheartening than the spread of infectious disease in Ceylon from place to place, owing to the cruel selfishness and criminal folly of persons who conceal, or aid in concealing, cholera or smallpox. Next to compulsory notification comes that of compulsory removal to hospital, or isolation of patients in their own homes. We all observe, particularly in the large towns of Colombo, Jaffua, Galle, and Kandy, that on the outbreak of cholera or smallpox the first cry is against the hospital; the most absurd rumours about its accommodation, equipment, food, and treatment of patients are circulated by utterly unprincipled and designing persons, with the object of providing an excuse for evading the removal of patients who cannot

be properly isolated or treated in their own homes. And I need hardly point out that if there are defects in the administration of an Infectious Hospital, no more valid excuse can be urged against such removal. But, as a rule, all complaints so circulated are devoid of truth, and I may add that I know no more comfortable quarters for a patient than our Ceylon cadjan Infectious Hospitals. The Infectious Hospital is the only place where the sick can receive adequate attention and treatment, for, besides affording the most careful nursing and care, it allows the most perfect segregation of the sick from the healthy.

I am very doubtful about the isolation of patients in their own homes without the most stringent and careful regulations. The true nature of course of this quarantine—for such it is, or rather should be—is to lessen the number of sources of infection, but as it cannot be maintained without entailing serious expenditure either on the Government, Municipality, or individual, it is well to consider what good it does. Theoretically it is excellent, but in practice it must fail unless it is carried out without the least relaxation with a severity which few people will submit to; the consequence is it does fail, and the benefits it is supposed to confer are more than counterbalanced by the false security which experience daily proves it affords. I do not speak too strongly when I say that the isolation of smallpox and cholera patients in their own homes is a farce, as it affords no protection, because communication between the sick and the healthy cannot be prevented. The more stringent measures taken to lessen the sources of infection by isolation of patients in their own homes, the greater in reality becomes the likelihood that clandestine communication will be established between the isolated patient or his attendants and the healthy outside.

(To be concluded.)

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