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MANNÁR:

A

MONOGRAPH.

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COLOMBO :

G. J. A. SKEEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

1888.

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ERRATUM.

On page 1, line 1, for " north-east " read " north-west "

ERRATA.

Page 1, line 1, *for* "north-east" *read* "north-west."

„ 21, line 6 from bottom, *for* "Lanakaras" *read* "Tanakaras."

„ 31, under "Reimbursements," *for* columns 6 and 7, *substitute* the following :—

Reimbursements.					
Survey Fees.		Cooly Passage Money.		Sundries.	
Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
115	0	8821	55	16	99
—	—	11370	71	—	—
—	—	9755	54	—	—
—	—	9168	66	—	—
—	—	12541	28	—	—
—	—	12794	55	—	—
225	0	12781	25	—	—
—	—	21363	98	—	—
—	—	27462	96	—	—
40	0	34497	54	—	—
—	—	32475	17	43	42
50	0	27504	35	247	85
—	—	35258	0	232	73
—	—	27279	46	—	—
—	—	24181	50	268	57
—	—	24878	25	65	59
—	—	18156	0	36	6
—	—	16836	0	75	83
—	—	15715	0	76	27
—	—	11926	50	526	5
—	—	24170	35	112	77
—	—	22453	50	165	23
—	—	24198	75	181	12
—	—	16076	75	221	87
—	—	—	—	295	12
—	—	—	—	155	66
—	—	—	—	462	50
—	—	—	—	89	4
—	—	—	—	113	17
—	—	—	—	128	4
—	—	—	—	24	66

Page 48, line 3 from bottom, *for* "36 per mille" *read* "86 per mille."

„ 51, Table of Yield of Pearl Fisheries : the figures for 1855 and subsequent years represent *rupees*, not *pounds*.

MANNÁR.

INTRODUCTION.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

THE district of Mannár is in the north-east of Ceylon, between the eighth and tenth parallels of north latitude, and is bisected by the eightieth degree of east longitude. It is bounded on the north by the Jaffna district, on the south by the Módragam-áru, which separates it from Puttaḷam territory, on the north-east by the lands of Mullaittivu and Vavuniya-Viláṅkuḷam, on the south-east by the North-Central Province, and on the west by the sea, which for centuries has been encroaching upon it.

The island of Mannár, about eighteen miles long and two broad, is separated from the mainland by a narrow channel, and seems to be a prolongation of the reef which, extending from Tóniturai on the Indian coast, forms Ramisseram and Adam's Bridge.

The district contains four hundred square miles.

II.—PHYSICAL FEATURES.

“Mannár” means “sandy river”—and, perhaps, the most striking feature of the country is its sandy flats, and (in the rainy season) its numerous streams; but it is the narrow, shallow, serpentine, salt-water channel between the island and the mainland which gives the name to the district.

There are no mountains or hills, or even rocks. The land is almost a dead level, except along its eastern border, where it undulates slightly, and where indications of the granite and laterite found in the adjoining districts may be discerned.

The only river deserving the name is the Aruvi-áru, which is a fine stream in flood, but for months every year is dried up. There are numerous small streams which, like it, traverse the district from east to west, but which, being entirely dependent on the local rains, cease to flow as soon as the clouds pass away.

The northern half of the district is so low that the high tides of the north-east monsoon submerge that part of it

which borders the sea, in some places to a distance of two or three miles ; but between the Aruvi-áru and the Módragam-oya the level is higher, so that a line of cliffs rising here and there to a height of thirty feet is formed along the sea-board.

From Marichchikatti, at the southern extremity of the district, one may walk, in the dry season, over a firm sand between the sea and the low cliffs, which are only rocky near the Módragam river.

Here and there along the beach a sea-worn piece of granite or cabook may be seen, but all sign of laterite is lost before reaching Arippu. In the wet season this walk is not practicable, as the Kal-áru and other streams are flowing. North of the Aruvi-áru it is not possible to walk near the sea for any distance owing to the numerous salt marshes and lagoons.

Except where there is cultivation and the growth of jungle is kept down by cattle pasturing, the district is covered, almost to the water's edge, by low, dense, thorny jungle.

Any forest there is to be found only at some distance from the sea.

Lakes there are none, but there are several large ponds, called villús, supposed to be artificial, and many tanks ; and in the neighbourhood of these reservoirs the country is open arable and pasture land, shaded by noble trees, which give to the view effects beautiful in themselves and especially pleasing to the eye, which for hours has been wearied by the sameness of the low scrub it has travelled over.

Mannár island only differs from the mainland in appearance by reason of its palmyrahs, which are there much more extensively planted than on the mainland ; the low thorny jungle is the same. The only large trees on it are the baobab, tamarind, cocoanut, and mango. A few banyans and other figs may be found, but they do not seem to flourish. There are no streams, but fresh water can be obtained anywhere by digging a few feet into the sand.

III.—GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

The geology of the district may be best understood from the sections given on pages 4 and 5.

Whether the Jaffna peninsula once formed a part of Atlantis, or ever appeared above the level of the sea before the upheaval which brought the rest of Ceylon and parts of the continent of India to the surface, I cannot say ; but it is certain that the coral stone of Jaffna is not of very recent formation. Whether originally formed upon a sunken island or around the summit of a submarine mountain, it must have been made a very long time ago at a certain depth below the surface of the sea ; and the upheaval of which I

speck brought Jaffna to the surface, and the bottom of the shallow sea, which is now Mannár, to the same level; while the granite from the lowest depths, bursting through the superincumbent strata and forcing them upwards at an incline, caused their appearance superficially in the inverse order to that which they originally held.

That this was so is easily seen. In the highest peaks of Ceylon we find granite as well as some igneous rocks. Lower down we find the gneiss, laterite, and limestone of the older formation: even on the borders of Mannár the laterite and gneiss appear. We next come upon the new limestone in the bed of the Aruvi-áru and on its banks in the form of water-worn pebbles. A little further north it is found below the surface in beds of great thickness, and continues to be found until as Jaffna is approached the coralstone appears.

IV.—SOIL.

The soil, as might be expected, is generally sandy with a sub-soil of loam or clay, and is very fertile, producing most of the timber trees indigenous to the Island (and many which have been introduced), grain of all kinds, and garden produce; while its pasture lands support considerable herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. Some fields admittedly yield thirty-fold of paddy, and tobacco and cotton both do well; so, little more need be said in support of my assertion as to the richness of the soil.

V.—CLIMATE.

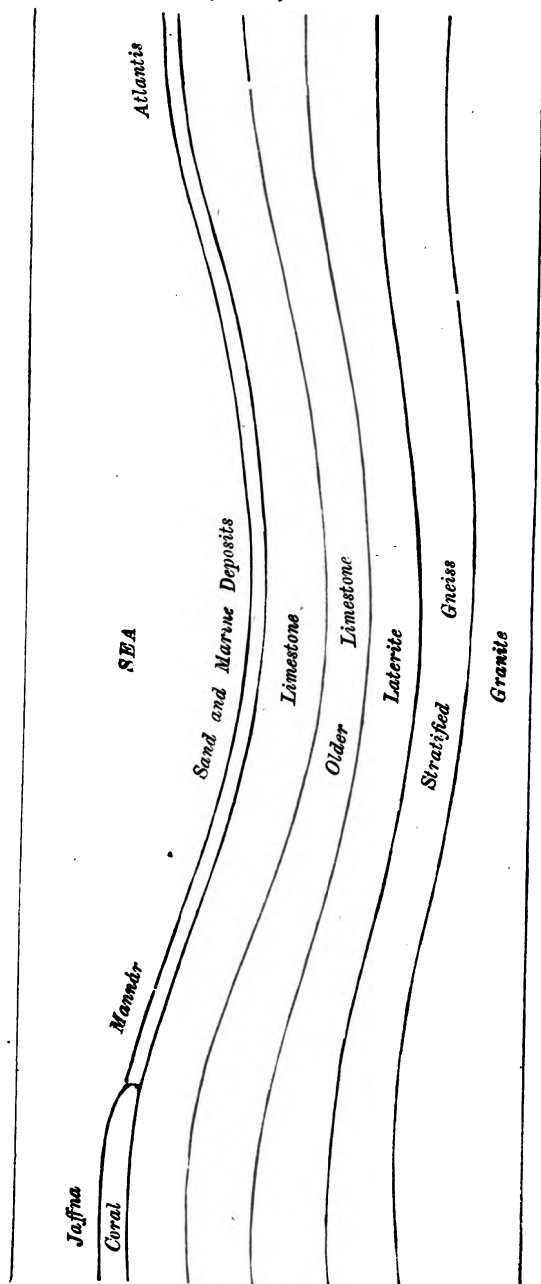
But the climate is so pernicious—so fatal to man, and beast, and vegetation—by reason of the malaria, the long droughts and unseasonable rains, the floods, and strong winds, that the fertility of the soil has not fair play; and it is only in such years, or series of years, when the rainfall is moderate, and falls at convenient seasons, that man and his cattle and the fruits of his labour do not suffer severely.

VI.—ZOOLOGY.

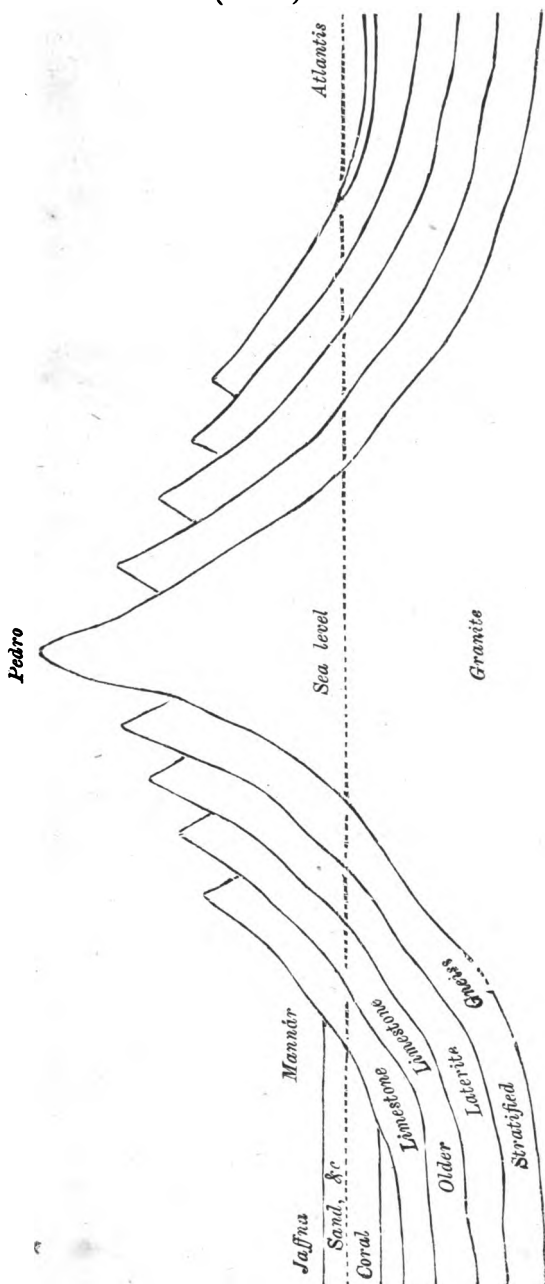
There are few wild animals found in Ceylon which do not find a congenial home in Mannár; but one may travel many miles and see no sign of anything more formidable than a hare or a deer. The jungle is so dense that concealment is easy.

Birds, particularly of the migratory kinds, are numerous in the north-east monsoon. Reptiles, from the crocodile to the lizard, are everywhere, and poisonous snakes claim frequent victims. Insects and molluscs are well represented.

SECTION BEFORE UPHEAVAL.



SECTION AFTER UPHEAVAL.



Last, not least, there is man. I have got him at any rate in his proper place, whether we accept the revealed theory of creation or the scientific one of evolution.

The Mannár man is somewhat retrograded from the civilisation he had attained when our fathers were mere barbarians ; and I am not sure that the wandurás, who have stuck to their tails, have not done wisely. They have not to pay a tithe of their grain or to be worried about every transaction of their simple lives.

The people are about two-thirds Tamil and one-third Moor. The few Dutch and Portuguese descendants are of mixed blood, having freely intermarried with the Tamils.

VII.—RELIGION.

The religion of the people was of course Hindu from a very early period. There is nothing to show that Buddhism was ever accepted in these parts, except a figure or two of Buddha, nor is there any record of any Siphalese occupation, except at Mántottai, or Mahathitta.*

I am not aware that anything has been done in the way of conversion by the Roman Church of late years, but the converts made by the Portuguese have propagated, and the professors of this faith now far outnumber the Hindu.

The Moors also have increased in numbers, or, at any rate, have not decreased as the Hindus have, and one-third of the population is now Muhammadan. There is a Church of England clergyman, and a few members of this church are to be found in the town of Mannár, where the Wesleyans also have established a mission.

VIII.—ANCIENT HISTORY.

Prior to the the invasion by the Portuguese, when Mannár was subject to the Tamil king of Jaffna, very little is known of the place. There must have been Tamil colonies at a very early period, and somewhat later, though still early in the history of the Island, there was a Siphalese colony at Mántottai. The large irrigation works are supposed to have been undertaken by one of the Anurádhapura kings, and the inscription at Uchchaippu Kallu corroborates the supposition that the Siphalese, for a time at any rate, had some sort of footing in Mannár.

There is a tradition of an Arab conquest of Tirukesaram, as Mántottai was called before the Siphalese era, and there

* The Government Agent has since informed me that Buddhistic remains have been found in several places. I found a Buddha in Illup-paikkaḍavai.

is no doubt that in very early days indeed—perhaps as early as the time of Solomon—Arab traders frequented the sacred city.

Mr. Nevill says (I do not know on what authority) that from 100 B.C. to 700 A.D. this part of the world was ruled by the Maharájahs of Zabedj, and it is not improbable that Sinbad himself may have seen the temple which is said to have rivalled that at Ramisseram, but of which now very few traces are left.

Though the Portuguese visited Ceylon first in 1505, they did not at once effect a settlement. In 1545 it is related that six hundred of the inhabitants, who had embraced Christianity at the exhortation of St. Francis Xavier or some of his colleagues, were massacred at Mannár by the king of Jaffna, and it is probable that it was in consequence of this slaughter that the Portuguese fleet that year attempted to wrest Mannár from the cruel king. They succeeded in doing so some time afterwards, but in 1658 the Dutch, in their turn, took it from them. In 1679 Knox escaped from his captivity and arrived at Arippu. In 1795 or 1796 Mannár fell into the hands of the English, and until 1798 was administered by the Madras Government.

The foregoing remarks may serve to indicate in some degree the leading characteristics of the district which I propose more particularly to write of. So many able men have preceded me in the administration of the district, that I cannot hope to suggest anything to prevent its further decadence; but in presenting the facts of its history for the last eighty years, I may perhaps be doing the best thing possible to enable those who have the ability and the power to decide, before it is too late, on what should be done.

CHAPTER I.

ESTABLISHMENT.

THE Assistant Agency of Mannár has undergone various changes during the British occupancy. It was first an Aumildary, then a Collectorate, afterwards an Assistant Agency of the Second Class, and is now a Third Class Assistant Agency.

The boundaries of the Aumildary of Mannár were the same as those of the present district, with this exception, they did not include the Illuppaikaddavai or Perunkalli divisions; that is to say, they circumscribed only the divisions of Mántai, Nannáddán, Músalai, and Mannár Island, which were all in charge of the Aumildar, Mr. Joseph Parkinson, until 1802, when the Aumildary of Viḍataltívu was incorporated with that of Mannár.

The Aumildar of Viḍataltívu (pronounced Vertaltívu) was Mr. C. Steenstrand.

The Aumildar was immediately subordinate to the Commissioner Extraordinary of Revenue and Commerce at Jaffna, Colonel Barbut, and was only a Revenue Officer, though I am not quite sure that he did not exercise magisterial functions as Deputy Fiscal. His establishment consisted of the following officers :—

	Monthly Salary.		
	Rds.	f.	p.
Andreas Houter, Writer	18	9	0
Ratnasig Mudaliyár, Maniágár of Mántottai...	11	3	0
Kanakaratna Mudaliyár, Arachchi	11	3	0
Ratnasig Mudaliyár, Shroff	15	0	0
An Assistant Shroff, appointed in 1802	?		
Caderamen Swam Velan, Kanakapulle	11	3	0
Hussim Saib Tamby, Cutwall (Constable)	11	3	0
Visenti, Kangani	5	7	2
Fourteen Peons at	3	9	0
A Tom-tom man	2	0	0

Gaspar Pacheco, Adapanár of the Parawas, received as head of that caste Rds. 22-6 a month, and Suse Tomme Peria Pattemgattyn, as head of the Cadeas, Rds. 15 and 6 f. a day, during the Pearl Fishery.

Then there were, a Principal Surveyor, a Mr. Hesler; a Customs Officer called Customer, a Mr. Nagel, who built the doric building at Arippu for the Governor, which is now a ruin; and a Superintendent of the Cotton Plantation, Mr. William Orr.

There was a Mr. Atkinson, too, but what office he held does

not appear. He is referred to in a letter from Mr. Nagel (marked "private") addressed to Parkinson, in which these words are found : "Don't let me wait, for God's sake, longer.....Try your utmost, my dear sir, to send me a supply of money. I must keep my accounts in order and readiness, as I expect Mr. Atkinson very soon here."

Strict honesty could not have been universal in these early days, any more than it is now ; for in the course of the year (1802), Subaraya Pulle, "late Aumildar of Mannár, who has been so long imprisoned," is sent in custody from Jaffna, and is ordered to be allowed every facility to collect his own debts, in order to satisfy his defalcation. Mr. Orr, too, is suspended for a time, but shortly after being allowed to resume duty writes to the Aumildar to credit him with a certain sum, and says that when he next receives money, "to the receipt I grant you I will add Rds. 10 beyond the sum that I receive."

Several of the officials seem to have been engaged in trade, and the Aumildar was expected to act as their agent. Colonel Barbut himself had transactions in copperah and gingely seed, and the Aumildar is written to to arrange about them. He is also asked to act in the same way for Ponambala Mudaliyár, of Jaffna.

Brouwer, Colonel Barbut's clerk, also writes to him to collect and remit Rds. 100 due to the Roman Catholic priest by Ratnasig Mudaliyár. Towards the end of the year Colonel Barbut, whose full title was Commissioner Extraordinary of Revenue and Commerce for the Northern Districts, announces his purpose of going to Arippe to meet the Governor, and orders the Maniágár to meet him at Mantottai, if the Aumildar cannot come himself. There seems, however, to have been some hitch in the arrangements ; for the Colonel goes on to Colombo, while his late Assistant, George Lusignan, comes from Trincomalee to act for him at Jaffna. In the following February Colonel Barbut, in command of a division of the British Army, helped to take Kandy. In May he took fever, was removed to Colombo, and died there.

Parkinson seems to have incurred Colonel Barbut's displeasure for not meeting demands for rice for the troops, and was threatened with removal to Puttalam to act as Interpreter to Mr. Johnston ; but the Colonel relented because Puttalam "is an unhealthy place, and because of his wife and family," and decided to make him Sea-Customer and Assistant Superintendent of Cotton Plantations, and to appoint Mr. Vandergucht, the Aumildar of Kalpiṭiya, to be Aumildar of Viḍatalīvu and Mannár ; and it was arranged that "they are each to receive Rds. 102 a month, to have one office and an assistant writer and stationery in common," and,

in the absence of one at the Cotton Plantation or Viḍataltivu, that the other should act at Mannár.

The appointment of Mr. Parkinson as Sea-Customer was happy, as he seems to have been an old sailor. He was a son of a Colonel Parkinson who died some years ago in Dublin, and his grandson, Mr. Bertus, is now Head Clerk of the Mannár Kach-chéri. Mr. Vandergucht seems to have been in charge at Puttalam and Kalpitiya, and is described as a "good young man." He was ordered to hand over his cash balance to Mr. Nagel for the works at Arippu, and his district to Lieutenant Johnston.

These changes seem to have been made in connection with the severance of Puttalam and Chilaw from the surveillance of Colonel Barbut—a severance which it is said was not pleasing to that officer.

1803.—During this year I find no change made in Mannár, but references are made to the following officers, whose names are more or less known by most people who know anything about Ceylon:—William Boyd, Superintendent of the Pearl Fishery; Henry Powney, Secretary to the Board of Revenue and Commerce; Lieutenant Arthur Johnston, already mentioned; Wm. MacDowall, Second Assistant Commissioner of Revenue and Commerce; and George Lusignan, who succeeded Barbut at Jaffna.

Mr. Brouwer, the clerk in the Jaffna office; writes of his "good assistant, Mr. Tap."

In 1806 or 1807 the Wanní districts were formed into a Collectorate under Turnour, and in 1809 Mr. Johan Ernst Theile was appointed Sitting Magistrate for the six southern districts of the Wanní and Pringalli.

About the same time Mannár must have been also made a Collectorate: Mr. Edward Tolfrey was Collector. He was succeeded in January, 1810, by H. R. Sneyd.

Mannár at this time was a smaller district than it is now: for Viḍataltivu or Pringalli was handed over to the Wanní—a reversion to the Dutch order of things. Jaffna at the same time became a Collectorate, which included only the peninsular and the maritime districts as far as the boundary of Mántottai.

The Collectors corresponded directly with Government, an arrangement which, as we shall see, was subsequently altered, but which I am glad to see is being now again gradually reverted to.

The chief native headman of Mannár at this time was Ondaatje Attikár, the grandfather, I believe, of the late Colonial Chaplain of that name. The old Attikár is described as "a very clever, intelligent man."

The subordinate headmen were called Pattengattys, and their assistants Motteokaras, whose duty it was to procure coolies for travellers and chules for the tappal runners.

Our Government seems from the first to have been less just towards the headmen than that of our predecessors; for I find them asking for the allowances they had in the Dutch time, viz., a duty on the paddy tithe when collected and paid into the godown, upon which Sneyd remarks: "I gave them an evasive answer at the time, but now beg leave to state, that if some little thing was done for them it would be of benefit to Government hereafter.

The Collector fines a headman 70 markals for under-estimating a field of 700.

Tolfrey's opinion of them at this time was that they were "very little to be depended upon"; that they displayed a spirit of low cunning and intrigue, and a disposition to seize every opportunity of defrauding Government and oppressing the people.

The Collector was also Sitting Magistrate and Fiscal, and the Deputy Fiscal was Mr. J. C. Von Bramhoff.

1811.—From the records of 1811 it seems that Mullaittivu was then part of the Wannī, and that there was a Provincial Court presided over by Mr. Mead. The headquarters of this court were at Kalpiṭiya, but circuit courts were held at uncertain times at different places.

1813.—In 1813 I find the first reference to the Justice of the Peace, who was the Collector. The Superintendent of Delft, too, is now for the first time referred to. Turnour this year handed over the Wannī to E. D. Boyd.

1814.—In 1814 Sneyd handed over Mannár to Mr. Orr, and two peons were allowed to the Sitting Magistrate, who were discontinued three years later. Sneyd's advocacy of the claims of unpaid headmen was responded to, for they now receive four per cent. of the paddy tithes.

1815 sees J. B. Backhouse, Collector, and Pringalli again part and parcel of Mannár. The native department has apparently been reduced, for there are now only three Attikárs for Músalai, Mántai, and Viḍataltívu. The office of Police Viḍáne has been introduced, but the title Pattengatty is still used. It is incidentally mentioned that Boyd is succeeded in the Wannī by J. G. Forbes.

1816.—Orr is back again as Collector. He falls foul of Thiele, already referred to as Sitting Magistrate of Viḍataltívu, and who seems to have also been Collector of Customs there, for interfering with the headmen, and reports him to Government. The Governor rather snubs them both, telling Thiele that he is "an assuming young man," and advising Orr that he should have sent his instructions to the headmen through Thiele: so that I suppose a Sitting Magistrate in these days was regarded somewhat in the light of a sitting hen. He might "sit," but was not to be sat upon by a Collector.

In these days James Gay was Deputy Secretary to Government, and Boyd seems to have gone from the Wanní to the Board of Revenue, while Lusignan was Collector of Trincomalee; H. Hooper was Collector of Jaffna and W. Tolfrey Assistant Commissioner of Revenue. The Collector of Mannár—and all Collectors, I suppose—drew, besides their salary, two per cent. on the revenue they collected, including the Customs. The Vaccinator drew Rds. 80 pay and allowances, and a Catechist (for we were now not only a conquering but a proselytising nation, albeit less zealous than the Dutch, Portuguese, and Muhammadans, who were before us).

1817.—Henry Pennell goes to the Wanní to act for Forbes.

1818.—Backhouse informs the Hon. Commissioner of Revenue that he is about to proceed to Colombo for medical aid and change of air, and Mr. F. T. Templer acts as Collector of Mannár.

The six southern districts of the Wanní are added to Mannár, and the rest are divided between Jaffna and Trincomalee.

The Sitting Magistracy of Viðaltáivu is abolished, and Mr. Parkinson is appointed Sitting Magistrate of Mannár.

The clerk of judicial process, and the Gentu priest whose function was to administer oaths to the Hindus, officers whom I have hitherto omitted to mention, were struck off the Collector's abstract. The Head Clerk of the Kachchéri, Mr. Bramhoff, dies, and is succeeded by Mr. Werkmeister on a reduced salary. Mr. Nolan is Superintendent at Delft.

Walbeoff, the Collector of Chilaw, sends hemp seed to Mannár, but for what purpose is not stated, though I presume it was to be tried as a "new product"; for I find an experiment actually was tried with wheat.

1819.—Mr. Templer is summoned suddenly to Puttalam in consequence of the illness of Mrs. Templer, and is succeeded by Mr. C. Brownrigg.

On the 25th of May Backhouse reports his return, and I notice that he and other Collectors always inform the Secretary of the Supreme Court, as well as the Chief Secretary to Government, when they assume duty. Backhouse complains of the state of the accounts left by Sneyd and Orr; the latter seems to have been held a defaulter on account of choya-root rents, and was surcharged, but did not pay up, and proceedings were eventually taken after his decease against his representatives for the recovery of some Rds. 11,000.

There was a Custom-house at Kondáchchi, and a man of the name of Belise was Custom-Master. There was also a constable.

The Mudaliyárs of the Wanní divisions were paid three per cent. on the paddy tithes.

In 1820 there were eight Aṭṭikárs—a Burgher and a native

for each of the divisions of Pringalli, Mántai, Nannáddán, and Músálai. There was also a Mudaliyár of the Gate, at Rds. 20 a month, and a second of the same rank at Rds. 11-3. The Attikárs were paid Rds. 20 a month. The Adapannár received Rds. 22-6, and the Pattengatty of the fishers Rds. 5.

The following is an imperfect list of the Establishment in 1820 :—

- A. E. Bartholomues of the Mixties of Jaffna, Head Clerk.
- C. Rodrigue of the Mixties of Jaffna, Second Clerk.
- E. Rodrigue of the Mixties of Jaffna, Attikár of Vidataltívu.
- S. Myce, Dutch descendant, Interpreter to the Collector and Clerk to the Custom-house.
- M. F. Jan, Mixtie of Mannár, Attikár of Mántottái and Nannáddán.
- N. Thiedeman, Dutch descendant, of Kalpitiya, Clerk and Head Searcher.
- P. C. Belise, Dutch descendant, Assistant Custom-Master, Kondáchchi.
- P. Bertus, Dutch descendant, of Mannár, Searcher at South Bar.
- J. N. Van Langenburgh, Mixtie of Colombo, Secretary to the Sitting Magistrate.

There were two others of the name of Bertus—one an Overseer of works, at Arippu, and the other Government Supervisor of Chanks.

Hooper of Jaffna goes on leave and Backhouse goes there and works both Collectorates for a time.

Though there were so many officials, the list of office furniture only includes one press, two tables, five chairs, twelve muskets, and twelve pounds sulphur.

1821.—Two native Attikárs are dismissed.

1822.—Backhouse goes to Puttalam and is succeeded by R. M. Sneyd from Batticaloa. Lusignan is Deputy Secretary to Government, and Richardson is at Trincomalee.

1826.—Dyke comes from Jaffna and relieves R. M. Sneyd on July 12.

1827.—January 31, R. Anstruther relieves Dyke, but is in turn relieved by J. Price on April 29.

1831.—John W. Huskisson is now Collector. Between January 29 and May 7 he dismisses twenty-five peons, and his diary is chiefly a record of the infliction of punishments, fines, and lashes on all kinds of people for neglect of duty.

There was a Medical Sub-Assistant of the name of Seyp.

1833.—Huskisson still here. He discovers some frauds in the Customs; but his writing is so bad that I cannot make out exactly what they were. P. C. Bertus, L. Myce, K. Thiedeman, and three kanganies are dismissed.

Huskisson seems to have been afterwards Collector of Jaffna and Batticaloa ; but I do not think he ended his career in Ceylon. He was a mighty hunter, and is said to have bullied the people to find elephants for himself and friends. His administration, as recorded by himself, may almost be said to be written in blood : it is a savage record of indiscriminate lashes and fines upon all sorts and conditions of men. There was a Huskisson, I think, about this time of some prominence in affairs at home. I am not aware of any connection between the two.

1834.—Mannár island was divided afresh. Up to this time the old Portuguese division was maintained, but now the parish of St. Thomé (which included Eirukelanpidði) disappears, and is incorporated with San Pedro. The new division has continued since 1834, viz., 1, Santa Crus or Mannár town; 2, San Pedro; 3, Totavélli; 4, Karisal; 5, Pésálai; 6, Talaimannár; and for each there is a Police Vidáne.

1837.—C. Webster is here as Collector, but when he came or when he went does not appear. I believe that he enclosed the burial ground, but there is no tradition of his having done anything else.

1839.—The order of Collectors is abolished, and Mannár becomes an Assistant Agency under Dyke, the Government Agent or "Rájah"—as the Service has been proud to call him—of the Northern Province.

G. C. Talbot was the first Assistant Agent of Mannár, and he continued as such until 1843, when he was directed to hand over to Mr. Edward Maltby, who was to act until the arrival of Mr. Layard, who, however, did not come. I find the name of K. Mackenzie as Assistant Government Agent in 1843, but I don't think he ever assumed duty. From the month of April to the end of the year H. O'Grady signed as Assistant Government Agent. He went on leave then and Smedley acted for a time, and then Caulfield.

In 1842 Mercer was District Judge and Assistant Government Agent at Anurádhapura.

1845 sees F. Price, Assistant Agent of Mannár.

1848.—Walker spent his time inquiring into encroachments on Crown land. The records here fail me, for I find no note bearing on the Establishment until 1859, when H. Pole resigned.

1860.—In this year Mr. Twynam, the present Rájah of the North and Nestor of the Service, was appointed. He held this substantive appointment until 1869 or 1870, when he relieved the Acting Government Agent of the North-Western Province (who took his place at Mannár), and shortly after was promoted to Jaffna.

1867.—Two of the Wanní divisions are taken from Mannár and annexed to Mullaittivu.

1870.—From the departure of Mr. Twynam until 1879, when the rest of the Wanni districts were divided between Vavuniya and the North-Central Province, the district was administered by ten successive Assistants; but what they have said and done, is it not all recorded in the books of the Administration Reports which have been published annually since 1867 ?

In 1879, as I have said before, the appointment was reduced from the Second to the Third Class.

CHAPTER II.

POPULATION.

BEING particularly anxious to see how far the assertions of some of my predecessors and others as to the falling off in population were accurate, I have carefully noted all the figures I have been able to find bearing on the subject.

In 1808 I find the following record :—

			Men and Boys.
Mántottai	...	...	975
Nannáddán	...	...	474
Músálai	...	...	637
Mannár	...	...	988
Total ...			<hr/> 3,074 <hr/>

By the Census of 1881 the figures for the same divisions were—

			Males.
Mántottai	...	...	1,513
Nannáddán	...	...	1,812
Músálai	...	...	2,006
Mannár	...	...	4,918
Total ...			<hr/> 10,249 <hr/>

Supposing the “men and boys” referred to in 1808 to mean, as is probable, males above 15, the total male population of these four principal divisions of the district did not exceed 6,148.

In 1810 I find—

			Men and Boys.
Mántottai	...	...	1,042
Nannáddán	...	...	546
Músálai	...	...	617
Mannár	...	...	1,978
Total ...			<hr/> 4,183 <hr/>

which is a nearer approach to the figures of 1881.

In 1813 it is noted that the proportion of Moors was one to eight; in 1826 it was about one to five; and in 1881 it was

one to three ; and as the population on the whole was about the same, there must have been some falling off among the Tamils.

Sneyd records of the village of Adampan alone that it was reduced from fifty families in 1770 to fourteen families in 1813, and he remarks : " It is much to be wished that some inducement was held forth by Government to early marriage, by granting a small present to every bride, that a kind of infamy be attached to the unmarried state, and that pologamy (*sic*) be strictly prohibited."

The manners and customs must have considerably altered since, if the inference from Mr. Sneyd's remarks is correct ; for I believe early marriage is now the rule, and that though there are so many Muhammadans polygamy is rarely practised.

One of the propositions, however, made for celebrating the Queen's Jubilee in 1887 was to dower a certain number of young women who, by reason of their poverty, could not find husbands.

In 1826 a carefully prepared return gives a total of 4,886 males from 18 to 55 years of age for the whole district, including the six Wanni provinces. This is equivalent to a population of nearly 20,000, whereas that of the district in 1831 minus the Wanni provinces was over 20,000.

In 1831 a similar computation gives the population of the present district as 19,336.

The Census of 1871 makes it 21,264, and that of 1881 21,596.

It would seem, therefore, that there has not been a decrease of population since 1808, but that it has slightly increased ; and I think it probable that the great decadence took place in the interval between 1770 and 1808.

Turnour remarks, with reference to the Wanni, which was subject to much the same conditions as this district, as follows :—"The population of the Wanni was rated at 18,000 souls. The decrease between that time and 1806 may be accounted for by the distracted state of the country subsequently to the Kandyan war and famine."

But a country which after eighty years can show an increase of only a thousand or two, if so much, may almost said to be declining.

1886.—A Census made by the headmen towards the close of this year shows the population to be 19,016, and I have every reason to believe it to be reliable. The details of this Census are shown in my report for 1886.

CHAPTER III.

RACES AND CASTES.

JUDGING from the fact of the existence of a Veddá village at the present time in the adjoining province of Anurádhapura, and that they are occasionally alluded to in the earlier diaries, I presume that this district was originally one of their hunting grounds.

The Siphalese, I think, never penetrated so far, though Parker ascribes the Giant's Tank and connected works to Siphalese engineers, and there undoubtedly was, at a very early period, a Siphalese colony at the Port Mahatiṭṭa or Mántoṭṭai, which probably took the place of the still more ancient Trinkeswaram, which was probably founded by Ráma about the same time as Rameswaram. The Anurádhapura kings doubtless at times had the suzerainty, but the people remained Tamil and rejected the reformed doctrines taught by the disciples of Buddha : hence they never mixed with the Siphalese. Whether Trinkeswaram was destroyed by some conqueror, or gradually decayed, or was suddenly submerged by a cyclonic wave, is uncertain, but it is a fact, I believe, that a considerable portion of it is now under the sea. There is no record of this city's disappearance : it is not even referred to, so far as I know, by the Portuguese.

The Portuguese, who were here for some 150 years, the Dutch who succeeded them, and the English, have all left descendants, who were called in the earlier records "Mixties."

The Moors had probably a footing even before the Portuguese, and they are gradually possessing themselves of the country to the exclusion of the Tamils. Sneyd, in 1813, refers to these people in the following passage :—"The whole of Músalai is peopled with this odious race called Moors, who are eternally suing each other for defamation of character." Either this is a libel, or they have improved ; for the district is remarkably free from litigation of any sort. Certainly in 1886 there was not a single case for defamation of character. But why "odious"? I fear me Master Sneyd was prejudiced by his abhorrence of the patriarchal custom of "pologamy."

The descendants of the Portuguese slaves, too, still survive, and physically, if not otherwise, show the advantage of crossing certain breeds. They are a hard-working class.

The first reference on the subject of caste is in the following interesting letter :—

Aan den Heer I. VanderGucht.

Myn Heer,—Ik verzook n, w, Rd my te laten wieter of er cenig order of eine Beserry ving van den Heer Colonel Barbut heeftaan an de Putlamse wievers, wiegens koelies voorde passanger alvaar, also versook ik daar van een copy aan my te wellen over zenden.

Voorts rablyee met agting te zyn Ik bin,
Mm Rd goedvrien,

Colombo, August 10, 1802. A. BERTOLAN,
P. M. G.

from the Postmaster-General (I presume) of the day, which the Parish Priest of Pésalai has kindly translated for me as follows :—

To the Lord I. VanderGucht.

Sir,—I request you to let me know if there is any order or letter from Sir the Colonel Barbut about the coolies or passengers to Puttalam, and also to send me a copy of it.

Remaining kindly yours,

I am,

Colombo, August 10, 1802. A. BERTOLAN,
P. M. G.

Vellalas or agricultural coolies are also referred to this year. In 1810 the various castes, and the duties they were required to perform, were as follows :—

Vellalas	...	To drag timber from forests.
Chetties	...	Do. do.
Carreas	...	Do. do.
Chandas	...	Do. do.
Mammullie	Cadeas	Do. do.
Marawas	...	To drag timber from forests and attending on Government elephants.
Cammaler	...	Blacksmiths and carpenters' work.
Valleas	...	Felling timber, clearing roads, supplying chules to resthouses and tappal stations. They are also referred to as "coolies."
Kosaver	...	Supplying resthouses with chatties and pots. There were fourteen families at Adamben. Ten years later they had disappeared ; for in 1822 the Collector writes : "Obliged to purchase chatties, as all the potters who used to supply them have died of cholera."

Wannan	...	Dhobies. Decorating resthouses with white cloths on occasion of His Excellency the Governor and Judges of Supreme Court passing on circuit.
Weankally Caddeas		Digging choya-root. They were exempt from the toddy-tax. A deduction was annually made from the amount of the arrack farm on this account on a statement made by Mr. Mooyaart, who rented the choya farm.
Parawas	...	Without exception Roman Catholics, implicitly under the control of the priests, who, you will soon discover, have no small weight in the district.
Canareens (descendants of Portuguese slaves)	...	Such services as are required at sea.
Timmelas (only thirty or forty in number)		Such services as are required at sea; but recently required by Mr. Orr to carry palanquins.
Moors	...	Weaving, diving for chanks, elephant hunting, and making salt.

In 1817 there were 183 Pannikans, or elephant hunters, a distinct class of Moormen; and the Collector adds in a note: "All cultivate paddy, and are only liable to the calls of Government for service from long custom, the origin of which I am not able to trace."

In 1826 I find a list giving the numbers of each caste between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five (males). The district then included Vidataltivu and the six southern divisions of the Wanni; but the population of the latter was so small that it scarcely affects the comparison. It includes one or two castes not hitherto mentioned and four Veddás.

This list is printed with my Administration Report for 1886 side by side with the figures for that year, but I give it in a somewhat better form at the end of this chapter. The distinctions of caste are still kept up to a considerable extent, and they keep pretty much to their old trades; but now, of course, there is no enforced labour. It is probably the remembrance of slavery which makes the people disinclined to anything like servile labour. Not a man will work on the roads in the Mannár district unless he is starving, and not always then unless he is a Moorman. Another reason is, that labour on the roads in the Mannár district can be commuted for Rs. 1.25, or at the rate of 20½ cents a day. If a man is poor, he borrows the money to pay the division officer, and if he cannot find anything better to do, works on the roads for 32 cents a day or more, and gets some of his money back. I believe this to be the principal reason why the new

Ordinance works so well there. Labour is dearer than in the villages of parts of the Southern Province, for instance.

Comparative Statement showing the Numbers of the Various Races and Castes.

	1826.	1886.
Vellálas	3,920	1,627
Moormen	3,496	6,768
Moormen, weavers	1,080	—
Moormen, divers	476	—
Chandas, tree climbers	804	608
Wallias, now fishers	628	586
Pallas, field labourers	108	324
Nalawas, tree climbers of low caste	220	8
Parawas, fishers	2,524	3,505
Painters	18	62
Painters coast	—	14
Wannias, high-caste Vellálas	76	5
Sliversmiths	64	60
Canoreens, descendants of Portuguese slaves	212	41
Cadeas, originally lime-burners	692	1,134
Cadeas, choya-root diggers	720	438
Chandas, coast	96	250
Madapallas, bastards of royal descent	132	—
Paradesie, mendicants	8	—
Chetties	120	2
Brahmans	8	4
Pandarams, inferior priests	16	—
Malayan	4	—
Sangaman, priests	24	—
Wadeyas	12	—
Marawas, coast	400	452
Potters	60	64
Artificers	276	—
Carrears, fishers	1,000	1,048
Moquas, fishers	212	161
Timilas, fishers	308	192
Carpenter	12	18
Edeas, cattlekeepers	24	32
Veddáh	16	—
Coviahs, domestic servants to vellálas	164	28
Barbers	352	165
Wannan, washers	340	251
Moor, barbers	24	44
Sighalese	428	2
Lanakaras, elephant keepers	20	—
Parias, tom-tom beaters	76	154
Toeromba, lowest caste dhobies	4	—
Pannuwa	4	—
Blacksmiths	104	328
Goldsmiths	—	5

	1826.	1886.
Goldsmith, coast ...	—	8
Brassfounders ...	12	—
Tawasi, ascetics ...	4	—
Kannadians, coast ...	—	476
Idaias (P) Edeas ...	—	28
Vanipers, oilmongers ...	—	147
Padaiachy ...	—	142
Masons ...	—	11
Sivias, palanquin bearers ...	—	2
Burghers ...	—	105
Europeans ...	—	6
Ahampadians, third class Vellálas ...	—	43
Nayakaras ...	—	3
Chalias, higher than Chandas ...	—	40
Nathenpatti ...	—	6
Calla, coast ...	—	7
Parankias, Portuguese ...	—	3
Vadoker ...	—	1
Odder, tank-diggers ...	—	2
Total ...	<u>19,344</u>	<u>19,416</u>

CHAPTER IV.

TAXATION.

THE revenues of the district are shown in detail in a comparative table which I have prepared so far as I have been able to get reliable figures.

Customs, Paddy, Arrack, and Salt seem always to have been the chief sources of the revenue, but in the earlier times there were other taxes, which for many years have disappeared from the accounts.

In making comparisons the extent of the district must not be lost sight of, but the different changes in this respect are not of much account, except in the case of the Wannipattus, which, though thinly populated, affected the yield of the paddy tithe to a considerable degree.

On the general subject Tolfrey in 1810 remarks: "The conditions of all the rents bear as hard upon the inhabitants as it is expedient they should do," but that "the Land Custom Rent is capable of increase."

What this Land Custom Rent was I am not quite sure, but I think it was the same as is in some places called the bazaar rent. It was farmed, and it is noted that the renters were so extortionate that they diminished the value of the rent by keeping the Kandyans away.

In 1820, when the population certainly was not more than it is now, the taxation from paddy, salt, choya, ferry, cloth, stamps, and toddy, amounted to Rds. 80,000, whereas the revenue now from all sources does not exceed Rs. 50,000. The dollar was reckoned at 1s. 6d. when the rupee was worth 2s.

Backhouse specially protested at so many people—301—being kept in slavery for the purposes of the choya-root monopoly, who might have been profitably employed in rice cultivation.

In 1825 R. M. Sneyd observed that the people were unable to pay the taxes, and that most of the inhabitants were absent from the district (and yet Sneyd is not an Irish name).

One of the earliest taxes I find referred to in 1802 would now be classed as Port and Harbour Dues: it consisted of a charge of three fanams per garce on all boats passing the Fort of Mannár, in order to defray the expense of keeping up the marks to point out the channel.

Besides this there was a voluntary tribute allowed by the Governor to be paid to the Moorish priest of Mannár by the owners of dhonies.

Then there was an export duty on tobacco, as well as the bazaar tax for local consumption. In 1802 Colonel Barbut directs it to be levied in copper, but by a Proclamation of July 12 of the same year it is directed to be levied in kind, and not to exceed 25 per cent. on the valuation. In 1810 it paid 3 per cent. to the bazaar renter. This bazaar tax was repealed in 1813 by Proclamation of July 31.

The Choya-root monopoly was, I fancy, a legacy from the Dutch. The rent from February 10 to April 30, 1815, sold for Rds. 6,000. People were forced to dig it for Government at a low wage, were flogged if they did not work, and brought back by warrants if they bolted and could be found. The management was farmed, and in 1810 a Mr. Mooyaart, who had the power of inflicting so many lashes was the renter. In 1816 the root became unsaleable in Madras, as the weavers there had taken to getting their thread ready-dyed from the northern districts instead of dyeing it themselves. In 1819 the digging on account of Government was abandoned, but large stocks remained on hand. In 1821 it is noted that choya was again rising in value.

The Joy, or Joies tax, was another old infliction, introduced, I believe, by the Portuguese originally, but reimposed in 1800, when it gave rise to a tumult in Mannár. It was a tax upon jewels, and was discontinued in 1806. Turnour, writing of the Wanni, says: "You will observe that the only money-rent of any consequence, when I first took charge of the district, was that of the Joy tax, against which so much has been already said, that I will only add here that Government was pleased, at my suggestion, to allow it to be discontinued. In the room of that I have established a Salt Rent, which brings in Rds. 7,000 per annum; a rent of the exclusive right to catch elephants, Rds. 3,500 per annum; and the rent of the ferry at Kokelai, which has been turned into a general Pass Rent, Rds. 4,100, although the Land Duties have been reduced from 10 to 5 per cent. *ad valorem*."

Toddy Tax.—It was customary for the arrack or toddy renter to exact a tax on sweet as well as on fermented toddy, and it was suggested in 1821 to require drawers of sweet-toddy (called *carpenny*) to be licensed. The toddy tax was, however, abolished by the Regulation 10 of 1825.

Land Customs.—This tax was rented as far back as 1802. It included a tax on all cattle imported and sold or purchased for exportation. How the tax was collected I cannot make out, but imagine it was done at the different ports and at the boundaries of the district inland, for I see the people of Puttalam claim exemption from the tax on their tavalams. By the way, the reference on the subject is made by Johnston, who spells Puttalam "Poutland." This tax was abolished

in 1816, and some fresh taxes and a rise in the prices of monopolies were imposed instead, viz.:—

- (1) Retail price of salt from 12 to 15 fanams per parah.
- (2) Three per cent. *ad valorem* on exports except grain.
- (3) Two per cent. on the latter (to make up for loss on bazaar tax).

A ferry rent was established on the Arippe river in 1814.

Fish Tax.—This was not abolished until 1840. It was rented as early as 1802, and consisted of a tithe of all fish caught. "The Pattengattys receive two per cent. for making a just division of fish between the renter and the fishermen. Of this one per cent. is for the use of the poor." It is not stated whether the headmen were entrusted with the distribution to the poor. Mr. Brouwer's private instructions to Parkinson on the subject are also rather puzzling. He says: "Fish farm sold for Rds. 6,000—multiply by 4 and calculate the percentage on the product = Rds. 480," which it seems to me is eight per cent.; but perhaps Mr. Brouwer was joking.

The fish renter of Mannár had the privilege of conveying passengers to and from the coast of India, but was bound to supply boats and men for the postal service. It is noted in 1810 that the fish, ferry, bazaar, and arrack rents are all more or less affected by the prospect or otherwise of a Pearl Fishery.

Dog Tax.—Somewhere about 1848 there was a tax upon dogs, and it was reported that the people were killing their dogs to avoid payment.

Arrack.—The history of this tax is of course the same as in other parts of the Island, and may be traced in the various Ordinances on the subject. The law, however, as regards fermented toddy seems never to have been enforced. The renter makes his own arrangements with the people and does not interfere with the sale of it. It is never sold in taverns in this district. The consumption of arrack in 1820 was about fifteen leaguers, and the value of the rent may be seen from the figures in the Revenue returns at the end of this chapter. It is apparently the only item which shows a progressive tendency.

Salt forms naturally in several places both on the mainland and in Mannár island, and can also be easily manufactured. In former times it was the practice not only to collect that naturally formed, but also to manufacture for export. The receipts, therefore, at that time by this monopoly must not be compared with the receipts in modern times. It was found that salt could be more economically produced in Jaffna, and for some time not only has none been manufactured, but all that has formed naturally has been

allowed either to redissolve or been destroyed, and the salt required for local consumption is obtained from Jaffna.

The natural deposits or "falls" of salt take place in the prolonged dry season from July to October, and in 1810 cost 2 pice per parah to collect and as much to store, and was retailed at the Government godown at Rd. 1 per parah.

The cost of manufactured salt, which was only incurred in case of necessity, was 2 fanams per parah on delivery into the godown at Vidataltivu or Arippu. There were salt-pans at Konḍachchi also; and Captain Antill, who, I presume, was Commandant here at the time, was asked to send a guard to protect the manufacture there.

Backhouse in 1818 sent 20,000 parahas to Kalutara. In recent years there has been a falling off in the consumption of salt, which is attributed to a falling off in the fisheries, which may be the case to some extent, but is partly due, I think, to the fact of improved communication between the interior and Jaffna, and Puttalam, and Trincomalee, and Mátaalé. In 1820 Backhouse proposed to raise the retail price from 15 to 18 fanams per parah.

Stamps.—From an early period stamps were in use, both stamped paper and ola. In 1818 I find a list of paper and ola stamps: the former from Rds. 100 to 1 pice in value, and the latter from Rds. 10 to 1 fanam. These were chiefly used in judicial proceedings and for licenses or permits for various purposes.

Cloth Stamp.—This tax was rented and was levied upon all cloth woven in the district or (imported?). Backhouse in 1820 recommended its abolition.

Paddy Tax.—Also a rented revenue until 1816, when a partial commutation was effected; that is to say, any one wishing to do so was allowed to commute at a rate calculated on the average of a certain number of years. There are several papers on the subject. Tolfrey, Boyd, and Orr took part in the controversy. It was sought to introduce the Batticaloa system, which was said to have worked well, and to have been devised by a very able man of the name of Burnand. Orr was against it on the ground that the constant interference by assessors and overseers would be worse for the people than the exactions of the renters. The Governor seems to have been very anxious to get rid of the renters, and so the compromise of partial voluntary commutation was resorted to, but eventually abandoned.

Tolfrey always sold the tithes by villages, and in 1810 advertised the sales for February 10. The practice now is to sell much later. He remarked that as the godowns were full, his successor would have to sell the tithes for money.

In 1848 the people asked that the tithes might be sold by fields, which is what I should like to do.*

Dyke in 1848 alludes to difficulty in connection with the partial commutation referred to above, and gives a table of the rates at which commutation was allowed in the different divisions. The difficulty, I suppose, he found was in comparing the produce. The table is as follows :—

Iluppaikaḍavai	...	... 1834-1836 at 7½d. per parah
The whole of the maritime pattus	1837-1839 at 9d.	"
Iluppaikaḍavai and Pringalli	... 1842-1846 at 9d.	"
Panangamu and Uḍayār-ūr	... 1844-1846 at 6d.	"

It was sometimes the practice to require the renter to pay in money, and at other times to deliver the amount of his rent in kind, but for some time the tithe has been sold for money, unless no one has been found willing to pay the true value of it, in which case it has been collected in aumany, as it is called, by Government officers and sold after measurement to the highest bidder; and though the actual quantity of paddy exacted from the people may have been greater than it is now, the profit to Government was less. The renters did not pay if the rent was sold for money and if the tithe was received in kind: it was stolen, wasted, and damaged, and could not be sold for years sometimes, and even then upon credit. There can be no doubt, I think, from the revenue receipts and other facts which will appear in my chapter on Paddy Cultivation, that it was at one time more extensive than it is now, though not so extensive as has been supposed. At times paddy was so plentiful that it remained in the Government stores for years and could not be got rid of; or was it that people were too poor to buy at the price Government would sell at?

In 1802 it was all sent to Colombo, and for some years a good deal of it was taken over by the Commissariat for the use of the troops. One of the Collectors observes: "The burden of the paddy tax is greatly increased by the cost of transport and loss on the way to the godown."

The Alphanḍigo duties, which were abolished in 1816, do not seem to have been exacted here. I must leave it to some one else to say what they were for—I do not know.

The only other tax which the unfortunate people were not subject to was the Oelian.

Mr. R. M. Sneyd says that personal service was never enforced, but I cannot reconcile this statement with facts: perhaps he refers only to the practice by himself.

The Pearl Fishery was sometimes rented. The Chank

* I have since tried, but the people will not buy.

Fishery was rented, but disappears in the accounts of late years, as the fees required for permission to fish are recovered in the form of stamps. Further particulars as to both pearls and chanks will be found in the chapter on Fisheries.

Timber.—The inland duty on timber (royalty I should call it) was reduced by His Excellency Sir R. Brownrigg from 50 per cent. to 30 per cent. *ad valorem*. The destruction of ebony and satinwood was very ruthlessly carried on for many years. Permission to fell was given by the thousand logs at a time, and the consequence is that there is very little of either of any age to be found in the district.

Interest.—The rate in arrears of revenue was reduced in 1819 from 12 to 9 per cent. Under the head of taxation the commutation for the obligation to labour on the roads must not be lost sight of, but of the particulars of this tax I will write in another chapter.

I must not forget to mention the gaming tax, and then I think I shall have pretty well exhausted the category of the means by which the life-blood was sucked out of the people. There was nothing, apparently, that was not taxed, and it was nearly all exacted through the instrumentality of renters who may be credited with the will, as they had the power, of extorting the uttermost farthing.

That the taxation was too heavy is, I think, proved by the large arrears of revenue which remained unpaid for years, although the severest measures were resorted to to enforce payment, in confining defaulting renters for years in jail. It will be seen from a statement at the end of this chapter that large arrears of 1802–3 were outstanding for fifteen years or more, and I suppose were eventually struck off as irrecoverable.

To illustrate in some measure the rented revenues as they were (on paper) and as they are now, the following statement will perhaps be useful :—

		1809-10	1817	1885
		Rds.	Rds.	Rds.
Ferry Rents	...	1,800	2,215	2,210
Fish Farm, Mannár	4,100	6,235	5,890	—
Fish Farm, Mántottái	1,855			
Fish Farm, Viðaltáivu	280			
Land Customs	...	4,160	—	—
Arrack, Mannár	3,830	4,210	3,000	8,842
Arrack, Viðaltáivu	380			
Bazaar Farm	...	2,550	—	—
Cloth Farm	...	1,710	1,665	—
Salt	...	?	9,005	—
Gaming	...	?	88	—
Choya-root	...	?	4,110	—
Total	...	20,665	25,973	11,052

Fine Grain.—According to Backhouse, fine grain paid a tithe in 1820, and cotton and tobacco were reckoned as fine grain.

Account of Outstanding Money Debts in the District of Mannár as they stood on July 31, 1809, the receipts under these heads between that period and January 25, 1810, and the amount due at that period.

Description of Rent.	For what Period due.	Amount remaining due on January 25, 1810.	Remarks (made in 1819 or 1820).
		Rds. f. p.	
Cloth Stamp ...	1803—4	880 10 0	Desperate.
Joy Tax ...	1803—4	2,125 0 0	
Choya-root Farm ...	1803—4	4,675 0 0	
Fish Rent ...	1805—6	1,000 0 0	Recoverable.
Joy Tax ...	1805—6	2,110 5 0	Desperate.
Shifting Pearls ...	1805—6	60 0 0	do.
Arrack Farm ...	1807—8	433 4 0	Recoverable.
Fish Farm ...	1807—8	322 6 0	do.
Paddy tithe of Nannáddán	1803—4 & 5	12,541 8 0	Application has been made for a renewal of the writ of execution in these cases.
Do. Músálai ...	1803—4 & 5	6,743 0 0	
Do. Mántottái	1803—4 & 5	14,758 4 0	
Fish Farm of Mannár ...	1808—9	—	—
Do. of Vidaltívu	1808—9	—	—
Arrack Farm of Vidaltívu	1808—9	—	—
Do. of Mannár ...	1808—9	—	—
Cloth Stamp ...	1808—9	—	—
Bazaar Farm ...	1808—9	—	—
Fish Farm, Mántottái ...	1808—9	—	—
Land Customs ...	1808—9	—	—
Ferry Rent ...	1808—9	—	—
Total ...	—	45,650 1 0	

Year.	Arrears of former years.	Customs.	Port and Harbour Dues.	Land Sales.	Land Revenue.			Rents exclusive of Land.		Licenses.		Stamps.		Postage, including stamps.	
					Land Revenue.			Rents exclusive of Land.		Licenses.		Stamps.			
					Paddy rented and commuted	Fine Grain.	Sun-dries.	Tolls.	Rent on Govt. buildings & houses	Arrack, Rum, and Toddy.	Sun-dries.	Postage.	General, &c.		
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	
1886	808 0	3035 31	858 48	744 44	16525 50	35 0	—	2100 0	369 19	10350 0	5785 50	0 36	71 59	872 84	...
1885	800 0	3287 31	994 64	187 61	15576 50	38 0	75 0	2210 0	420 0	8842 0	1737 25	764 84	3635 48	—	...
1884	982 9	3825 96	1193 40	330 85	10938 81	31 34	83 40	1368 0	420 0	7877 65	5865 50	—	3320 95	578 86	...
1883	—	5739 73	1077 31	2333 60	12710 0	35 50	805 71	2050 0	395 91	11084 60	7407 25	—	4226 96	592 80	...
1882	—	5010 26	1150 10	1857 80	12455 0	79 0	251 57	2300 0	420 0	13612 40	1626 75	—	3775 97	637 50	...
1881	—	10700 21	1443 40	790 18	13641 60	361 61	287 5	2204 0	420 0	13054 0	570 0	—	3470 40	1968 4	...
1880	3412 50	13001 51	1529 88	86 82	9690 25	170 0	424 90	2500 0	445 0	11498 0	2240 75	1364 20	2603 99	61 63	...
1879	3187 50	11406 28	2525 99	4931 99	470 93	841 15	3050 0	445 0	445 0	11087 50	444 0	820 80	3384 18	66 11	...
1878	3750 0	6146 80	1895 63	—	17874 0	416 20	1143 67	3300 0	500 0	11962 50	—	657 32	4668 98	49 92	...
1877	1333 0	3495 3	3123 1	182 75	4103 67	440 24	1089 12	3000 0	360 0	11748 0	—	1037 50	4490 67	53 62	...
1876	1135 41	12608 6	1775 2	—	14864 10	278 76	1171 0	3600 0	360 0	12669 0	—	780 50	4056 70	53 30	...
1875	2833 34	20473 22	1730 73	510 50	8528 45	175 3	1043 35	3550 0	360 0	113530 0	—	690 9	2916 65	55 24	...
1874	—	24956 50	2250 82	—	5599 26	356 54	979 55	3050 0	360 0	12666 62	—	740 0	3984 45	63 64	...
1873	652 59	13461 9	1806 97	—	15814 63	241 40	708 34	3000 0	360 0	14500 2	5217 50	620 41	4853 35	113 94	...
1872	—	6996 93	1641 9	—	22164 30	218 46	708 14	2700 0	360 0	13612 50	—	661 78	3711 35	65 22	...
1871	—	4719 12	1349 17	—	16659 92	253 41	644 71	2010 0	360 0	10650 0	214 25	617 4	3210 92	119 71	...
1870	—	7473 67	1255 50	—	23457 85	218 82	724 25	2100 0	312 58	5302 0	215 0	331 61	3312 66	333 42	...
1869	1180 0	8189 29	1487 67	—	14658 44	673 58	732 40	1650 0	300 0	4799 50	206 75	379 19	4940 44	355 58	...
1868	—	11248 75	1506 33	—	8246 11	695 85	606 31	1406 25	282 50	7593 75	200 75	386 52	2643 0	273 2	...
1867	—	5941 29	1225 42	—	27257 54	997 96	527 48	1125 12	300 0	7537 50	164 0	292 98	2375 71	382 71	...
1866	21 32	8102 96	1522 75	—	21178 50	1082 33	702 98	2053 22	—	6787 50	102 50	208 4	2853 87	367 21	...
1865	79 11	15165 0	1672 83	—	8914 25	1132 92	545 1	2088 91	300 0	7125 0	189 25	277 82	2196 69	186 29	...
1864	1248 0	11965 29	1795 17	—	9844 12	1358 90	612 69	2325 0	300 0	8437 50	219 0	394 18	2942 25	77 25	...
1863	1105 50	9242 96	1875 83	—	20366 48	590 86	670 84	2561 47	300 0	8087 50	264 75	484 81	2692 71	206 33	...
1862	1973 70	6092 66	1283 75	—	21367 75	494 29	623 54	2735 54	275 0	8006 25	254 25	388 25	2766 90	118 20	...
1861	1238 37	4249 54	1577 66	—	18084 50	589 54	489 91	2656 25	275 0	6150 0	164 0	350 12	2153 16	126 16	...
1860	599 41	5841 8	1899 0	—	2317 50	415 12	336 50	2698 16	275 0	5512 50	193 75	363 40	1758 8	73 0	...
1859	1044 62	7267 8	1939 4	—	1248 25	842 0	423 79	2718 66	275 0	4612 50	193 25	406 12	2025 62	108 54	...
1858	2349 90	7455 58	2347 8	—	23430 50	613 4	437 90	3412 12	275 0	4743 75	190 75	284 70	2139 90	83 37	...
1857	2403 12	967 50	2357 54	—	16354 25	396 87	394 50	2906 23	275 0	5734 37	153 25	—	2062 25	510 79	...
1856	461 16	560 4	2138 66	—	12402 0	500 61	51 16	3046 87	275 0	5793 75	143 0	—	2017 16	440 87	...

Year.	Fines and Forfeitures.			Sale of Government Property.			Reimbursements.		Miscellaneous.	In-terest.	Pearl Fishery.	Special Re-ceipts.	Chanks.	Royal-ty on ele-phants.	Asses-ment on houses.	Revenue minus cooly passage money.		Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Salt.	Timber.	Sun-dries.	Survey Fees.	Sun-dries.								Rs. c.	Rs. c.	
1886	489 72	11515 19	134 79	264 23	134 79	264 23	115 0	16 99	815 86	58 13	—	18 30	—	—	—	60635 14+	67456 89	
1885	245 26	10430 32	277 57	377 16	377 57	377 16	—	11370 71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48713 10+	61269 10	
1884	259 60	8802 94	—	337 33	—	337 33	—	9755 54	1293 96	41 44	—	14 59	—	—	—	47566 54+	57392 8	
1883	489 42	8634 51	—	434 8	—	434 8	—	9168 66	650 1	50 68	—	50 24	—	—	—	58529 71+	67698 37	
1882	504 69	10006 94	—	92 3	—	92 3	—	12541 28	219 42	49 60	—	107 28	—	—	—	54156 31+	66697 59	
1881	1125 89	9441 41	—	6365 44	—	6365 44	—	12794 55	900 57	33 71	599633*	—	—	—	—	66777 51+	79572 6	
1880	927 76	9105 50	314	8001 83	—	8001 83	225	0 12781 25	236 26	214 8	200152*	27 28	—	—	—	78056 24+	80837 49	
1879	595 75	9197 41	375 66	1388 8	—	1388 8	—	21363 98	639 98	398 27	—	—	—	—	—	54257 29	75621 27	
1878	126 75	12589 78	216 50	960 97	—	960 97	—	27462 96	3318 33	504 24	—	—	—	—	—	70540 29	98003 25	
1877	812 34	10453 84	949 8	3891 94	—	3891 94	40	0 34497 54	3818 4	288 82	7	8	257 25	200	—	55181 82	89679 36	
1876	275 93	6253 86	90 16	1069 43	32475 17	43 42	—	—	132 64	198 86	—	17 14	613 50	600	—	66164 75	98699 92	
1875	437 79	9925 62	164 54	2679 94	50 0	247 85	—	—	2492 41	293 55	—	—	—	—	—	73403 30	100907 55	
1874	495 80	11267 86	564 43	33 75	33258 0	232 73	—	—	16 65	233 36	—	—	322 50	8700	—	78954 72	114212 72	
1873	673 12	12857 61	612 7	370 46	—	27279 46	—	—	15 31	76 28	—	—	—	—	—	76134 81	103414 27	
1872	788 39	2766 74	594 95	867 88	24181 50	268 57	—	—	50 81	145 18	—	—	436 25	2890	139 67	71788 21	95969 71	
1871	879 50	14834 84	126 66	339 72	24878 25	65 59	—	—	11 51	81 6	—	—	303 25	3000	—	60377 83	86256 8	
1870	993 50	15453 58	111 9	5104 17	18156 75	36 6	—	—	611 75	51 25	—	—	318 75	1200	—	68902 0	87058 25	
1869	279 58	14805 25	1542 80	7406 25	16836 0	75 83	—	—	1043 75	83 0	—	—	—	—	—	65097 89	81933 89	
1868	162 97	13487 25	1326 55	196 15	15715 0	76 27	—	—	1 62	81 39	—	—	—	—	—	60401 47	76116 47	
1867	944 20	10603 50	403 78	759 59	11926 50	526 5	—	—	133 74	55 39	—	—	—	—	—	61203 84	73130 36	
1866	964 18	2554 37	343 17	335 4	24170 75	112 77	—	—	2 14	53 25	—	—	—	—	—	59669 6	83839 81	
1865	452 73	11563 42	658 58	384 45	22453 50	165 23	—	—	22 92	46 44	—	—	—	—	—	53167 3	75620 53	
1864	614 28	8782 73	1753 85	790 17	24198 75	181 12	—	—	217 48	146 15	—	—	—	—	—	54283 64	78482 39	
1863	268 24	10974 25	856 71	3699 41	16076 75	221 87	—	—	269 2	45 73	—	—	—	—	—	83620 48	83620 48	
1862	806 0	10201 8	304 37	421 37	—	295 12	—	—	28 0	110 75	—	—	—	—	—	67543 0	58798 75	
1861	555 75	9332 8	359 87	313 90	—	155 66	—	—	8 29	46 70	—	—	—	—	—	—	50386 25	
1860	185 87	9450 40	—	2666 50	—	462 50	—	—	261 66	32 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	50487 37	
1859	445 0	12282 16	—	3770 0	—	89 4	—	—	144 62	29 37	—	—	—	—	—	—	68134 66	
1858	637 62	8286 58	78 70	2510 87	—	113 17	—	—	524 58	43 66	—	—	—	—	—	—	60049 20	
1857	179 54	7784 0	367 54	3523 66	—	128 4	—	—	392 79	483 54	—	—	—	—	—	—	56161 12	
1856	273 25	9450 0	76 87	4078 54	—	24 66	—	—	556 79	24 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	45190 75	

† Minus Wannai Pattu.

* Credited Jaffna.

CHAPTER V.

ACCOUNTS.

FROM the subject of taxation to that of accounts it is easy to turn, and as I come next upon my notes on this subject I may as well dispose of them here.

For many years the accounts were kept in such a loose manner that it is not an easy thing to make them out. The comparative statement at the end of the last chapter is the only series of connected figures that I can find.

There was a tendency to mix up private and public accounts which I have already hinted at. In 1802, for instance, Nagel is debited with Rds. 11,800 on account of public buildings, but points out that Rds. 600 of it is on his private account.

In this year by a circular signed by Rich. Browne, Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue and Commerce, it is required that all accounts shall be sworn to.

Until 1818 the revenue year terminated on April 30.

Backhouse complains of the state of Sneyd's accounts.

In 1820 the state of things must have been very different from what they were some years before, and what they are now, for in reply to a query the Collector says Rds. 30,000 can well be spared from his treasury. There was not in those days the expensive Immigration Establishment or Public Waste Department, or, if the latter was in existence, it had not extended its operations to Mannár.

More system was gradually introduced in the keeping of accounts, and at the present time there seems to be little left to be desired in the system but a more prompt audit, which I presume is wanting on account of the insufficiency or incompetence of the staff of clerks in the Audit Office.

In my experience the only matters which are attended to with any degree of promptness by this Department are applications for travelling allowances—not that payment is promptly made, but promptly objected to.

Shroff's Account for January, 1810.

REVENUE.

Balance of cash brought forward from
last month's accounts, viz. :—

		Amount.
		Rds. f. p.
<i>Outstanding in October.</i>		
Despatching rice to Trincomalee	...	1,065 0 0
Saverimuttu's debt	...	300 0 0
Mr. Mooyaart	...	1,100 0 0
Rice to Puttalam	...	20 0 0
		<hr/>
		2,485 0 0

<i>In November.</i>		Amount.			Total.		
		Rds.	f.	p.	Rds.	f.	p.
Pay and contingencies for October and November	...	10,713	4	3½			
Pay and contingencies for December...		1,299	3	1			
Do. Dutch prisoners, December		39	0	0			
		<hr/>					
		14,536	8	0½			
Balances in hand on December 31, 1809		11,697	11	0½			
		<hr/>			26,234	7	0½
Received in notes from the General							
Treasurer	...	—			10,000	0	0
On account of the Sea Custom	...	—			634	7	2
Land Rents, aumany collection	...	—			2,553	0	0
Land Customs farmed out	...	—			371	2	2
Licenses	...	—			324	8	3
Fish Farm	...	—			346	11	3
Salt sold	...	—			2,219	0	0
Stamp Register, January 1, 1806	...	—			15	6	0
Judicial Stamps	...	—			30	0	0
Post Office	...	—			10	6	2
Passports	...	—			11	0	0
Fines and Forfeitures	...	—			150	0	0
The Collector for percentage and deduction in November	...	—			140	9	1½
The Collector for percentage and deduction in December	...	—			53	3	3½
		<hr/>					
Total	...	—			43,095	10	2½

EXPENDITURE.

Amount of pay—Mr. General's bills paid this month	...	14,051	1	2½			
Balance of the bills for October and November did : at Colombo	...	194	1	1			
		<hr/>			14,245	2	3½
Old Notes destroyed	...	—			3,290	0	0
		<hr/>			17,535	2	3½
Deduct outstandings on the above bills		1,065	0	0			
Mr. Mooyaart	...	1,100	0	0			
Rice to Puttalam	...	20	0	0			
		<hr/>			2,185	0	0
Balance still outstanding—Saverimuttu		300	0	0			
Pay and contingencies for December, 1809	...	1,299	3	1			
Pay and contingencies for January, 1810	...	5,707	10	2½			
		<hr/>			7,307	1	3½
Balance in hand of the Shroff on January 25, 1810	...	18,253	5	3½			
		<hr/>			25,560		3½
		<hr/>			43,095	10	2½
Total	...	—					

CHAPTER VI.

PADDY CULTIVATION.

THE cultivation of paddy is still the occupation of the majority of the inhabitants on the mainland ; and I think it is wonderful, considering the excessive taxation in the earlier years of this century, the unhealthiness of the district, the frequency of cholera introduced from India, the defective means of irrigation, and the variableness of the rainfall, that the industry has not altogether died out.

Nothing could have withstood the oppression by man and the persecution by nature but the great love of the people for their land and the fertility of the soil.

I have no doubt that at one time, perhaps three or four centuries ago, there was a much larger population than there is now. The great number of small tanks seems to lead to this conclusion ; but I am doubtful whether a larger population could have been maintained for any length of time unless there was a much more regular and copious rainfall.

And if there is truth in the theory that the deforestation of a country not only affects the regularity but the quantity of rainfall, it may well be that the denudation of the mountain zone has affected the water-supply of Mannár.

But that the rainfall in Mannár was ever sufficient for its irrigation is counter-indicated by the existence of the incomplete scheme of anicuts and channels in connection with the Giant's tank and Akattimurippu, so ably described by Mr. Parker in his report upon the proposed restoration of these works. These tanks were completed, but the channels to supply them never were ; and whether they were purposely breached in order to cultivate their beds, or whether they continued to be used as reservoirs to catch what rain might fall over their drainage area, is not certain. It is only known that, so far as the memory of man extends or any record or tradition exists, their beds have been cultivated, and contained several villages ; that in the time of the Dutch the population was perhaps double what it is now ; and that for the last eighty-six years it has remained about the same—sometimes more and sometimes less than 20,000.

Cholera in 1815, before which the disease was unknown in Ceylon, and at several subsequent periods, decimated the people.

It is for the period from 1796 to 1886 that I have chiefly considered the question, and I find that, whatever may have taken place in the Wanní, the Mannár district has not fallen away so much as has been supposed in the matter of paddy cultivation, which is not entirely dependent on the local population. Many of the proprietors do not work in the fields or on the tanks. It has always been the custom for them, at any rate, since slavery was abolished, to get labourers from Jaffna, Iranáitivu, and the adjacent coast of India; and, except in times of pestilence, there has been no difficulty in procuring such labour. The extent of cultivation has only been limited by the quantity of seed available and the prospects of rain.

I am informed that some proprietors have given up the cultivation of this serial and taken to more profitable pursuits.

The absence of any assistance whatever from Government in the way of ensuring a water-supply—assistance which it was bound to give in return for the rent or tax which it exacted—and excessive taxation generally have, by impoverishing the people and paralysing their energies, done more to prevent the development of the district than any want of a resident labour-supply.

The unhealthiness of the district by driving people altogether from it has also at times put an entire stop to cultivation.

But, let the facts speak for themselves. In 1809 the tithe was only valued at 13,302 bushels, or about the same as in 1885. In 1810, Tolfrey says, the district contained about 80,000 markals sowing ground capable of producing 40,000 parahs annually to Government; but that on account of paucity of population the whole cannot be cultivated, and he has never collected more than 30,000 parahs, which are equal to 22,500 bushels, or not quite double the present yield. As a matter of fact, the tithe of 1810 came only to 19,220 bushels.

Between 1810 and 1814 there cannot have been good crops, for in the latter year there was a deficiency of seed. The collector says: "The tanks are capable of holding water for 30,000 bushels, but seed corn only 7,000 bushels." He advises Government for the year to relinquish half the tithe as an encouragement to the people to try transplanting, and expresses the opinion that if this were done the yield would be forty-fold instead of nine. And I suppose he was right enough; but transplanting, which involves also weeding, requires a good deal of extra labour, and I anticipate that the improved methods of agriculture which are now being suggested will be as little regarded by the farmer of to-day as were Mr. Backhouse's suggestions. Until paddy land becomes scarce people will not try to improve the yield. A

man wants 40 bushels of paddy, let us say. He can get it by sowing 4 bushels. There is no use telling him he can get the same result by sowing one in a particular way. He sees, of course, that there is an apparent saving of three bushels to start with, but he remembers what his theoretical advisers forget, that the extra labour necessary to plant out those 3 bushels will involve a cost probably in excess of the value of the seed saved.

In 1816 the tithe was 16,764 bushels.

In 1818 Backhouse says: "I have no hesitation in affirming that the circumstances of the people and condition of the country in regard to agriculture are in a progressive state of improvement."

And in 1820 it is stated that the extent actually cultivated was about 26,125 bushels, which is a slightly higher estimate than Tolfrey's in 1810.

And Backhouse in another place says: "The annual produce may be estimated at 377,778 bushels, affording to Government between 30,000 bushels and 37,778 bushels."

If this is correct, paddy cultivation must have been more than twice as extensive as it has been for the last twenty years or more. But I think Mr. Backhouse's conclusions are not justified by his figures; for I find that the average tithe collected in the five years 1815-19 was only 20,939 bushels, or somewhat less than the average found by Tolfrey in 1810.

In 1848 the paddy sown was only 14,174 bushels.

As has recently been recognised, theoretically here and practically elsewhere, nothing can justify the severe tax of one-tenth but a return of some sort for the benefit of those from whom it is extorted. A good deal has been said and written during the last eighty years or so, but nothing, or next to nothing, has been done.

Mr. Sneyd in 1810 took steps to ascertain what tanks were in need of repair, and intended to ask for money to assist to mend them.

In 1813 he suggested deepening the tanks and raising the water by artificial means.

References are made from time to time to Captain Schneider and Colonel Hayter's plans.

All the Collectors, Assistant Agents, and their chiefs have pressed the subject on the attention of Government. Mr. Dyke records that in 1847 the Uđaiyár of Nannáddán carried out a small work which rendered some 400 markals irrigable.

Mr. Parker, five years ago, showed how, for an expenditure of little over a million (which has been contributed in advance by the people) the district might be well supplied with water,

But nothing whatever has been done but to neglect the promise made by Sir Henry Ward some thirty years ago, and repeated by the Governor in 1874, to supply sluices if the people would do the earthwork, until this year when two sluices, costing Rs. 1,000, were supplied to this district.

A small sum of money was promised some years ago to cut a channel from the Aruvi-áru to Murungen, but it was not given.

It is true that something has been done in the way of compelling people to maintain their bunds, but at their own expense. Government has not contributed a sixpence towards this object. All that Government has done has been, in times of famine, to give doles of rice to the starving people, and, occasionally, to advance them seed paddy; and Government has been enabled to do this without much cost, as the deficiency of revenue occasioned by failure of the paddy crop has been counterbalanced by the receipts at the Customs, enhanced by larger importations of rice from the Coast.

In speaking of the physical aspects of the country I have alluded to the open ground in the neighbourhood of tanks. This is more or less extensive according to the size of the tank, the number of inhabitants, and of their black cattle and buffaloes.

The tanks vary in size from two square miles to half a square mile. The bund is seldom more than half a mile in length, and the depth of water near the bund is generally from five to ten feet; but as this depth is chiefly due to the excavation for the bund, I suppose the average depth of water held up is not more than from three to four feet. They cover more ground when full than they irrigate, and the greater part of the tank being submerged for some months in the year, the growth of jungle is prevented.

The area under cultivation is, of course, kept clear, except of large tamarinds, illuppai, margosa, and other trees in the compounds and along the line of the bund. Either in the bund itself or immediately within it are kumbuk and other trees, which require a lot of water.

It was pointed out by Captain Schneider many years ago that the growth of trees on a bund was objectionable as likely to endanger it, but in the small tanks of this district they do not seem to do much harm, and, whether or no, have been allowed to grow.

The houses of the villagers are generally on some high ground either in the tract of fields or immediately adjoining; and in those places where there is water sufficient, tobacco and other garden produce is raised in enclosures near the houses.

The Tamils generally have a fence around each house, or perhaps there may be two or three houses in a compound. The Moors seem to prefer crowding together within one common fence.

There are two methods of sowing practised. In the Nannáddán division germinated seed is sown in the mudded field; elsewhere the fields are not mudded and the seed is sown broadcast. The one is called "wet" and the other "dry" cultivation.

These different practices are due to the nature of the soil, which when of a clayey consistence requires the former, and when loose and friable the latter. In some parts where the level of the ground renders it practicable, and there is a sufficiency of water, it is the custom to sow the higher parts of the tank. This is called "pullavu cultivation" and is in common; but it is more than ordinarily risky, as if there is too much rain, or the stage of growth of the paddy in the fields under the tank requires water to be kept up too long, the pullavu cultivation is injured. On the other hand, this kind of cultivation is said to be easier, and to require fewer cattle.

Attempts have been made from time to time to improve the yield by introducing fresh seed corn, and recently to induce the people to use improved ploughs, but without success; and for my own part I think it is useless to expect the people, without greater command of capital, to risk more than they do for such a precarious enterprise as the cultivation of paddy without an assured water-supply.

Attempts are annually made to take advantage of the summer rain by sowing a little paddy, but the principal crop is the máha, or kálapókam, which is grown with the help of the autumn rains.

I have spoken of the fertility of the soil. Mr. Sneyd speaks of thirty to forty-fold being given by some fields; and I believe this is still the case. It varies in fertility, of course, and the best yield is from the beds of tanks, which perhaps accounts for the partiality for pullavu. Mr. Dyke says—and I have verified by inquiry that what he says is still accepted as true—with reference to the ordinary descriptions of soil and their fertility:—"Kalittarai, clay, yields twenty-fold for fifty years without manure; irupattutarai, clay and sand, fifteen-fold for thirty years; manaltarai, sand, ten-fold for twenty years; uputhurai, five-fold for ten years."

I argue from the average crop, which I take to be ten-fold, and the soil must be good to give this result in spite of the floods, drought, and flies. Some call it nine-fold, and some only seven and a half, but I prefer my own appraisalment.

The customs regulating the rights to water and the labour to be contributed by the proprietors of land are laid down in the Ordinances in that behalf enacted and in the rules subsequently made under the authority thereof, and I think I may say that the Assistant Agents, with the aid of the headmen, have of late done as much as could be expected to enforce the upkeep of the tanks. Those in the inhabited villages are fairly well kept, and are being gradually improved, but there are always a few people who give trouble, and it is only by constant attention that the tendency to postpone the necessary labour on the bunds can be overcome. The tanks are small, and the channels do not give much trouble. The principal earthwork is on the bund, and owing to the sandy character of the soil for the most part, the loose way it is put up, and the heavy rains, there is a good deal of labour required every year.

Fencing is also a considerable labour, and when the other necessary operations for preparing the soil are complete, the total expenditure is not a trifle.

Cattle manure is very generally used both for paddy and tobacco, but for the latter the manure of sheep and goats is preferred. There is more cattle manure than the people require, for some of it is transported to Jaffna.

When a man irrigates his land by means of water from another man's tank, the latter is entitled to a portion of the crop, equal to half the rent of the land so irrigated. The rent is a markal (half a bushel) for every markal sown.

The regulations laid down by the Ordinance of 1884 to protect the cultivator from the renter are totally disregarded. Written notice is seldom, if ever, given either of reaping or threshing; nevertheless, there are scarcely any disputes between the renters and the people.

The rent is occasionally purchased by a speculative Tamby or Jaffna man, but, as a general rule, the owners of the land select one among themselves to bid for the whole village. He pays the money into the kachchéri, and collects the tithe of those who have no money in kind, or money when the corn is threshed. The fact that there is so little litigation in this district in connection with the tithes, I can only explain by supposing that the renter and the cultivator both find it to their advantage to discuss a tithe which has been calculated to the advantage of both by the under-estimation of the crop, with as little publicity as possible, or that all parties are much more honest than it is the habit to credit them.

The crops are reaped in April but not threshed till September; but to meet the daily requirements small quantities are taken from the stack and threshed when wanted. And the renter condones this for an additional three to four per cent. of the crop.

There are two reasons alleged for this practice of delaying to thresh : (1) that it is to enable the proprietor to retain the services of his varakodi, or cultivator, who cannot get his share until the threshing; (2) that it is to prevent waste or extravagant use of the paddy by having it ready threshed. The delay is to the benefit of the renter, because he buys when paddy is cheap and sells it in September when it is dear. "To him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken even that he hath," are words which are absolutely true when applied to the renter and paddy cultivator.

The following return shows at a glance the extraordinary vicissitudes of paddy cultivation; and when it is remembered that there is no fine grain, and that paddy is the principal article of food, it is not surprising that there is great suffering when a bad year comes. From 1880 to 1887 seems to have been the longest period of favourable crops for a long time, but the crop for 1887 was a failure.

Memorandum of Paddy Tithe Sales.

		Rs.			Rs.
1861	...	67	1874	...	3,047
1862	...	14,678	1875	...	5,511
1863	...	16,533	1876	...	10,026
1864	...	5,702	1877	...	2,500
1865	...	12,689	1878	...	13,516
1866	...	12,282	1879	...	2,658
1867	...	19,802	1880	...	9,620
1868	...	2,202	1881	...	13,641
1869	...	8,698	1882	...	12,452
1870	...	15,830	1883	...	11,135
1871	...	11,245	1884	...	10,870
1872	...	15,770	1885	...	15,365
1873	...	11,393	1886	...	16,127

CHAPTER VII:

OTHER CULTIVATIONS.

IN former times what was called "Fine grain cultivation" included many things which are not grain, and of course, were taxed. At present the tax is only exacted on *bonâ fide* grain, but the yield is so small that it is scarcely worth collecting.

One of these products was *Cotton*, the culture of which was first undertaken by Government, at what precise date I cannot say, but somewhere about 1800. In 1802 the plantation was in existence, and Mr. William Orr was the Superintendent in charge of it. It was at Karisal in Mannár island, seven or eight miles from the fort near Pésálai. At one time there seems to have been a superior native headman also employed, viz., Anadana Mudaliyár Nayakara.

There was also an Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Parkinson, late Aumildar, having been appointed to that office.

People of a certain caste,* Wallias, were compelled to labour on the plantation for a trifling wage, and the Pattengatyns were frequently fined for not turning them out in sufficient numbers. This was not easy work for them, for many bolted to other districts and were with difficulty found and punished.

The headmen, to make up their numbers, used to bring "old and worn-out men." It is alleged that the Pattengatyns were bribed by the coolies to let them escape. To prevent malingering a medical officer was appointed.

I do not find any account of the number of coolies employed, but I see that there was considerable expenditure on account of compensation for felling palmyrah trees to make room for the plantation, and on account of buildings.

In September, 1802, Mr. Orr indents for Rds. 881-3 and 5,995 measures of rice, so that there must have been a good many employed if this was a month's supply.

The Superintendent was empowered to inflict lashes.

Seed was procured from Tuticorin.

The establishment must have been given up before very long, for I find that in 1807-8-9, the cotton and dry grain rents were sold together, but fetched only Rds. 600 or Rds. 700. It is still grown in small quantity, and Mr. Byrde lately procured some New Orleans seed, from which some very flourishing shrubs—I might almost call them trees—have

* Now a fishing caste.

been grown. A sample was sent to Pérádeniya for report, but I have not seen any result.

Tobacco.—The cultivation of this “naughty Indian weed” seems to have been carried on from a very early period, and to have gained a reputation for strength of quality. It is still grown in considerable quantity, and I have smoked cigars made of it, which in strength and flavour surpass even the best Dumbaras, and are infinitely preferable to most of the Indian and Burmese cigars I have tried. The only thing against them is that the leaf is insufficiently fermented, and the make is atrocious.

There is no fine grain grown at all except in the island, where a little kurukkan and kambanpullu are annually sown; but millet and a few other edible beans and other things are grown in small quantities in gardens in some villages.

The list of them is as follows, and the botanical names of some of them are given in Dr. Trimen's list :—

Kurakkan	Kanam	Thuvarái
Kadaikanni	Cholan	Ellu
Kambanpullu	Trunku	Kutturáivali
Thinai	Thalaivirichchan	Kollichchudan
Sami	Ulunthu	Adipullu
Varaku	Paíaru	Mundakanpullu

There does not seem to have been any extensive plantation either of cocoanut or palmyrah at any time on the mainland, but on the island cocoanuts must have been much more common than they are now; for I find that in the year 1814 three hundred trees were blown down close to the kachchéri, and in the year 1851 it is recorded that there were nearly 2,000 acres under cocoanut. As, however, it is also recorded that there were over 20,000 acres under palmyrah—and 23,000 acres is about the area of the whole island—I am afraid the record may not be accurate.

As it is, there are few old cocoanut trees, though there are several young plantations. It is probable that the same causes which led to the general decline of the district prevented the plantation of cocoanut, and that the old trees have been blown down by the severe storms.

There are places on the mainland suitable for cocoanut, but there is great difficulty there in watering the young plantations in dry seasons. This difficulty is not experienced in the island, where fresh water can always be got near the surface.

The palmyrah sows itself, and requires no attention whatever, and probably covers as much ground as ever; but it does not seem to flourish, except at Vankálai and a few other places near the sea on the mainland and in the island.

A large acreage is annually planted with palmyrah, not for the purpose of propagating the tree, but of obtaining the young roots, which are dug up when the plants are a few months old, and exported in large quantities as well as largely consumed for food locally.

Comparative Return of Cultivation.

	1851.	1886.
Paddy, acres ...	10,803	6,459
Other Grain, acres ...	155	4
Cotton, acres ...	34	2
Tobacco, acres ...	119	196
Cocoanuts, acres ..	1,938	1,499
Palmyra, acres ...	21,350	Not estimated
Gardens, acres ...	107	205
Vegetables, acres ...	75	87
Spices, acres ...	23	35
Total acres in crop ...	33,895	11,271
Acres not cultivated ...	117,328	265,528
Produce of Paddy, bushels ...	156,914	164,646
Produce of other Grain, bushels ...	1,376	360
Produce of Cotton, lb. ...	5,999	320
Produce of Tobacco, lb. ...	12,344	103,341

CHAPTER VIII.

PRICES.

RICES varied, but the average was much lower than it has been for some time past.

In 1802 paddy was sold at a dollar a bushel, and then, for some years after, it was customary to pay the wages of coolies, peons, and others in paddy as well as with money.

Masons were paid $3\frac{1}{2}$ star-pagodas a month in 1802, and it was stipulated that they should be paid in gold. What the star-pagoda was worth I don't know; and even at that time there was great difficulty in adjusting accounts, as people would only accept them at the market rate.

Sick coolies were subsisted in hospital for one fanam, or seven or eight cents, a day.

In 1810 tobacco was a fanam a pound.

In 1813 paddy was sold at half a dollar a parah, or not quite 50 cents a bushel.

In 1820 at exactly double that figure.

In 1822 Coast rice sold for Rd. 1 10f., and Mannár rice at Rd. 1 6f.

In 1827 Coast rice was 2s. $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3s. per parah, and paddy 1s. 6d., and there was no Mannár grain in the market.

In 1848 the price of paddy was only 1s. per bushel.

CHAPTER IX.

WEATHER.

IN 1802 there was a severe storm in November or December.

1809.—A very severe storm, which destroyed the greater number of the tanks.

1813.—The country dried up ; cattle suffering.

1814.—November : “ Most distressing intelligence from all parts of the district,—houses blown down, tanks burst, fields flooded, cocoanut trees, &c., torn up, all boats and small craft between Arippu and Mannár lost, whole or greater part of Viḍataltívu swept away by the sea, 300 cocoanut trees blown down in Mannár, and 2,000 palmyrahs at Talaimannár.”

December : “ Very heavy rain, cattle dying of the cold, esplanade under water, several houses fallen, among them one adjoining the kachchéri and used as a Protestant church, crop of wheat destroyed.

1816.—December : Stormy ; the Doric damaged.

1819.—An influx of the sea damages the paddy and salt stores at Viḍataltívu, and a dhony goes ashore at the South Bar.

1825.—No rain, no prospect of cultivation.

And so on the story goes. Everything goes on well for a few years, and then comes a flood or a drought, which reduces the people to destitution.

Rainfall registered for the Years 1870 to 1886.

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1870	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1871	8.93	1.74	1.33	5.71	1.09	.84	.92	—	—	9.04	4.72	4.86	20.38
1872	1.07	.33	1.95	5.37	3.39	—	—	.79	1.24	4.03	12.39	8.36	44.82
1873	.01	2.56	.53	2.46	3.74	—	.56	.62	3.30	4.61	12.26	3.08	36.71
1874	.19	2.42	.14	1.89	1.20	—	.06	.04	—	4.29	8.37	4.19	26.83
1875	1.47	.03	1.19	1.05	1.94	3.32	.03	.58	2.15	.81	5.52	6.93	24.64
1876	2.07	—	3.55	1.63	4.87	2.29	—	.326	.49	10.60	5.60	2.88	28.12
1877	—	—	1.66	1.46	2.34	.78	.02	—	—	3.38	2.34	6.03	27.13
1878	1.50	—	1.29	7.31	6.89	—	.14	.35	.86	6.32	7.17	17.94	38.55
1879	.73	.76	7.38	.62	3.24	—	—	—	1.30	1.54	4.13	1.18	25.63
1880	2.30	.25	6.32	—	—	—	—	.58	.69	6.48	9.91	8.24	38.05
1881	6.59	—	3.06	.75	—	—	—	.06	.12	9.18	18.11	5.15	42.01
1882	2.58	2.45	.78	2.48	1.97	—	—	—	—	2.33	13.75	14.30	40.84
1883	6.30	10.61	.11	.69	8.84	—	—	—	.28	8.97	15.96	12.40	47.87
1884	.56	.34	—	.47	.90	—	—	—	—	18.28	11.60	6.07	62.50
1885	.31	2.01	.09	—	4.05	5.53	—	—	.04	18.95	22.63	13.99	57.54
1886	5.31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.91	23.72	14.89	11.54	61.38
													7.32

CHAPTER X.

HEALTH.

IT seems to me that the fact that the population has for about eighty years remained stationary, taken with the fact that there is no emigration from Mannár, sufficiently shows that the district cannot be considered a healthy one.

Apart from the ordinary fever which follows the autumn rains, it has had to contend with frequent famine, as well as with small-pox and cholera, to which it is specially liable by the fact that it is in the direct course of the stream of immigration from India.

In 1802 the place is said to have been more healthy than Puttalam. The small-pox establishment changed its name, and was henceforward called "Civil Medical Establishment."

In 1810 the ferry renter complains of falling off in the value of his rent on account of sickness; and Dr. Mutukistna, the vaccinator of Mannár, does all in his power relieving and comforting the afflicted at Viḍataltivu; and Mr. Sneyd writes of segregation, "By this separation I have caused to take place the disease can't stand."

In 1813 there was a great mortality. Mr. Sneyd contributes Rds. 50 to the poor in Colombo, and refers to numerous deaths in Mannár and to the late plague "as having carried away most of the useful hands." Two hundred and ninety-five families of weavers, it is said, flee from Erukkulampidḍi in fear of the cholera.

In 1815 there was an epidemic among cattle.

In 1818 there was cholera again.

In 1819 Backhouse describes it as raging particularly at Viḍataltivu.

In 1821 there were 107 deaths from cholera in February, March, and April, and in August the deaths were eight or ten a day. From July 1 to September 30 the names of 552 persons are registered as having died of the disease.

1866 was a year of peculiar hardship; for not only did the crop fail, but the import of grain failed too; cholera almost constantly prevailed, and there was no rain.

In 1867 cholera subsided after claiming 269 victims out of 287 attacked.

Vaccination seems always to have been more or less steadily maintained, and for many years there has been a Government Medical Officer in Mannár; but little has been

done to secure the confidence of the people in English practice. The hospitals are seldom resorted to, except by the immigrant coolies, and the objection to them is partly due to the fact that they are regarded as intended only for coolies or paupers. I have little doubt that a medical officer with a knowledge of the language, a love of his profession, and sympathy with the people, would do a great deal of good. I fear that, as a rule, the medical officers think they have done their duty when they have been round their hospital and attended to their dispensary—that, in fact, they are very little better than the *pariáries*, in that their sole object is to make money. I know that in some cases where the medical officers have shown real and well-directed zeal, it has been thoroughly appreciated.

There is one medicine that the people have learnt to believe in, and that is quinine, but the facilities for obtaining it are not what they ought to be.

There has for many years been a Board of Health, and its rules are more or less enforced in the larger villages. The enforcement of sanitary rules is now almost completely in the hands of the Magistrate, but as he is compelled to leave it to the unpaid *vitánais* to report nuisances, little is done unless on circuit the Magistrate himself discovers some palpable nuisance.

From 1870 to 1874 births were in excess of deaths. In 1875 births went down from 609 to 451, and the deaths went up to the rate in cholera time, 36 per mille. Until 1878 births increased, and in that year deaths reached 82 per mille. In 1885 births went down from 913 to 641.

CHAPTER XI.

FISHERIES.

THE district having such an extensive seabord, it is natural that it should have fisheries, and I suppose that from the earliest times the industry of fishing has been practised in Mannár; but, owing to the shallowness of the seas and the smoothness of the water in one monsoon on the south of the Island, and in the other on the north, the boats used are mere ballams, or dug-outs, not calculated for rough seas. There is, therefore, no deep-sea fishing, except by the Sinhalese who come from Negombo and other places with their outriggers.

The Mannár fishermen chiefly dwell in the island, though there are a few fishing villages on the mainland also. They are of several castes, and are all Roman Catholics. It has already been mentioned how the industry was taxed. Fishing is carried on with nets of various kinds and sizes, with the rod and with the line. It is said that the fisheries have much fallen off of late years, partly because fish have not been so plentiful, and partly because of the growth of a large bivalve—a pinna—upon some of the banks, which tears the nets. There is no doubt that the fishing population has been reduced of late years. Some have gone to Jaffna, and some to Mullaittivu and Trincomalee, to fish.

I cannot help thinking that the restrictions as to fishing in the south sea have prevented the development of the fisheries, and also that those restrictions are unnecessary. It is only at certain times of the year that any fishing can be done over the pearl banks, and during that time a guard boat or two would be sufficient.

It cannot be right, unless it is absolutely unavoidable, to prevent fishing in the sea between Adam's Bridge and St. Anna's, as is practically done by making the possession of nets anywhere on the coast between Talaimannár and St. Anna's an offence punishable by heavy fine and forfeiture of nets and boats. Not only does it prevent fishing, but it also prevents the growth of fishing villages along that coast, which in many places, and notably at Silávatturai and Arippu, are specially adapted to the growth of cocoanuts, the shelter of which would enable vegetables and other food-producing plants and trees to be grown, as there is good fresh water almost at the surface.

Still, however, sufficient fish is obtainable generally for the local needs. A little is salted for use in the interior, and some is exported coastwise and to India, besides what the Negombo men cure and take away with them.

But it is not only in the sea that fish is to be found. The tank, which to-day is so dry that no moisture can be found for some depth, will to-morrow, if there is rain, be full of fish, some of which are excellent eating.

Pearl Fishery.—Considering that so much has been written about pearls and the famous Pearl Fishery of Mannár, much that is new cannot be expected from me, but I have noted a few facts which may not be familiar to every one.

There are some pearl banks on the north of Mannár, but they do not appear ever to have been of any value.

The seabeach from Silávatturái to Marichchikáddu and beyond has deposits in some places, many feet in thickness, composed of the oyster-shells fished up for centuries.

The first record I find of a fishery was by the Dutch in 1661.

In 1802 the pearl banks were inspected, and Mr. Laughton applied for fifteen bags of paddy as allowance for two shark charmers ordered from the Coast by the Governor, for whose reception the Doric was prepared.

In 1803 the boats were ordered to be ready for the Superintendent by February 11.

In 1815 a requisition was made for a flagstaff at Kon-jachchi, and temporary cantonments were made for the troops; the fishery, however, was a failure, and the cultivators of Akattimurippu were consequently allowed to take water from their tank.

In 1816 there was another failure. The Roman priest excommunicated the shark-charmer, and induced him to sign a bond in a penalty of Rds. 100 to charm no more. The matter was represented to Government, and the following is the result, a letter from the Superior and Vicar-General to James Sutherland, Esq., Deputy Secretary to Government :—

“ I directed to-day by post a letter to the said priest, strictly commanding him to retract publicly the order he had given against the shark-charmer, in the same place where the prohibition was published, as also to tear up the bond of penalty of Rds. 100. I doubt not he will do accordingly, and the man be restored in an efficient manner to his civil peace.”

In 1818 there was an inspection in March: “ Mr. Backhouse will begin on the 16th, whether the “ Hebe ” with Mr. Crisp arrives or not.”

In 1820 there was a fishery, and an inspection in 1821.

In 1822 the cutter “ Trial ” cruised on the banks.

In 1821 it is alleged that the young oysters had been destroyed by porpoises, large fishes and the aam chank, and that in consequence there would be no fishery for four or five years. But as it is elsewhere noted that large quantities of fish were washed ashore this year, some destructive cause common to both oysters and fish may have been at work.

In 1823 there was an inspection.

In 1826 the Governor visited Arippu.

In 1827 P. Anstruther was supervisor; Huskisson held this office from 1828 to 1833.

In 1832 the Government ship "Wellington" cruised on the banks.

In 1840 there was a fishery for fourteen days for curious shells.

Dates and Yield of Pearl Fisheries.

Year.	£.	Year.	£.
1661 ...	—	1831 ...	28,332
1746 ...	4,766	1832 ...	3,887 (Kalpitiya)
1747 ...	21,400	1833 ...	25,043
1748 ...	38,580	1835 ...	40,346
1749 ...	68,375	1836 ...	25,816
1753 ...	6,360	1837 ...	10,631
1754 ...	1,469	1855 ...	109,220
1768 ... ?	The last under Dutch	1857 ...	203,633
1796 ...	60,000 The first English	1858 ...	241,200
1797 ...	110,000	1859 ...	482,159
1798 ...	140,000	1860 ...	366,816
1799 ...	30,000	1863 ...	510,178
1803 ...	15,000 (Chilaw)	1874 ...	101,199
1804 ...	75,000	1877 ...	189,521
1806 ...	35,000	1879 ...	84,246
1808 ...	90,000	1880 ...	200,152
1809 ...	25,000	1881 ...	599,533
1814 ...	64,000	1884 ...	23,559
1829 ...	37,307	1887 ...	397,678
1830 ...	21,529		

Chanks.—In 1810 the Chank Rent, though not sold at Mannár, was in a great measure under the control of the Collector. The rent was sold at Jaffna. The average number of chanks brought up from 1804 to 1813 was over 400,000 a year.

At this time fishing for chanks was allowed in the south sea. This was put a stop to as it was found that the divers robbed the pearl banks.

In 1815 the renters or their superintendents, it is said, were very insolent. Two of them were punished for threatening to shoot the Collector and Provincial Judge.

1819.—It is said that the renters inflict corporal punishment on their people, and that the banks are being over-fished; the chanks found being only of the fourth size.

In 1827 there was a Government establishment for fishing for chanks, and reference is made to two qualities, "payal" and "patty."

All about chanks in the Northern Province will be found in the reports of the Government Agent; and in a recent report by Mr. Byrde there is a short account of the Mannár fishery.

Judging from the experience in Madras, where the chanks are fished on Government account, I do not think we get all that we ought out of our chanks.

Biche-de-mar or Beche-de-mer.—In 1816 a Mr. Wilkins offers to purchase any quantity. This is, I think, the only reference to this Chinese delicacy, but they are still fished for in these seas. I have not seen any specimens in the fresh state, but judging from the partially cured specimens they are from five or six to eight or ten inches long. They are picked up in the shallow seas to the north of Mannár island. They are boiled in large caldrons for a time, and afterwards salted and dried in the sun. When thus cured they are stored in huts on the seabeach, for which a small rent of Re. 1 per annum is paid to Government, until a ton or two is collected, when they are despatched for transport to the Straits.

CHAPTER XII.

LABOUR.

IT has been denied that labour was enforced in this district, and this was perhaps the case as regards free-born persons; but there were slaves until slavery was abolished in 1816. They were introduced by the Portuguese from Canara, in the Goa district, and their descendants are here to this day.

But the free-born were undoubtedly compelled to perform certain services for Government, according to their caste or occupation, and in some cases without any payment or reward.

The ordinary cooly, ready to do any work from agricultural labour to roadwork or carrying loads, seems never to have been a native of Mannár. In 1815 it is said there were only thirty or forty in the whole district, and in 1818 it is said there was scarcely one.

The inhabitants who were not weavers, or potters, or toddy-drawers, or engaged in some trade or handicraft, were either fishers or landed proprietors; and it has been the custom from time immemorial to obtain the labour required for the more difficult operations of agriculture, such as digging and tank-mending, from the poor people of Jaffna, The Islands, and the Continent of India. These latter having given the half of the produce of their fields to their Government, are obliged to come here to earn the money to pay the tax on their gardens, which is exacted in coin, and having done the tank work for the proprietors here return to their own houses until the next season.

These people are outside the limits to which the Medical Aid Ordinances extend, and live while here with no better shelter than they can find under a tree or construct temporarily of leaves and branches.

Slavery.—In 1816 every possessor of slaves in the district signed an address to the Prince Regent, and slavery was shortly after abolished. All in future were to be born free, and provision was made for the gradual emancipation of such as were slaves, and their registration. It was therefore not for some years that the last slave disappeared. In 1821 Backhouse says that many were deterred by the distance from the Provincial Court, and fear of their masters, from doing what was necessary to obtain their freedom.

Immigration.—It is as the highway between the coffee plantations of the interior and the densely populated districts of Southern India that Mannár has been specially connected with the supply of labour to Ceylon.

In 1818 several large gangs of coolies passed through to Colombo.

For a time the ordinary passenger and cooly traffic was in the hands of the fish renter, who also provided boats for the Postal Service ; but as the coolies travelled in increasing numbers the native passenger trade was taken up by the owners of native vessels chiefly on the coast of India.

In the four years 1844-7, 211,505 coolies arrived and 60,215 departed, most of whom travelled *viâ* Talaimannár, but some directly to and from Mannár. It was somewhere about this time that resthouses began to be built for the accommodation of coolies. It was decided in 1850 to build one on the left bank of the Pi-áru, near Pumalunden.

It was not until 1860 or about that time that the service was taken completely into the hands of Government, and the present excellent system organised. How the numbers of coolies travelling increased until 1874, fell off until 1880, and then diminished, until in 1885 fewer travelled than ever before, may be sufficiently seen in the appendix.

In 1864 one of the immigrant vessels the "Ade Letchemy" was wrecked by a water spout off Tannikodi Point, on the south of Ramisseram island. This was in February. About one hundred lives were lost ; the tindal, some of the crew, and a few coolies managed to cling to the bottom of the vessel, which was overturned, until rescued by another vessel. Nearly all the coolies were down below when the accident happened.

Another of the vessels was run away with by a whale on another occasion. These are the only two serious accidents to vessels employed in the Immigration Service for twenty-six years, and as in neither case any one was to blame it is extremely creditable to the skill and care of the tindals and their crews.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUDICIAL.

THIS district seems to have been always remarkably free from serious crime, and to have been marked by a general orderliness and submission to constituted authority.

It also seems to have been the good fortune of the district to have been presided over by men who, with a few exceptions, have risen in the service and distinguished themselves by general ability ; but I cannot at this moment call to mind any man whose privilege it has been to serve the Queen here who ever became notable as a lawyer.

In 1802 Mr. Orr, the Superintendent of the Cotton Plantation, thinks that two runaway coolies deserve more than twenty-five lashes, which is all he can give, and says he must send them before the "Public Magistrate."

By the Proclamation of July 12 of this year the Land Raad was abolished, and its powers transferred to the Provincial Court of Jaffna. Major Vincent was President of this court, and such of its members as were not otherwise employed under Government were allowed for a time to draw half of their former salary.

Lord Hobart, however, disapproved this indulgence, and Colonel Barbut was requested by the Chief Secretary to Government, R. Arbuthnot, to acquaint those gentlemen of the terms of this communication from the Ministry, and to express His Excellency's desire that they turn themselves to some method of acquiring a subsistence, "in which pursuit Government will afford them every aid and assistance."

Upon this Colonel Barbut writes to the Aumildar to ascertain "what lands the late members want for cotton plantations, as the Governor will settle to their satisfaction without delay." But in 1803 this payment was stopped from March 1, and it was decided that "the members must get their livelihood as best they can." "No cotton plantation is to be made by any of them."

The favourite punishments seem to have been fines and lashes for all sorts of minor offences, from disobedience of orders, which was called "contempt," and "indecent language" to petty thefts.

In one case before the Sitting Magistrate at Viḍataltivu a man was convicted of assault and sentenced to twenty-four lashes. There was no evidence. The defendant admitted that he had subscribed to an address to the devil in order to

get back his wife. A Mudaliyár deposed that the defendant never was married, and the following is the judgment of the Magistrate :—

“ It appears that defendant has been concerned in causing some mischief to Maredu, wife to Caderan and Waygally Odears; that he is, besides, a vagrant, having no profession, in consideration of which he is ordered to receive twenty-four lashes with the rattan, and to give security for his good behaviour in future, and to pay the costs of suit.”

In another case the record is “ Contempt—defendant to receive twelve lashes for disobeying the complainant, a headman, and to attend the baggage of His Excellency the Governor with light on the road.”

Here is another somewhat curious record. The complainant charges his mother-in-law with committing adultery with a washerman. The defendant denies the charge. The barber is called, and says he knows nothing about it, but does not believe the defendant to be an honest woman. The complainant is fined Rds. 10 and ordered to ask public pardon of the defendant.

A headman is fined Rds. 20 for saying “ What woman of Vidaltivu has not touched my middle ? ”

From 1811 to 1814 the following sentences by the Magistrate Thiele are found :—

“ Eighteen lashes for defaming the reputation of plaintiff's wife.”

“ Fined Rds. 4 for saying that complainant sold her child.”

“ Twelve lashes for selling cattle without the knowledge of the vidané.”

An Odear is fined only Rds. 5 for kicking a man in the face.

Thirty lashes are inflicted for stealing salt.

Fined Rds. 10 for seducing a married woman, and then publicly calling her a whore, while a Moorman is fined Rds. 26 for only attempting to seduce Anty, a spinster.

In 1818 there was a petition against Parkisson, who was then Sitting Magistrate, for partiality, but the accusation was not established.

In this year Coast fakeers were arrested and sent to Ramisseram on the Governor's warrant.

Mr. Queen's Advocate Selby's Circular of September 18, 1857, is one of the best that ever emanated from that Department. “ Never,” he says, “ receive written statements of criminal complaints, ready prepared out of doors by petition-drawers or others.” Second, “ Do not put off the examination of any witness for the prosecution, who is in attendance.”

I have no hesitation in saying that the general disregard of these two axioms has done more to hinder the due administration of justice than anything else in Ceylon.

CHAPTER XIV.

MILITARY.

IN 1802 Colonel Barbut writes that he is on his way to meet the Governor at Arippu, but orders the Aumildar to remain in Mannár and attend to an officer and soldiers expected from the Coast.

The next day he is ordered to go to Ramisseram and wait for Sir Thomas Strange—(Sir Thomas returned to India in November). Major Vincent orders an express boat from Talaimannár to convey His Excellency's letters to the Coast (October).

Mr. Orr sends vegetables for His Excellency.

Lieutenant Thwaites is at Mannár on his way from Panangamo to Jaffna.

Lieutenant Swaine commands at Mannár.

A detachment of Volunteers arrived from the Coast on their way to Colombo under Lieutenant Campbell.

Dr. Scott goes to India with Swaine.

A quantity of paddy is ordered for Major Evans at Puttalam or Kalpitiya.

Colonel Barbut orders 1,000 bags of rice to be sent at once to Arippu, and sends sixty bullocks to carry four parahs each. Any quantity of rice is directed to be supplied to Ensign Hatch for the troops. Boats are ordered (in July) for the embarkation of 700 men and followers of the Honourable Company's 7th Regiment of Native Infantry at Talaimannár.

1803.—It is ordered that no salt or other provisions are to be allowed to pass to the Kandyan territories.

1814.—A Sepoy at Arippu shoots himself. A number of people from the Coast are detained for want of passports.

The Collector has a row with Captain Truter, who will not let him store paddy in the Fort.

The Collector desires the Commander of the Government Cutter "Wilhelmina" not to sail "until Captain Truter and family go on board to-morrow morning."

1815.—The Collector has a row with Lieutenant Fagan. It is ordered that no cattle are to be privately disposed of, as Government requires them for transport.

No cattle to be allowed to pass Vidataltivu or Marichchikatti without passport.

Boats of all sorts are collected to convey troops from Tóniturai to Negombo.

' Sinna Kolla Kumara Singha, Wannia, of Nuwara, arrives : forced to fly from the vengeance of the king of Kandy. The Collector sends him back with marks of respect in a palanquin with some peons, an árachchi, and two lascoreens. This chief afterwards disregards the passport of the President, the Hon. John Doyly, of Kandy, and oppresses the people.

In August the ship "Shah Allum" is in difficulty off Karaitivu with troops on board.

In 1816, Lieutenant Fagan is succeeded as Commandant by Lieutenant Mackay, and there were cantonments at Arippu.

In 1818 there was a scarcity of ammunition, and Backhouse was directed to buy up all the sulphur in the market. He succeeded in obtaining twelve pounds.

A detachment of troops marched to Anurádhapura.

In 1820 the Mannár garrison consisted of only twenty men.

Colonel Hamilton was at Arippu as Superintendent of the Pearl Fishery.

In 1826 the garrison was in charge of a Subadar only.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC WORKS.

IF the Yakkáwé-Pésalai road and the Mannár causeway be excepted—as, I think, they may, inasmuch as they would never have been made but in the interest of the coffee plantations—it may be said that nothing has been done in this district of any benefit to it since it came under the British rule, nothing, at any rate, commensurate with the revenues derived from it.

In 1802 several buildings were commenced or in progress, viz. :—Buildings on the cotton plantations at Karisal, of which no trace now remains. A bungalow at Giant's tank for the Governor. The Doric at Arippu, also for the Governor, and a resthouse at Marichikatti, which cost Rds. 1,483. Also a kachchéri and storehouses at Kondachchi.

In this year, too, £200 were spent in clearing roads on the mainland ; and Mr. Hesler was ordered to survey a road from Vidataltivu to Kokilai. There were already godowns and a "castle" at Arippu, which have disappeared. The Supervisor's bungalow is built on the site of the old Fort or so-called "castle."

In 1813 it is said that the new salt godown at Arippu was nearly finished. This too has disappeared.

In 1818 it is said there was a resthouse at Vidataltivu—there is none now.

In the time of Sir R. Brownrigg—*i.e.*, from 1812 to 1820—no public work was executed in this district.

In 1820, when Sir Edward Barnes assumed the Government, the work of repairing the wharf was undertaken, as also the repair of the Doric. For the work at the wharf Backhouse used the materials of two old Portuguese buildings formerly used as churches. In the course of the year, however, all work was suspended except that on the Doric.

In 1826 a cistern was built in the Fort at Arippu. It is only of late years that anything has been done in the way of wells, and that, with one or two exceptions, only along the cooly road in connection with the sheds and hospitals erected for the benefit of the coolies.

A good deal of money has been spent on this road from time to time, and from Mankulam to the causeway it is well bridged. In wet weather, however, it is still almost impracticable even for carts.

The causeway, which I regard as not the least important part of the road, was projected by Mr. Dyke and promised by Sir R. W. Horton in 1835, but is not yet finished. It was estimated to cost £17,000, to be met by the receipts from the collections at the ferry, which to December 31, 1867, amounted to £9,843. 12s. 9½d.

In 1847 Mr. Dyke, in his diary, says : " I have long abandoned all idea of earthwork, and have reverted to the first idea of woodwork. " It was at this time Mr. Dyke met Major Skinner, and went over the cooly route with him, with the object of reporting on the subject.

It was not until 1870 that the causeway was actually commenced by Mr. Twynam with prison labour. It was completed to within a short distance of the island, and though recent cyclones have caused damage, and the earth of the roadway was completely washed away in one or two places, no damage whatever was done to the retaining walls, which are built of cut coral set in cement. It has been thought necessary, however, to allow more waterway than the few culverts originally put in allowed, and two bridges have recently been put in and an attempt made to raise the causeway in those places supposed to be specially exposed to the influence of the waves. There still remains to complete the works about a quarter of a mile of water to traverse, and it is proposed to do this on piles at a cost of Rs. 90,000.

CHAPTER XVI.

POSTAL.

THE postal communication with India was for many years *viâ* Talaimannár. As late as 1810 the fish renter of Mannár had to carry the mails from Talaimannár to Tóniturai, and there was a postholder at the former place on Rds. 5 a month.

The conveyance of the tappal through the district was by runners supplied by the headmen; but Tolfrey, in 1809, established lascoreens at a fixed pay, and postholders at different places. This service was paid for by an assessment collected by the headmen from the paddy crop.

In 1813 this tax was still collected in this way, but with difficulty, owing to deaths and people leaving the district.

In 1814 persons possessed of landed property and above the rank of common labourers paid 21f. a year. All others 10f., except headmen, the poor, chattambies or notaries, thombo-holders or registrars, and chank divers.

In 1820, 2,666 persons were assessed; 923 at 21f. and the remainder at 10½f. each, equal to Rds. 3,139, which was insufficient to defray expenses. The tax was collected by a kanakapullai, who constantly perambulated the district.

In 1818, I suppose the fish renter ceased to convey the mails, for I see provision for the hire of two boats and pay of two tindals and eighteen lascars for this service at Talaimannár.

In 1827 the postholder of Mántottai was a boy named C. Vanhuysen, only ten years of age.

CHAPTER XVII.

ROAD COMMITTEE.

IT was in 1848, I think, that the system of commutation for labour on the public roads commenced, and whether it is due to the admirable administration of Mr. Dyke or other causes, the Mannár district has always commuted well. There will be found somewhere in Mr. Dyke's reports a table showing the proportion which the number of males between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five should bear to the whole population. I have found it in the Mannár district to be as nearly as possible one-fourth. The Mannár district beats every other district in the Island in two respects : (1) every man pays his taxes ; (2) there is a larger proportion of taxpayers.

This pre-eminent honesty is perhaps due in great measure to the fact that the people are so few that the tax-gatherer cannot be evaded, but the fact that though the people are poor there are no paupers and no sick, has something to do with it. As these tropical climes are marked by an absence of twilight, as the lurid sun sinks suddenly into the black night, so sinks the taxpayer of Mannár into his grave.

That the proportion of adult males should, nevertheless, be so large is strange, but is further accounted for by the greater mortality among children and women. That the value of a day's labour is assessed at a figure within the ability of the people to meet, also has something to do with the matter ; as also the fact that a young man gets put on the division officer's list rather sooner than he need, in order to demonstrate his manhood, and that an old one keeps his name on rather than be looked upon as passed work.

The next table is useful in more ways than one. Bearing in mind the foregoing facts, it is, I think, evident that the population has been pretty much at a dead level for thirty-six years. In 1850 a few more paid than in 1886, and the numbers gradually went down till 1885, indicative of a falling off in population of 3,596. The figures improve until 1863, showing that this falling off has been more than recovered : down again until 1869. Then they keep pretty steady till 1874, and go down to a very low figure in 1879 (accounted for by a very serious outbreak of cholera). Since then they have gradually improved, notwithstanding an enormous death-rate during the last few years.

The Road Committee has not been able to do very much

with the limited means at its disposal, but what it has done will compare favourably in every way with what has been done much more expensively, by the Public Works Department.

Statement of Persons who have paid Road Ordinance Commutation, commencing from 1850, till the end of 1886.

YEAR.	Mannár East.	Mannár Central.	Mannár West.	Máantai North.	Máantai South.	Perunkáli.	Illuppaikadavai.	Nannáddan East.	Nannáddan West.	Musalai North.	Musalai South.	Total.
1850	—	2310	—	678		285	115	984		923		5295
1851	—	2291	—	696		288	101	962		924		5262
1852	852	—	1372	694		307	100	932		882		5139
1853	465	676	1129	670		275	104	954		872		5145
1854	537	537	1065	605		201	103	868		811		4727
1855	452	535	1008	493		230	91	826		761		4396
1856	513	608	998	606		208	99	764		727		4423
1857	476	648	997	603		222	93	910		708		4657
1858	463	615	994	614		249	98	881		615		4529
1859	565	657	955	620		308	100	876		593		4674
1860	523	716	1019	660		336	101	924		670		4949
1861	498	667	987	667		270	96	946		728		4859
1862	546	683	1016	698		295	103	1023		789		5153
1863	547	708	1033	701		285	95	1042		794		5305
1864	527	694	1027	709		316	98	1089		794		5254
1865	565	722	1045	687		306	95	974		767		5161
1866	538	720	1068	622		304	107	940		767		5066
1867	582	751	1091	622		312	116	940		767		5181
1868	560	755	1079	629		314	122	940		760		5159
1869	554	755	1073	616		305	110	883		727		5023
1870	565	756	1061	640		326	108	370	492	731		5049
1871	580	780	990	313	326	346	105	370	533	740		5083
1872	596	794	1057	302	366	356	102	368	537	750		5228
1873	568	800	1042	295	388	344	97	365	522	743		5164
1874	543	830	1008	279	364	352	99	340	519	386	314	5034
1875	528	847	976	274	339	320	97	348	482	620		4811
1876	526	844	742	280	287	324	88	330	461	321	270	4473
1877	530	787	939	265	315	330	106	297	460	338	278	4645
1878	617	721	895	266	283	284	102	316	398	295	246	4423
1879	493	659	841	245	248	320	114	294	406	149	236	3985
1880	466	707	804	232	229	333	103	288	404	312	335	4213
1881	455	713	822	237	246	336	107	358	410	333	260	4277
1882	528	780	887	256	266	338	99	362	484	296	306	4602
1883	577	774	941	258	261	348	102	375	485	311	306	4738
1884	545	774	912	263	289	358	109	375	489	394	301	4809
1885	612	753	938	259	324	361	107	373	491	400	316	4934
1886	674	711	978	268	324	370	110	433	520	442	335	5173

CHAPTER XVIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNDER this head I propose to put the notes I have not been able, or have omitted, to fit in elsewhere.

Mr. Parkisson, in 1802, objected to receive Porto Novo pagodas at the rate stated by Colonel Barbut, alleging that the utmost value is $41\frac{1}{2}$ f. or 42f. Artificers of all kinds are scarce: brickmakers, carpenters, blacksmiths, &c., are constantly being sent for from Jaffna.

Proclamation is made in 1803 about opening books to register the debts of the servants of the late Dutch Government.

Parapankandal, a village close to the bund of the Giant's tank, contains the largest Roman church in the district, and is described in 1810 as a flourishing village planted with cocoanut, palmyrah, arecanut, betel, and tobacco; and in 1813 it is noted: "Two annual fairs are held here, to which many people come from Jaffna, Wanni, and Puttalam. By this the Padres reap considerable benefit—they are looked upon as so many gods."

The oldest inhabitant in 1810 says that the summer crop of paddy was better than he ever knew it; and Mr. Sneyd remarks that the only thing wanted is hands to till the ground. He adds: "Within the last six months sixty people have come here (Parapankandal) to reside Every day I am giving out grants of Government waste land. I this day found out one of their tricks: the moment they get the grant they fall to and cultivate it, but leave their former grounds unoccupied; the reason of which is, the new ground being very rich produces a fine crop." He therefore insists on a tenth from the old ground, whether cultivated or not! The conditions of the new grants were: "For first two years exempt from all Government dues—after that, it pays like other ground; if not cultivated for five years to revert to Government." Between Vidataltivu and Alkataveli the villages Chassamanni, Marotandewan, Konomanyankulam, and Jangenkulam are mentioned, but the first two as uncultivated, and none of them having either cocoanut or palmyrah. All these places are uncultivated now.

Adampen in 1810 had fourteen families, a large tank, and a fine church, but was terribly reduced from what it was in 1770.

Alkataveli, 1810.—“This village presents a very pleasing prospect: the paddy fields look so very rich and luxuriant from the richness of the ground. The grass here grows to an amazing height, and the soil yields thirty and forty-fold. The inhabitants are all carpenters, blacksmiths, or silvermen.” They remain so to this day.

Pomalunden, 1810.—“Immense jungle between this and Kompansainthakulam; hear elephants quite close. On the road I passed immense stratas of rock. The place abounds in ebony and satinwood.” There may be an elephant or two here still, but the valuable forest is gone, and I don't know what has become of the “stratas of rock” unless it is the natural anicut across the river which is referred to.

Kompansainthakulam.—“Rich and fruitful, but from the number of elephants cultivation cannot be very extensive.”

Fish Curing, 1810.—“The general mode of curing fish here is in the sun, but I (Sneyd) have exerted myself enticing them to do it with salt.”

Kondachchi, 1815.—A fire totally consumes the bazaar of fifty-five boutiques.

Landed Property, 1813.—“It is a general remark that of the landed proprietors of fifteen years ago, none are now possessed of an acre, the whole being mortgaged without possibility of redemption. Shows the general decay of the district.”

High-handed Proceedings, 1813.—The headmen at the several resthouses complain that the passengers in many instances pay but half the price of the articles they supply them with. “I request Government will issue effectual orders to repress the ill-treatment of the headmen.”

In 1813 “two-thirds of the district are held in mortgage by the Moormen, who do not number one-eighth of the population.”

“In the Dutch time seven years prescribed against the owner of an abandoned land.”

Sumptuary Laws, 1813.—Sneyd applies to Government to abolish the regulation forbidding tiled houses.

Atkatti Murippu, 1813.—“This district, and, in fact, the whole of Musálai is peopled with that odious race called Moors.”

In 1818 subsistence is charged for a Kandyan prisoner (Wirawayo).

The Fiscal at this period employed a licensed auctioneer to sell property.

Marriage, 1818.—Two inhabitants of Mannár petition the Government for a marriage license.

Mannár Channel, 1816.—Large dhonies very seldom go through on account of its shallowness, but generally go to

Paumben. "Backhouse surveyed the channel in 1818, and made it seven miles from the North to the South Bar.

In 1822 the number of dhonies employed in the coasting traffic must have been much greater than it is now. In April, 1822, it is recorded: "sixty-eight now in the river; twenty-five coast dhonies and many Siphalese expected. A dhoney wrecked off Kondachchi."

Cemetery, 1843.—The Christians complain of the burial of a heathen in the burial ground of Santa Crus. This ground had been fenced by Webster in 1837.

Church Bell, 1849.—An attempt was made, but failed, to recast the Church Bell.

Dengue Fever (1873) reported on board the vessel inspecting the pearl banks.

Kattamaran, 1802.—Barbut gets wood for making these from Colombo, but I do not know why, as there is plenty Tanaku in the district.

Fort Church.—This was probably used as a church from the earliest period of the Dutch occupation, but for some time after their departure was used as a cattle shed, and afterwards as a paddy godown. In 1814 or 1815 the building used by the English as a church came down in a storm, and since that time the old Dutch church has been used by the Church of England.

Registration, Marriages.—In 1848 the marriage of Moors were registered on an ola stamp, and I do not know why they should not be required to register on stamp now.

Roman Church, 1810.—"A considerable sum is annually exacted for the service of the church, and sent to Colombo." "I have frequently thought," says Tolfrey, "that some limitation to the influence of the Roman Catholic Church would be attended with beneficial result." This opinion may have been warranted at the time; but I am not prepared to say that the exactions of the church at the present day are inordinately great; and I do not think the priests do much harm beyond fostering superstitions which cannot elevate the people.

Timber, 1813.—"Madua Maddoe: large timber growing in large quantities at a place of this name on the Mussali river. Well adapted for coarse furniture, but warps if not well seasoned. The natives use the bark when attacked with dysentery."

Importation of Live Stock.

	1848.		1849.
Horses	92	...	40
Bullocks	6,287	...	4,268
Cows	619	...	663
Buffaloes	33	...	118
Asses	36	...	4
Sheep and Goats...	16,428	...	24,103

CHAPTER XIX.

THE VILLAGES.

THERE are three principal divisions of the district—(1) Mannár Island, (2) Mantai, (3) Mussali—each under a superior headman called Adigár. Each of these is subdivided into two or more, and each sub-division is placed under an Uđaiyár, who is the immediate superior of the Police Viťanais—who exercise the functions of both police and revenue officers over one or more villagers, according to their size and importance.

Mannár Island is divided into Mannár east and Mannár west.

Mannár east comprises Mannár, Sampaturai, Kidavadditoppu, and Erukkilampiddi. Mannár is rather a straggling village, and extends from the Fort, which is situated on the margin of the channel about half-way between the North and South Bars, almost exactly due north of Talladi on the mainland, from which it is separated by about two miles of shallow sea. The channel, or Mannár river as it is sometimes called, is very narrow, tortuous, and shallow; but is of sufficient depth to allow of the passage of small native craft, which can be moored alongside the wharf just outside the Fort gate.

The village extends, as I have said, from the Fort eastwards, and includes Pallimunai and Uppukulam; westwards towards the South Bar and to north-westwards towards Talvupadu and Pésálai. The Tamils chiefly reside on the west of the Pésálai road, the Moors to the east of it, and in Uppikulam and Pallimunai there are a good many Canoreens, the descendants by the Portuguese slaves.

The dwellings and bazaars are mostly along the roadside; and between the different roads are extensive tracts of pasture land hollowed in many places so as to form considerable ponds.

The Fort, I believe, was originally built by the Portuguese, but rebuilt and improved by the Dutch, and is said to be a good specimen of a Fort. The foundations are of cut stone brought from the ancient temple of Tirukésaram, and the walls are of cut coral laid in mortar. It is surrounded on all sides but the south, by which the channel flows, by a deep fosse, the banks of which were originally protected by coral walls, which, however, have fallen in or been stolen by degrees. It contains several buildings, sub-collector's house, church, police barrack, storerooms, custom-house, and two tanks, very much in want of repair.

The causeway terminates about 700 yards from the shore opposite the Fort, and the present ferry is from its extremity to a spot a little west of the Fort. Here also, or close by, is a new market for the sale of vegetables, &c. There is a fish market too, but it is only a cadjan affair.

The kachchéri and Assistant Government Agent's house, which is at right-angles to it, are placed in an angle formed by the junction of two roads about quarter mile from the Fort.

There is only one principal road—that leading to Pésálai, which is in charge of the Public Works Department. The other roads are in charge of the District Road Committee.

There are two Roman churches and one schoolhouse in connection therewith, a Wesleyan church and schoolhouse, and several unenclosed burial grounds. There is also a mosque, and in Uppukulam a Hindu temple.

Taken altogether, it is rather a dreary sort of place to look at in dry weather, but when the tanks are full it is pleasant and green, and at all times the margosa and tulip trees planted by successive Collectors and Assistant Government Agents, which line the roads, relieve the bareness of the view.

Of the other three villages, Sampatturai is only remarkable for an old tower built by the Portuguese—I suppose as a watch tower. It has lately been repaired for triangulation purposes. Errukelanpiddi, a village of Moors, is noted for having the largest population of any in the district, and not only the largest but the most compact. It takes its name from the errukelan, which flourishes in its neighbourhood, from the fibre of which strong fishing lines are made, and which produces good charcoal used in the manufacture of gunpowder. It is known to botanists, I believe, as *Callatropis gigantea*.

Mannár west has forty-one villages, of which I will notice Talaimannár at the extreme west of the Island—a fishing village of 500 or 600 inhabitants, through which the tappal to India used to pass, and which for some time was the immigration port. There are many palmyrahs; and the tombs, or pretended tombs of Adam and Eve, or as some say of two Muhammadan saints, a male and a female, who are said to have been washed ashore here in coffins. There is also a large Roman church and new parsonage built of coral. Pésálai, which is now the immigration port during the south-west monsoon. Here also are a large church and a walled burial ground. The Customs offices and cooly shed and hospitals are at some distance from the village. There is here a fine beacon raised on an iron trellis; and Karisal, the site of the old cotton plantation, but which has nothing of its old importance to show but the ruins of a fine old church.

The division of Mántai is divided into north and south, Pringalli, and Illuppaikadavai:

Mántai north has twenty-nine villages, of which Kathan-kulam has one of the largest tanks. In 1820, it is said, there were one hundred villages besides thirty-one uninhabited.

Mántai south has twenty-two villages, of which Perianawelkulam has a fine tank, into which a sluice has just been put; Parapankandal, which has a large church, and is a good village; Uyalankulam, where there is a cooly shed; and Taladi, where there is another.

Pringalli has five villages, of which Vidataltivu is the chief. In 1820, it is said, there were 125 villages, but it is probable that these were mostly Tavadi, or uninhabited villages occasionally cultivated.

In Vidataltivu there are Moors, Christians, and Hindus, with their several places of worship. The Hindu temple seemed to be the most cared for until the other day, when the Christians repaired their church.

Illuppaikaḍavai has seven villages, small, scattered, and mostly Hindu. Of these, Kuruthankulam and Tihali are owned by an ex-Uḍaiyár, who has built himself a good house, has put his two tanks in thorough repair, and has made his farm look more like an English one than any I have seen for a long time,—having neat outhouses for his labourers, haggards, and fences. He has, moreover, provided his tanks with satinwood sluices, and grows not only coconut, jak, and other trees not commonly found in the neighbourhood, but also tobacco, vegetables, and some garden plants. The only other man who has shown any such energy and enterprise in this way is now no more,—old Pacheco, the old Adigár of Mannár island, who planted up a most valuable property in Mannár island, but which, owing to the imprudence and neglect of his children, has now passed into other hands.

Musálai is divided into Musálai north, Musálai south, Nannáḍḍán east, and Nannáḍḍán west.

Musálai south has fourteen villages, of which Silávatturai, in Pearl Fishery times, is the most important. In ordinary times there are only a few boutiques and fishermen's huts and double rows of tulip trees, which mark the streets of the town which spring up when there is a fishery. The Coast road here seems to have had more attention paid to it than elsewhere, and has several culverts. Then there is the Fishery road, parallel to it, nearer the sea, with many culverts, for Silávatturai is situated on a slope between the fields and the sea, and in the rains it is necessary to provide for the flow of a good deal of water. The only existing public building is a large store, part of which is used as a resthouse—a single room.

There is a vault, or strong room, in which to lodge the

rupees collected during the fishery. There were also many brick pillars designed in the time of Mr. Dyke for the purpose of sustaining temporary roofs, but they were not found to answer, and such as had not fallen were ordered to be taken down the other day. There are several wells, and an experimental coconut garden, which bears well, and there is no reason why it should not be extended. The land here is somewhat raised above the sea, and the deposits of oyster-shells are in some places many feet in thickness. An attempt was made some years ago to utilise these deposits, and a ship-load was exported to England, but the venture was not repeated. The Persian Gulf oysters are larger and thicker and better adapted for the button-trade than our oysters, and they are not worth removing for making lime, even for manure—at least I suppose this to be the case.

• At one time the right to seek for pearls among these shells was rented by Government, but now any one may search; and a good many women and children make a livelihood by gathering seed pearls and selling them to Moorish traders, who again sell them to traders from India, who buy them for the purpose of making lime for chewing. Kokkupaddy is a small village where the Assistant Government Agent generally camps in preference to Silávatturai, as it is more sheltered from the wind. Some of the other villages in Musálai south are Kondachchi, Karadakuli, Pukkulam, Palai-kuli, and Marrichchi-katti. This last-named village is at the extreme south of the district.

But to turn to Musálai north. Arippu, on the south bank of the Aruvi-áru, is the largest village in Musálai. The Aṭikár resides here. There is a good Roman church and school. The Aṭikár has some coconut plantations here.

The Assistant Government Agent has a bungalow here, built on the site of the old Fort by a former Supervisor of the Pearl Fishery. It is a good house, with a fine young plantation of coconut around it, made by Mr. Allanson Bailey, and the compound is partly walled around. The remains of Mr. Leys lie buried here.

In the compound are some exotic palms, a mahogany tree, and two good wells. A ferry boat is maintained at Arippu by Government, but no toll is taken.

Akatti Murrippu is not much of a village now, but it might be a fine place as the tank is only second in size to the Giant's tank, the bund being several miles in length and of great solidity. It was paved in the same manner as parts of the bund of Giant's tank to protect it from the wash of the waves. It was probably constructed, Mr. Parker says, as part of the grand irrigation scheme which included the Giant's tank.

There are now several villages in the beds of these tanks.

Nannáddán west has twenty-eight villages. In 1820 the province of Nannáddán had one hundred villages and eighty tavadi. None now are of any size or note, except Vaṅkálai, which is the immigration port in the north-east monsoon. The cool buildings and route are clear of the village, which is somewhat poor, populous, dirty, and straggling.

Nanáddán east has thirty-six villages, of which Murungen has a fine tank into which a sluice has just been put.

At Katkadunthakulam, Mr. Dyke in 1846 found a handsome carved stone, which he describes as "apparently the capital of a pillar."

At Ootapidḍi, in this division, in 1810 some tom-tom men lived, "who were always called to Mannár when any great personage arrived: this they found a great hardship, and deserted to the Kandyan country." And the Collector says "This often puts me to the necessity of sending to the Coast for tom-toms." "I have been keeping four for a month awaiting the coming of the Puisne Justice." The Judges are now satisfied, even in Colombo, with a police guard of honour and one bugler.

At Pannuveḍḍuwán, Mr. Haughton in 1884 found some archæological remains, an account of which is given in his diary of March, 1884.

Mannár East Sub-Division.—Uḍaiyár, C. Vallipuram.

No.	Name of Place.	Name of Police Vidana.
1	Mannár ...	No Viṭanai.
2	Sampathurai ...	} M. M. Sultan, of Eruk- kilempidḍi.
3	Kiḍávaddithóppu ...	
4	Erukilempidḍi ...	

Mannar West Sub-Division.—Uḍaiyár, J. Manuel.

1	Talaímannár ...	} G. L. Lambert, of Talai- mannár.
2	Kaddukarankuḍiyiruppu ...	
3	Maintankuḍiyiruppu ...	
4	Pávilukkiḷavankuḍiyiruppu ...	
5	Pulárkuḍiyiruppu ...	
6	Cheddivaṇṇiyankuḍiyiruppu ...	
7	Puḍḍikuḍiyiruppu ...	
8	Náchchiyalkuḍiyiruppu ...	
9	Moḍutakampadḍaṅkaḍḍikuḍi ...	
10	Upputharavai ...	
11	Káṅcháṅkaḷli ...	
1	Muntiriveḷi ...	} A. C. Dat Croos, of Mullit- tidal.
2	Mirakkaipañṇai ...	
3	Pávilupadḍaṅkaḍḍikuḍi ...	
4	Mullittidal ...	
5	Kamakkarankuḍiyiruppu ...	

No.	Name of Place.	Name of Police Vidana.
6	Tayilānkuḍiyiruppu	These villages belong to A. C. Dat Croos, of Mullittidal.
7	Karuppankuḍiyiruppu	
8	Uvari ...	
9	Olaiṭoḍuvāi ...	
1	Vettunakkalkuḍiyiruppu	N. Antonipillai, of Karisal.
2	Kuliyālankuḍiyiruppu	
3	Tullukkudḍikuḍiyiruppu	
4	Pésālai Putukkūḍiyiruppu	
5	Vellāmparuku ...	
6	Uvaiyaḍippannai ...	
7	Pésālai ...	
8	Chiruttóppu ...	
9	Vaiyakkarai ...	
10	Karisal ...	
11	Telliyānkuḍiyiruppu	
1	Toddavéli ...	A. S. Dat Croos, of Toddavéli.
2	Pallapkuḍiyiruppu ...	
3	Konnaiyankuḍiyiruppu	
4	Mālivāḍi ...	
5	Tālvupādu ...	
6	Valayakāḍu ...	
7	Tārākundu ...	
8	Kosukuvāḍi ...	
9	Kónarpannai ...	
10	Puthukuḍiyiruppu ...	

Māntai South Sub-Division.—Uḍaiyār, Manuel Marisal.

1	Peria Nāvaṭkulam ...	Marisal Thomma Thavare, of Nākattālvu.
2	Kollankulam ...	
3	Kālaiyapperiyakulam	
4	Parapki Chirukkulam	
5	Pallapkulam ...	
6	Nākattālvu ...	
7	Veliyīṭkāmam ...	
8	Chirunāvaṭkulam ...	
1	Kallikadḍaikaḍu ...	Arasunilaiidda Mudaliyār Don Nicholas, of Puttukāmam.
2	Nochchikkulam ...	
3	A'likandal ...	
4	Putukkāmam ...	
5	Tuvarapkeṇi ...	
6	Mutalaikkutṭi ...	
7	U'yilapkulam ...	
8	Nilāchchēnai ...	
9	Kalmōḍḍai ...	
10	Maṇatkulam ...	
11	Parappāṅkandel Periyakulam	
12	Parappāṅkandel Chirukkulam	
13	Viḍattalvémpu ...	
14	Tallāli ...	

Māntai North Sub-Division.—Uḍaiyār, Miguel Nicholan.

1	Chéttukkulam ...	Rapphiel Philippu, of Aḍampan.
2	Mālikaitiḍal ...	

No.	Name of Place.	Name of Police Vidana.
3	Periyappapa Móddai	Rapphiel Philippu, of Ađampan.
4	Ađampan	
5	Akattikulam	
6	Chiruvilápkulí	
7	Periyavilápkulí	
8	Kaṇḍal	
9	Karunkaṇḍal	
10	Vélakulam	
11	Puliyankulam	
12	Neduvarampu	
1	Maratikannáddi	Rappiel A 'oni of Kátta-kulam.
2	Cheddiyár Makankađaikkaḍu	
3	Chalampan	
4	Nedunkandal	
5	Véppankulam	
6	Pálaikkulí	
7	Múnkilmurichchán	
8	Ittikaṇḍal	
9	Mullikkandal	
10	Káttakulam	

Uđaiyár, Yaccopillai Marku.

11	Karampaikkulam	Rappiel Antoni, of Kátta-kulam.
12	Alkáḍḍiveli	
13	Kumánáyankulam	
14	Parappukkaḍantán	
15	Vaḍḍakkandal	
16	Kuruvil	
17	Karunkanda Vannakulam	

Viḍataltívu Sub-Division.

1	Viḍataltívu	N. M. Sultan, of Viḍatal-tívu.
2	Pulakkaḍu	
1	Kóitkulam	K. Murukar, of Attimóḍḍai.
2	Putukkulam	
3	Attimóḍḍai	

Illuppaikkaḍavai Sub-Division.—Uđaiyár, V. Canapattupillai.

1	Illuppaikkaḍavai	K. Muttukumaru, of Illup-paikkaḍavai.
2	Kalliaḍi	
3	Kaḍḍádivayal	
4	Kannáḍḍi	
5	Kuruntakulam	
6	Tikaḷi	
1	Vellápkulam	V. Canapattupillai.

Musálai South Sub-Division.—Uđaiyár, T. B. Philippupillai.

1	Chilávatturai	M.M. Muhamadu Marakair, of Silávatturai.
2	Periyanochochikkulam	
3	Ilakkarikulam	
4	Musálai	

No.	Name of Place.	Name of Police Vidana.
1	Tampad̄damutalikad̄du	P. Marisal Mottam, of Kokkuppudeyān.
2	Kokkuppudeyān	
3	Konḍāchchi	
4	Putuveli	
5	Kúlapkulam	
1	Karaḍikkuli	A. M. Meerasaibo Marikar, of Karaḍikkuli.
2	Paravaveli	
3	Mullikkulam	
4	Marichchukkad̄di	
5	Pálaikkuli	

Musálai North Sub-Division.—Uḍaiyár, A. L. M. Assana
Lebbe Marakayar.

1	Arippu	Savial Marian.
1	Antónimeliñchikulam	J. L. Kappaltamby Lebbe, of Méttanveli.
2	Ilantaikkulam	
3	Manat̄kulam	
4	Pand̄araveli	
5	Méttanveli	
6	Alavakkaichirukkulam	N. M. P. Meera Saibu Lebbe, of Periyappul- lachchipot̄kēni.
7	Váriveri	
8	Puliadinírávi	
1	Maraikáyane	
2	Periyappullachchipot̄kēni	
3	Chinnappullachchipot̄kēni	N. M. P. Meera Saibu Lebbe, of Periyappul- lachchipot̄kēni.
4	Akattimurippu	
5	Veppap̄kulam	
6	Ittikkulam	
7	Karup̄kálittálvu	

Nannáḍḍān West Sub-Division.—Uḍaiyár, Kumarasinga Mudaliyár
Pedruapillai.

1	Vap̄kálai	S. Lawrence Croos.
1	Naruvilikkulam	Vaity Mottam Antonip- pillai, of Nannáḍḍān.
2	Vañchiyankulam	
3	A'vap̄am	
4	Kóv̄vap̄kulam	
5	Ollimaḍu	
6	Uvan̄ari	Vaity Mottam Antonip- pillai, of Nannáḍḍān.
7	Karukkaimurippu	
8	Púvarasap̄kandal	
9	Achchap̄kulam	
10	Pásikkulam	
11	Kap̄kánitivu	Nichotapillai Marisalpillai, of Periakod̄ḍaikaḍu.
12	Nannáḍḍān	
1	Pallap̄kóḍḍai	
2	Nochchikkulam	
3	Chálamp̄an	
4	Vellálakad̄du	
5	Pálaikkuli	
6	Káttap̄kulam	Nichotapillai Marisalpillai, of Periakod̄ḍaikaḍu.
7	Chúriatév̄erkaḍaikaḍu	

No.	Name of Place.	Name of Police Vidana.
8	Periakoddaikaḍu ...	Nichotapillai Marisalpillai, of Periakoddaikaḍu.
9	Putuveli ...	
10	Malaiyiddān ...	
11	Chiruchāmpānkaḍdaikaḍu ...	
12	Puttirakkonḍān ...	
13	Attikuli ...	
14	Kōṭṭaikulam Māvīlankēni ...	
15	Kusavankuḷi ...	

Nannāddān East Sub-Division.

1	Pīḍārikulam ...	Dioku Antoni, of Pich- chaikkulam.
2	Pōntivukandāl ...	
3	Vāḱkaippaḍḍāpkandal ...	
4	Pichchaikkulam ...	
5	Chirukkandāl ...	
6	Kappāḍḍi ...	
7	Murupkan ...	
8	Chunḍikkuli ...	
9	Pullaruttakandāl ...	

Uḍaiyār, Marisal Pariari Soosaipillai.

1	Chinnakkunchukkulam ...	Soosai Pariari Mathes, of Pannaivedḍuvān.
2	Narikaichchān ...	
3	Pannaivedḍuvān ...	
4	Kunḍumanikkulam ...	
5	Vēppāpkulam ...	
6	Kallīadaiyal ...	
7	Pichchaivāniyennedūḱulam ...	
1	Puliyāḍiyirakkam ...	Verasingkam Peranchi Sambaiva, of Katkaḍan- takulam.
2	Malavarāyankaḍḍaiaraḍampan ...	
3	Kompenchāintakulam ...	
4	Kovīlkulam ...	
5	Isamalaittālvu ...	
6	Tēttakuli ...	
7	Pandithankāḍḍu ...	
8	Mailerakulam ...	
9	Katkaḍantakulam ...	
10	Mūkkarayankulam ...	
11	Cheddiārmakankattaiaraḍmpan ...	
12	Ariyānaur ...	
13	Karukkāikulam ...	
14	Vaychchānkulam ...	
15	Valaiadittapallam ...	
16	Malavarayanchettiveli ...	
17	Ayamperumal ...	
18	Uttaiḍiḍḍi ...	

CHAPTER XX.

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE wandurá is still very common in the district. Wherever there are large trees there he is to be found, and in some places, as at Illuppaikaḍavai, they are so tame that they play about the open ground near the resthouse, and at night sleep in the trees which overshadow it. Along the cooly road they are shy; for their flesh is much approved by the Tamil cooly, who will give as much as a rupee for one. The people of the district, too, use the dried flesh medicinally. It is said to be a cure for whooping cough, which is very common at some seasons. I have not observed any but the one variety which is found in all the low-country districts. There are none in the island of Mannár, nor are there any wild animals in the island, except a few deer, hare, jackals, wild cats, and mungoose. There are said to be some wild buffaloes, but I believe them to be only tame ones strayed.

Some years ago very excellent shoes used to be made of monkey leather: and the well preserved skin of a wandurá will fetch a good price in London. I do not know what the ordinary space of a wandurá's life may be, but they grow slowly and attain a considerable size. I have seen some old bucks measuring nearly five feet from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail.

The wandurá alone in confinement, or even free, and in a meditative humour, is rather a solemn-looking fellow; but he has his hours of relaxation; and it is interesting to watch him towards sunset, when he comes out into the open with his fellows, and has a game of prisoners' base or something like it. There must be seventy or eighty in the Illuppaikaḍavai troupe, but elsewhere I have not seen so many together.

The capped or bonneted monkey or rilawá is to be found, it is said, but I have not seen it myself. Neither have I seen the loris,* though I believe both the large and small variety are found. I have seen them in the adjoining district of Puttalam.

The Ceylon or sloth-bear is common, but is not as numerous as it used to be, judging from the few skins which are now produced to claim the reward for their slaughter which is paid by Government.

* A small one has been brought to me since at Silávatturai.

From 1854 to 1880 422 of these animals were paid for, or, say, sixteen a year. Since 1880, when the district was reduced to half its former extent, only forty-eight have been claimed for, or an average of eight a year.

The leopard is still very numerous, and does a good deal of mischief to cattle and goats. It never attacks man unless molested. At one time the rewards for the destruction of these animals and bears were paid out of a fund raised by assessment from the people. At the present time, and for some years past, Government pays Rs. 5 for a leopard and Rs. 2.50 for a bear. From 1854 to 1867 223 leopards were paid for, and from that time to 1886 289, but as the district since 1880 is so much smaller it does not look as if the numbers had decreased much.

There are several other wild cats, viz., the large tiger cat, the leopard cat, the rusty-spotted cat, and the lesser civet cat (which, I believe, is not a cat), and the common musang or tree cat.

There are certainly two varieties at least of the mungoose. Of the dog tribe the jackal is the only representative, and is numerous. There are a few even on the island close to Mannár town, which occasionally make night hideous by their howls.

The elephant still finds a home here, and during the rainy season makes his appearance in considerable numbers, being driven out of the denser jungles by the flies and mosquitoes, which infest such localities, into the low scrub and open plains by the sea. They are not nearly so numerous as they used to be, but still may be always found in or near this district. One seldom hears of a tusker now, or of a rogue, but there is said to be one of the latter now patrolling the roads about Viláṅkulam. It is said to have killed a man a few months ago.

The elephants captured by the panikans are generally small, as small as it is permitted to catch them—a little over three cubits. But few of those exported here are caught in this neighbourhood. They mostly come from the forests of Batticaloa and Badulla. Elephants have been caught and tamed in Mannár from very early times.

Colonel Barbut writes in 1802: "You will keep the elephant at Mannár till he grows more tractable, which you will use means to make him."

In 1880 they were very numerous and destructive in Nannáddán.

In 1815, and probably for some time previously, the right of capturing elephants was rented. In this year the renter was in arrear, and was ordered to catch elephants on account of Government, as the best way, perhaps, of settling his account.

In 1816, 1817, 1818, and 1819, forty-nine elephants were caught at an expense to Government of Rds. 7,510, and realised Rds. 8,272. These elephants, it is said, were required by the Indian Government.

In 1816 a Mudaliyár was appointed over the elephant hunters.—Madura Saib Markar.

In 1818, it is observed that it does not do to keep elephants long in Mannár island, as the palmyrah leaf does not agree with them.

In 1819 they were so numerous as to do considerable damage to crops, and it is said that fire, which will drive them away the first time, fails of its effect afterwards.

The great damage done by them led to a reward being offered for their capture ; and for many years it was one of the duties of the Assistant Government Agent to pay for their tails as they were brought in.

In 1867 elephants to the value of £2,328 were exported.

Mr. Fowler has given a description in a paper to be found in our Asiatic Society's Journal, describing the method employed by the elephant hunters, to which I have nothing to add ; but as regards the superstitions, a fact transpired in some Police Court proceedings, which I do not think he has mentioned. It is believed that if any one erases the foot-steps of the hunters they will catch no elephants.

The elephants caught here are generally tame enough for export in six weeks or two months from the time they are caught, and being small are not much injured in the feet as is the case with the larger animals.

I noticed a very curious abdominal swelling in some that were recently caught, and was informed that it was caused by want of sleep, but would disappear as soon as the animals became tame and got their proper rest. I have not yet had an opportunity of verifying this information.

Wild pigs are very numerous. One can scarcely go a hundred yards without coming across their traces.

The porcupine is by no means scarce.

The elk, or sambur, is not so common as it used to be.

The spotted-deer is frequently met with.

The small red-deer is found, but I have not seen it.

So is the mouse-deer, or miminna, of the Siphalese.

Hares are plentiful.

The pangolin in coat of mail helps to keep the white ant in check.

I have seen the large gray squirrel, but not the brown, which is, however, to be found, and the little three-striped gray squirrel is all over the place.

Mr. Simpson says the flying-fox is common. Bats of various kinds and sizes are a perfect nuisance, as from their desire for

darkness they haunt our dark unceiled rooms, and the strong odour from their very nitrogenous ordure is very offensive.

The rats, too, are very troublesome. The common house-rat, which plays the mischief in your storeroom, and the odoriferous musk-rat. There are mice, too, and field-rats, which are a culinary delicacy to the low-caste cooly.

Reptiles muster strong, from the crocodile to the smallest and most harmless snake. I am not sure that there is more than one variety of crocodile—though the Atikár says there are two, chemmúkkan and chánákam—the dark-coloured non-adrophagous brute, which may be found in every tank, and seldom, if ever, attains such a large size as the lighter-coloured man-eating dragon of the larger tanks and rivers,—not that I believe much in the distinction between man-eating and non-man-eating crocodiles, for I believe that they all do it when they get big enough.

That they do not grow so large here as elsewhere, is perhaps due to the fact that the tanks and rivers dry up so completely, that there is not much difficulty in finding and killing them when they begin to get audacious. He can easily be traced into the jungle or dug out of the dried-up bottom of the tank. There are some big ones at the mouth of the Aruvi-áru, which sometimes do mischief; and a boy was killed by them at Perianawetkulam the other day.

Lizards, from the cabra-goyá and tala-goyá to the small common house-lizard, are in great numbers and variety. Some of the crested bloodsuckers are very handsome. The chameleon is rare. Some of the fragile snake-like lizards so fond of sunny, sandy, or rocky places are very pretty, and there are several varieties of the house-lizard, from a repulsive looking fellow of seven or eight inches long to the smallest gecko.

Frogs of all sizes abound, from the heavy toad-like night prowler, who finds his way into your bathroom in the morning, or the larger bull-frog which bellows in the tank, to the light, active, fearless, large-eyed, jumping creature which makes prodigious jumps, and is not careful whether on you, or your chair, or the wall, though he sometimes takes a particular fancy to perching on your foot. These creatures have a most wonderful capacity for adapting themselves to circumstances. In the dry weather not one is to be seen, but the slightest shower brings them out of their hiding-places looking as lively as ever.

Snakes, every one tells me, are very numerous, and they are the cause of a good many deaths; but whether it is that I have some of the sanctity of St. Patrick about me, or whatever the cause, they keep out of my sight wonderfully. In

the course of the year, though I have been in all sorts of places, I have seen very few—one or two rat-snakes, two small snakes at Mantottai, one of which bit a cooly, whose wound I immediately cauterised with the fire of my pipe, and whom I afterwards treated with ammonia; but the foot swelled and was painful for some days. I also saw a snake which had killed a boy near Murungen, and I know that a cobra was killed in my compound. The people have no dread of the cobra, as it seldom attacks them, and never strikes without giving warning. The fatal consequences of snake-bite depend in some degree on the distance of the part bitten from the vital organs. There is some venom, as of the cobra and polonga, which is at times so powerful as to cause death wherever the wound may be, but which at other times is not fatal if the bite be on the hand or foot, but is fatal if the bite be near the head; and the bite of the less poisonous snakes will prove fatal if near the head, or to a child.

I have found the large land tortoise, but not the small one. The freshwater tortoise is common; and there are several varieties of turtle in the sea.

Insects.—This is the paradise of the insect tribes, from the largest beetles, whose music was extolled by Sunthara Muttu Nayanaar in the sixth century—"O Thiru kėtis mattán! Three-eyed one! Who reignest on the banks of Pálavi, which throws up heavy waves near Mathoddam, where beetles with beautiful wings make music"), to the mosquito and eye-fly and other similar torments. The beetles are innumerable: large black ones, elephant beetles, rhinoceros beetles, beetles of all sorts and sizes, down to a detestable little beast which gets into your bread or is bred there. I have seen a greater number and variety of fireflies and glowworms at Mantottai than anywhere else.

Butterflies and moths, too, at times crowd. Caterpillars of sorts, whose hairs sting so unpleasantly, are an intolerable nuisance, and though generally only to be found at certain seasons they have this year inflicted themselves on us permanently.

Spiders.—The huge hairy tarantula, the small death-watch, a velvet coated little one of vermillion colour, and countless others are common.

Ticks of all sizes, bugs, fleas, lice—all the plagues of Egypt—are here, and make one wonder whether perhaps they were introduced at the same time as the Egyptian idols of which Mr. Nevill speaks.

The water is as full of insect-life as the air, visible and invisible, and as it evaporates, of course, the dose of germs it may contain becomes concentrated and all the more poisonous.

Fish.—Every tank and swampy ground is full of fish, which in the dry season bury themselves in the mud like the saurians. Molluscs are much more common than one would expect in such a dry climate. The univalves retain moisture by having very hard and close-fitting opercula, or by agglutinating themselves to trees or stones: and there you may find them in the driest seasons. Bivalves and others, which are only found in tanks and streams, lie buried in the mud or sand when the waters dry up, and wake up when the rains come.

I have not paid much attention to worms, but in making excavations at Tirukésaram I was struck by their absence. I only saw one small one, and, now I come to think of it, I also saw a centipede; and this reminds me that I have forgotten to mention them in their proper place, as also the millepedes, which are a very striking feature at this ancient abode of the Three-eyed One. Large millepedes and small—black, red, and striped—they swarm on the ground and on the bushes, either coiled up into balls or crawling along.

Locusts, knife-grinders, and crickets, too, I have omitted to mention, though it is not often on circuit that one is permitted to forget their existence.

Of the denizens of the deep I know even less than of those of the land, but there they are—the whale, the dugong, and the whole series of lower orders down to the ameba.

The dugong, however, is not that of the Red Sea, if the latter is correctly described in an annotated copy of the Bible in my possession as having “hair or fur.” I have not seen the whole dugong, but I have eaten its flesh. The fat is said to have some of the properties of cod liver oil, and to be useful in phthisis.

The whale occasionally visits us, and one of them was the cause of an accident which I have related elsewhere.

Porpoises roll about, and there are many true fishes.

Crustaceans.—Crayfish, prawns, and crabs are occasionally plentiful, and of the latter I have seen several kinds.

In 1820 “a poisonous fish, called choree, the mere touch of which causes instant death,” appeared in large numbers, “so that the fishermen are afraid to follow their occupation.” Backhouse describes it as a sort of “Portuguese man-of-war.”

Of the Conchology I know little or nothing, and I do not know that any attempt has been made to make a catalogue of shells, unless Messrs. Nevill or Holdsworth have done so.

The edible oyster is found in plenty. General Nixon, I suppose, was somewhat of a *gourmet*, for I find that in 1802 Colonel Barbut took the trouble to get oysters from Arippu for his delectation at Jaffna.

Of the pearl oyster and chank enough has been said.

I have seen no sea cucumber but the beche-de-mer.

Seaweeds, sponges, and coralines would, I have no doubt, repay investigation; and I was so enamoured of their beautiful forms that I filled a boat with them on the pearl banks, but they soon lost their beauty when removed from their briny bath, that I cared for them no longer.

Whether from the absence of rock or some other cause, the more delicate and beautifully coloured species are, I think, not so numerous as in the rocky shallows on the eastern coast.

Birds.

The following list of the birds of Mannár was very kindly given me by Mr. G. Simpson :—

FALCONIDÆ.

Marsh Harrier
Pied Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Pale Harrier
Indian Goshawk
Sparrow Hawk
Black Kite Eagle
Ceylon Hawk Eagle
Crested Hawk Eagle
Serpent Eagle
Sea Eagle
Bar-tailed Fish Eagle
Brahminy Kite
Pariah Kite
Black-shouldered Kite
Common Peregrine
Indian Peregrine
Common Kestrel
Osprey

BUBONIDÆ.

Brown Fish Owl
Forster's Scops Owl
Brown Hawk Owl
Jungle Owlet
Brown Wood Owl
Barn Owl

PSITTACIDÆ.

Rose-ringed Parrakeet.

PICIDÆ.

Yellow-fronted Woodpecker
Pigmy Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker

Southern Golden-backed Woodpecker

CAPITONIDÆ.

Brown-headed Barbet
Little Ceylon Barbet
Crimson-breasted Barbet

CUCULIDÆ.

Pied-crested Cuckoo
Red-winged Crested Cuckoo
Indian Koel
Green-billed Malkoha
Common Coucal or Jungle Crow

TROGONIDÆ.

Ceylonese Trogon.

BUCEROTIDÆ.

Crowned Hornbill
Ceylonese Hornbill

UPUPIDÆ.

South Indian Hoopoe.

CORACIINÆ.

Indian Roller or Blue Jay.

ALCEDINIDÆ.

Pied Kingfisher
Little Indian Kingfisher
Indian Stork-billed Kingfisher
White-breasted Kingfisher

MEROPIDÆ.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater
Green-tailed Bee-eater

CYPSELIDÆ.

Indian Swift
Palm Swift
Indian Swiftlet
Indian Crested Swift

CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

Jungle Night-Jar
Common Indian Night-Jar

CORVIDÆ.

Black Crow or Indian Corby
Common Grey Crow

ORIOIDÆ.

Black-headed Oriole.

CAMPOPHAGIDÆ.

Large Indian Cuckoo Shrike
Little Minivet
Black-headed Cuckoo Shrike

PRIONOPIDÆ.

Common Wood Shrike
Brown Wood Shrike
Rufous-rumped Wood Shrike

DICURIDÆ.

Black Drongo
Long-tailed Drongo
Racket-tailed Drongo

MUSCICAPIDÆ.

Paradise Flycatcher
Rusty Flycatcher
Blue Redbreast
Blue-throated Redbreast

SAXICOLIDÆ.

Magpie Robin
Black Robin

TURDIDÆ.

Indian Woodchat
Orange-headed Thrush

BRACHYPODIDÆ.

White Eye-browed Bulbul
Common Bush Bulbul

TIMALIIDÆ.

Common Babbler (seven brothers)
Ceylon Wren Babbler
Jerdon's Babbler
White browed Babbler
Common Grass Babbler

SYLVIDÆ.

Larger Indian White-throat
Clamorous Red Warbler
Blyths Warbler
Green Tree Warbler
Large-billed Warbler

CINNYRIDÆ.

Purple Sunbird
Ceylonese Sunbird

DICÆIDÆ.

Tickell's Flower-pecker
Common White Eye

HIRUNDINIDÆ.

Common Swallow

FRINGALLIDÆ.

Common House Sparrow

MOTACILLIDÆ.

Wood Wagtail
Grey-headed Field Wagtail
Richard's Pipit
Common Pipit

ALAUDIDÆ.

Indian Sky Lark
Madras Bush Lark
Black-bellied Finch Lark

PLOCEIDÆ.

Common Weaver Bird
Spotted Munia
White-backed Munia
Plain Brown Munia

ARTAMIDÆ.

Ashy Wood Swallow

STURNIDÆ.

Ceylonese Mina
 Rose-coloured Starling
 Brahminy Mina

PITTIDÆ.

Indian Pitta (Monsoon Bird)

COLUMBIDÆ.

Common Indian Dove
 Spotted Dove

GOURIDÆ.

Bronze-winged Dove

TRERONIDÆ.

Imperial Green Pigeon
 Southern Green Pigeon
 Orange-breasted Pigeon
 Pompadour Pigeon

PHASIANDIÆ.

Peacock
 Ceylon Jungle Fowl

TETROCINDÆ.

Grey Partridge
 Jungle Bush Quail

TINAMIDÆ.

Black-breasted Bustard Quail

RALLIDÆ.

Blue-breasted Rail
 White-breasted Water-Hen
 Water-Cock
 Indian Blue-coat

SCOLOPACIDÆ.

Painted Snipe
 Pin-tailed Snipe
 Jack Snipe
 Black-tailed Godwit
 Terek Sand-piper
 Green Shank
 Little Green Shank

Dusky Red Shank
 Common Red Shank
 Wood Sand-piper
 Common Sand-piper
 Curlew Stint
 Little Stint
 Long-toed Stint
 Turnstone
 Eastern Curlew
 Whimbrel

PARRIDÆ.

Water Pheasant or Chinese
 Jackana

CHARADRIDÆ.

Common Stilt
 Common Avocet
 Grey Plover
 Asiatic Golden Plover
 Large Sand Plover
 Mongolian Plover
 Kentish Plover
 Lesser Ringed Plover
 Red Wattled Lapwing
 Yellow Wattled Lapwing
 Stone Plover
 Great Stone Plover
 Indian Courier
 Small Swallow Plover

HEMATOPIDÆ.

Oyster Catcher

DROMADIDÆ.

Crab Plover

LARIDÆ.

White-winged Marsh Tern
 Indian River Tern
 Black-bellied Tern
 Caspian Tern
 Gull-bellied Tern
 Common Tern
 White Shafted Ternlet
 Gray-rumped Ternlet
 Large Crested Ternlet
 Lesser Crested Ternlet
 Brown-winged Ternlet
 Great Black-headed Gull
 Brown-hooded Gull

PROCELLARIIDÆ.

Cape Petrel

PYGPODIES.

Little Grebe or Dabchick

ANATIDÆ.

Indian Come Goose
 Green-backed Goose Teal
 Indian Whistling Teal
 Brahminy Duck or Ruddy
 Sheldrake
 Pintail Duck
 Garganey Teal
 Common Teal
 Common Shoveller or Spoon-
 billed Duck

PHŒNICOPERIDÆ.

Flamingo

PLATALEIDÆ.

Spoonbill
 Pellican Ibis
 Shell Ibis
 Black-headed White Ibis
 Glossy Ibis

CICONIIDÆ.

Hair-crested Stork or Mara-
 bout
 Black-necked Stork

White-necked Stork
 White Stork

ARDEIDÆ.

Giant Heron
 Grey Heron
 Purple Heron
 Ashy Heron
 Plumed Egret
 Little Egret
 Cattle Egret
 Pond Heron
 Green Bittern
 Eastern Little Bittern
 Chestnut Little Bittern
 Common Night Heron
 Malay Bittern

PHŒTHONTIDÆ.

Lesser Tropic Bird

PALECANIDÆ.

Brown Gannet
 Yellow-eyed Gannet
 Common Cormorant
 Little Cormorant
 Darter or Snake Bird
 Grey Pelican

FREGATIDÆ.

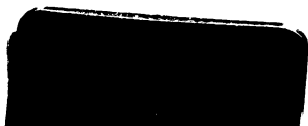
Frigate Bird

Domestic Animals.

At the head of the list is the buffalo. I ought perhaps to have included him among the wild animals, but there are very few wild ones left: they have become so scarce at times that it has been necessary to import them. For some years there has been no bad murrain, and the seasons have been favourable, so that there are at present a good many. The same may be said of black cattle, of which large numbers are annually sold. The plains of Arippu, Silávatturai, and Mántottai are favourable for the p^oture of sheep and goats, and, indeed, in every village a few of the latter may be found. Ponies are bred in the district, and some good ones are occasionally obtainable; but there is occasionally great mortality among them, as indeed among all domestic animals in seasons of drought. Asses too are bred; they are very sn^o and only used by dhobies to carry clothes. The dog ma

seen in every village, and a miserable cur he generally is. The cat is not very common. The pig is domesticated in some villages, and makes an excellent scavenger ; but I think the flesh of such as are so employed should be prohibited. The fowl is to be found in every compound, and very often the only thing obtainable by the traveller in the shape of meat.

**PRINTED AT
THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING WORKS,
COLOMBO, CEYLON.**



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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