

Spirits, Wines, etc. 14 Volumes, "The Dutch in Ceylon"	58	425 49	495 49
Piano	2	70 00	550 00
Furniture:	6		
As per last Balance Sheet	6	472 23	
Add Amount (Re-valuation of Furniture)		670 77	
Add Value of Billiard Table Cloth		212 50	1,355 00

**Surplus A/c.**

Balance as per last Balance Sheet	3,033 92
Add Amount (re-valuation of furniture)	670 77
	3,704 69
Less Irrecoverable Debts	1,594 25*
	2,110 44
Less Debentures A/c. (Amount sanctioned by General Committee of 21-1-35)	667 34
	1,443 10
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	699 64
	2,142 74
	Rs. 7,624 88

\* Amt. Written off on a/c  
S. Peramal 1390-31

\* Amts. Written off as  
irrecoverable 203-94

Certified as correct subject to my Report of this date.

**LAWRIE MUTHU KRISHNA,**  
*Accountant & Auditor.*

5th February, 1935.

† Not reproduced.

**W. W. BELING,**

*Hon'y. Treasurer,  
Dutch Burgher Union.*

**BISHOP BEDE BEEKMEYER, O.S.B.**

Francis Robert Beekmeyer was the son of Robert Alexander Beekmeyer and Susan Maria Elizabeth Muller, who were married in the Dutch Reformed Church at Wolvendaal on the 3rd February 1859. The bridegroom was a Roman Catholic, and he came of an old family whose founder, Harmen Beekmeyer of Prinsmunda, came out to Ceylon in 1775. Robert Alexander was an officer in the Irrigation Department, and was stationed at Matara. By his marriage he had two sons: William, who died when he was nineteen years old, and Francis Robert; and two daughters: Florence Marian, who married John L. Pereira, and died in 1912, and Ursula Mildred, who married John M. Pereira.

Francis Robert Beekmeyer was born on the 11th October 1873, in all probability at Matara, though Colombo and Matale have also been named as his birthplace. His father's death left the family in somewhat straitened circumstances, but the Rev. Fr. C. J. B. Fernando, then at Matara, found an opening for the widow at Matale, where she went as Headmistress of S. Thomas's School. Here Francis received his early education, and found another friend, Father Pius Fernando, through whose intervention probably he was entered at S. Benedict's College, Colombo. Thence he came to S. Anthony's College, Kandy, owing, it is supposed, to the transfer of the S. Benedict's Order to Kandy. His desire to enter the priesthood led him to the Novitiate of the Silvestro-Benedictines under the Abbot Father Pancrazi. He was also one of the first students of the Papal Seminary at Kandy. To Bishop Pagnani he was of invaluable help, and it was this Bishop who ordained him priest on the 24th June, 1899. He then took the name of Dom Bede (the *Dom* standing for Dominus), and was appointed assistant to Father C. J. B. Fernando in the Kandy Cathedral, and shortly after Parish Priest. He fully justified the appointment, as indeed he proved himself worthy of higher responsibilities as Vicar-General and as Chancellor. The parish was a poor one, and its churches were widely scattered in a large area. But the young priest faced every difficulty when it arose, and shrank from no labour or duty however hazardous. His character and ability came under the special notice of Monsignor Zaleski, the Papal Delegate, and when Bishop Pagnani died in 1911, it was the Delegate's strong recommendation that led to the selection of Father Bede as Bishop of Kandy.

Monsignor Zaleski was pleased that his recommendation was accepted. He spoke after the presentation of an address to the new Bishop, and said: "He had known young Beekmeyer 26 years ago, and he watched the fair young boy from his early years. He was then Francis Beekmeyer, but later, when he came out, he found that they had changed him into Bede Beekmeyer, and made a priest of him. He was happy to have been able to make a Bishop of him. He admired his motto, *exultant montes*, and the coat-of-arms. He would explain that it meant that the cross would be planted on all the mountains. There would be a time when Hunas-giriya and Hantane would dance!"

The news of his appointment to the Bishopric reached Kandy on the 5th May 1912, and the consecration took place in S. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, on the 30th June 1912, almost exactly a year after the death of the Venerated Bishop Pagnani. Monsignor Zaleski was the consecrator, and he was assisted by Bishop Joulain of Jaffna and Bishop Benziger of Quilon. Archbishop Coudert was present, as well as Bishop Lavigne of Trincomalee, and Lord Abbot Pancrazi. Over forty priests and Christian Brothers attended. The circumstances made the solemn ceremony more than usually impressive. Here was consecrated the youngest Bishop in Asia, in the home of his childhood, in the school where he studied, in the parish where he had devotedly toiled. It is not difficult for us to understand what were his feelings on that occasion. "Then," says a contemporary account, "the new Bishop was solemnly enthroned. The Consecrator led by the right hand, and the Senior Assistant Bishop by the left. His Pastoral Staff was handed to him, and from the Altar steps the Consecrator intoned the *Te Deum*, which was well rendered by the clergy and the choir. While this hymn was being sung, the newly consecrated Bishop proceeded round the Church and gave his blessing to the faithful. An anthem was next chanted, and the Consecrator and the Assistant Bishops having retired to the right side of the altar, the newly consecrated Bishop advanced in full Pontificals to the middle of the altar, and there gave his Solemn Benediction. After this he knelt on the left side of the altar, and facing the Consecrator saluted him three times, saying *Ad Multos Annos*, and retired with his assistants and attendants to his own altar. The last Gospel was then read, and the impressive ceremony was brought to a termination."

The popular enthusiasm over his appointment was unbounded, and it was not confined to the Roman priesthood and laity. People of all creeds and races rejoiced that for the first time in history a Ceylonese should be appointed to so high and distinguished an office. There were some who regarded it as a clever stroke of policy to secure the increased confidence and affection of the Ceylonese; but this is to ignore history and the traditional policy of the Roman Church, which takes no account of birth and rank in the appointment of its priests to high office. Merit, and merit alone, prevailed in this instance.

As a Bishop, Father Bede fulfilled the highest expectations. One of his chief aims was the extension of Catholic education by the establishment and improvement of Catholic schools. How greatly S. Anthony's College in Kandy has benefited is known to all. But there were also small parish schools in the Diocese which engaged his attention, and profited largely by his exertions.

Socially Bishop Bede was one of the most genial of men. He was always ready to help in times of trouble, and the number of his visitors, even when they were not in trouble, must have been a severe tax on his time. Handsome, cheerful, and dignified on occasion, he was welcomed everywhere. On the 10th September 1912 he visited the Dutch Burghier Union of Ceylon at the residence of Mr. Hermann Loos, when a presentation was made to him from the Union, of which he was himself an honoured member.

He died in Kandy on Wednesday the 22nd May, after a lingering illness, and was buried in S. Anthony's Cathedral on Saturday the 25th May. His name will live, and his memory will be held in proud and grateful remembrance by his Church and his Community.

L. E. B.