PICTURESQUE CEYLON

KANDY and PERADENIYA

BY

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ILLUSTRATIONS.

KANDY AND PERADENIYA.

"The works of human artifice soon tire
The curious eye; the fountain's sparkling rill,
And gardens, when adorned by human skill,
Reproach the feeble hand, the vain desire.
But, O! the free and wild magnificence
Of nature, in her lavish hours, doth steal,
In admiration silent and intense,
The soul of him who hath a soul to feel."

Longfellow.

KANDY AND PERADENIYA.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

I VENTURE to begin this volume with the bold statement that I am about to describe the loveliest spot of the loveliest island in the world, a task impossible to accomplish by any purely intellectual process. The development of the photographic art, and the recent discoveries in reproductive processes, have, however, brought it well within the sphere of the possible to convey a correct impression of that exquisite natural beauty, which the word-painting of most accomplished authors has hitherto failed adequately to describe. It is therefore upon pictorial art that I chiefly rely to give a realistic conception of the matchless beauty of the Kandyan district of Ceylon.

History, however, furnishes such interesting details of this once great stronghold of kings, that I am tempted to divert

more, in this volume, from my original purpose of mere pictorial description, than in those dealing with other districts of the wonderful island.

It is for the pleasure of the stay-at-home public that I attempt this description, and therefore some details of the geography, the climate and accessibility of the scenes chosen for illustration, although familiar to residents, will be necessarily introduced. To travellers who have an opportunity of paying a flying visit to Ceylon, such information may also be of service. Thousands of people who call at the port of Colombo on their voyage to Australia, or to other countries, find time for a trip to the mountain capital; thousands more would do so if they knew that such scenes as are here depicted were most pleasantly accessible. Within four hours one may be transported to them. Nor is the journey wearisome. Through a fascinating panorama of lowland scenery we travel on a magnificently constructed railway to the foot of the mountain pass, through rice fields, not monotonous as on the South Indian line, but sweetly bordered by masses of beautiful palms crowning an undergrowth of rich foliage, which is everywhere brightened by the glowing tints of an endless variety of flowering shrubs.

The quaint implements of agriculture and the mud-caressing buffaloes attached to them, generally accompanied by numbers of long-legged white paddy-birds, and the slender figures of the scantily-clad Singhalese ploughmen, form pictures charmingly idyllic and primitive. Ingenious contrivances for irrigation, too, attract the eye on every hand. Pretty rivulets are

directed in every imaginative way for rice cultivation, which needs a plentiful supply of water. We notice how the patient Singhalese husbandman floods the surface of the hill-sides by building up terraces, tier above tier, till he forms a series of tiny lakelets with just sufficient embankment to retain the water; and how, when the rice is nearly ripe, the banks are broken, and the soil allowed to dry with a view to the harvest.

Those who make their first journey in a tropical country by this lovely line of rail cannot fail to feel enchanted by the alternating scenes of quaint husbandry, glimpses of villages embosomed in palms, magnificent groups of tropical trees, and particularly with the effect of the deep recesses, occurring at frequent intervals, where cultivation extends between masses of grand forest.

So far there is much to interest the traveller on either side, but the beauty of the landscape now heightens to the sublime, as at about the fiftieth mile the railway ascends into the Kandyan mountains. The pace becomes reduced to about eight miles an hour, the uniform gradient for about twelve miles being one in forty-five.

As upward we move in a course so winding and intricate that it is frequently possible to see both the engines in front and the passengers seated in the last carriage behind, the panorama assumes most enchanting forms; at one moment, on the edge of a sheer crag, we are gazing downwards some thousand feet below; at another we are looking upwards at a mighty crag a thousand feet above; from the zigzags by

which we climb the mountain side fresh views appear at every turn; far-reaching valleys edged by the soft blue ranges of distant mountains and filled with luxuriant masses of dense forest, relieved here and there by the vivid green terraces of the paddy fields; cascades of lovely flowering creepers, hanging in festoons from tree to tree and from crag to crag; deep ravines and foaming waterfalls above and below, dashing their spray into mist as it falls into the verdurous abyss; fresh mountain peaks appearing in ever-changing aspect as we gently wind along the steep gradients; sensational crossings from rock to rock, so startling as to unnerve the timid as we pass over gorges cleft in the mountain side, and look upon the green depths below, so near the edge of the vertical precipice that a fall from the carriage would land us sheer sixteen hundred feet below; the queen of palms, the lofty Talipot, which forms a lovely feature of this district, is flourishing on either side; the scattered huts and gardens, and the quaint people about them, so primitive in their habits that they vary little from the fashions of two thousand years ago,—these are some of the features of interest as we journey to Kandy, a four hours' trip from Colombo, through scenery prettier than can be found on any other railway in the world.

The line itself is a magnificent piece of engineering, and, as may be easily imagined, in many parts very costly, some portion amounting to as much as £27,000 a mile. In some parts the cost had rather to be reckoned in human lives, at the rate of one for every sleeper laid, so terrible was the death rate from the malaria of some of the tracts of land which had to be opened up.

The terms "burning," "parched," and "scorching," are applicable to the plains of India, but "boiling" might be substituted in reference to the low-country districts of Ceylon; for the atmosphere is steamy with that moist heat which constitutes the life-giving element, and is the efficient cause of the beautiful features of the landscape. But we have now ascended from these boiling plains into the freshness of mountain air. We have arrived at our hotel, have experienced the delightfully invigorating effects of a really cold bath, and strolling out, we proceed to gain our first impressions of the mountain capital.

The formation of the town may be described as a deep basin in the hills, the bottom being covered by native quarters and a picturesque lake, around which many miles of carriage drives, bridle roads and walks, at various elevations embrace the hill-sides, which are studded with pretty bungalows. A reference to the Plates will give a correct idea of the way in which the beautiful little town clusters around the lake in all the luxuriance of foliage peculiar both to mountain and plain, for here they meet and mingle.

But is this miniature town, this little "green goblet" of the hills, the full reward of our expectations? Is this the unmatched beauty of which we have heard so much? We confess to a feeling of disappointment; and had we left Kandy after merely glancing around within the basin, we should have differed greatly from those who refer to it in rapturous terms.

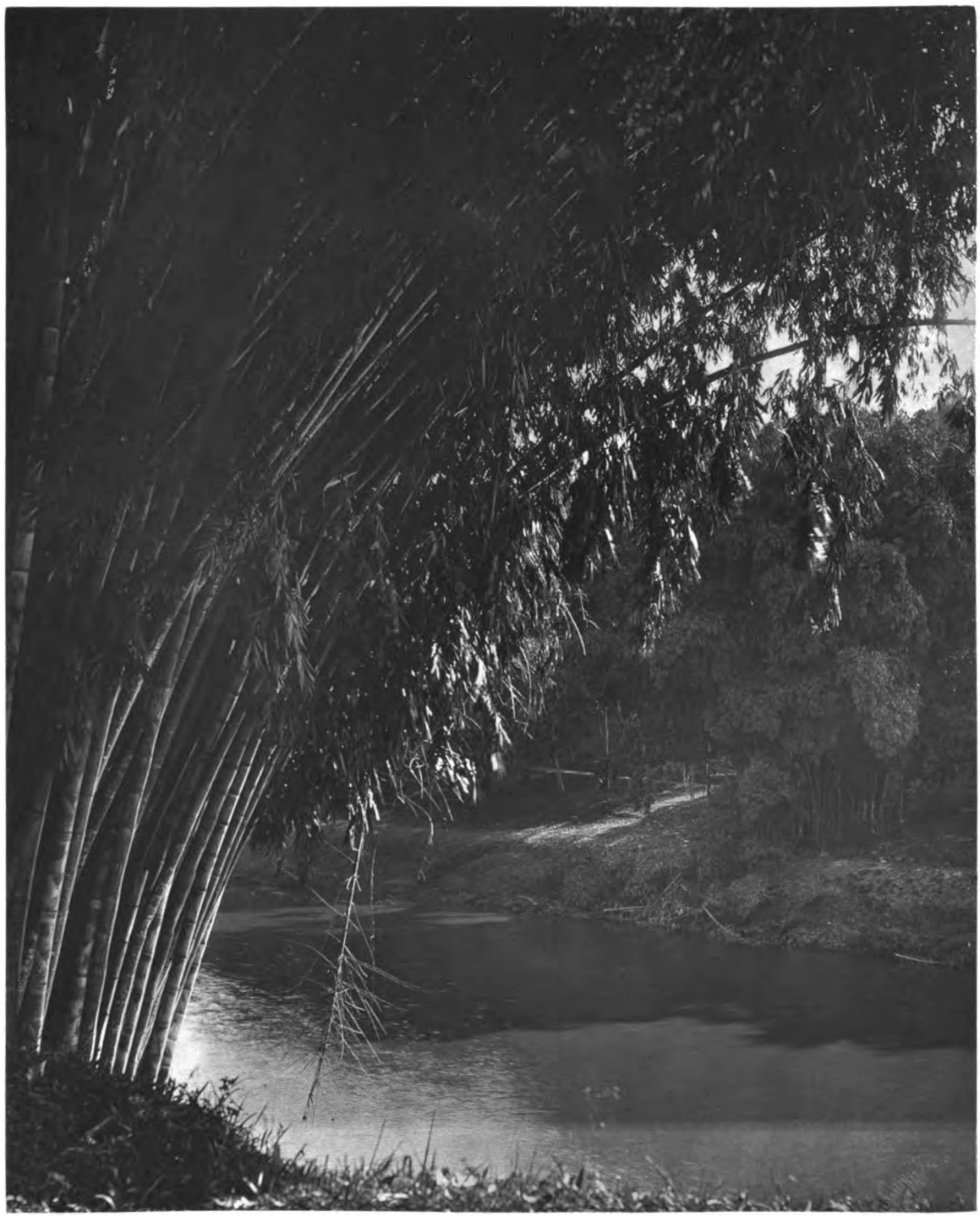
But let it be understood that in describing Kandy as incomparably beautiful we are not limiting the idea to the town

and its immediate surroundings, but rather extending it to the views from the roads which wind around the hills on all sides, and look down upon the far-reaching valleys, where the Mahawelliganga rolls over channels of huge rocks and through scenes of almost majestic beauty; to the stretches of vivid greenery from Hunasgeria peak; to the lovely Matele hills, and the whole surrounding country viewed from the steep acclivities which embrace the town itself. With the railway journey which affords such wonderful views of mountain scenery the traveller is never disappointed, but it too frequently happens that, either for want of time, or from insufficient energy, he returns with but a faint idea of the extensive beauty of the Kandyan district.

Plate II.

BAMBOOS ON THE MAHAWELLIGANGA.

"The high banks are in many parts clothed with climbing shrubs between the enormous thickets of bamboo, which wave their plumes over river and path. And these huge clumps of eighty or a hundred cylindrical stems rising to such a lofty height are really bunches of grass!"—Page 90.



CHAPTER II.

KANDY UNCONQUERED.

TRAVELLER who wishes to obtain the full amount of pleasure which new scenes can afford will generally set out equipped with such historical information as may be useful for his purpose; in like manner we shall find our interest in the Kandy of to-day greatly strengthened by some knowledge of the previous records of the Kandyans and their delightfully situated little city.

Kandy has no very ancient history. It was for the first time adopted as the capital in the year 1592 by Wimala Dharma, the one hundred and fifty-seventh monarch who had reigned in Ceylon since the year B.C. 543, the earliest period of which any events are recorded.

For more than a thousand years Anaradhapura was the capital and the residence of the kings, till in A.D. 729 this once mighty city, the magnificent ruins of which are still to be seen, was forsaken, and henceforth for some five hundred years Pollonarua became the capital. The ruined shrines and palaces of these ancient cities are to day amongst the greatest wonders of the world.

With the downfall of Pollonarua, consequent upon Malabar invasion, the prestige of the Singhalese monarchy dwindled. From the year 1235 various places were selected for the capital, until 1592, when Kandy was finally adopted and continued to be a place of royal residence until the reign of the last monarch, Sri Wikrama Raja Sinha, in 1798.

The Kandyans first came into contact with Europeans in the early part of the sixteenth century, when the Portuguese obtained possession of Colombo. From this time for three hundred years Kandy was the chosen ground where the Singhalese made their stand against the aggressions of European colonists. The Portuguese first carried on a desultory struggle with the Kandyans for one hundred and fifty years, during which time they repeatedly gained possession of, and in great part destroyed, the city, but never succeeded in holding it to their own advantage, or for any considerable length of time.

How entirely ignorant of Western civilization the Singhalese were at this time, is evident from the following quaint extract from a native chronicle referring to the arrival of a Portuguese ship at Colombo. It narrates:—"In the month of April of the year 1522, a ship from Portugal arrived at Colombo, and information was brought to the king. They are a very white and beautiful people, who wear hats and boots of iron, and never stop in one place (and having seen them eating bread and drinking wine, and not knowing what it was, they added), they eat a sort of white stone and drink blood, give a gold coin for a fish, or a lime, and have a kind of instrument that produces thunder and lightning, and a ball put into it would

fly many miles, and then break a castle of marble or iron. The king, on hearing of their arrival, being very curious to see what they were like, disguised himself and came down to the harbour from Cotta, and being pleased with their appearance, returned to his palace and gave them an audience and presents."

The Singhalese of the low country were not in a position to resist the settlement of the Portuguese, even if they desired to do so, for their resources were fully occupied in opposing immigrant races from India; but they showed no great anxiety as to who possessed their seaports, and the enterprising Portuguese therefore soon established a commercial footing in Colombo.

The native seat of government, for some time past located at Cotta, was now removed to Kandy, which was held with varying success through many desperate encounters, accompanied by the practice of every species of atrocity on both sides. The enterprise, always difficult and dangerous for the besiegers, both from the deadly malaria of the jungle and the narrow and treacherous defiles, which were the only means of approach, brings into evidence the great courage of the Portuguese race as early colonists. It is, however, regretfully manifest from the accounts of their battles that they were barbarously cruel conquerors, and matched, if they did not excel, the Kandyans in the invention of hideous methods of dealing with their captives.

I shall not follow the example of most writers on Ceylon by giving details of the horrible atrocities which accompanied

the Kandyan wars, from the attempts by the Portuguese to the final conquest by the British; some reference to them in general terms will, however, assist us to understand from what condition this fair province has, almost within the memory of man, developed into its present state of peaceful prosperity.

The character of the Kandyans had always been patriotic, an attribute wanting amongst the people of the lowlands, whose policy in dealing with the invader was too often degrading and spiritless, so that well organised resistance was out of the question, and the brave mountaineers were left to oppose the invader unaided in a struggle for their nationality which lasted for more than a century.

Their methods of warfare were at first primitive; their weapons consisting of lances, bows and arrows, and sword-blades attached to the tusks of their war elephants. They accomplished more by crafty stratagem than by open combat, but they were quick to perceive and to adopt the methods of their aggressors. At the beginning of the struggle guns and gunpowder were unknown to them; there were, however, amongst their artizans workers in metal, of greater skill than the Portuguese, and they soon produced excellent fowling pieces, which were described by their foes as "the fairest barrels for pieces that may be seen in any place, and which shine as bright as silver." Long before the war ended they were as well equipped in respect of weapons as their European invaders. The manufacture of guns, thus begun by the Kandyans under the impulse of necessity, has continued in the villages around Kandy to the present day.

PLATE III.

KANDY.

"The groups of bamboos, flamboyants with their gorgeous masses of scarlet and gold blossom, and the Plantains in the foreground are intermingled with flowering shrubs; the distance is full of points of interest, including the famous Buddhist Temple of the Tooth on the extreme left. The building, supported by white columns, in the corner of the lake, was probably the bath house of the palace of the kings; it is now used as a library, and an art-work institution."—PAGE 54.

Throughout the whole period during which the Portuguese were in possession of the coast, the Kandyans by their patriotism, their courage, and the great advantage of their position in mountains, the passes of which were naturally fortified on all sides, were a constant terror to them, harassing their operations by directing forays into the plains, and thus taxing to the utmost their protective resources. The expenditure necessary to gather the products of the country and to carry on trade under such circumstances was altogether disproportionate to the benefits derived.

At length the Dutch appeared upon the scene, and entered into a contest with Portugal for the possession of Ceylon. They had been stimulated to make an expedition into Eastern waters by the short-sighted policy of Philip II., who, when he had acquired the kingdom of Portugal, aimed at destroying the commerce of the Dutch by prohibiting trade with them. The Dutch had been large buyers of the productions of India, which were brought to Europe by the Portuguese, and they had developed a considerable trade in Indian goods with the countries of the North. This they were not willing to relinquish, and in order to retain it they at once turned their thoughts to a direct trade with India. Thus the impolitic action of Philip not only injured the trading interests of his own possessions in Europe, but led directly to the subversion of the Portuguese monopoly in Ceylon and the ultimate expulsion of Portuguese colonists from the country.

The first proceeding of the Dutch was directed to the formation of an alliance with the king of Kandy against his

Portuguese enemies. With this policy in view, a Dutch Admiral landed on the eastern coast at Batticaloa in May, 1602, and persuaded the chief of that district to assist him in his embassy. The result was completely successful; the king received him in Kandy with great welcome, and after entertaining him with magnificence and awarding him great concessions, dismissed him laden with presents. Although the Dutch did not immediately land forces, and the struggle of twenty years which ended in their complete supremacy did not begin till the year 1638, the original alliance was retained, and the Kandyan kings supported the Dutch in their enterprise with a view to rid themselves of the hated Portuguese.

The Portuguese power in Ceylon finally fell to the Dutch in 1658, after one hundred and fifty years of the most deplorable mismanagement. The policy of the Dutch was much more favourable to trade than that of the Portuguese. Their one aim was to preserve peace, that they might trade without hindrance; but to this end they sacrificed honour in a most humiliating manner. They allowed Rajah Singha II., the king of Kandy, to treat them with the utmost contempt and arrogance, to violate treaties, and to disregard their wishes, and to his studied contumely they replied only in terms of adulation. The same insincerity attaches to all their actions in Ceylon, the real motive lurking beneath all their pretended benefits being purely commercial. Cruel as were the Portuguese, they had some sense of chivalry, and did not humble themselves and endure insults for the sake of commerce; but one cannot think of the policy of the Dutch without a strong sense of its unworthiness, almost amounting to contempt. As

merchants, as missionaries, and as soldiers they failed to accomplish any permanent good.

Although the English have not always been free from the fault of disregarding national honour for the sake of commercial advantage, no policy of subserviency ever adopted by them could equal the base and obsequious conduct of the Dutch in their relations with the Kandyan king, Singha. Robert Knox, an Englishman, who was kidnapped by the king and kept prisoner in Kandy for twenty years, referring to this, says: "Knowing his proud spirit, they pushed their ends by representing themselves to be his majesty's humble servants and subjects, and that it was out of loyalty to him that they build forts and keep watches round the country, to prevent foreign nations and enemies coming; and that as they were thus employed in his majesty's service, so it is for sustenance which they want that occasioned their coming into his majesty's country. And thus they flatter him, ascribing to him high and honourable titles, which he greatly delights in."

Referring to the personal characteristics of Rajah Singha, Knox says: "He is not tall, but very well set; colour somewhat of the blackest; great rolling eyes, turning them and looking every way, always moving them; a brisk, bold look; very corpulent and lively; somewhat bald; a large, comely beard and great whiskers; bears his years well, being nearly eighty; is very abstemious and plain in his living, consisting chiefly of fruit, rice, and vegetables; eats off a green plantain leaf in a golden basin; although an old man, yet he appears not to be like one, neither in action nor

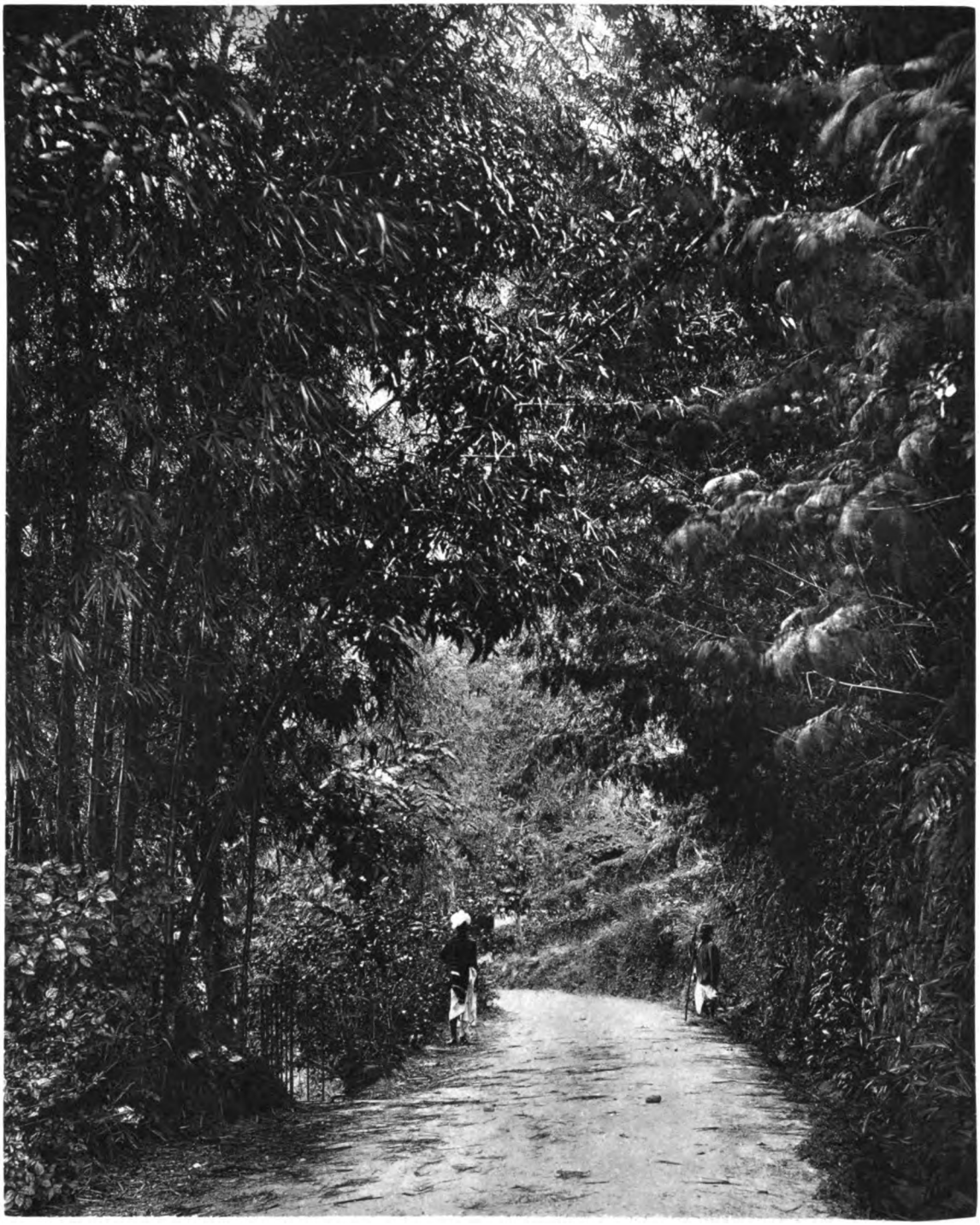
countenance; his apparel is very strange and wonderful, not after his own country or any other, being his own invention; on his head he wears a cap three tiers high, and a feather standing upright before; his doublet of so strange a shape I cannot describe it, the body one colour and sleeves another; he wears long breeches to the ankles, with shoes and stockings; his sword hangs in a belt with a scabbard made of beaten gold, and carries a gold-headed cane. He lives in a palace full of windings like Woodstock bower, and keeps a number of elephants close by to trample down a crowd, and seems to be naturally disposed to cruelty, for he sheds a great deal of blood, and gives no reason for it, in tortures and painful deaths upon whole families—hanging their hands about their necks, pulling away their flesh with pincers, and burning them with hot irons to extort confessions. He makes them eat their own flesh, and mothers their children."

The Dutch undoubtedly had the means of defeating this despicable tyrant, but their meanness and rapacity were so extreme that they preferred to put up with the insults and treachery of the most cruel and barbarous wretch who ever assumed the title of king rather than bear the expense which the more honourable course would have incurred. It was left therefore for the English to conquer the Kandyan kingdom and develop its resources.

PLATE IV.

UPPER LAKE ROAD, KANDY.

"*The avenues of bamboos, with their feathery fronds, form a relief to the gigantic leaves of Plantains and Talipot trees, which abound on the slopes.*"—PAGE 53.



TEMPLE LAKE ROAD, KANDY.

CHAPTER III.

CONQUEST BY THE BRITISH.

THE British Government having decided to take Ceylon from the Dutch in the year 1795, ordered an expedition for that purpose to proceed from Madras. The military establishments of the Dutch were in a most deplorable state of inefficiency, and utterly unable to offer any serious resistance. Trincomalie, Jaffna, and Calpentyn were taken with little trouble, and the capitulation of Colombo soon followed. Indeed, the Dutch governor had no alternative but to surrender, for he was well aware that the British could land a dozen regiments on the island, while his military resources were in a most degraded and mutinous condition. The Dutch were finally ousted by the British in 1796, and then began the real development of the resources of the country.

We have seen that, although the coast towns of Ceylon had for three centuries been subject to European government, Kandy was still unconquered at the beginning of the present century. It will be interesting to notice what was its political condition when the English first appeared upon the scene. The wonderful ruined cities of Anaradhapura and Pollonarua

bear unquestionable testimony to an element of greatness, in relation to the period, and prove the existence of a civilization sufficiently advanced to produce and appreciate works of great merit in sculpture and buildings of the highest architectural skill; but all this had vanished, and the prestige of the ancient monarchy had fallen to a miserable remnant of kingship, perhaps the most pitiable and degraded that ever disgraced even an Oriental state. The despotism was absolute, and therefore no fixed and established laws were in operation. The king himself was a despot of the most diabolical type. To resist his will was to court immediate destruction. In order to impress his subjects with a due sense of his lofty position and power, he exacted most extravagant forms of reverence, even from the highest officers of the state. His appearance in public was always signalised by barbarous demonstrations, the chief features of which were the great clashing of noisy instruments, and mad gestures of hundreds of attendants, whose duty it was to make known the presence of the king. Loud noise, strange gestures, and hideous disfigurement still form the principal ideas of grandeur amongst the native Kandyans, as evidenced in their great Perahara processions, which will be described in a later chapter.

The highest officer of the state was the Adigar, who alone possessed the royal ear. His power in administering justice, or injustice, was practically unlimited. He could issue what mandates he pleased, and prevent any complaints from reaching the throne. He thus had every opportunity for intrigue, which he generally practised, causing much fear and jealousy to the despotic monarch, and often much misery to the people.

PLATE V.

KITOOL PALM.

"*This palm is found near every Kandyan's hut, and is cultivated for the sake of its sap, or toddy, which its flower buds yield in surprising quantity, a single tree sometimes giving one hundred pints in a day. The toddy is carefully crystallised, by the natives, into a coarse brown sugar, and used in making sweetmeats; the fibres of the leaf stalks are made both into fine lines for fishing, and into ropes of great strength for tying wild elephants.*"—PAGE 56.

KYOOL PAW, KANDY.

The inferior officers of the state were mere tools of oppression, squeezing every atom of wealth out of the lower orders of the people. The system recognised was that of extortion. The lowest ranks were those who most felt the burden of supplying the royal treasury, for they had no class from which they could in turn extort; but the king could enforce contributions from the Adigar, and he in turn from the inferior officers.

Anything like properly-conducted courts of law was unknown. Such trials as were held before the officers of the state were summary, and barbarous punishments the immediate result. Imprisonment was never inflicted, but heavy fines and torture for minor offences; and in case of capital sentences, some barbarous cruelty in addition was always introduced.

At what a price, then, did the Kandyans preserve their independence! Shut up from all intercourse with other countries, and suffering the worst forms of slavery and oppression, they yet lived in constant dread of being conquered by the nation which ultimately brought them the happiness of good government and the means of prosperity. After three centuries of guerilla warfare with the Portuguese and the Dutch, and their bitter experiences of the policy of brigandage rather than justice which these nations pursued, it was not likely that they would welcome any further European invader.

The English did not, after the capitulation of Colombo, immediately make an attempt to gain possession of the Kandyan kingdom, but entered into an alliance with the king, which proved unfortunate, owing to the following circum-

stances:—Ceylon was taken by the forces of the East India Company, and was therefore not under the direct government of the Crown. A Madras civilian was sent to govern as the representative of the Company, but he succeeded only in driving the natives to revolt by hasty measures of reform and oppressive fiscal arrangements. The revolt was easily suppressed by forces from Madras, but the circumstances which led to it were investigated by the British Government, with the important result that the island was brought under the direct government of the Crown.

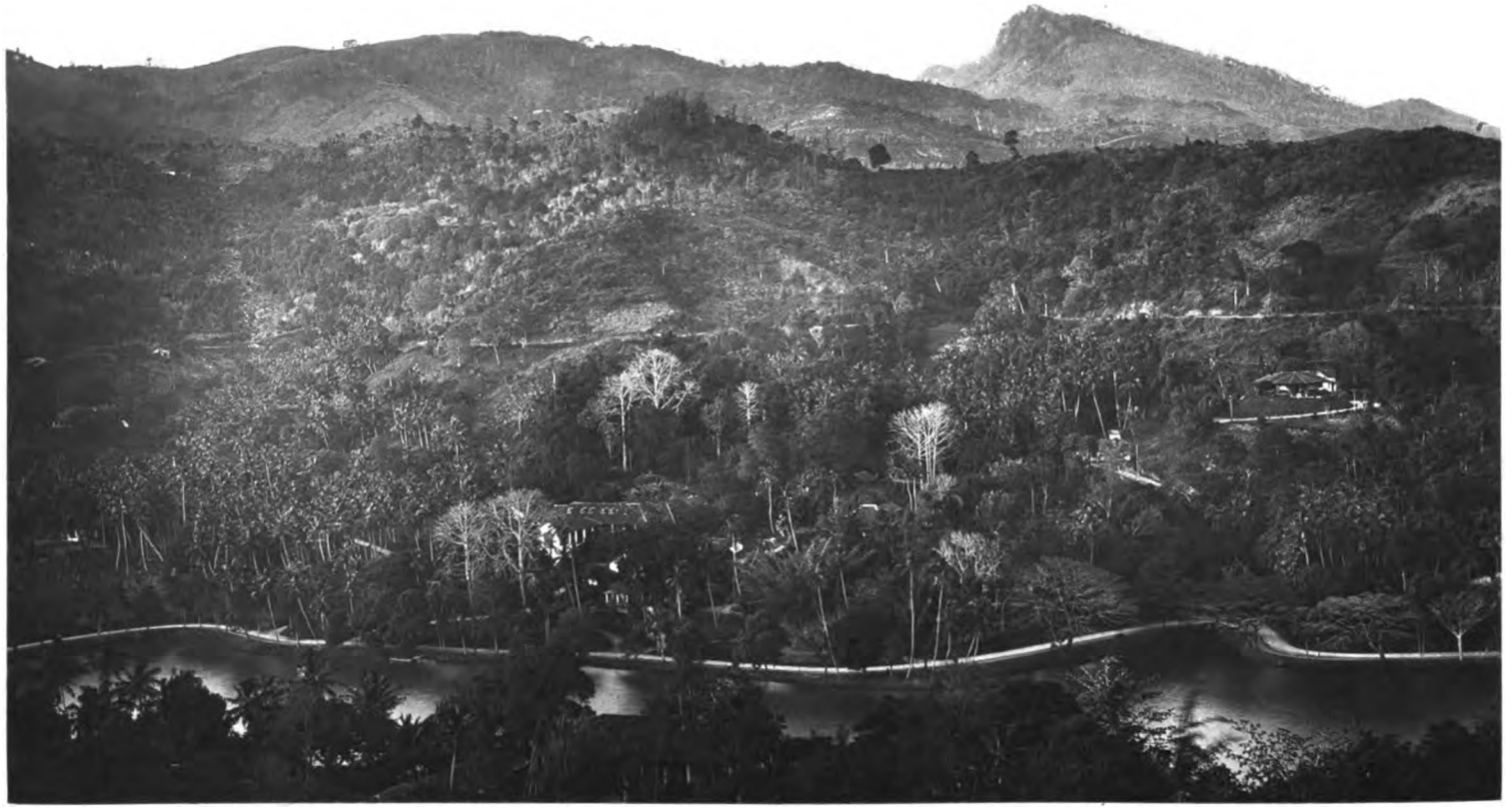
Mr. North (afterwards Earl of Guilford) was appointed governor, and at once entered upon a more suitable policy for improving the condition of the country. He recognised the fact that the Dutch system of government was hostile to industrial development, and that a policy of gradual change was the only one suited to native ideas. He therefore re-introduced the Dutch laws and methods to which the natives had grown accustomed, and gently carried out reforms in the administration, thus avoiding all such difficulties as had followed on the precipitate action of the Indian officials. He was, however, unfortunate in his diplomatic attempts to bring Kandy into the British power. The pretty mountain stronghold was destined to give trouble to its new assailants, and to be the scene of still further bloodshed, treachery and barbarity, far too awful for description.

Events were now passing in Kandy which led Mr. North to consider the possibility of gaining control of that kingdom by diplomatic means. The Adigar, an adept at intrigue, had

Plate VI.

THE LAKE ROADS OF KANDY.

"Magnificent views may be obtained by ascending the hill to the left, which is commonly known as 'Mutton Button,' a corruption of its correct name, Mattanapatana. It is about three thousand two hundred feet high, and the ascent takes from three to four hours. The rugged cliff to the right is Hantanne, a more formidable expedition, but one which well repays the energetic pedestrian. Its height is four thousand one hundred and nineteen feet."—Page 56.



THE MAIN ROAD OF KANDY.

managed to depose the old king and to place upon the throne a youth, Sri Wickrama, nephew of the king's wife. He next conceived an ambition to dethrone his *protégé* and restore the native dynasty in his own person, excusing himself on the ground that the recent kings were Malabars, whereas he himself boasted descent from the ancient line of pure Singhalese monarchs.

These designs he disclosed to the British Governor, who at once saw in them an opportunity of establishing a military protectorate at Kandy. The Adigar's original intention was to encourage the young king to commit such acts of atrocity as should make him hateful to his own subjects, and at the same time provoke war with the English. This plan, he thought, would overthrow the king, and that he himself would be raised to the supreme power. Mr. North, however, tempted him with the following proposition:—The king was to retain his nominal rank, but be virtually reduced to a nonentity; if possible, the king was to be induced to retire to a distant province; and these arrangements were to be supported by the presence of a British force in Kandy.

How to introduce a sufficient number of troops into Kandy without exciting a war was an ostensible difficulty of the arrangement, and one which in its issue proved insurmountable. The natural strongholds of the indomitable mountain region were being jealously guarded at every defile on the densely-wooded borders. Each inhabitant was subject to sentinel duty, and thousands were kept at posts overlooking the plains around, many even having to keep their watches on the tops

of trees commanding extensive views of the whole country around, so that no person could get either in or out of the kingdom without consent. So jealous were the apprehensions of the tyrant king, that even within the country there was a strict system of passports from one district to another. Under such conditions the project of Mr. North was not an easy one. It was decided to introduce the troops by means of a pretended embassy to the king, the Adigar undertaking to get his consent to a large escort, and in the guise of this escort it was intended to march into Kandy with a force of two thousand five hundred men.

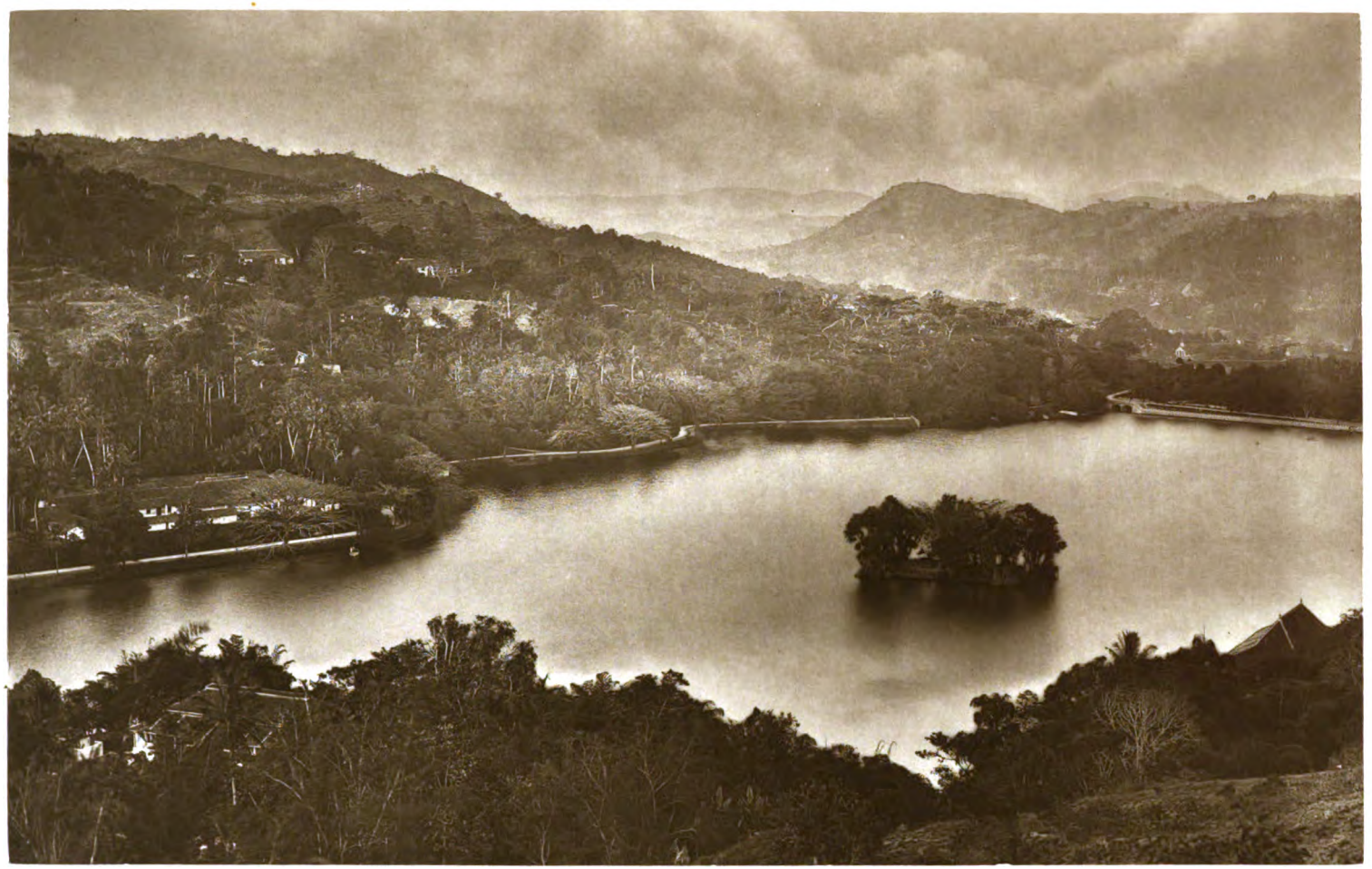
Accordingly, in March, 1800, General MacDowall marched with this formidable escort to the borders of the Kandyan kingdom, where they were stopped by orders from the king, who had become alarmed at their numbers. The British troops were not allowed to proceed further, but the General was bidden to proceed with some native troops through passes so impracticable that guns and baggage had to be left behind, and he therefore arrived with a very small portion of his intended strength. Here the most humiliating court ceremonies were imposed, and so much was done by the king to cause the greatest possible delay, that at length the embassy returned to Colombo completely unsuccessful. Thus the elaborate scheme of Mr. North for obtaining a bloodless footing in the Kandyan kingdom was speedily doomed to utter failure.

No one who reflects upon this miserable story can help feeling some sense of shame that British rule, which was capable of bringing the island to such a prosperous and

PLATE VII.

KANDY LAKE.

"*Kandy is indebted to the last of the tyrant kings for this lake, which was constructed by slave-labour, and intended for his own private use.*"—
PAGE 60.



KANDY LAKE.

peaceful condition, should have begun with a scheme so unbecoming and treacherous as the plot entered upon by the British Governor with the barbarian minister against his king. That Mr. North was doubtful of his own conduct is shown by his letters to the Duke of Wellington (then Marquis of Wellesley), in one of which he says: "The decision is made, and General MacDowall set out with his escort on Wednesday last. The Adigar (*Rogorum longe turpissimus!*) is to meet him at Sitavacca. Only fancy if one of *our* ministers were to behave so about King George, and oblige the Abbé Siéyes to stipulate for his life! I hope that I have not done wrong, but I am not yet certain whether I have acted like a good politician or like a great nincompoop."

Although Mr. North has been severely criticised, there is much to be said in defence of his attempt to obtain possession of Kandy by such means as he tried. The internal condition of the kingdom itself showed that the success of the enterprise could entail no great injustice upon the king or the people, and events that followed sadly proved that it would have averted great misfortunes, much bloodshed, and many fearful atrocities, besides bringing relief to the oppressed inhabitants fifteen years earlier.

The Adigar, foiled in his designs to gain power by means of intrigues in conjunction with the British, now changed his tactics with a view to provoke a war with Kandy, during which events might enable him to realise the objects of his lofty ambition. In the course of two years, after many fruitless attempts, he managed to bring about a *casus belli* which

the Governor could not despise. A British force of three thousand men, under General MacDowall, marched to Kandy and invested it. The king fled, and the treacherous Adigar at once offered his support to Mr. North in placing on the throne a member of the royal family who should act in accordance with their wishes. Muttu Saamy, who had been a fugitive under British protection in Colombo, was chosen for this purpose and placed upon the throne. He was first required to agree to a permanent British garrison in Kandy, and thus Mr. North's original plan was to be carried out.

But the wily Adigar approached the General with proposals which resulted in a convention upon the following terms:— The fugitive king was to be delivered up to the English, Muttu Saamy was to be sent to Jaffna, and the Adigar was to assume the supreme power in Kandy. Two unfortunate circumstances in carrying out these arrangements gave opportunity to the treacherous Adigar to act the traitor and bring about a fearful disaster to the British troops. In the first place the number left for a permanent garrison was too small, and in the second, their commander was an officer of insufficient capacity for the position assigned to him.

General MacDowall marched back to Colombo, leaving behind him only three hundred English and seven hundred Malays, under Major Davie, for the defence of British interests.

The Adigar, now seeing but one step between himself and the throne, hesitated not a moment to betray the English who had so incautiously trusted him, and formed the bold design of seizing the person of the Governor, of exterminating

PLATE VIII.

THE ROYAL ZENANA.

"The island is said to have been constructed for the enjoyment of the ladies of the royal household. The building placed upon it is now a picturesque ruin surrounded by masses of flowering shrubs."—PAGE 60.

THE ROYAL KHEDIVIA.

the British garrison in Kandy, and destroying the rival kings. By accident the Governor, who was on the borders of the Kandyan kingdom, escaped, but the rest of his scheme was ruthlessly carried out. Sir Emerson Tennant thus relates the occurrence:—

"On the morning of the 24th June, Kandy was surrounded by thousands of armed natives, who assailed the British garrison from the hills which overhang the ancient palace. Numbers were killed, and the residue, exhausted and helpless, were compelled to capitulate. The Adigar guaranteed their safety and that of the royal *protégé*, Muttu Saamy, with whom they were permitted to march about three miles, to the banks of the Mahawelli-ganga, on their way to Trincomalie. But they were detained for two days, unable to pass the river, which was swollen by the recent rains; and here they were forced to surrender the person of the prince, who was instantly slain. Major Davie was led back to Kandy, his soldiers were persuaded to give up their arms, the Malays were made prisoners, and the British officers and men, led two by two into a hollow out of sight of their comrades, were felled by blows from behind, and despatched by the knives of the Kandyans. One soldier alone escaped from the carnage to tell the fate of his companions. An officer who commanded at Fort MacDowall, about eighteen miles eastward of Kandy, spiked his gun, abandoned his sick, and with difficulty succeeded in bringing off his men to Trincomalie; another held his position at Dambadenia till brought off by a relief from Colombo; but within the briefest possible space not one British soldier was left within the dominions of Kandy.

"Years were allowed to elapse before any adequate retribution was inflicted on the authors of this massacre. Cordiner, who was at Colombo when the intelligence arrived, describes the effect as 'universal consternation; it was like a burst of thunder portended by a dark and gloomy sky, and followed by an awful and overpowering calm.' The first impulse of the English was for general and indiscriminate vengeance on the Kandyan people; but death and disease had so reduced the British force that even this was impracticable for want of troops, and the few that remained serviceable had soon ample occupation in defending their own territory from the dangers with which it was threatened from Kandy."

But there was another cause of delay in avenging the treacherous cruelty of the Kandyans. War with France was occupying all available English troops, and in consequence of this Mr. North's application for reinforcements could not be complied with. The Kandyans followed up the massacre by still further atrocities, and continual attacks on the British subjects of the lowlands, and so harassing were these onslaughts that it was considered necessary to make a further attempt to take Kandy, in spite of the greatly diminished strength of the troops. A plan was formed to advance troops from six different stations on the coast, so that they might concentrate simultaneously at the mountain capital. The commanders were selected, and marching orders given, but at the last moment they were countermanded. By some extraordinary blunder, Captain Johnston, who had been ordered to march from Batticaloa, did not receive his countermanding order, and in consequence he advanced with three hundred men. The march

and retreat of this little army were heroic, and gave a new character to the British soldier in the minds of the Kandyans. Had Major Davie possessed half the judgment and energy of the brave Captain Johnston, the awful massacre of the previous year would not have occurred. It is only fair, however, to state that Major Davie never had an opportunity of explaining his conduct.

Some account of Captain Johnston's brilliant achievement will assist the reader to realise the character of the Kandyan district, as approached from the east, and will also serve our purpose of arriving at an appreciative interest in the present day features of Kandy by the aid of an acquaintance with the most interesting events of the past. The narrative, as told by Captain Johnston himself, is one of the most thrilling accounts of military expeditions on record. He narrates:—

Our detachment consisted of the following numbers:—

——	EUROPEANS.						NATIVES.					GRAND TOTAL.
	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Privates.	Subidar, or Capt.	Jemidar, or Lieut.	Havildar, or Sergeant.	Drummers.	Privates.	
Royal Artillery	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	7
His Majesty's 19th Regiment	—	2	—	3	1	64	—	—	—	—	—	70
,, Malay ditto	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	46	53
1st Batt. Bengal Volunteers	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	2	75	88
2nd ,, ,, ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	76	87
(Pioneers and Coolies, 550).	—	6	—	4	1	70	2	3	18	4	197	305

N.B.—One one-pounder and one 4⅕ coehorn.

Sept. 22.—Marched at daylight to the westward, keeping in a southerly direction as much as the nature of the country would admit, in order to approximate the route of Colonel Maddison's detachment.

Sept. 23, 24, 25, 26.—Followed the same course, expecting, as we drew nearer to the place of rendezvous, to hear of the Hambingtotte division.

Sept. 27.—Reached Sambapelly after a very fatiguing march of above seventy miles (from Surcamony), over a country wild and mountainous in the highest degree. During the last sixty miles we had not seen a house or a human being, nor was there anything except the paths through the forests and round the bases of the mountains, to induce a belief that this quarter had ever been peopled. We crossed one broad river, and several smaller streams, none of which fortunately impeded our march. The weather during the day was close and sultry, the circulation of the air being impeded by the forests; the nights, on the contrary, were foggy and cold. These changes of climate began to take effect on the troops, and I found it necessary to send back from hence two Malays and twenty-two Bengal Sepoys, who were indisposed. Sambapelly is a small village, near which stands the residence of a Kandyan chief. The country in the vicinity assumes a more favourable appearance. Some villages are discernible, and the valleys are in many parts cultivated.

Sept. 28.—Marched at daylight, the country continuing mountainous, but the slopes of the hills in many places cleared, and the valleys in general cultivated. Passed through some villages, which were entirely deserted. Numerous parties of the enemy were seen at a distance, along the sides of the mountains, watching our movements, by which they seemed to be directed. About three o'clock, as the advanced guard was descending into a deep valley, close to the village of Kieratavally, they were fired upon by a party of the enemy, posted on the opposite hills, who fled as soon as they had discharged their pieces. Luckily one man, who was wounded, fell into our hands. Although we had now marched one hundred and twenty-four miles from Batticolo, this was the first native to whom we had been enabled to speak. It was here that I expected to meet the Hambingtotte division, but our prisoner had heard nothing of it, nor of any detachment than that under my command; a circumstance which, cut off as

I was from communication by the surrounding enemy, created considerable anxiety. As it was impossible to remain stationary with a corps in a country where there was no possibility of procuring provisions of any kind, every article of that description having been removed to the mountains, and as I conceived there could be no doubt of the Hambingtotte division bringing up the rear, I lost no time in advancing, and the more so as I expected I must soon meet some of the other columns, which I imagined must shortly be concentrating themselves towards the capital. During the night we heard the shouts of the enemy, and saw their numerous fires in various directions along the sides of the mountains.

Kieratavally is a neat Kandyan village, situated in a well-cultivated part of the country. Before leaving it I set fire to a large house belonging to the Dessauve, that the Hambingtotte division on arriving there might see that we had already passed.

Sept. 29.—Continued our route at daylight in the direction of Kandy, anxiously looking out for other detachments of our troops. After marching sixteen miles over a country similar to what we had lately traversed, reached Pangaram, a large village, inhabited chiefly by Lubbies (a trading caste), and situated on the banks of the great river which passes Kandy, and which is here about one hundred and fifty yards broad. The village was, as usual, entirely deserted. The river being much swollen, we immediately began to prepare rafts. During the day the enemy hung on our flanks in considerable numbers, but did not oppose our progress otherwise than by exchanging a few shots with our advanced and rear guards. Towards night, however, they lined the opposite bank of the river, and seemed resolved to dispute the passage.

Sept. 30.—The river having fallen considerably during the night, the enemy fled from the opposite bank after a few discharges of round shot. A few volunteers made good their passage, and the river continuing to fall, the rest of our men were enabled to ford it. The stores were carried over on rafts. While this was going on, I detached Lieutenant Virgo, with a party of about sixty men, to destroy a palace of the king of Kandy, situated seven miles down the river, in which I understood was a depôt of arms and military stores. They completely effected their object.

Oct. 1.—Continued our march towards Kandy, and encamped in the evening in a small plain called Catavilly, distant fifteen miles from Pangaram. The country showed less appearance of cultivation. The enemy continued to hang on our flanks, firing now and then a few shots, but making no serious resistance.

Oct. 2.—After marching eight miles, reached the fort of Padrapelly, where we crossed for the second time the Kandyan river, the course of which is very circuitous. Our passage was attended with great difficulty, owing to the rapidity of the stream and the rockiness of the bottom. During the last two days our path was extremely rugged, lying along the banks of the river, where the hills ended in high and shelving rocks, the soil being washed away by torrents. Encamped on the opposite bank, in a small opening, where we could procure no forage for our bullocks.

Oct. 3.—Marched at daylight. During this morning the enemy seemed disposed to close with us; they killed a soldier of the 19th, and wounded some followers. After marching about eight miles, we began ascending the pass of Ourané, which we found steep, rocky, and intersected by deep ravines. About half way up we halted in the plain of Ourané, where we found plenty of excellent water, a most welcome refreshment to our men, who were exhausted by climbing up the mountains under the rays of a vertical sun, reflected from rocks, which, as the day advanced, became more and more heated. Meantime the enemy assembled in considerable numbers higher up the mountain, but were dislodged by Lieutenant Virgo, whom I had sent forward to secure the pass. Late in the evening we reached the summit, after a painful march of fourteen miles, and halted in a small village, called Comanatavillé.

Oct. 4.—The road on this day's march was worse than any we had yet passed; it lay along the brow of a mountain, in several places nearly perpendicular, where a false step would have caused a fall of several hundred feet. Being very narrow, many of the bullocks tumbled headlong down, and the path would have been altogether impracticable for these animals had they not been habituated to carry merchandise along the hills. Here and there, where the earth had been washed away, or a rock fallen down, the natives had driven stakes horizontally into the sides of the mountain, forming a kind of bridge, over which

travellers could pass. Had these given way under any of the men, they must have been dashed to pieces; or, had they been previously removed, the hill would have been rendered impassable. This is one of the paths through which the king of Kandy retreats to Ouva, when he is obliged to fly from his capital.

That the enemy should have forborne to check our advance by destroying the paths, can be accounted for only by supposing that they thought it unlikely so small a force could push forward to the capital, and were in hourly expectation of our retreat by the same road, which I afterwards understood they had rendered impassable; or unless, as is more likely, they wished, in compliance with their favourite system, to draw us into the heart of the country and attack us when enfeebled by sickness and skirmishes.

We encamped, late in the evening, in a paddy (rice) field on the bank of the river, under a steep hill, which was occupied by the 3rd company of Bengal Sepoys, under Lieutenant Povelary.

Oct. 5.—At daylight the enemy covered the opposite bank, and opened a fire of musketry and gengals (Kandyan field-pieces) on our camp; but as it was situated in a hollow, most of the shot passed over our heads; two Sepoys, however, were killed, and several Sepoys and Coolies wounded, and the tents much injured. The enemy attacked the hill above the camp, but were repulsed by Lieutenant Povelary with considerable loss. Our position was, notwithstanding, much exposed, both when in camp and when prosecuting our march. On the right ran the river, nowhere fordable, and lined on its opposite bank by the enemy; on the left was a steep mountain, confining our march to the vicinity of the river. Our flankers on the left, it is true, occupied the summit of the mountain, and could, by a lateral movement, prevent our being galled from that side. We began our march at nine a.m., our flankers on the right firing across the river on the enemy; but, as they were chiefly concealed behind rocks and trees, with little effect. The most distressing circumstance however was, that many of the bullocks, unaccustomed to the appearance of Europeans and to heavy firing, became wild and unmanageable, broke from their drivers, cast off their loads, and, rushing among the Coolies, created much confusion and delay.

Having advanced about three miles in this state, we approached a large house standing nearly across the road, and about a hundred

yards distant from the river. This house was filled with the enemy, who fired on the head of our column from holes pierced in the walls. Exactly opposite, on the other side of the river, I perceived a battery with one heavy gun (which I afterwards found to be a Dutch iron eight-pounder), and several gengals ready to open on us whenever we came within range. This made it necessary for me to pause; our loss had already been considerable; our troops, as well as Coolies, were falling fast. To attempt to pass the battery with so lengthened a column as ours, disordered as it was by the confusion that had been occasioned by the bullocks, would have been highly imprudent, especially as our only field-piece upset at this time, by which the axle-tree of the carriage was broken; I therefore determined to storm the house, and, when in possession of it, to construct rafts for the purpose of passing the river and carrying the battery. Our vanguard accordingly drove the enemy from the house, which we entered, and finding plenty of room for our whole corps, were enabled to dress the wounded and replace the axletree of our gun-carriage. We passed the remainder of the day in constructing a large raft of such materials as could be procured. Before Lieutenant Povelary, who flanked our left, could get possession of a high hill immediately above the house, the enemy were enabled to fire a volley through the roof, by which a bombadier of the Royal Artillery (Malcolm Campbell) was unfortunately killed. Though only a non-commissioned officer, his loss was severely felt by our small party, having rendered himself particularly useful by his exertions in getting the stores up the mountains during the march. The enemy's fire was now wholly directed against the house. They had luckily but little round shot for the large gun, and the grape and fire of the gengals did no material injury.

The night presented a scene different from what we had yet witnessed. On the opposite bank and the adjoining hills were thousands of the enemy, every fourth or fifth man carrying a choulou or torch. At intervals, a shout of exultation was set up from the battery in our front, which was repeated by those around, and re-echoed by others on the neighbouring hills. The object of this was to terrify our native troops, and induce them to desert.

During the night, the enemy contrived to turn aside a stream, which passed close to the house, and had supplied us with water the day before; after which we could not procure any, even for the sick

and wounded. I here endeavoured, but with little effect, to use the coehorn.

Owing to the wretched state of the fuses nineteen shells out of twenty-three thrown into the enemy's work fell dead, although these shells had been sent us for service from Trincomalie a few days only before we set out.

Oct. 6.—Our spirits were greatly raised this morning by a report from that active and zealous officer, Lieutenant Povelary, who occupied the hill above the house, stating that he heard distinctly a heavy firing in the neighbourhood of Kandy. This I concluded must be some of our detachments crossing the river at Wattapallogo or Kattagastoly. About seven a.m., after much labour and loss, we carried our raft to the river, which sunk as soon as a couple of soldiers got upon it, being composed of iron-wood, the only material within our reach. We were thus under great embarrassment, when a sentry on the top of the hill called out that he saw a boat crossing the river about three quarters of a mile above the house. I instantly directed Lieutenant Vincent with the soldiers of the 19th to seize it at all risks. On reaching the spot where the boat had been seen, he found it had been conveyed to the opposite side. This obstacle was no sooner known than two gallant fellows, whose names it would be unfair to omit (Simon Gleason and Daniel Quin) volunteered to swim over and bring it back; which they boldly accomplished under protection of the fire of the party. Lieutenant Vincent instantly leaped into the boat with as many men as it would carry (between fifteen and twenty), and having crossed the river, marched quickly down its bank to take the enemy in flank. Panic-struck, the Kandyans deserted the battery, and fled in confusion at his approach. Such was the promptitude and decision with which this service was executed, that the whole was accomplished with only the loss of two men wounded. The Kandyans, formidable in their fastnesses, are so feeble in close combat that in a quarter of an hour nearly the whole of that mass which had a short time before covered the opposite banks and threatened our annihilation had disappeared in the woods.

I lost no time in prosecuting our march; about two hundred yards in rear of the battery stands the palace of Condasaly, the king's favourite residence, a beautiful building, richly ornamented with the

presents received by the kings of Kandy from the Portuguese, Dutch, and English. This palace had been carefully preserved by General MacDowal in 1803. And the king had availed himself of this respect shown to it at that time to make it a principal depôt of arms and ammunition; which, as I was unable to remove, and it being my object to destroy, wherever found, I was under the necessity of setting the building on fire. We afterwards continued our march to the capital, expecting, from the firing heard in the morning, a speedy meeting with our countrymen forming the co-operating columns. Indeed, so confident was I of joining some of them, that I had the reports of my detachment made out ready to present to the officer commanding in the town.

Candasaly is only five miles from Kandy, and the road good. When half way from hence to this capital, we passed a heavy Dutch gun which the enemy were bringing up to the battery on the river.

Our advanced guard had scarcely got within range of a temple which is situated on a hill above the town of Kandy, when they sustained a volley of musketry; a few minutes afterwards I could plainly perceive the enemy flying through the streets in great confusion. It was now evident that none of the other divisions had arrived. After detaching Lieutenant Rogers with a party of Sepoys to occupy the heights commanding the town, our troops once more took possession of the capital, which they found, as usual, entirely deserted by its inhabitants. The palace being in the most favourable situation for resisting any immediate attack, I took possession of it, and looked with great anxiety for the arrival of the other detachments.

Oct. 7.—This day passed without any intelligence of our friends. Towards evening, a Malay officer and some soldiers formerly in our service, but forced into that of the Kandyans after Major Davie's surrender, arrived amongst us, and informed me that a fortnight before a rumour had prevailed of six English divisions having entered the Kandyan territory; that many of his countrymen had accompanied the Kandyans to oppose these divisions, but had returned without having seen an enemy. It was generally believed that these divisions had been driven back.

He added that the Kandyans were in great force in the neighbourhood, and delayed their attack only until the climate should begin to

take effect upon us; and that the firing which Lieutenant Povelary had taken for that of our columns on the morning of the 6th was a rejoicing at our embarrassed situation, which seemed to them to admit neither of advance nor retreat, but to lead inevitably to surrender and consequent massacre.

I was greatly at a loss what to make of this statement. The officer's character I knew to be respectable; and their report of the number of divisions corresponded exactly with the fact.

Oct. 8.—Early this morning detached Lieutenant Povelary with a party to the top of the hills, to ascertain whether a camp, or any part of our troops, could be discerned. He brought no tidings of them.

In the forenoon, some gun Lascars, who had been taken prisoners with Major Davie, effected their escape to us, and related that they had just returned from the frontiers, whither they had marched with a body of Kandyans for the purpose of opposing the English troops that were advancing into the country; that they had actually seen one detachment with whom their party had exchanged a few shots, by which a Kandyan chief was wounded; that soon after this detachment marched back to the English territory, whereupon the whole corps in which they served was recalled to the capital; that a rumour prevailed amongst the Kandyans that all the English troops except my detachment were repulsed; that the king had proclaimed to his people that he had driven five English armies back to the sea, and that it only remained for them to chastise a few banditti who had stolen up from Battacolo.

My anxiety for the safety of my detachment had been hourly increasing since my arrival in Kandy, and was now wrought up to the highest pitch. I considered its situation as eminently perilous. The army under General MacDowal had been only twenty days getting to Kandy in 1803, though encumbered by six-pounders, and obliged to halt several days for want of Coolies. The detachment that I conceived to be coming up were lighter, and consequently would have been enabled to march much quicker.

The distance from Colombo to Kandy is only one hundred and three miles, and that from Trincomalie, one hundred and forty-two, and the roads from both places perfectly known, whereas my route lay

partly through the province of Ouva, the most mountainous and least known of the whole island; and, in consequence of my being obliged to make a circuit for the purpose of forming a junction with Colonel Maddison, amounted to one hundred and ninety-four miles.

The time elapsed even since one of the detachments had been seen on the frontiers was enough, and more than enough, for its arrival; that they were driven back by the Kandyans could not for a moment be believed. I considered the king's proclamation merely as an artifice to encourage his troops, yet the non-arrival of our divisions still continued to increase my surprise and uneasiness. Our provisions were now considerably reduced, and much of our ammunition expended. Our situation began also to make a powerful impression on the Europeans, as well as on the native troops. The former, with the exception of a few artillerymen, consisted of the 19th Regiment, a great part of which corps had been sacrificed the year before, under Major Davie. Many of these men had been in Kandy with General MacDowal; the massacre was still fresh in their recollection. They saw displayed in savage triumph in several of the apartments of the palace the hats, shoes, canteens, and accoutrements of their murdered comrades, most of them still marked with the names of their ill-fated owners.

I could easily collect, from the conversation of the officers, that few of them agreed with regard to what ought to be done. I therefore avoided calling a council of war, persuaded that it would only give rise to unpleasant differences. Added to this, the rains had already set in with considerable violence, and I was perfectly aware of the difficulty of passing the Kandyan river during the monsoon. Under these circumstances, to have remained longer in the capital would, in the event of the other divisions not arriving (of whose appearance there was now scarcely any hope), have occasioned the certain destruction of my detachment. On the other hand, should they come up (and I had no reason to doubt that one of them had been seen on the frontiers), what must the General think on finding that my detachment had thus returned without co-operation? Added to this, I had to dread the censure and disgrace that might result from a step thus precipitately taken.

Balancing between these opposite motives, the state of my mind, on this distressing occasion, it is impossible to describe; it can only be

conceived by those who have had the misfortune to be placed in circumstances of similar anxiety.

Obliged to assume an air of gaiety amongst the troops, whilst my mind was agitated by the most melancholy reflections; feeling that not only the honour, but the life, of every man in the detachment depended on my conduct, I may truly say that even those individuals who were suffering around me from sickness and from wounds had no reason to envy the situation of their commander.

Though strongly prompted by my own feelings to continue following up what I deemed to be the object of my orders, I at this period regarded the safety of the detachment entrusted to my command as paramount to every other consideration. I therefore determined, in the first instance, to cross the Kandyan river, so as, at all events, to ensure my retreat, and take post on the left bank, where I might wait a day or two longer for the tidings of the other detachments. I clearly foresaw that this movement would draw the whole of the enemy upon me, and consequently lead to a considerable expenditure of ammunition. They were in great force in the neighbourhood, and had for the last two days abstained from molesting us, waiting to see what steps I should pursue; yet of the two evils this appeared the least. By encamping on the left bank of the river, we should be in readiness to co-operate with any of the other detachments that might arrive. We should also be enabled to retreat either on Colombo or Trincomalie, whereas returning by the Batticolo road was completely out of the question. In addition to its length, and the difficulties which the country presented, I knew that the Kandyans had been employed in blocking up the passes to prevent our return. Besides, I must have crossed the Mahavilla Gonga twice, at the fords of Padrepelli and Pangaram.

Having weighed these circumstances, I came to the resolution of marching out of Kandy the next morning.

Oct. 9.—At six a.m. commenced my march, abstaining from destroying or even injuring the town of Kandy, that in the event of our troops still coming up, the followers might not be deprived of shelter. On the outside of the town we passed a number of skeletons hanging on the trees, the remains of our massacred officers. We next reached

the banks of the river, the scene of the cruel catastrophe which closed the career of Major Davie's detachment, and found the ground still covered with the bones of the victims. The river not being fordable, we were under the necessity of encamping on this ominous spot, while a party returned to Kandy for materials to make rafts. Meanwhile the enemy were seen assembling in vast numbers on the opposite bank. They took care to remind us of the danger of our situation, calling to us to observe the bones of our countrymen, and assuring us that ere long we should experience a similar fate. They repeatedly urged the natives to desert, as the only means of preserving their lives. It is but justice here to remark, that of the native troops, whether Sepoys or Malays, not a man proved unfaithful to his colours. Even from the followers, I had hitherto experienced a degree of fidelity scarcely to be expected from their general character, not a man having yet deserted me. But our situation was now about to become too trying for their resolution.

At three p.m. two rafts were completed; but the current was so rapid that our tow-ropes immediately gave way. Punting was therefore the only expedient, and this was attended with much delay.

Late in the evening Lieutenant Rogers having crossed with a few Europeans, attacked and drove from the hill above the ferry a strong party of the enemy, with the loss of one of their chiefs, who was bayoneted. This considerably checked their ardour. The greater part of the night was taken up in getting over our invalids.

Oct. 10.—In the course of the morning, the river having fallen, some of the troops and followers forded it. We were also enabled to get over part of the stores. But towards noon the rain set in, and, as is usual in mountainous countries, the river became almost immediately too deep to be passed in that manner. By the rapidity of the current, one of our two small rafts was completely carried away, and the other became nearly unmanageable. Our tents, the 3rd company of Sepoys, and our rear guards were still on the right bank of the river.

Apprehending that if these men were not quickly brought over they would be lost to us for ever, I ordered them to cross without delay, which was effected with great difficulty by four o'clock, leaving the tents behind.

The constant skirmishing of the last two days had reduced our stock of ammunition to two small barrels of eight hundred rounds each, and several of the troops were without cartridges. Nearly two days had now elapsed since my departure from Kandy; and no intelligence had reached me of the other detachments. I felt, therefore, the necessity of coming to an immediate decision relative to my future proceedings; and the troops and followers having now all passed, I determined without loss of time to commence my retreat.

The Trincomalie road, though longer, appeared upon the whole to present fewer obstacles than that leading to Colombo. In following the latter, we should have been under the necessity of taking by storm the two posts of Geeriagamme and Garlgaddray, situated at the top of the Colombo passes, through both of which the road runs. I therefore gave the preference to the former route. We were one hundred and forty-two miles from Trincomalie, with a road before us less rugged indeed in its nature than that which we had traversed, but in which we were likely to be equally exposed to annoyance from the enemy. As the bullocks would only impede our progress, I determined to leave them behind, and directing each soldier to take six days' rice on his back, abandoned the rest of the stores.

Whilst destroying the other stores, a parcel of loose powder, which had unfortunately been left near one of the boxes containing shells, took fire, which was immediately communicated to the fuses, and the shells continued to burst amongst us for some time, killing and wounding several of the coolies who were to have carried them, and desperately wounding a serjeant of artillery. This accident occasioned some confusion, of which the enemy took advantage, and commenced a general attack, with a trifling loss on our side; in which, however, they were repulsed.

About five o'clock in the afternoon, we were enabled to commence our march, our Coolies carrying a long train of sick and wounded.

It was late before we reached the top of the Trincomalie pass, and the rain, the darkness, and the ruggedness of the mountains put it quite out of our power to descend. We here passed a distressing night, exposed to incessant rain, without the means of preparing victuals, and hearing the fall of the trees which the Kandyans were felling lower down on the mountain to obstruct our next day's march.

Oct. 11.—Found the Kandyans posted on the different hills that command the pass, while the road was blocked up in many places with large trees, and in some with breastworks. After several hours' labour and exposure to the enemy's fire, we gained the bottom of the pass with the loss of five Europeans, eight Sepoys, and thirty followers, killed and wounded; a loss considerable in itself, but smaller than I had expected from the opposition that awaited us. Here I was deprived of the services of Lieutenant Vincent, who received a wound in the thigh; a deprivation which I felt severely, from the very able assistance he had hitherto afforded me.

We now continued our route, proceeding very slowly on account of the great increase of our wounded. Towards evening we passed the ruins of Fort MacDowal, which the Kandyans had entirely destroyed, and halted only when the darkness and rain prevented us from finding our way further.

Oct. 12.—Continued our march without stopping, harassed as usual by the enemy, who were indefatigable in blocking up the roads before us. During this morning, Lieutenant Smith, of the 19th, a most promising young officer, received a severe wound in the breast, which completely deprived me of his services. At five p.m., perceiving that the enemy had strongly fortified a hill over which we had to pass, I attacked and carried it by the bayonet, with the loss of two Europeans and five Sepoys killed. On reaching the summit, we found the road so completely closed up, that we could not attempt to pursue it that night; and to aggravate our misfortune, we had lost the guides acquainted with this part of the country, two of them having deserted and one having been shot this day.

Oct. 13.—As soon as it was daylight, I perceived a path lying in a northerly direction, which I followed as our only guide; concluding that if it did not conduct us to Trincomalie, it would lead to some of our other settlements.

The enemy this morning appeared more resolute than they had hitherto showed themselves. Led on by our own Malays and gun Lascars who had formerly deserted to them, they attacked our line both in front and rear, and actually cut in amongst the Coolies, who became perfectly panic-struck, threw down the sick and wounded, and either ran into the forests to conceal themselves, or rushed in among the

troops, whom they threw into confusion. Unfortunately, two wounded Europeans, a serjeant of the Royal Artillery and a private of the 19th, who were in charge of the rear-guard, on this occasion fell into the hands of the enemy.

The Bengal Lascars and Malays in the Kandyan service repeatedly addressed their countrymen in our ranks, informing them that the king of Kandy did not consider them as his enemies, and promising that such of them as would come over to join him should be appointed captains in his army; but that, if they persisted in continuing with the Europeans, whom they represented as an impure beef-eating race, they would be massacred along with them the moment they should fall into their hands. All these endeavours to shake the fidelity of the native troops, however, still continued unavailing. As the day advanced, the path became so narrow and intricate that I foresaw it would be impossible to make much farther progress after dark without entangling the detachment in the woods. I therefore halted, and directed Lieutenant Virgo to go forward and order back the advanced guard with the sick and wounded. This officer not returning, I sent on a corporal to know the cause of the delay, and to bring back a part of the 19th for the purpose of assisting to charge the enemy, who had by this time collected a considerable force in a village in our rear. The corporal returned, unable to find our advanced guard. I sent him forward again in quest of them with an escort, and after a considerable time had elapsed, he returned a second time, reporting that he had been three miles in front, without being able to gain the least intelligence of them, or even to trace what path they had followed. The enemy were now assembled in considerable force in our rear, with the apparent intention of closing with us. I determined immediately to charge them with the few Europeans belonging to the rear-guard and the native troops; leaving a strong party on the spot where we had been stationed, for the purpose of directing our vanguard (if they should return) to a village at some distance, where I intended to pass the night.

Our brave fellows advanced to the charge, gallantly led on by Lieutenants Povelary and Smith, of the Bengal Sepoys; they soon routed the Kandyans, and the few who still had strength to pursue, occasioned a considerable loss to the enemy. Among their slain, I was happy to find two of our Malay deserters, who had made themselves particularly conspicuous for the last three days, not only in animating

the enemy, but in encouraging our men to desert. On this occasion we took four large gengals and a quantity of muskets. The village afforded us shelter from the inclemency of the weather, and, what was still more welcome, a quantity of boiled rice.

Since our departure from Kandy on the 9th, our only food had consisted of raw rice, which latterly had become musty and mildewed. We had been engaged in one continued skirmish, exposed without intermission alternately to a scorching sun and a violent rain; and glad at night, when we could get a stone or log of wood, to raise our heads from the wet ground. From seven o'clock till two it generally continued fair, and the effects of the sun were powerfully felt. After two the rain set in, and continued incessantly during the whole of the night.

Oct. 14.—I was much concerned at the advanced guard not returning, and on resuming my march, followed the road which I thought it most likely they had taken. We had now the satisfaction to find that the enemy's pursuit had considerably slackened, owing chiefly to the spirited attack of the preceding evening, which showed them that, although weakened, we were far from being conquered; and owing in some measure also to the inconvenience they too suffered from the incessant rains. Passed this night in the woods without shelter.

Oct. 15.—The enemy's fire continued to decrease; a few shots only were fired at us in the course of the day, and those without effect. Halted at night in a small village, where we were enabled to procure shelter and some refreshment.

Oct. 16.—Saw a few of the enemy at a distance; they did not attempt to molest us. We here found ourselves in the Trincomalie road. Halted at night in a small village a few miles from Minery Lake, where I was surprised to find the advanced guard with Lieutenant Virgo, but (painful to add) without Lieutenants Vincent and Smith, and two wounded soldiers of the 19th. I was informed that Lieutenant Smith had died of his wounds; and there was every reason to suppose that Lieutenant Vincent had met a similar fate, or perhaps the more distressing one of falling into the merciless hands of the Kandyans. Thus were lost to the service two excellent officers, in the prime of life, who had conducted themselves throughout this arduous expedition with a degree of zeal, intrepidity, and perseverance highly

creditable to themselves and consolatory to their friends. I shall ever regret the loss of these meritorious young men, from whose conduct I had on so many occasions derived considerable aid. The guard alleged that they had lost their way in the woods, and were nearly starved; that the Coolies had completely deserted them; that they were themselves so exhausted as to be scarcely able to walk, and had no means of carrying the sick, whom they were under the necessity of abandoning; that they were without guides, and found their way to the village where we then were by mere chance. Considering Lieutenant Virgo as the cause, in the first instance, of this disaster, by not bringing back the guard, I ordered him into arrest.

This officer pleaded, in vindication of his conduct, that the soldiers had refused to obey his orders. On further inquiry, I found that the situation in which the soldiers were placed had in some degree shaken their discipline, and that they were even encouraged in insubordination by one of the non-commissioned officers, over whom Lieutenant Virgo, from belonging to another corps, had not sufficient control.

Under these circumstances, I thought it best to release this officer from arrest, and to submit the whole affair to the commanding officer of Trincomalie.

Oct. 17.—Continued our march unmolested by the enemy, and passed the night in the woods.

Oct. 18.—Reached the lake of Candelly, where we were again exposed to the inclemencies of the monsoon without the least shelter.

In proportion as the annoyance of the enemy slackened, and the necessity of personal exertion diminished, I had more time for reflection; and I may truly say that the last few days of our march were not to me those in which I least suffered either in body or mind.

In common with the rest of the detachment, I had performed the greater part of the retreat barefooted. Had I possessed, indeed, changes of boots and shoes, I could not have used them, my feet having swelled, and become so tender from constant wet, that I could not without considerable pain put them to the ground.

In this condition, emaciated by fatigue, and labouring besides under a severe dysentery, arising, I presume, from the nature of the water,

cold, and want of proper food, I was for the two last days obliged to be carried in my cloak, fastened to a stick.

These bodily sufferings, however, severe as they were, were only shared in common with many of those around me, and fell far short of the anguish of my mind. Whilst I witnessed the melancholy state of my brave companions, I could not help reflecting that perhaps my precipitate retreat from Kandy had brought all this distress and misery upon them; that the other divisions were possibly now in Kandy carrying into execution the General's plans; and that, in such case, I must, by my premature retreat, incur the censure of the General, and perhaps of the whole army.

On the other hand, in the event of our troops not coming up, I was satisfied that, had I remained a single day longer in Kandy, the river, from the constant rains which we had experienced, would have become completely impassable; that our provisions would have been expended, without the possibility of procuring any fresh supply; and that, though determined not to capitulate under any extremity, we must, in the end, have been overpowered, owing to the want of ammunition, as well as from the pressure of sickness and famine.

While my mind was agitated by these conflicting reflections, we arrived at Tamblegamme on the 19th, where we were met by some officers from Trincomalie, who had heard that morning of our approach.

No words can express my surprise on now learning, for the first time, that it was not intended that I should proceed to Kandy; that the General, on arriving at Jaffnapatam, had found obstacles to the combined attack, which he considered to be insurmountable—(the principal of these I have since understood to be the want of Coolies; but of this, or of any other impediment to the success of the expedition, I was at the time totally unapprized)—that the orders of the 8th were intended as a countermand of the former plan; and that my having gone to Kandy was deemed a disobedience of orders; that it was merely meant that the divisions should enter those parts of the enemy's territory adjacent to their respective districts and return after laying waste the country; that the other five divisions had accordingly made these incursions, and had long since returned; and that the Government, having learnt from the Singhalese on the borders of my detachment having been in Kandy, had despaired of our ever returning.

It does not become me to decide on the origin of this unfortunate mistake, or to pronounce whether the fault lay in the orders, or in my interpretation of them.

The General, on making the tour of our stations, had taken great pains to explain to me the nature of his plans, the ultimate object of which was the possession of Kandy; nor did he, in the various conversations I had the honour to hold with him on that subject seem to entertain any doubt of the practicability of the proposed plan of operations.

These conversations were followed by an order to march, transmitted from Trincomalie; and so fully convinced was I that everything was in a complete state of preparation, that I considered the orders of the 8th in no other light than as a modification of the preceding instructions, as a change of the day of march and of the route; I never entertained the most distant idea that *the plan* was relinquished; as, after the devastation of that part of the country pointed out in the instructions, no ulterior object being presented, the original purport of the occupation of the enemy's capital remained unrevoked, and consequently to be followed up.

Cut off as I was by the remoteness of Battacolo from any intercourse with the other stations, I had no intimation of the changes that had taken place with respect to the destination of the other columns, to the commanders of which the orders had, it seems, been more explicit.

I hope that it may be allowed me to remark, that the General had seen some of them more recently than he had communicated with me; that the territory adjoining their districts was in general better known, and of course susceptible of clearer description than the province of Ouva.

It appeared, however, necessary that an affair attended with such serious consequences should undergo investigation, and I was ordered round to Colombo, where a Court of Inquiry was held upon my conduct. The decision of the Court was, that I had not disobeyed my orders in going to Kandy.

The success of so small a force in penetrating unsupported to the Kandyan capital, and afterwards effecting its retreat, created considerable

surprise throughout the island. The capital had never before been attempted with so inconsiderable a force. The troops under General MacDowal, in 1803, exceeded three thousand men, and those the flower of the Ceylon army.

I have before remarked, that one thousand men were even considered necessary to defend the town during the monsoon, though protected by works; and intervening events had rendered the Kandyans more formidable.

They had gained to their service five hundred well-disciplined Malays and Sepoys, with a number of gun Lascars, and one thousand stand of serviceable English muskets, with a supply of ammunition. The continued skirmishes in which they had been engaged with us since that period, together with their occasional successes, had made them more expert, and given them a greater degree of confidence than they had at the commencement of the war.

A larger force than had been employed under General MacDowal and Lieutenant-Colonel Barbut was, therefore, prepared for the combined attack. Of the six divisions, mine was not only the smallest in point of numbers, but certainly the worst equipped.

Colonel Maddison, who commanded the Hambingtotte detachment, with which I was to have formed a junction at the entrance of the province of Ouva, I now learnt did not receive my letter till after his return, and his guides led him into a part of the country where there was no water to be procured; consequently he was under the necessity of changing his route; and instead of advancing to the northward and westward and entering Ouva, where his presence, though we might not have met, would have embarrassed the enemy, he was forced to keep entirely to the southward, so that I derived no assistance from the co-operation of that officer.

The other four divisions which entered the enemy's country, had they remained long enough, would have caused a powerful diversion in my favour; but, after having carried into execution their instructions, the completion of which required but a few days, they returned to their respective districts, where the whole of them had arrived some days before I reached the capital. It was on the return of these detachments that the king issued the proclamation, stating that he had driven five English armies back to the sea.

Thus the Kandyans were enabled to bring their whole force, which had been completely put in motion for the purpose of opposing all our divisions, against my detachment alone; with which, too, the king had every cause to be exasperated, in consequence of our having burnt his favourite palace of Condesaly, as well as that near Pangaram.

Harassed continually by the enemy, with, latterly, not a round of ammunition to return his fire (the few cartridges which were preserved by some of the Europeans as their last hope being rendered useless by the rain, and their muskets entirely unserviceable), it cannot be surprising that our loss should have been great.

In these respects the enemy had the advantage of us, their powder being preserved from damp in cocoa-nut shells, and their arms provided with guards made of skin or waxed cloth, which completely secured the locks from wet.

But the Kandyans were not our only enemies, we had to contend with hunger, fatigue, extremes of heat and cold, besides all the diseases incidental to so unhealthy a climate.*

At an early stage of the retreat, I had been obliged to leave behind me the doolies, from the impossibility of getting them on, in consequence of abbatis and other obstacles being placed in the line of our march. Many of the Coolies had been either killed or wounded, several had deserted, and of those that remained few were in a situation to carry a burthen. I was therefore obliged to have the men whose cases were the most desperate carried along on cloths fastened to poles, whilst the others got on by leaning on their less exhausted comrades. Our progress was consequently very slow; nor was it, for the first three days, permitted us to halt during the day, even for a single moment, to dress our wounded men, the least delay enabling the enemy to oppose fresh obstacles to our retreat. Latterly, when less pressed by the enemy, it was out of the surgeon's power to be of much

* The following instances are convincing proofs of the insalubrity of the interior of Ceylon. On the 13th of March 1803, the grenadier company of the 65th, under Captain Bullock, consisting of three officers and seventy-five men, marched from Colombo for Cattadinia, a small post in the interior. At the end of the month, without any loss by the enemy, the whole fell victims to the climate, excepting Lieutenant Hutchins and two privates. They were all robust young men, from eighteen to twenty-three years of age, and had only landed from the Cape of Good Hope early in November. On the 11th of April, four hundred men of the 51st regiment appeared under arms at Colombo, on their arrival from Kandy. In little more than two months three hundred of them were buried, having laid the foundation of disease in the interior.

assistance to the wounded, the Cooly who carried the medicines and instruments having deserted; consequently the wounds in general became ill-conditioned, and at length so offensive to the patients themselves as scarcely to be borne.

Those of the detachment who had hitherto escaped sickness and wounds were emaciated, sallow, and debilitated to an extreme degree.

They were almost all barefooted; and many of those who had escaped the fire of the enemy fell victims, after our arrival at Trincomalie, to the effects of their previous sufferings.

Amongst those, I am sorry to mention Lieutenant Rogers, of the Bengal Sepoys, who died of fever a few days after his return. This officer, by his exertions during the retreat, and especially after I had lost the services of Lieutenants Vincent and Smith, had, by his activity and zeal, rendered most essential services to the detachment. He was ever foremost in danger.

To the exertions, indeed, and animating example of the officers in general, and the persevering courage of the soldiers, particularly those of the Royal Artillery and 19th, may be principally attributed the safety of the detachment.

RETURN OF KILLED, WOUNDED, AND MISSING OF THE DETACHMENT UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN JOHNSTON.

DETAIL.	ROYAL ARTILL.		19TH REGIMENT.					MALAY REGIMENT.						BENGAL SEPOYS.					
	Sergeants.	Bombardiers.	Subidars.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Drummers.	Privates.	European Lieutenant.	Malay Captain.	Malay Lieutenant.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Privates.	Lieutenants.	Jemidars	Havildars.	Naigues.	Drummers.	Privates.
Killed	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	9
Wounded	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	27
Missing	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	12
Total	1	1	2	1	3	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	3	2	1	48

No further attempt to take Kandy was made for eleven years, during which the tyrant king and the perfidious Adigar, Pilámé, continued in their course of cruel depravity, till at length Piláṁé was detected in an attempt to assassinate the king, for which he was immediately executed, and his nephew Eheylapola was appointed to succeed him. The mention of the name Eheylapola, even at the present day, eighty years after these events took place, will cause a Kandyan to shudder; for with it is associated the last and most awful tragedy of all the savage cruelties of the Kandyan kings.

Eheylapola inherited the character of his uncle, and was soon occupied in treasonable designs, which were detected, causing him to fly to Colombo for safety. The king, terribly angered at this, adopted the savage course of inflicting punishment upon Eheylapola by sentence of death upon his wife and children, preceded by the most hideous cruelty ever devised by a relentless tyrant. The details are too shocking to be pourtrayed here, but I mention the circumstance as an example of the causes which sickened the Kandyans of their inhuman rulers, and led the mass of the people to wish for any change that would rescue them from a system of government so pregnant with bloodshed and cruelty.

At length an impudent atrocity committed upon some British subjects, who as merchants went to trade with the Kandyans, overreached the patience of the Government in Colombo. When it was ascertained that these merchants had been seized by orders from the king, deprived of their ears, noses, and hands, and driven out of the territory with their

several members hanging round their necks, no time was lost in preparing for war.

Within a few weeks Kandy was in possession of the English. The native chiefs, themselves accustomed to exercise great tyranny in their respective districts, had yet become so wearied with their master's cruelty, that they were ready to negociate with the English without a contest. Their defection led to a convention, held in the great hall of the Palace, now used as a court of justice, by which the king was deposed, and his dominions conferred on the British Crown; but the chiefs were to retain their usual powers, and the religion of Buddhism was to be maintained and protected.

In these terms is observable an element of favour to the chiefs, which might as well have been omitted. The very power left to them was a temptation to further disaffection and revolt. They were glad enough to be rid of their master, but they had no taste for a straightforward policy of just government; despotism and arbitrary dealing had become ingrained in their very nature, and the desire for the English interference was, therefore, but a temporary thing—a means of dealing with a present difficulty—and so revolt naturally followed. These mountaineers, who had been for centuries accustomed to exclusive barbarism, hated not the English individually, but conceived a bitter resentment against the national interference with their wishes and customs.

These feelings broke out into open revolt, which the English were for many months powerless to check, and which very nearly resulted in Kandy again falling exclusively into

PLATE IX.

JINRICKSHAW COOLIES GAMBLING.

"It is a curious fact that the love of gambling is an innate characteristic of the Singhalese. Their love of it is so strong and so far reaching, that resourcefulness in discovering methods and excuses for indulging the weakness on every possible occasion becomes a marked feature of the passion. Here the four coolies having each placed a five-cent-piece upon the shaft, are intently watching to see upon whose coin a fly first alights, for that lucky cooly takes the lot."—PAGE 61.

JINRICKSHAW COOLIES GAMBLING.

the hands of its own people. Fortunately, however, the Kandyans first showed signs of submission. This insurrection was, in its issue, productive of some permanent benefit, for by it the chiefs had broken the terms of the Convention which preserved to them the right of administering justice and gave protection to Buddhism. These stipulations were removed, and the administration of justice in Kandy was now for the first time placed in the hands of English civilians.

To rescue the population of the mountain kingdom from the bondage which the chiefs were accustomed to enforce was a work of time. It was, however, gradually accomplished by a wise policy which diverted compulsory labour from personal service to public works, and, step by step, accustomed both chiefs and people to a freedom that was at first unintelligible to them. Although to a just and good government, and great encouragement given to local industry, the advance in civilization and contentment which now took place was due, yet a distinct event insured the termination of the Kandyan wars. There was an ancient prophecy current amongst the Kandyans, that whoever should pierce the rock and make a road into Kandy from the plains would receive the kingdom as a reward. This was accomplished, and by it the English secured the safe and permanent possession of the prize.

It occurs to us as strange that no attempt was ever made by the Portuguese or Dutch during their three hundred years of warfare with the Kandyans to accomplish their purpose by means of military roads. Roman history affords many notable examples of this means of conquest, from which they might

have profited. The excellent roads made by the English, within a few years following on the conquest, soon destroyed the exclusive habits of the inland population. Sir Emerson Tennent says: "When the English landed in Ceylon, in 1796, there was not in the whole island a single practicable road, and troops, on their toilsome marches between the fortresses on the coast, dragged their cannon through deep sands along the shore. Before Sir Edward Barnes resigned his government, every town of importance was approached by a carriage road, and the long-desired highway from sea to sea, to connect Colombo and Trincomalee, was commenced. Civil organisation has since been matured with equal success, domestic slavery has been abolished, religious disqualifications removed, compulsory labour abandoned, a charter of justice promulgated, a legislative council established, trading monopolies extinguished, and commerce encouraged in its utmost freedom."

Having now seen what sort of a place Kandy was, and what kind of people were its inhabitants when first the English made their acquaintance, we shall be surprised at the change effected in one generation by the beneficence of English rule.

Plate X.

ONE OF THE TEMPLE STUD.

"*I found one of these huge but gentle beasts lazily rubbing himself against the stem of a palm tree in the grounds. Here was another instance of nature's bountiful provision for all living creatures in Ceylon. What scratch-back could be more perfect for an elephant than the stem of the coconut, with its deeply indented ring-marks where it has borne and shed its leaves from year to year? This should be added to the hundred and one uses already ascribed to this generous palm. The humane instinct of the Duke of Argyll, which led him to erect posts for Scotch cattle to rub against, would have found no field for exercise in this bounteous land.*"—Page 78.

ONE OF THE TEMPLE STUD.

CHAPTER IV.

THE KANDY OF TO-DAY.

BRITISH freedom and its unmistakeable benefits have now become intelligible to the Kandyan mind, and have brought peace, prosperity, and contentment to a people for centuries accustomed to serfdom, poverty, and the worst excesses of unscrupulous tyrants. Groans of oppression have been succeeded by the din of industry, and the rugged mountain fastnesses have given place to traversible scenes of orderly cultivation. This does not imply that the natural beauty of the district has lost by the inroads of commerce. Indeed, it can hardly have been more beautiful in its wilder state; but of this the reader may be left to judge from the pictures here presented.

The Kandy of to-day, in regard to its township, is a municipality of about twenty thousand inhabitants, of which only about one hundred are English, about two hundred Eurasians, and the remainder natives. Its climate, considering its proximity to the equator, is surprisingly mild. At night a blanket is most welcome and comfortable, whereas in Colombo the sight of such an article is painful. The days are hot and glaring, but the refreshing early mornings and evenings admit of a goodly amount of vigorous exercise.

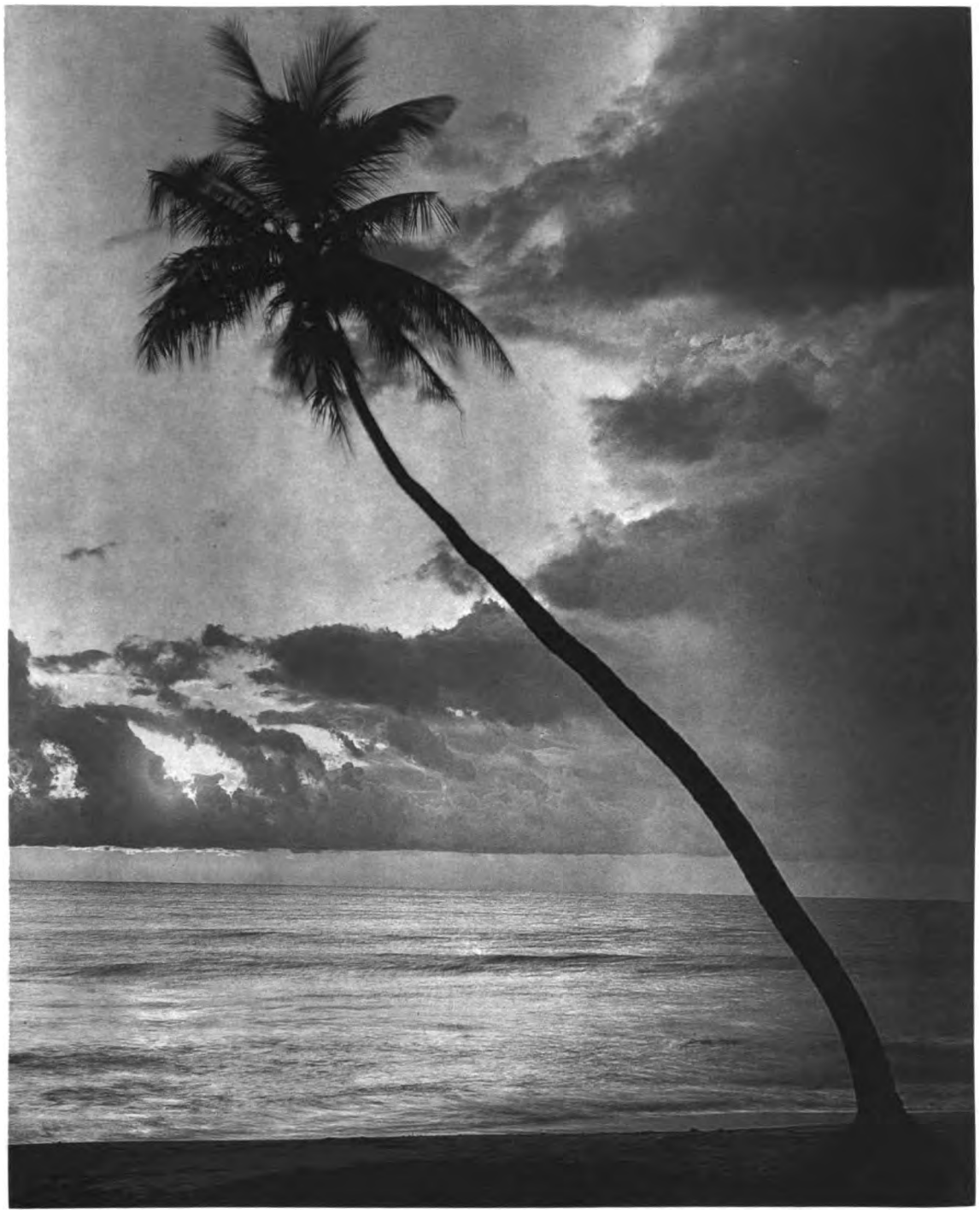
Hotel accommodation is good, as it should be, where not a week passes without scores of fresh visitors from every part of the world. They come here to see the home of the later Singhalese kings; the famous stronghold that was the last part of Ceylon to fall into the hands of foreigners; the Daladá Máligáwa, or Temple of the Sacred Tooth of Buddha; the lovely situation of the city; the most beautiful walks in the tropics; and the magnificent botanical gardens at Peradeniya. Each of these is worthy of the journey; but the trip to Kandy is moreover rendered delightful by the freshness of the mountain air, a welcome relief from the burning heat of the voyage across the Orient Sea between Aden and Colombo. The most perfectly appointed steamship, with its lofty saloons, steam punkahs, and capacious marble baths, is powerless to give complete relief from the forcible rays of tropical sun during this two thousand miles run, almost on the line of the equator. The enervated passenger, therefore, feels in the highest degree rewarded by being enabled to breathe freely again, to feel a desire for brisk exercise, and to be able to take it amidst scenes of such interest and beauty. Exercise in any form has been for a fortnight out of the question; but now the languor suddenly ceases; we can wend our way around the banks of the miniature lake, and through pretty lanes and groves of the richest luxuriance in every form of tropical foliage. Carriage drives, too, encircle the lake at different elevations, commanding charming views of the city.

A glance at the Plates, Nos. iii to vii, will give a better idea of these lovely roads than words can convey, and with

PLATE XI.

THE ORIENT SEA.

"The trip to Kandy is moreover rendered delightful by the freshness of the mountain air, a welcome relief from the burning heat of the voyage across the Orient Sea."—PAGE 52.



the aid of a powerful reading-glass the detail and characteristics of the curious plants which everywhere abound can be easily discerned. An attractive feature of this scenery will be found in the neat little bungalows, with their deep pillared verandahs and their luxuriant gardens, bright with an endless variety of gorgeous crotons, which grow to perfection of colour in the sunny clime of this mountain region. The avenues of bamboos, with their feathery fronds (see Plate iv), form a relief to the gigantic leaves of plantains and talipot trees which abound on the slopes. Fruit and flowers of forms quite strange to the visitor grow in profusion everywhere, impressing one with the idea of luxury and plenty. We feel, as we roam along these luxurious paths, how happy and contented the people must be who live amidst such surroundings; and we reflect upon the contrast which it all bears to the barbarian and poverty-stricken Kandy under the tyrant kings, when the food of the people chiefly consisted of bark and roots, and their homes were squalid beyond conception. Such a transformation as this influx of wealth and comfort under British rule must be a convincing proof to the intelligent natives that their citadel at length fell to worthy conquerors, and a matter of proud satisfaction to every Englishman who reflects on the result of the enterprise.

The visitor who arrives at Kandy in the evening will probably be attracted to an after-dinner stroll around the lake, by the lower road, upon the banks. The first impressions gained amidst the buzz of myriads of winged insects, and the weird effect of the overhanging hillsides, sparkling with the fairy lights of fireflies, will not be easily forgotten. At

a thousand points through the darkening foliage these wonderful little spirit-lights appear and disappear. Moonlight effects of purely tropical scenery are to be seen to perfection here, where the bold fronds of the palms, the traveller's tree, and the plantains stand in black relief at various elevations in the soft white light. But the early riser will delight more in the effects of dawn, from the more elevated walks and drives.

Very quaint and amusing scenes are always to be found in the early morn at the bathing pool, within two minutes' walk from the Queen's Hotel (see Plates xii and xiii). Here the overflow of water from the lake rolls down a fall of stone steps, on which the native delights to disport himself, with the water dashing over his dusky form. In the pool below (see Plate xiii), the more energetic indulge in strange forms of water frolic, while still further on the dark dank dhoby is busy in cleansing his yards of calico attire by the effective method of beating it upon huge blocks of stone. The visitor will also find much amusement in the curious methods of toilet being performed upon the banks beneath the shade of the beautiful bamboos which embower this spot.

A few yards beyond the pool there is a choice of roads which encircle the lake. Guided by the handpost we choose the upper one. Plate iii shows the point at which this road begins to ascend the hillside. Before proceeding far, we reach the spot from which this view is obtained. The groups of bamboos, flamboyants, with their gorgeous masses of scarlet and gold blossom, and the plantains in the foreground are

PLATE XII.

EARLY REFRESHMENT.

"Here the overflow from the lake rolls down a fall of stone steps on which the native delights to disport himself with the water dashing over his dusky form."—PAGE 54.

EARLY REFRESHMENT.

intermingled with flowering shrubs; the distance is full of points of interest, including the famous Buddhist Temple of the Tooth on the extreme left. The building, supported by white columns, in the corner of the lake, was probably the bath-house of the palace of the kings; it is now used as a library and art-work institution. Specimens of the various works of art made by the natives of the Kandyan district can be seen and purchased here by visitors. They chiefly consist of pottery, silver and brass work, ivory carving, and mats. These industries are of great antiquity in the district, and the work is often curious and of considerable merit. To the right of the library we notice a number of sago palms on the bank of the lake. They have huge stems of pith, crowned by light and feathery fronds, beneath which nuts grow in clusters like those of the Areca.

No sooner have we ascended to a moderate height, than a series of beautiful landscapes is presented to us through openings in the shrubs and trees which border the road, the branches of which often form a pretty frame to the picture. The character of the road as we ascend may be seen in Plate iv. Within a few yards of this spot we get the view which forms our Frontispiece. It it but a specimen of very many such pictures which cause us continually to linger and admire. As we wind along infinitely varied curves, the ever-changing aspect of the town and surrounding country presents a constant difference of outline and colour which is most enchanting. Indeed, the first stroll along this beautiful road is a very slow process, and as a rule the fresh comer will not go far the first time, but if he has the leisure will

return again and again. The elegant Kitool Palm will not escape notice (see Plate v). The specimen here given is a very ordinary one, but no words can exaggerate the beauty of many that are to be found in this district. In perfection it is, without doubt, the most handsome of the class to which it belongs. The fronds are like beautiful sprays of enlarged maiden-hair fern. Nor is its remarkable foliage the only feature of loveliness; it throws out flowers in magnificent clusters at the top, and the fruit, which resembles strings of berries about the size of grapes, hangs around in festoons several feet in length. This palm is found near every Kandyan's hut, and is cultivated for the sake of its sap or toddy which its flower buds yield in surprising quantity, a single tree sometimes giving one hundred pints in a day. The toddy is carefully crystallised by the natives into a coarse sugar and used in making sweetmeats. When the tree dies, sago is extracted from the pith; the wood, which is very tough and pliable, is used for making pingoes or yokes, by which heavy loads can be carried from the shoulder; the fibres of the leaf-stalks are made both into fine lines for fishing, and into ropes of great strength for tying wild elephants.

By far the most interesting walk in Kandy is that known as Lady Horton's, from which a distant view of the road just described can be obtained (see Plate vi). Magnificent stretches of country may be seen by ascending the hill to the left, which is commonly known as "Mutton Button," a corruption of its correct name, Mattanapatana. It is about three thousand two hundred feet high, and the ascent takes from three to four hours. The rugged cliff to the right is Hantanne, a more

PLATE XIII.

BATHING POOL AT KANDY.

"In the pool below, the more energetic indulge in strange forms of water-frolic, while still further on the dark, dank Dhoby is busy in cleansing his yards of calico attire by the effective method of beating it upon huge blocks of stone."—PAGE 54.

formidable expedition, but one which well repays the energetic pedestrian. Its height is four thousand one hundred and nineteen feet. Lady Horton's is said to be the most picturesque walk in the tropics. It can be entered from the town by going through a part of the grounds of the Pavilion, the residence of the English Governor. There is nothing prettier in Kandy than the garden in which the Pavilion stands; the visitor will be sure therefore to pause and admire its noble trees and ornamental plants. In it are noticeable some very fine specimens of the traveller's tree, so called because when the leaves are pierced at the part where they burst forth from the stem, they give a copious supply of pure water.

It has been said that one drawback to this beautiful residence is the presence of scorpions and snakes in large numbers. True it is that they infest the grounds and all the jungle in and around Kandy, but the drawback is limited to the inconvenience of being unable to walk in the gardens after dark, or to stroll along the jungle pathways without a lantern. In the very early morning it is quite an interesting feature of the walk to see the creatures of the jungle. The first to attract attention are the large dark green scorpions, numbers of which, as large as small cray-fish, are generally to be seen before we have passed beyond the Pavilion grounds.

The energetic resident, who takes his frequent early constitutional around this hill, will come across troops of Wanderoo monkeys swinging from branch to branch, the old ones carrying their babies with them as they are disturbed; and the deadly cobra will here and there be seen to wriggle across the path.

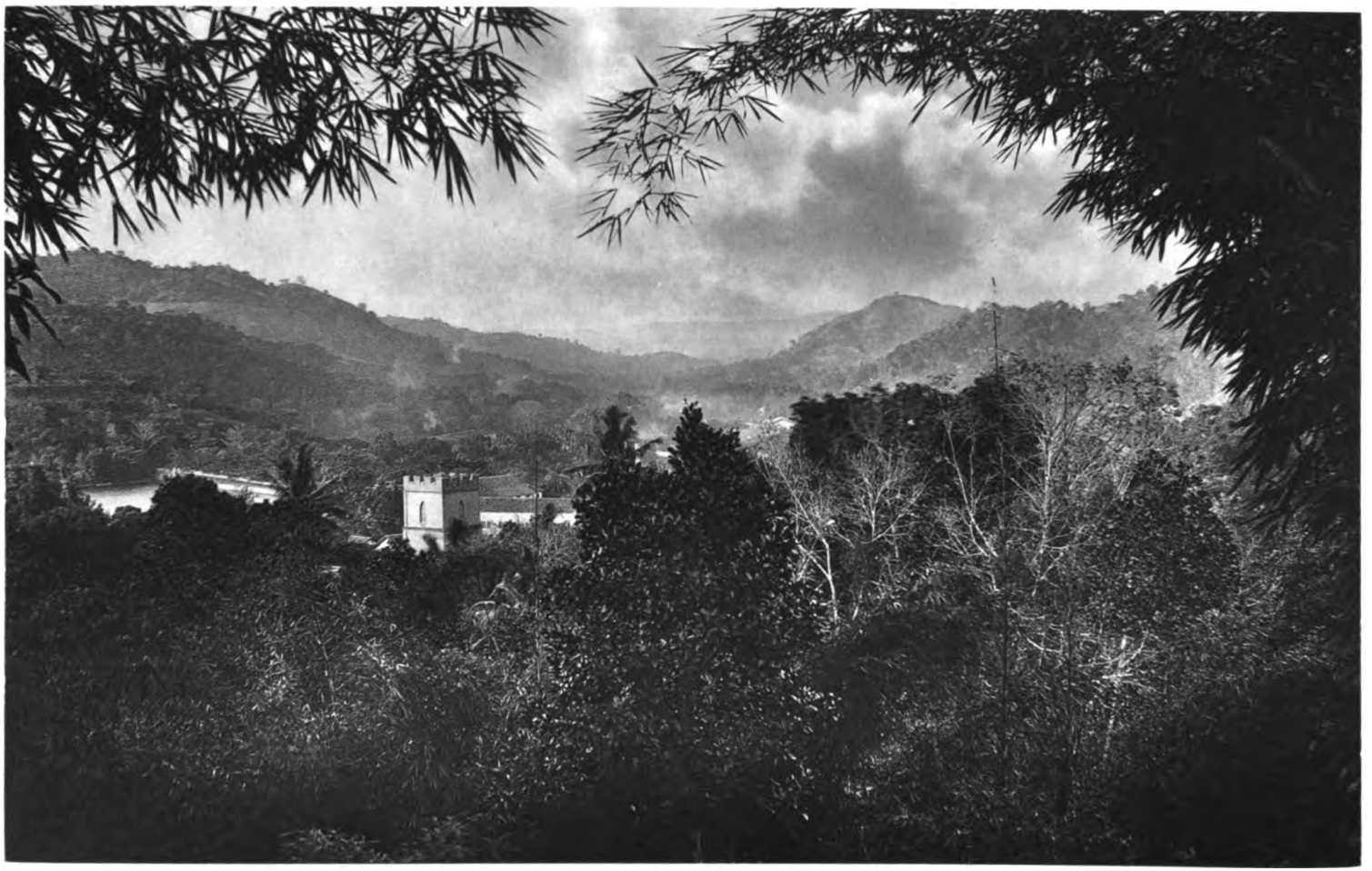
As the morn advances, and the sun gains power, other creatures appear—geckoes, blood-suckers, chameleons, lovely bright green lizards, about a foot in length, which, if interfered with, turn quite yellow in body, while the head becomes bright red; glorious large butterflies, with most lustrous wings; blue, green and scarlet dragon-flies of immense size; fascinating birds, giving life and colour to the scene; millepedes are amongst the creatures constantly crawling about; they are about a foot long, as thick as one's thumb, of a very glossy jet black colour, and possessed of about one hundred bright yellow legs; a large bluish-grey earth-worm, of about five feet in length, and as thick as a man's finger, is occasionally seen here, and may be mistaken by the visitor for a serpent; the strangest insects are seen amongst the shrubs, so near akin to plant life that it is impossible to believe them to be alive till they are seen to move — these are some of the attractions of Lady Horton's walk, apart from the views it affords.

The presence of so many snakes in Kandy is generally supposed to be due to the natives holding them in honour, in the belief that they are in some way beneficent to man. This belief, however, only applies to the cobra. The real cause of the presence of so many venomous creatures in Kandy is no doubt due to the suitability of the climate to their nature, and the easy protection from molestation provided for them in the rugged character of the country. They do indeed abound, but Europeans seldom receive any harm from them, although there are few residents who cannot recount some narrow escapes. As a rule all creatures of this kind get out of one's way as fast as they can, the noisy tread of shodden

PLATE XIV.

KANDY, FROM LADY HORTON'S WALK.

"*As we ascend the zigzag path the most striking views of lake and city are seen through fairy-like frames of feathery bamboos.*"—PAGE 60.



KANDY, FROM LADY HORTON'S WALK.

feet being a useful warning, but the barefooted native often loses his life from the very circumstance of his noiseless movement, which fails to warn the deadly snake, hidden in grass or in darkness, to wriggle out of the way.

Sir Emerson Tennent, who was Colonial Secretary of Ceylon about the middle of this century, gives the following account of the inconvenience caused by the creatures of the jungle :—

"In a park at the foot of this acclivity is the Pavilion of the Governor, one of the most agreeable edifices in India, not less for the beauty of its architecture than for its judicious adaptation to the climate. The walls and columns are covered with chunam, prepared from calcined shells, which in whiteness and polish rivals the purity of marble. The high ground immediately behind is included in the demesne, and so successfully have the elegancies of landscape gardening been combined with the wildness of nature, that during my last residence in Kandy a leopard from the forest above came down nightly to drink at the fountain in the parterre.

"My own official residence, from its vicinity to the same jungle, was occasionally entered by equally unexpected visitors. Serpents are numerous on the hills, and as the house stood on a terrace formed out of one of its steepest sides, the cobra de capello and the green carawella frequently glided through the rooms on their way towards the grounds. During the residence of one of my predecessors in office, an invalid, who lay for some days on a sofa in the verandah,

imagined more than once that she felt something move under the pillow, and on rising to have it examined, a snake was discovered with a brood of young. A lady residing in the old palace adjoining, going to open her piano, was about to remove what she thought to be an ebony walking-stick that lay upon it, but was startled on finding that she had laid hold of a snake."

As we ascend the zigzag path, the most striking views of lake and city are seen through fairy-like frames of feathery bamboos. Plate xiv gives a view of this kind. The tower appearing in the midst of the trees is that of St. Paul's Church, built about 1850. There are some features of interest in the interior, the wood-work particularly testifying to the skill of the Singhalese in wood-carving. Plate vii gives one of the best general views of the lake and the city looking west. Kandy is indebted to the last of the tyrant kings for this lake, which was constructed by slave labour, and intended for his own private use. The island, which will be best seen by reference to Plate viii, is said to have been constructed for the enjoyment of the ladies of the royal household. The building placed upon it is now a picturesque ruin surrounded by masses of flowering shrubs.

No view on this road, however pretty, can be called magnificent till we reach the north-eastern point of the hill, where the splendid Dumbara valley bursts into view. Some idea of the extent of this fertile and beautiful country can be gathered from Plate xix, which, however, was taken from a much lower point on the Kondesalle Road.

PLATE XV.

PLANTAINS.

"We see the huge broad leaves, some twenty feet high, and here and there some drooping clusters of ripening fruit . . . . one of them an inch above the head of the Singhalese man on the extreme left, and the other rather higher to the right of it. In the group there are six plants, each of which will probably bear about three hundred fruits, weighing above sixty pounds. Each plant gives but one crop and then dies, exhausted by its bounteous effort."—PAGE 63.

PLANTAINS.

Many other beautiful paths have been made in various directions about this hill, and are mostly named after the wives of successive Governors in whose term of office they were constructed. Of these, Lady Gordon's, Lady MacCarthy's, and Lady Anderson's are well worth traversing. They are all open to the equestrian, although the pedestrian has the advantage in being more free to examine the botanical wonders which attract attention at every step. The usual route of descent brings us by way of Lady MacCarthy's road into Malabar Street.

If after breakfast we are still keen on scenery, it will be a pleasant change to take a jinrickshaw and proceed by way of Malabar Street along the Kondesalle Road for about five miles. By this time the temperature will have risen too high for walking with any degree of comfort, and we shall be glad of the means of locomotion provided by the 'Rickshaw Cooly. What the 'Rickshaw is can readily be seen by reference to Plate ix, but what the 'Rickshaw Coolies are doing while thus squatting with eyes intent upon the shafts of their curious little vehicles would puzzle the reader to discover. It is a curious fact that the love of gambling is an innate characteristic of the Singhalese. Their love of it is so strong and so far-reaching that resourcefulness in discovering methods and excuses for indulging the weakness on every possible occasion becomes a marked feature of the passion. Here the four Coolies, having each placed a five-cent-piece upon the shaft, are intently watching to see on whose coin a fly first alights, for that lucky Cooly takes the lot. The proneness of the Singhalese to gamble is one of

the first things we notice on arrival in Ceylon. No sooner does our steamer anchor at Colombo than we are introduced to the system of tossing to decide the price of precious stones and curiosities. The native dealer meets the refusal to buy his wares for, say, ten rupees, with the offer, "Master, toss twenty rupees or nothing." In the business establishments of Colombo, where large numbers of natives are employed as clerks, artizans, coolies, punkah-boys, etc., a lottery generally takes place every wages day, with the result that before the workmen leave the premises their wages generally become very unequally distributed. Even naked little urchins sit on the roadsides, with their legs folded beneath them, playing strange games of cards with surprising dexterity.

Every village has its cockpit, and many have gambling dens, which are unfortunately the cause of a terrible amount of crime. I might however mention that this gambling propensity applies only to the men of the Singhalese race, and that the women neither gamble or drink, a circumstance which is quite in harmony with the fact that there are scarcely any women in the Ceylon prisons.

But I am somewhat digressing. We were about to engage a 'Rickshaw and take a run along the Kondesalle Road by the "great sandy river," Mahawelliganga. In this neighbourhood some of the most notable exploits of Captain Johnston's little army, which have already been referred to, took place. The river scenery is extremely beautiful, and not less interesting are the wayside scenes of native life and extensive views looking to the Matele hills and the fertile Dumbara valley. See Plates xvii and xix.

PLATE XVI.

PALMS AND PLANTAINS.

"About three miles from Kandy, upon this interesting road, the lofty coconut palms, with their beautiful crowns of feathery fronds and clean stems, embedded in the huge broad leaves of the plantains with which they are intermingled, form one of the richest features in tropical vegetation that can be found."—PAGE 64.

PALMS AND PLANTAIN.

The native huts on this road, like those in the plains, possess a great charm due to their surroundings. The bananas and plantains around the little homestead here are very luxuriant. In Plate xv we see the huge broad leaves, some twenty feet high, and here and there some drooping clusters of ripening fruit. The fruit is much hidden in the foliage; two large clusters however will be noticed in the Plate, one of them an inch above the head of the Singhalese man on the extreme left, and the other rather higher to the right of it. The size of these plants may be judged by comparison with the group of natives beneath them. They are of one year's growth only. In the group there are six plants, each of which will probably bear about three hundred fruits, weighing above sixty pounds. Each plant gives but one crop, and then dies, exhausted by its bounteous effort. The dead leaf-stalks are stripped off and used for various purposes, including hemp, and the old plant becomes rapidly renewed by new stems from the old root. The fruit of the Plantain tree is now so familiar in England that it needs no description, but the sweet and delicate flavour is to a great extent lost by the necessity of plucking the fruit for export in a very unripe stage. About twenty-five thousand acres of land are planted with this fruit in Ceylon, and there are about ten varieties of it under cultivation. The yield is probably about eight hundred millions of fruit; and as this is all consumed in the island, the average amounts to about two hundred and sixty per annum for each inhabitant. Many persons, however, eat some thousands each, whilst others never eat them at all.

About three miles from Kandy, on this interesting road, the

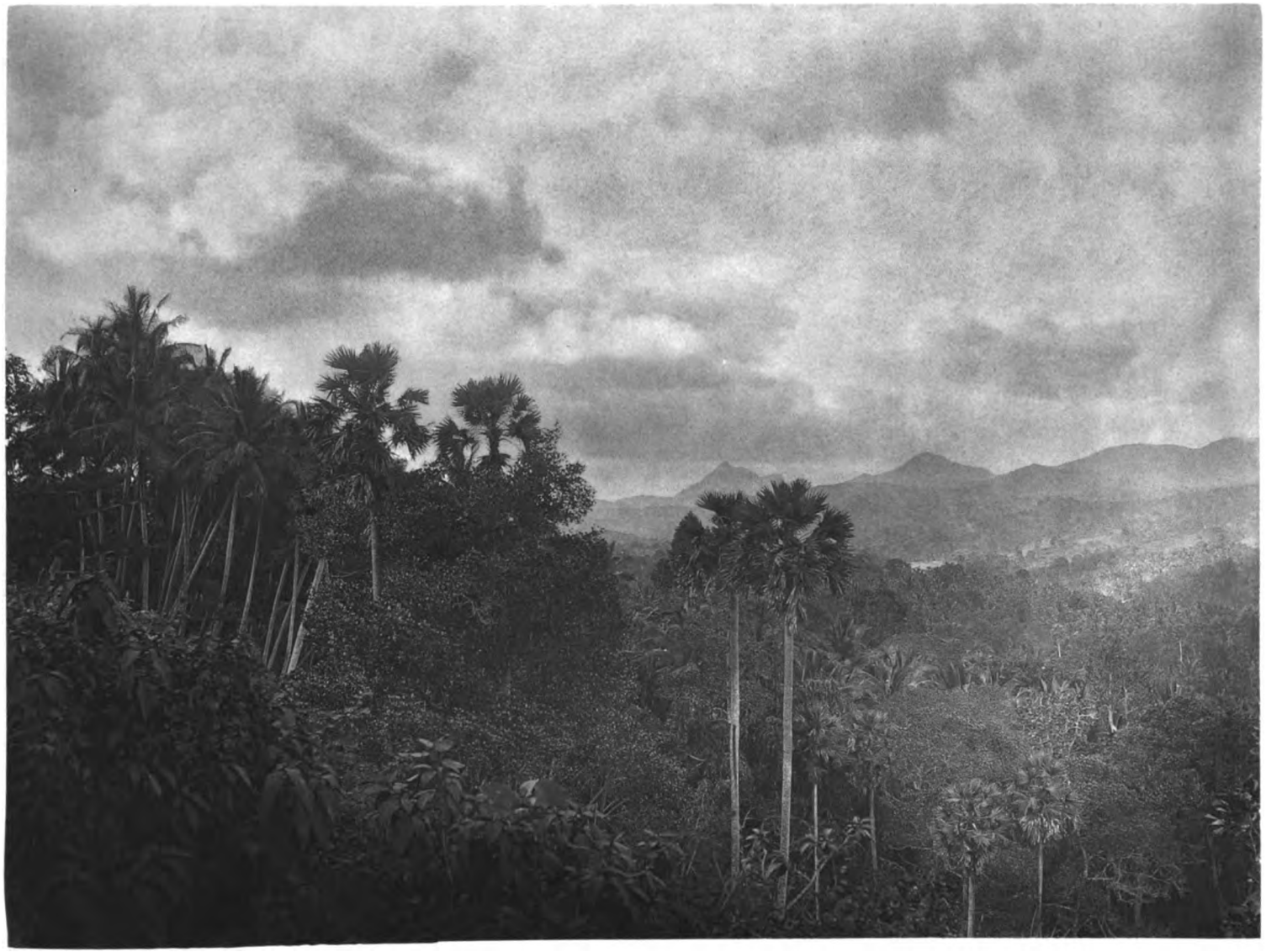
lofty cocoanut palms, with their beautiful crowns of feathery fronds and clean stems, embedded in the huge broad leaves of the plantains with which they are intermingled, form one of the richest features in tropical vegetation that can be found. Plate xvi is fairly representative of the general character of the forests of palms and plantains on the hillside around Kandy, but a full appreciation of the reality and extent of them can be gathered only on the spot, where it is enhanced by the gentle waving of huge fronds, glistening in the tropical sunlight. Between the stems of the palms in this view we get a glimpse of the "great sandy river," which adds much to the beauty of the scene, but which in the Plate here given necessarily too condensed to admit of its real effect. If any of my readers should chance to visit this spot I would advise them to leave the road, where they will see some very fine cocoa trees planted under the palms, and wander down the hillside to the river. They will be rewarded by many scenes surpassing the one here depicted, but which I could not obtain by means of the camera, owing to the want of a sufficient opening in the foreground.

Within half a mile of the forest of palms and plantains described above, a lovely view is obtained from the open road looking towards the Matale mountains (see Plate xvii). Here in the foreground we see the queen of palms, the lofty Talipot (*Corypha umbraculifera*), towering above the rest of its tribe. This majestic palm for about the first ten years grows only magnificent fan-shaped leaves, as seen in Plate xviii; next a trunk begins to form, which grows straight as a mast to a height of about one hundred feet. It is a grand white stem

PLATE XVII.

THE MATELE MOUNTAINS.

"A lovely view is obtained from the open road looking towards the Matele mountains. Here in the foreground we see the queen of palms, the lofty Talipot, towering above the rest of its tribe."—PAGE 64.



encircled with closely set ring-marks, where it has borne and shed its leaves from year to year. The semi-circular fans are often as large as fifteen feet in radius, giving a surface of about one hundred and fifty square feet. The uses to which they are put are computed by the natives at eight hundred and one, the foremost of these being rain-cloak and sunshade. Three or four of these leaves form an admirable tent, and are often used as such. The literary use to which they have for thousands of years been applied is perhaps the most interesting. For this they are cut into strips, and afterwards boiled and dried, when they form what the natives term *ola* or paper. On strips of *ola* the history and the religious codes of the people have been handed down to us. I have seen manuscripts of this description more than two thousand years old, and yet in beautiful condition, with the Pali characters* so clear and distinct that it is difficult to realise their vast age.

When the Talipot attains full maturity, it grows somewhat smaller leaves, and develops a gigantic bud some four feet in height. This huge bud forms only once, about the fiftieth year. In due course it bursts with a report, and a lovely white blossom unfolds itself, and spreads into a majestic pyramid of cream-coloured flowers, which rise to a height of twenty feet above the leafy crown. The fruit which follows on this magnificent blossoming consists of innumerable nuts, which, however, are useless. Their appearance is a sign that the noble tree is near its end. It now begins to droop, its magnificent leaves wither, and within a year it falls dead.

* The characters were pricked by a metal style.

Robert Knox's * quaint description of the Talipot is worth quoting. He says:—

"It is as big and tall as a ship's mast, and very straight, bearing only leaves which are of great use and benefit to this people, one single leaf being so broad and large that it will cover some fifteen or twenty men, and keep them dry when it rains. The leaf being dried is very strong and limber, and most wonderfully made for men's convenience to carry along with them, for though this leaf be thus broad when it is open, yet it will fold close like a lady's fan, and then it is no bigger than a man's arm. It is wonderfully light; they cut them into pieces and carry them in their hands. The whole leaf spread is round almost like a circle, but being cut in pieces for use are near like unto a triangle; they lay them upon their heads as they travel, with the peaked end foremost, which is convenient to make their way through the boughs and thickets. When the sun is vehement hot they use them to shade themselves from the heat; soldiers all carry them, for besides the benefit of keeping them dry in case it rain upon the march, these leaves make their tents to lie under in the night. A marvellous mercy, which Almighty God hath bestowed upon this poor and naked people in this rainy country."

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* Raja Singha II., king of Kandy in 1660–1680, had an extraordinary passion for detaining white men as prisoners in his dominions. Robert Knox, who wrote an admirable account of Kandy in the reign of Charles I., was kidnapped at Trincomalie, in 1659, along with his father, who was master of the ship *Anne* of London. He was taken to Kandy, and remained in captivity for twenty years. From his account it appears that there were twenty-nine English captives there at that time, besides several Frenchmen. In 1679 he succeeded in making his escape.

PLATE XVIII.

THE YOUNG TALIPOT.

"A marvellous mercy, which Almighty God hath bestowed upon this poor and naked people in this rainy country."—PAGE 66.

The two mountains in the far distance in Plate xvii are in the Matele district, which is interesting as much from memorable events connected with it as for its beautiful scenery. A trip to Matele being quite within the sphere of a visit to the Kandyan district, I will touch upon its chief points of interest, although it rather belongs to the fourth volume of this series, in which the wonderful ruins of the pre-Christian cities will be described. Matele is the first stage reached in making the journey from Kandy to the ancient cities of the North-central Province; but as the railway is open thus far, the visitor to Kandy can easily pay a visit to Matele without much expenditure of time. The chief object of interest is the Alu-wihara, one of the wonderful rock-temples of Ceylon. The origin of these famous cave-temples is due to a curious circumstance. About 100 B.C. turbulent times afflicted the king Walagam-bahu, who resided at Matele. The country was invaded by Malabar armies, which succeeded in taking possession of the Royal Palace, from which the king escaped and concealed himself for some years in the rocky caves of the district which were known only to his own people. In course of time his better fortunes returned to him, and upon being restored to his throne he preserved a grateful remembrance of these secure places of refuge by elaborating them into Temples. In connection with the Alu-wihara he perpetuated a great literary interest. The Buddhist codes of religion, which had hitherto been preserved only by tradition, were now for the first time, by his orders, inscribed within the natural walls of this sanctuary upon palm leaves, and thus preserved to future generations.

One modern incident of historical interest is also connected with the town and district of Matele. The last rebellion of the natives against the English rule took place here. In 1848 an attempt was made to restore the national sovereignty by the Buddhist priests and Kandyan chiefs, who by misrepresentation in regard to some new methods of taxation, induced a large number of followers to take up arms and proclaim a descendant of Raja Singha king of Kandy. Some four thousand of the insurgents marched on the town of Matele, which they partially destroyed, driving out the police, and burning down the English magistrate's residency. They were, however, easily routed by detachments from the 15th Regiment and the Malays of the Rifle Regiment. They retreated to the town of Kurunegala, which they greatly damaged, destroying the bazaars and plundering the residences of the officials; they also broke open the jail and liberated the prisoners. The Rifles, however, soon repulsed them again, when they retreated to Dambool and dispersed in the jungle. The prisoners were tried by court-martial and many of them were shot, whilst others were tried for high treason and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The pretender to the throne was the last to be taken, being found in a cave near Matele some two months after. He was condemned to death, but the sentence was afterwards commuted to transportation for life and a public flogging in Kandy. This unheroic individual, who had merely been the tool of the priests and chiefs by whom the rebellion was planned, pleaded in the most abject manner to be liberated, saying that he was compelled against his will to assume the

PLATE XIX.

THE DUMBARA VALLEY.

"Perhaps the most beautiful view to be obtained on the Kondesalle road is that of the Dumbara Valley, now becoming famous for its cocoa (chocolate) plantations. It will be noticed that, in spite of the clearings made for the cultivation of various products, it is still beautifully wooded. In the far distance the outline of the noble mountain known as the Knuckles is clearly visible. It will be noticed that the top of this mountain is shaped by four distinct elevations resembling the knuckles of the hand, from which circumstance its name is derived."—PAGES 69 and 70.

title of king, and that the royal robes were even placed upon him by force.

The Matele hills, just visible in our view from the Kondesalle road, rise to an altitude of five thousand feet, are wooded to their summits, save where clearings have been made for the cultivation of coffee, cocoa, and tea, and exhibit fine specimens of some of the most remarkable trees in Ceylon, including many iron-wood trees, with crimson-tipped foliage and delicate flowers. Some of the wealthy Kandyan chiefs still live in this vicinity. The estates of the unhappy Eheylapola, the awful tragedy in whose family has been already referred to, were here.

The visitor who is interested in the arts and occupations of the people will find some quaint workshops in Matele. Ivory carving, and the elaborate chasing of ceremonial swords, such as were worn at the Kandyan state ceremonies, and are still part of the official uniform of native chiefs holding office under the British Government, are still executed here. There is also a very pretty and delicate industry carried on in the weaving of grass matting for the covering of couches and chairs.

Perhaps the most beautiful view to be obtained on the Kondesalle road is that depicted by Plate xix of the Dumbara valley, now becoming famous for its cocoa (chocolate) plantations. It will be noticed that, in spite of the clearings made for the cultivation of various products, it is still beautifully wooded.

The lovely jungle is, however, gradually giving way to the less beautiful but more wealth-creating tea and cocoa plan-

tations. An instance of the first process towards modern cultivation is visible in Plate xix. The smoke ascending in the distance tells of the scene of havoc below. The huge trunks and giant boughs of fine old trees are crashing down amidst the ruthless flames, where they will be allowed to lie for years charred and crumbling to slowly nourish the new products by which they are to be supplanted.

In the far distance the outline of the noble mountain known as the Knuckles is clearly visible. It will be noticed that the top of this mountain is shaped by four distinct elevations resembling the knuckles of the hand, from which circumstance its name is derived. It is an important district under cultivation for tea, cinchona, cardamoms, and other products. The estates opened up extend to more than eight thousand acres.

What the enterprise of European planters has done for Ceylon will form an important part of my next volume, but here I may pause to remark that, save for this enterprise, Kandy would not to-day be easily accessible, and would be an unknown region to thousands who have found pleasure in visiting the scenes described. The magnificent mountain railway would not have been made; the miles of interesting little native homesteads, with their pretty cultivated surroundings, so interesting to the traveller, would have had no existence; the million or more of Tamils now employed on estates would have remained poorer on their native Indian soil, many of them perhaps to die from the terrible scourge of famine. The wealth created by this enterprise has by no means been limited to the benefit of the capitalist. Indeed, while he has too frequently

lost all, the natives have ever gained, and when he has been fortunate they have gained still more. The homes of the Kandyans have increased in comfort and luxury, and the Tamil Cooly has been enabled to remit rupees to his poorer relatives on the Continent. To take a wider view, we may rightly attribute a great stimulus in native agricultural industry to the example of the European planting pioneers; and in a higher sense still, they have also, to a great extent, been pioneers of civilization. These and a hundred other benefits to the native community may be traced to the great planting enterprise of Ceylon, which, through its various periods of success and almost terrible calamity, has always been characterised by an element of nobility such as no other nation can boast of. The courage displayed by the whole community of planters during the great coffee failures, in facing the terrible reverses of fortune which fell upon almost every one, can only be realised by those who were in the country and conversant with the difficulties which they encountered, and by the most wonderful determination surmounted. The perseverance and resourcefulness which resulted in renewing general prosperity throughout the country form one of the most remarkable instances of well-doing in the whole world's history of commerce. It is perhaps too much to expect that the natives generally should appreciate the full benefit which they have derived from such circumstances, but it must be evident to many of them that their own prosperity is due to the efforts of the planting community.

The principal characteristic building in Kandy is the Buddhist Temple, known as the Daladá Máligiáwa, or Temple

of the Tooth. Its position will be seen by a glance at Plate v. Plate xx gives the best near view which can be obtained. The scene was the occasion of the visit of the Crown Prince of Austria, in 1893. The crowd of natives had assembled to witness the arrival of His Royal Highness with Sir Arthur Havelock, the Governor of the Colony, who were about to visit the monastery and view the sacred tooth of Buddha. Through the courtesy of the Kandyan chief, the Honble. T. B. Panbokka, whose portrait is given on Plate xxi, I was enabled to pass in and obtain a sight of this revered relic, which is only shown in case of a Royal visit, and some other very special occasions which may not occur for years. Previous to 1828 it had not been exposed for fifty-three years, when the English Government made a kind of political exhibition of it. Political expediency at that time rendered it advisable to hold out some kind of protection to a superstition so wide-spread and deeply rooted, for the people really believed that its possession conferred a right of sovereignty. A Christian Government would not venture in the present day to make political capital in such a manner. It was shown to the Prince of Wales in 1875, to his two sons in 1882, and has been seen on a very few other occasions of less importance since.

Before describing the scene within, one or two features noticeable in the picture are worthy of remark. The Dagoba, or bell-shaped shrine, is one of a countless number erected in Ceylon during more than twenty centuries to contain saintly relics. They are all of similar shape, but vary in size from the small one of solid gold encrusted with gems, which enshrines

PLATE XX.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE, KANDY.

"The principal characteristic building in Kandy is the Buddhist Temple known as the Daladá Máligáwa, or Temple of the Tooth. The scene was the occasion of the visit of the Crown Prince of Austria in 1893. The crowd had assembled to witness the arrival of His Royal Highness with Sir Arthur Havelock, the governor of the Colony, who were about to visit the monastery and view the sacred tooth of Buddha."—PAGE 71.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE, KANDY.

the tooth, to those of cyclopean dimensions estimated to contain solid masonry to the extent of many millions of cubic feet, and which take high rank amongst the wonders of the world.

The temporary erection in front of the main entrance is an arch of welcome. It is a structure known in Ceylon as the Pandal. In the construction of this form of decoration the Singhalese excel to a surprising degree, so much so that I do not hesitate to assert that in no other country is such effective decoration by means of foliage, fruit and flowers, on occasions of festivity, ever to be seen. It is true that they practice the art on every possible occasion, and thereby they naturally become proficient in an occupation so much to their taste. Every wedding, silver wedding and golden, is celebrated by a lavish display of Pandals, and every distinguished guest is welcomed in the same gay and effective manner, the decorations often being on a very extensive scale. A Singhalese Pandal is never heavy, but is always elegant. The materials are entwined on a shapely and artistic framework of bamboo, which is sometimes attached to complete stems of the beautiful Areca palm, forming columns on either side, and consist of plumes from the finest palms, trails of beautiful climbing ferns, lovely mosses, bright blossoms of great beauty, almost every kind of tropical fruit and flowers, green oranges, golden oranges, pine apples, palmyra nuts, areca nuts, cocoanuts, kitool berries, and many more kinds of less familiar fruits.

In our Frontispiece the top of a very elegant Pandal may be noticed in the rear of the buildings on the left of the

Church tower. This marks the entrance to the Pavilion before referred to.

The Temple, and the Pattirippuwa, which is the name of the octagonal building on the right of the main entrance, are enclosed by a very ornamental stone wall and a moat. The Temple itself is concealed by the other buildings within the enclosure. Upon entering we pass through a small quadrangle and turn to the right up a flight of stone steps to the Temple itself. The most noticeable features are grotesque carvings, highly-coloured frescoes, representing torments in store for various classes of sinners, and images of Buddha. A most torturous noise is kept up by tom-tom beating, and the sound of various native instruments. On either side are flower sellers, and the atmosphere is heavy with the perfume of the lovely white blossoms. Each worshipper in the Temple brings an offering of some fragrant flower. The beautiful Plumiera, with its pure creamy petals and yellow heart, is the most popular sacrificial blossom, and this, together with jasmine and oleander, is everywhere strewn by devout Singhalese. The numbers of yellow-robed priests, the Kandyan chiefs in their rich white and gold dresses and curious jewel-bespangled hats, and the various richly-coloured costumes of the crowds of reverent worshippers of both sexes, form a scene striking in the extreme. The Kandyan chiefs had assembled on this occasion in considerable force, and were a very distinctive feature of the scene. They are naturally handsome men, and when attired, as they were, in full court dress, they look very imposing. To begin with, they contrive to wind about their persons some one hundred and fifty yards of fine silk or muslin, embroidered in

PLATE XXI.

THE HON. T. B. PANABOKKA,

KANDYAN CHIEF, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KANDYAN SINGHALESE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CEYLON.

"*The Kandyan chiefs had assembled on this occasion in considerable force and were a very distinctive feature of the scene. They are naturally handsome men, and when attired, as they were, in full Court dress they look very imposing.*"—PAGE 74.

THE HONBLE. W. D. PANABOKKA,

KANDYAN CHIEF, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KANDYAN SINGHALESE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CEYLON.

gold, in form to render themselves somewhat of the shape of a peg-top. This drapery, tapered finely down to the ankles, ends in neat little frills. Round the waist is fastened a velvet gold-embroidered belt. Over a shirt, fastened with magnificent jewelled studs, they wear a jacket with very full sleeves, fastened tight above the elbow, and made of brightest coloured brocaded silks. Their hats are of very curious shape, even more gorgeously embroidered than the jackets, and studded with jewels. (See Plate xxi.)

We enter a narrow doorway and notice two pairs of elephant's tusks on either side, and some very curious metal work on the door itself; this leads to a steep narrow staircase, at the end of which is a door most elaborately inlaid with silver and ivory; through this we enter the little sanctuary which contains the jealously-guarded sacred tooth, the palladium of Ceylon, and an object of unbounded reverence to four hundred millions of people. Within this chamber, in dim religious light, we notice a solid silver table, behind which the huge silver-gilt Dagoba, or bell-shaped shrine, with six inner shrines protecting the tooth, is usually visible through thick metal bars. But to-day the visit of the Crown Prince of Austria is honoured by an unlocking of the bolts and bars, the nest of priceless shrines is brought forward, and the tooth is displayed, upheld by a twist of golden wire, from the heart of a large golden lotus blossom. The shrines, however, attract our notice much more than the supposed tooth of Gautama Buddha. They are all of pure gold, ornamented with magnificent rubies, pearls, emeralds, and catseyes, the last two being quite covered with rubies.

Besides these treasures, I saw many priceless offerings and gifts of kings, including an image of Buddha carved out of one gigantic emerald, about three inches long by two deep. There were also many chains set with precious stones and other ornaments.

The tooth, for the possession of which bloody wars have been fought, and which is so carefully and reverently preserved, is very unlike a human tooth, indeed, so much so, that it strikes the visitor who is independent of the hereditary influence of Eastern superstition as ridiculous that any one should ever suppose it to be one. It exactly resembles a crocodile's tooth, one and a half inches in length and half an inch in diameter. The devout Buddhist does undoubtedly believe it to be a genuine tooth of Buddha, but the best authorities believe the genuine tooth to have been seized and destroyed by the Portuguese.

We are glad soon to retreat from this small chamber, so hot, and filled with the almost overpowering perfume of the Plumiera blossoms, and to visit the Oriental Library in the Octagon, which is fully visible in Plate xx. In the balcony we pause awhile and become refreshed as we look around upon the motley crowd below, and view the town and the lake, which are very interesting from this spot. The chief priest with great courtesy now showed us a very rare and valuable collection of manuscripts of great antiquity. Most of them are in Pali and Sanskrit characters, not written but pricked with a stylus on narrow strips of palm leaf about three inches wide and sixteen or twenty inches long. These strips form the leaves of the books, and are strung together between two

boards which form the covers. Many of the covers are ornamented elaborately with embossed metal, and some are even set with jewels. Besides the sacred and historical writings, there are works on astronomy, mathematics and other subjects.

The most wonderful adventures are ascribed to the tooth in some of these ancient manuscripts. It is said to have been rescued from the funeral pyre of Buddha when, in B.C. 543, he was cremated. Its first resting-place was Danta-poora, near Calcutta, where it was for centuries worshipped and honoured by great festivals. At length an invading army of Brahmins attempted to capture the relic, but at the sight of it they were converted. Attempts were made to destroy it by fire, but it always reappeared enfolded in a lotus blossom. It resisted all attempts to crush it by blows. Elephants were made to trample upon it, but it would rise out of the ground again in its lotus blossom of silver and gold. The Brahmins further cast it into sewers, whereupon the sewers turned into beautiful lakes. At length, as the result of these and other miracles, the Brahmins were all converted.

These and many more absurd stories of the early history of the tooth are related. The Brahmins who had captured it, returned it upon their conversion to Danta-poora, but the king, when afterwards another attack was made upon it, bade his daughter conceal it in the tresses of her hair and make her way to Ceylon. This she is said to have done in A.D. 311. Since that time there is more reasonable and certain history of its movements. It was moved about with changes of royal residences, and many splendid temples were erected in its honour, the ruins of which exist to the present day.

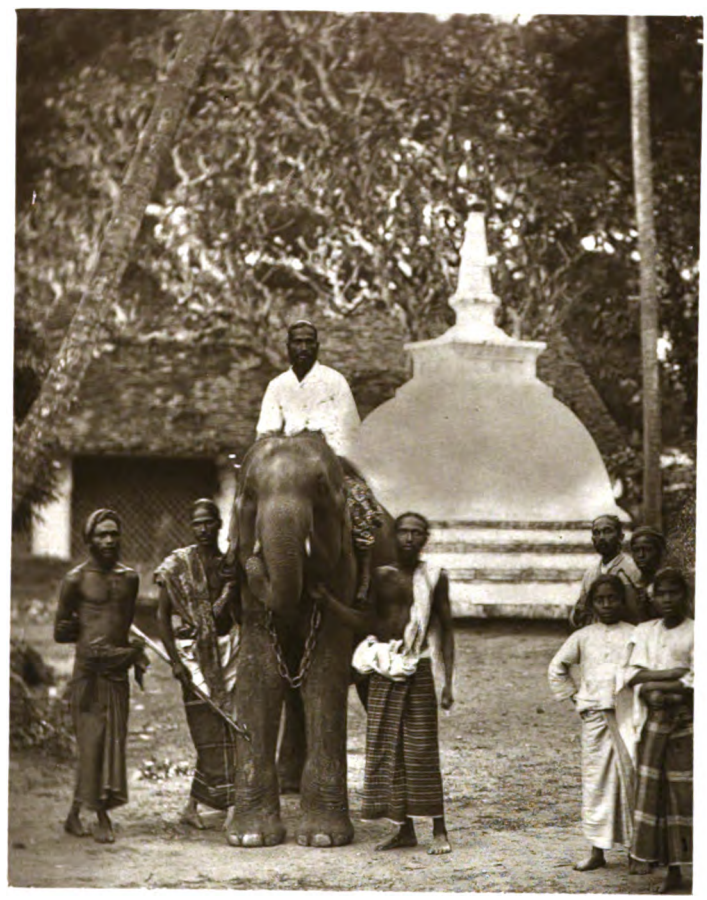
One of the most weird and barbaric sights to be seen in this or any other country is the Perahara, a night procession of pre-historic origin which takes place frequently, the chief festival being celebrated in August. Although the celebration of the chief festival was not due at this time, a procession exactly similar was organised in honour of the Royal visitor. Attached to the Temple is a stud of some forty fine elephants, which, when not in use for festival purposes, are kept on the estates of the native chiefs in the district. I found one of these huge but gentle beasts lazily rubbing himself against the stem of a palm tree in the grounds (see Plate x). Here was another instance of nature's bountiful provision for all living creatures in Ceylon. What scratch-back could be more perfect for an elephant than the stem of the cocoanut, with its deeply-indented ring-marks, where it has borne and shed its leaves from year to year? This should be added to the hundred and one uses already ascribed to this generous palm. The humane instinct of the Duke of Argyll, which led him to erect posts for Scotch cattle to rub against, would have found no field for exercise in this bounteous land.

The elephants were brought into the Temple grounds during the day, and a night procession of the following description took place. The route, a large quadrangle in front of the Temple, was illuminated by torches and small lanterns placed in niches purposely constructed for them in the ornamental walls. The finest elephant was taken into the Temple by the main entrance, seen in the picture here presented, and caparisoned with gorgeous trappings quite covering his huge head and body, the face-covering being richly embroidered in

Plate XXII.

JUST ARRIVED FOR THE PERAHARA.

"*Attached to the Temple is a stud of some forty fine elephants which, when not in use for festival purposes, are kept on the estates of the native chiefs in the district. They were brought into the Temple grounds during the day.*"—Page 78.



JUST ARRIVED FOR THE FERAHARA.

gold, silver, and jewels, and surmounted with an image of Buddha; the tusks also encased in splendid sheaths. The shrine of the tooth is removed and placed within the howdah, the whole being surmounted by a huge canopy supported by rods which are held on either side by natives. Two lesser elephants are now brought up and decorated in a somewhat similar manner, and are then placed to escort the great elephant, one on each side. Several headmen now mount the elephants, holding baskets of flowers, and their attendants sit behind, holding gold and silver umbrellas. The other elephants are then brought up into procession, all mounted in a similar way by headmen and their attendants. Between each section are rows of other headmen in gorgeous dresses, and groups of masked devil-dancers in the most barbaric costumes, dancing frantically, adopting every possible contortion, and producing the most hideous noise by the beating of tom-toms, blowing of chank-shells, the clanging of brass cymbals, the blowing of shrill pipes and other instruments useful in creating the most ear-splitting devil-music that can be imagined. Nothing more eerie can be imagined than this procession, about a mile long, consisting of thousands of dark brown figures, gaily dressed, intermingling with hideous groups of devil-dancers, all frantically gesticulating around the forty elephants by the dim red light of a thousand torches. It seems extraordinary that under the present conditions of fast-increasing civilization among them that they should carry out such festivities with real barbaric zeal; but they seem to do so, and as the Perahara has continued to be celebrated for twenty-five centuries it is not safe to predict its discontinuance.

CHAPTER V.

PERADENIYA.

THE botanic splendour in which Ceylon is so richly clothed from shore to shore, undoubtedly reaches its highest point of magnificence at Peradeniya. A four miles drive from Kandy, through innumerable scenes of human interest, brings us to the village which is approached by way of a satinwood bridge spanning "the great sandy river," Mahawelliganga (see Plate xxiii). This bridge is a remarkable structure; it spans the river with a single arch, in which there is neither nail nor bolt, the whole of the massive woodwork being merely dovetailed together. It is constructed entirely of beautiful yellow satinwood, which fifty years ago was so plentiful in the forests of Ceylon that it was used for common building purposes. This wood is extremely hard and durable, as is evidenced by the present condition of the bridge, which has now withstood the effects of excessive damp and tropical heat for sixty-two years without visible deterioration. Under normal conditions the river flows fully seventy feet below the arch, but at the burst of the monsoons such a mighty torrent rolls between these lovely bamboo-fringed banks, that the bridge then clears the water by about ten feet only.

PLATE XXIII.

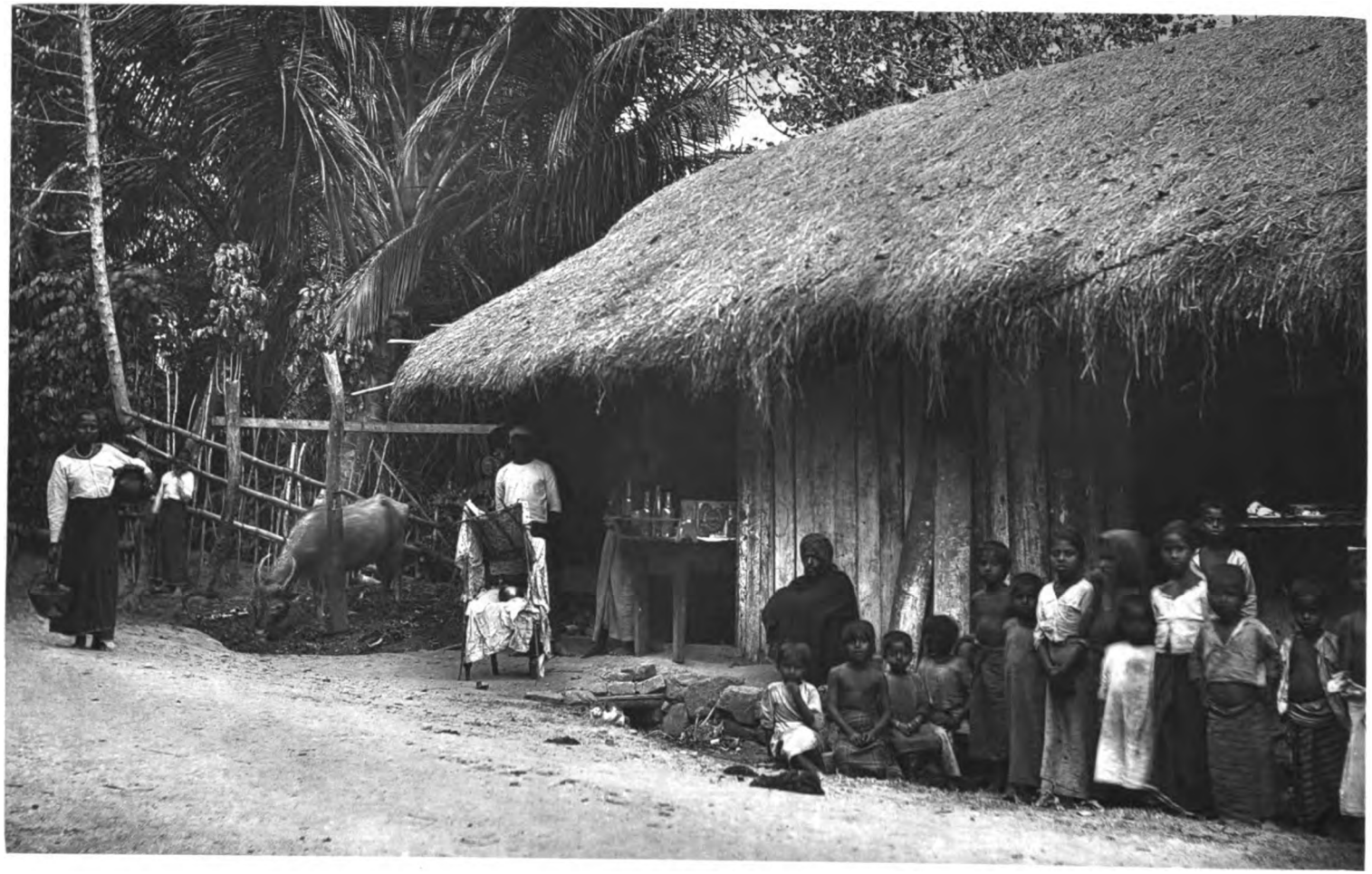
SATINWOOD BRIDGE AT PERADENIYA.

"*This bridge is a remarkable structure; it spans the river with a single arch, in which there is neither nail nor bolt, the whole of the massive woodwork being merely dovetailed together. It is constructed entirely of beautiful yellow satinwood, which fifty years ago was so plentiful in the forests of Ceylon that it was used for common building purposes.*"—PAGE 80.

SATINWOOD BRIDGE, PERADENIYA.

The river here flows between the garden and the village. Immediately upon crossing the bridge we come upon typical scenes of village life. Plate xxiv shows much that is characteristic of every Singhalese village; the native woman, with a large red chattie, made of porous earthenware, placed upon her hip; the domesticated buffalo; the temporary Buddhist shrine, erected to receive the offerings of devout wayfarers—it will be noticed that this modest erection consists of a chair surmounted by a framework of bamboo sticks, covered by a few strips of calico, forming a canopy within which is placed a small image of Buddha and a bowl for offerings; at the close of the day the offerings are conveyed to the Temple of the Tooth at Kandy. The native hut which does duty as a dwelling-house and refreshment stall is quite representative. Its walls and floor are of mud, its roof of the dried fronds of palm leaves, and the front is opened or closed by means of wooden planks. The usual swarm of little brown urchins frolic on the roadside, and add not a little to the picturesqueness of the scene. Beside the hut tower palms to the height of ninety feet, waving their glorious crowns above a luxuriant undergrowth of smaller trees, shrubs, and flowering creepers; and in the lovely little wild gardens grow pepper, curry seeds, garlic, pumpkins, sweet potatoes—all in wild profusion.

Not many yards further on in the village I obtained the view given in Plate xxvi. The native hut here nestles beneath a splendid bread-fruit tree, but the bounteous cocoanut palm, which generally waves above these quaint little homesteads, and provides the inmates with so many of their needs, is not absent. Here is the perfection of village life; the people lay



VILLAGE BOUTIQUE, PERADENIYA.

PLATE XXV.

CONTENT WITH NATURE'S GIFTS.

"*Indeed, the wants of the Singhalese are very few; they live in great contentment, with apparently no ambition to possess more than a modest little hut, furnished only with a few palm-leaf plaited mats, on which habit enables them to enjoy perfect repose. Nature is their kindly mother, and supplies them with every gift which their gentle and subdued dispositions need.*"—PAGE 83.

aid of his sticks. In this manner he earns six shillings a week. Of course he can, if he chooses, go to the workhouse, or receive some trifling parish relief, but poor law relief being necessarily of such a nature as to render it undesirable for those who can work at all, the very hard and miserable alternative is preferred. If this poor wretch were a Singhalese man, his old age would be no such burden to him, and his comforts would in nowise lessen with his increasing inability to earn them.

Indeed, the wants of the Singhalese are very few; they live in great contentment, with apparently no ambition to possess more than a modest little hut, furnished only with a few palm-leaf plaited mats, on which habit enables them to enjoy perfect repose; the streams which abound everywhere provide them with baths which are their chief luxury, and in which their naturally cleanly habits cause them to take great pleasure. They are to be found at all hours of the day combing and drying their long black hair on the banks, after which process they renew its gloss with cocoanut oil and twist it into a coil. Nature is their kindly mother, and supplies them with every gift which their gentle and subdued dispositions need. Hurry and bustle, so characteristic of the advancement of western civilization, is unknown to them. Even in the bazaars of the large towns, all rush and confusion, such as one sees in the markets of continental towns of Southern Europe, is entirely absent. The noiseless tread of their bare feet, and their dilatory movements, are in great contrast to anything like tumult, although the scene is never quiet, for they are great talkers, and use their voices at a high pitch. Fortunately, the Singhalese language is beautifully soft in sound, even more so

than Italian. A curious circumstance connected with their great loquaciousness is that the vocabulary of the poorer classes is exceedingly small. I have heard it stated that some of the Cooly class understand only some three hundred words, and in their conversation use fewer.

But to return to the principal feature of the Plate under notice—the Bread Fruit Tree. It will be noticed that the foliage of this tree is in marked contrast with the waving plumes of the cocoanut and other palms amongst which it grows. It is very massive, dark, glossy, and deeply indented. The fruit, which is very abundant, grows in large pale green pods, about the size of melons, which nestle beneath each separate crown of leaves. It is used as food by the natives in various preparations, but is, as a rule, disliked by Europeans.

Many people who visit the famous garden of Peradeniya return to Kandy without a walk through the pretty village. The guide himself being unable to appreciate any interest in village scenes, seldom suggests it, but the visitor who does find his way there, and who takes interest in the people, as well as their beautiful country, will linger long amongst the quaint scenes of village life. The open air occupations, such as that of the goldsmith (Plate xxvii), will attract the visitor in no small degree. The custom of the natives in wearing their savings in the form of anklets, bangles, toe rings, and earrings, gives employment to a large number of workers in the precious metals; so that this is a very familiar scene.

The native goldsmith, as will be seen from the picture, works in a very primitive fashion; his tools are few and of

PLATE XXVI.

THE BREAD FRUIT TREE.

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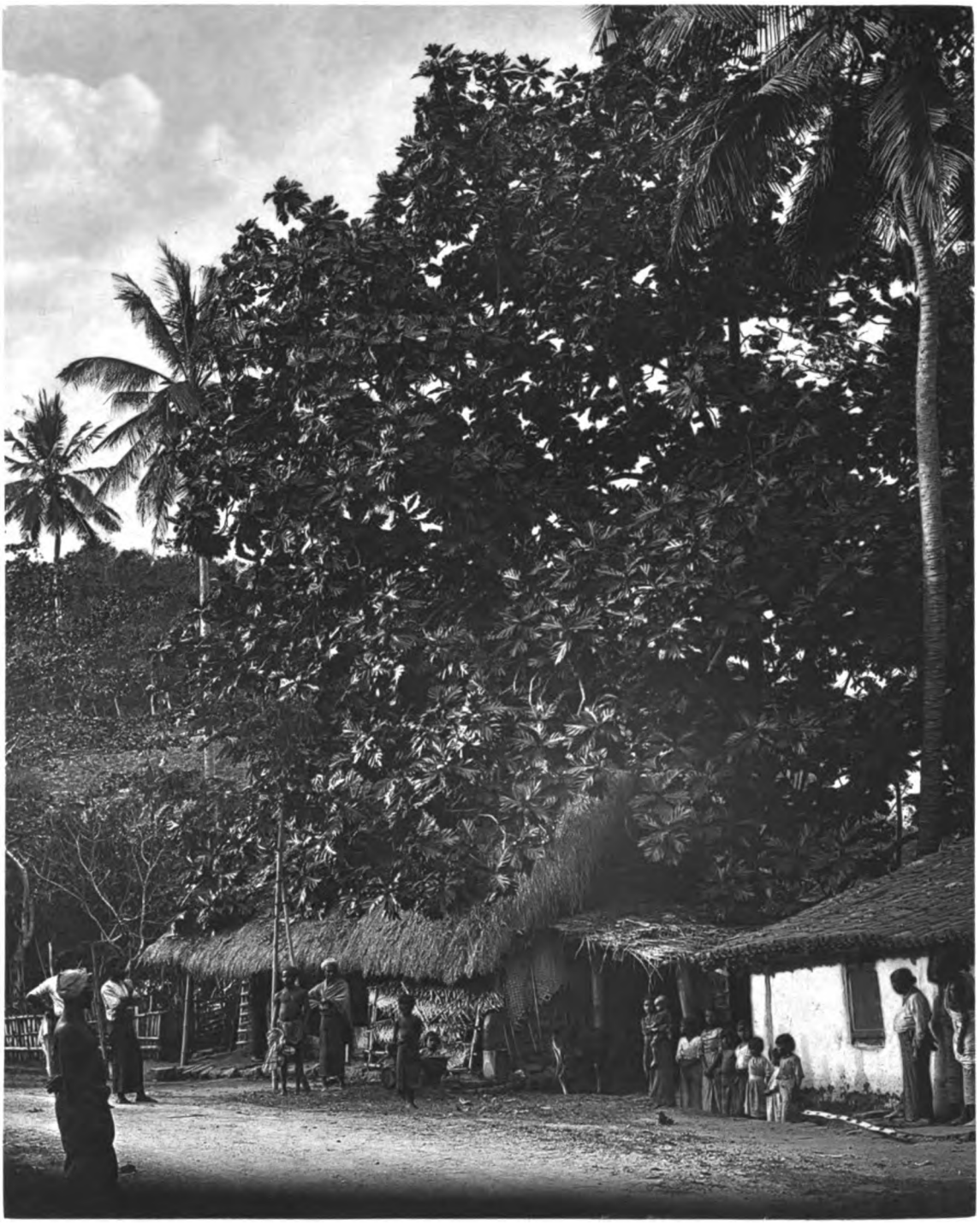
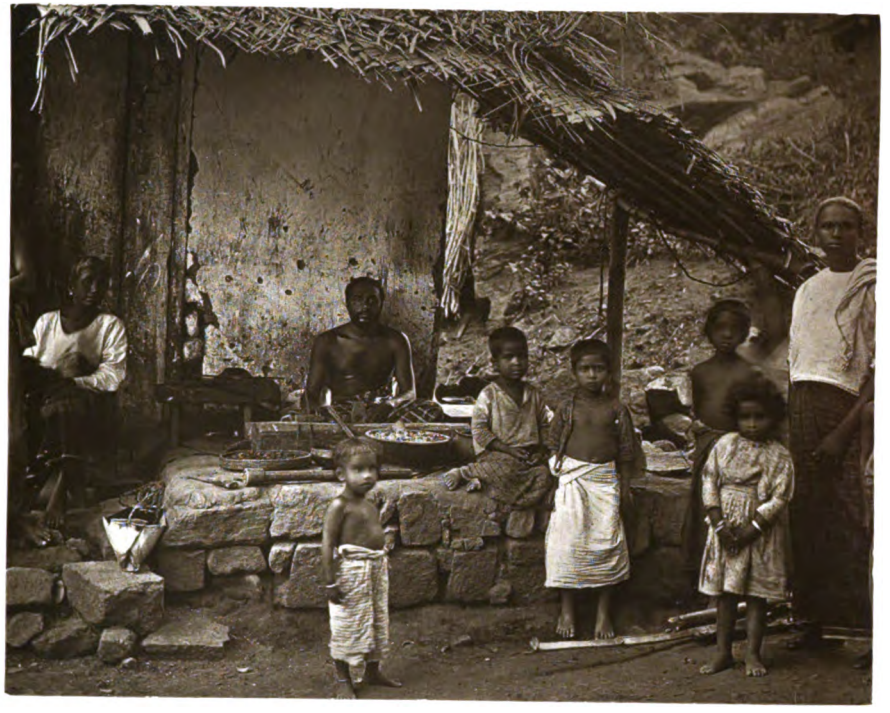


PLATE XXVII.

THE VILLAGE GOLDSMITH.

"The native goldsmith, as will be seen from the picture, works in a very primitive fashion; his tools are few and of his own construction, and his furnace a couple of simple native-made earthenware bowls."—PAGE 85.



THE VILLAGE COOKING.

his own construction, and his furnace a couple of simple native-made earthenware bowls. The passer-by can hand him a sovereign and watch the process of converting it into a brooch, which, although of rough finish, will be sure to have some artistic merit; or a set of shirt studs; or, perhaps, a finger ring or bangle. Perhaps it would be as well to *watch the process*, for whatever virtues one may be inclined to award the native villager, he is not averse to taking a portion of what does not belong to him if he has the opportunity. For this reason it is not at all unusual for an English lady, who wants some native jewellery, to send for the goldsmith and require him to squat down in her verandah and manufacture it in her presence. I have seen many pretty articles made in this way from sovereigns provided by the customer.

Amongst the village people the amateur photographer has a very pleasant time. They are very gentle, civil, and obliging; and although they sometimes crowd inconveniently around, they readily disperse when bidden to do so. They are always eager to render assistance. Three of the bigger children in the group given in Plate xxv caught sight of me vainly endeavouring to place my camera about half way down the river bank, where it is exceedingly steep and about seventy feet to the water's edge. They immediately descended, helped me to obtain a secure footing, and to affix the apparatus. Without their readily-proffered aid I should not have obtained my view of the Satinwood Bridge. The well-nourished appearance of the children in this group, and the expressions of contentment which they wear, go far to confirm

the opinion which I have expressed, that they are content with Nature's gifts, and are far happier than their western brothers who are engaged in the race for wealth.

Amongst them, however, there are some whose lot does not seem enviable. Certainly the grass cutter is often a very miserable-looking specimen of humanity, and appears to toil very hard. She is generally the wife of the Muttu, or native groom, who usually supplies his master with grass for the horse, which he makes his wife cut and bring home in a huge bundle upon her head (see Plate xxix). The grass cutter is a character very frequently seen near the towns, and greatly excites the wonder of the stranger by the enormous size of the load which she bears upon her head, and carries, together with her baby, who always rides in native fashion, astride upon the hip. It is interesting to see her place the huge bundle upon her head, and then, balancing it with perfect ease and security, stoop down and take up the baby from the ground. In like manner she sets it down again, first depositing the baby with both hands, and then the greater load. The grass cutters are not always so unlovely as the specimen here given, but as a rule they are unattractive.

Another familiar roadside character is the gram vendor. There is always one to be seen near Peradeniya Bridge (see Plate xxviii). She sits patiently during the greater part of the day selling grain by the half-centsworth to passers by. As might be conjectured from the size of the little bamboo measure, this grain is being sold in very small quantities as a luxury. It resembles dried peas, and tastes rather like them.

PLATE XXVIII.

THE GRAM VENDOR.

"Another familiar roadside character is the Gram Vendor. She sits patiently during the greater part of the day selling gram by the half-cents-worth to passers by. As might be conjectured from the size of the little bamboo measure, this grain is being sold in very small quantities as a luxury. It resembles dried peas, and tastes rather like them."—PAGE 86.

THE GRASS WIDOW.

PLATE XXIX.

THE GRASS CUTTER.

"Certainly the grass cutter is often a very miserable-looking specimen of humanity, and appears to toil very hard. She is generally the wife of the Muttu, or native groom, who usually supplies his master with grass for the horse. It is interesting to see her place the huge bundle upon her head, and then, balancing it with perfect ease and security, stoop down and take up the baby from the ground."—PAGE 86.

A CHILD GIRL.

Let us now recross the Mahawelliganga by the Satinwood Bridge and visit the wonderful Garden. Near the entrance we are attracted by a fine avenue of India-rubber trees (*Ficus elastica*). The little plant, with bright green oval leaves, which in England we are accustomed to see in sitting-rooms and conservatories, grows in its native land to an enormous size, and throws out horizontal boughs to an extent of more than fifty feet. It is most remarkable, however, for its snake-like roots, which extend from the base of the trunk to a wider extent than the height of the tree. Sometimes they reach out more than one hundred feet, and in appearance they resemble huge pythons crawling over the surface of the soil. That portion of the root which rises above the surface occasionally reaches to such a height that a man can stand upright behind it and be hidden; it is not cylindrical, but flattened, so that it really resembles a wall. When these noble trees are wounded, tears trickle down their stems, and harden into the india-rubber of commerce. A double row of these giants form a magnificent avenue just outside the Gardens. The great boughs are interlaced, and their silvery stems so shaped that they appear to be writhing each in another's toils. They are indeed a stately and impressive sight, forming a worthy approach to the wonders beyond them.

The Royal Botanic Gardens were established very soon after the occupation of the Kandyan kingdom by the English. All European ideas of a garden must be dispelled if we wish to realise the general features of Peradeniya. There is an entire absence of formal arrangement, but the beautifully undulated land of about one hundred and fifty acres presents a

grand effect—a garden and park combined, under the most favourable conditions for both. Dr. Trimen, the accomplished director of the Gardens, remarks that "here nature asserts herself almost uncontrolled; she gives us grandeur of form, wealth of foliage, exuberance of growth, and splendour of colour—unfading beauties, but of a quite different kind from those of the sweet summer flower-gardens or the well-kept stoves and greenhouses of England." Of course scientific instruction is the primary object of the Gardens, but still picturesque effect must have been studied with great care in planting the groups of trees and arranging the various families of plants. Upon entering the Gardens such magnificent groups of palms greet us that we halt in amazement. A specimen of each one indigenous to the island, in company with many noble specimens of foreign lands, are seen in massive assemblage, wreathed with flowering creepers, and bearing on their trunks lovely sprays of elegant ferns. At the end of the entrance avenue one of these stately groups is surrounded by a beautiful parterre, displaying many of the most notable flowering shrubs. On the left of the entrance, which itself is draped with a graceful creeper, the Bignonia Unguis-cati of Brazil, is a wall covered with dense masses of the Burmese Thunbergia creeper, with lovely bell-shaped blossoms of pale violet-blue, and many fine old tree trunks, clothed in the same beautiful manner. Near this spot are to be seen gamboge trees, and some very curious African trees, with long pendulous fruits. Continuing in the same direction, we come to a charming little pool, which is seen to the best advantage at seven o'clock in the morning, when the reflection of the bamboos and the palms upon its banks is so perfect that, save for the narrow strips of leaf on

PLATE XXX.

PERADENIYA GARDENS.

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PERADENIYA GARDENS.

PLATE XXXI.

BAMBOOS AT PERADENIYA.

"Continuing in the same direction we come to a charming little pool, which is seen to the best advantage at seven o'clock in the morning, when the reflection of the bamboos and the palms upon its banks is so perfect that, save for the narrow strips of leaf on the surface of the water, the view presented in the pool is as exact in all detail as the real one."—
PAGE 89.

BAMBOOS AT PERADENIYA.

the surface of the water, the view presented in the pool is as exact in all detail as the real one. This effect will be rendered evident by inverting the view given in Plate xxxi. To the south of the pool is the most recently planted part of the Garden. Here will be noticed some giant clumps of Malacca Bamboo, in diameter about nine inches, and reaching to a height of one hundred feet. During the rains they may almost be seen to grow, so rapidly do they increase their height and bulk. I cannot say what is the fullest extent to which they increase in a single day, but one foot is somewhere near the minimum during the heavy rainfall in June and July.

As we approach the pretty corner at the extreme south of the Gardens, which is represented by Plate xxx, the noticeable features are varieties of succulent plants in a pretty rockery, especially the *Boucerosia umbellata*, with purple velvet flowers, a miniature plantation of chocolate trees of various kinds, india rubber trees, gutta-percha trees, a large number of beds of pretty flowers, and many young palms recently planted out. The drive at this end of the Garden forms a loop, around which are screw pines, agaves, aloes, and bamboos.

The Screw Pine (*Pandanus*), with its scarlet-orange fruits, tempting only to monkeys, its sword-like glossy leaves, its forked cylindrical stem so beautifully chased, and its strange stilt-like roots, presents a most fantastic appearance (see Plate xxxii). Several specimens of different species of the screw pine will be noticed in the distant parts of the view.

It will be seen by Plate xxx that in this corner of the Garden we arrive at the Satinwood Bridge already described. It is here hidden to a great extent by a graceful clump of bamboos and a mass of flowering shrubs, but there are openings near this spot where very effective views of the full span of two hundred and five feet can be obtained.

From the bridge the course of the river somewhat resembles the shape of a horse-shoe, and thus it embraces almost the whole of the Garden, adding greatly to the picturesque effect. The high banks are in many parts clothed with climbing shrubs between the enormous thickets of bamboo, which wave their plumes over river and path (see Plate ii). And these huge clumps of eighty or a hundred cylindrical stems rising to such a lofty height are really bunches of grass! Their stems are knotted like all grasses, of which they are the most wonderful species. They grow closely crowded together from a common root.

Peradeniya is so full of marvels that I find it difficult to select a few for brief notice. I must not, however, omit a specimen of the Coco-de-mer or double cocoanut (*Lodoicea Sechellarum*) (Plate xxxiii). Dr. Trimen tells us that "this extraordinary palm, the fruit of which, found floating on the waves of the Indian Ocean, or washed up on the shores of Ceylon and the Maldives, was known for centuries before the tree itself, grows in one or two small islands only of the Seychelles group, where it is now protected. The specimen (Plate xxxiii) is over thirty years old; the growth is extremely slow, a single leaf being annually sent up, and no stem is yet visible. As this palm frequently attains a height of one hundred feet, it must

PLATE XXXII.

THE SCREW PINE.

"*The screw pine, with its scarlet orange fruits, tempting only to monkeys, its sword-like glossy leaves, its forked cylindrical stem so beautifully chased, and its strange stilt-like roots, presents a most fantastic appearance.*"—PAGE 89.

SCREW PALM.

PLATE XXXIII.

COCO-DE-MER.

"*This extraordinary palm, the fruit of which, found floating on the waves of the Indian Ocean, or washed up on the shores of Ceylon and the Maldives, was known for centuries before the tree itself, grows in one or two small islands only of the Seychelles group.*"—PAGE 90.

live to a vast age. The nut takes ten years to ripen, and the seed (which is the largest known) a year or longer to germinate."

The Fernery is one of the most beautiful spots in the Garden, and has been planned with excellent taste. Beneath the shade of lofty trees pretty rivulets flow between banks carpeted with ferns of every kind, some so minute as to be hardly distinguishable from delicate moss, others robust and tree-like, and some even bearing fine tufts of feathery leaves as large as stately palms. Climbing ferns and many petty parasites cover the trunks of the huge trees which protect the shade-loving plants beneath them. The presence of many most gorgeous butterflies flitting around adds much to the fairy-like beauty of the scene.

Some parts of the Garden are left to Nature, and the trees and plants are self-grown. Their wild luxuriance, however, has to be kept in check.

A list of the most interesting trees and plants, or even some reference to each of the walks and drives without illustrations would be wearisome. Suffice it to say, therefore, that in Peradeniya Gardens will be found the most lavish display of tropical flora that can possibly be conceived; for here are brought together beautiful representatives of every species. Seeds, plants, and cuttings are supplied to every part of the island, and a great deal of experimental culture is carried on in order to discover products likely to increase the wealth of the colony, so that the practical benefit of such a Garden is manifest.

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