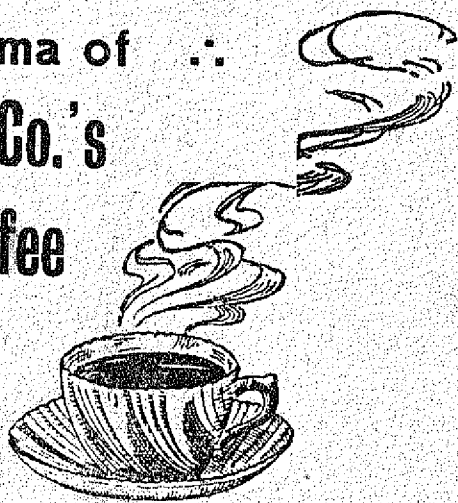


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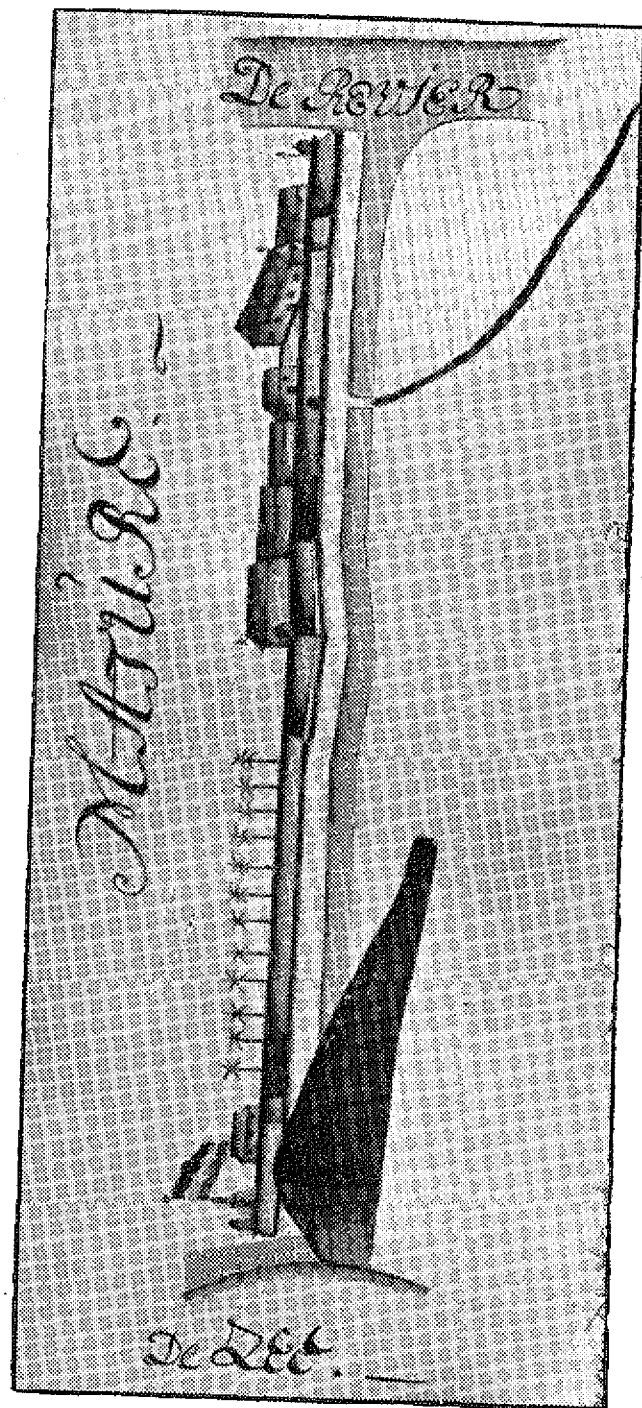
"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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Contributions are invited from members on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union. MSS. must be written on one side of the paper only and must reach the Editor at least a fortnight before the date of publication of the Journal.

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A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY VIEW OF MATARA.

Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

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[No 1.

EDITORIAL.

In presenting this opening number of our new volume, we should like to take the opportunity to thank our subscribers for their support in the past and to hope that the same support will be given to us in the future. We should welcome any suggestions for extending and increasing the usefulness of the journal.

In the interests of historical truth and accuracy we have taken over, by kind permission of the *Ceylon Independent*, two articles dealing with an important event of Dutch times, under the title "History in the Making" and "The Murder of Coster."

We again invite contributions on suitable subjects, and chiefly of permanent interest, from our friends. We are sure that this journal, thus supported, will gain in value as the years go by and become a repository of matter that will prove of use and interest to future generations of our Community.

JAMES LOOS, M.D.

Once at least Dr. James Loos expressed a wish that recollections of eminent Ceylonese should be recorded for the public benefit, and particularly for the benefit of Ceylonese themselves. Nor was he ashamed of his own Community. On the contrary, he was proud of its history and traditions, of its eminent men, and also of the less known many whose quiet lives of usefulness and toil made eminence possible for the few. Those who knew him best knew best how anxious he was that the good name of the Community should be maintained and its essential characteristics preserved. He would insist upon what "Gallicus" strikingly observed in one of his letters, "It is not sufficient to be a member of a respectable family unless that family belongs to a respectable and respected community of families." That is an axiom we scarcely think of in our haste and eagerness for personal advantages. Dr. James Loos did not lose sight of it, and it is well that he should be the first of those whose careers we hope to describe in this JOURNAL.

He was born in Colombo on the 17th July, 1822 and was baptized *Johannes Jacobus* a month later. One of his brothers was Christiaan Albertus Loos, father of Frederick Charles Loos, the first President of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon. James Loos was educated at the Colombo Academy (now the Royal College), and was probably one of the first students to enter, for the Academy dates as a public school from January 1836. The beginnings of that Institution have been admirably described by himself in the "Royal College Magazine," but there is no mention of the writer, though other students are referred to—Simon Ondaatjie, Richard Morgan, James Stewart, James Dunuwille, and James D'Alwis. The Rev. Joseph Marsh was Principal, and the atmosphere of the place was of the right kind. "At the risk of being regarded as a *laudator temporis acti*," writes Dr. Loos, "the writer may remark that the Colombo Academy was instituted at a time when public sentiment was more favourable for the proper training of the young than it is at present. Education was not then a cramming process for competitive examinations, and the acquisition of knowledge was subordinate to

moral training... Care was taken to lay a good foundation of knowledge, and the superstructure was a matter of time and depended on the opportunities of individuals. The majority of boys left school to fulfil the active duties of life without having made great advances in knowledge, but as they had been thoroughly grounded and had no feeling of self-sufficiency, self-education was possible." There we have two of the most fruitful results of a true education—the absence of a feeling of self-sufficiency and the desire for self-education after school life. James Loos was himself a conspicuous example of the possibilities of such education.

In October 1838, when he was sixteen years old, he went up to Calcutta to study medicine in the newly-established Bengal Medical College. He tells us that the Civil Medical Department of Ceylon was at that time an appendage of the Military Medical Department, and subordinate officers were trained in the Military Hospitals. About the middle of 1838, the Ceylon Government called for candidates to be educated in Calcutta, "and three pupils from the first division of the Colombo Academy were the first to apply. They were examined and approved. Two other pupils, from the second division of the school, applied afterwards and were also approved. These five were sent to Calcutta in October 1838, to be in time for the Winter Sessions of the College. They were soon joined at Calcutta by five more who had been medical pupils in Colombo." There is some diversity in the lists usually given of the first five and of the first three, but there is no question that James Loos was one of the first three. Medical science has made such remarkable strides since 1838, that it is necessary to remind ourselves that at the time of which we are writing most of the appliances which now alleviate suffering were unknown. According to Dr. W. G. van Dort, it was "a time when the average medical man knew as little of the human body as Hippocrates; when it was a common thing, though auscultation had been introduced some years before, for elderly gentlemen, when handling a stethoscope, to put the wrong end of it to the ear; when pathology was virtually a mere note-book of *post mortem* appearances recording observations as dead as the bodies on which they were made; when there was very little knowledge of nervous diseases, laryngeal and ear diseases; when even the diagnosis of skin diseases was made according to Dr. Hunter, who divided them as follows:—those which sulphur could cure, those

which mercury could cure and those which the devil himself could not cure. It was a time when anæsthetics was unknown; when no more was known of antiseptics but what was introduced by Semmelweis."

After four years of study in Calcutta, James Loos returned to Ceylon in January 1843, and was on the 10th of that month appointed Medical Sub-Assistant. He was Assistant Colonial Surgeon in 1858 and acting Colonial Surgeon of the Southern Province from June 1862 to December 1866. During this later period he went to England on leave (August 1865 to December 1866), and there obtained "British qualifications." He wrote in later life to a friend—"not out of vanity, but from an earnest wish to encourage you to persevere. I was forty-four years old when I endeavoured to obtain an University degree, and with this intention I matriculated and attended classes in the University of Edinburgh. My object was attained. I became M.D. of St. Andrew's University in 1866, and a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1867."

Dr. Loos was appointed Colonial Surgeon of the Northern Province in January, 1867, and a year after visited Anuradhapura which was then part of that Province. In 1862 it was "a deadly place," on account of malaria, and it had no resthouses. The visit was made in connection with an investigation into the causes of the depopulation of the Wann. This investigation had been assigned to him by Governor Sir Hercules Robinson, and so thoroughly was it carried out that Dr. Loos was thanked by the Governor. But he had to pay the penalty. "The place was jungly and malarious, and I took the precaution of taking a dose of quinine every morning, but at the end of my labour and after completing my report, I became very ill and had a slight stroke of paralysis. I had to leave Jaffna in 1869 on account of my state of health."

It was doubtless his tours of inspection throughout the country that strengthened Dr. Loos in his conviction that a Medical School was necessary for Ceylon. It was on his recommendation that hospitals were built with wards for parangi patients and that charitable dispensaries were opened. But the necessity of a School where young men should be trained to meet the need for physicians in distant parts of the island impressed itself on him. There were

others who felt that necessity too but with Dr. Loos it was an obsession. At length the School was opened, in June 1870, with Dr. Loos as its first Principal. This office he held till November 1875 when he went to Kandy as Colonial Surgeon of the Central Province. In 1881-82 he acted as Principal Civil Medical Officer, and retired from Government Service at the end of 1882. He resided a few years in Kandy, and then settled down in Colombo, at Laurel Lodge, Ward Place, where he died on the 4th May 1904, aged eighty-two years.

He married Louisa Kats, daughter of the Revd. J. Kats. A son, Walter, went to England, married there, and died there. A daughter, Laura, survived her father and died in Colombo.

As a Medical man Dr. Loos was distinguished among his contemporaries as a physician at a time when both diagnosis and treatment were in an elementary stage compared with the present. He was once called into consultation in the case of a patient who afterwards died of lung trouble. A post mortem examination proved the accuracy of Doctor Loos's diagnosis. "If the patient had been built of glass," said Dr. Koch, "you could not have fixed the position and extent of the mischief within better than Dr. Loos did." Dr. van Dort rightly attributed this success to Dr. Loos's "intense thirst for knowledge," his endeavour to keep abreast of scientific discoveries, and his readiness to accept new suggestions. He kept a number of common-place books into which he copied whatever struck him as useful. He edited the Medical section of the "Ceylon Miscellany" in the early fifties, and made it a success. "We are happy to think that we have been the first to try the experiment of publishing a Medical Journal in Ceylon; and that so far our labours have been successful;" so he wrote at the end of the first volume in September 1854. There is no question that Dr. Loos should be regarded as the pioneer of medical education in Ceylon. His insistence upon the establishment of a Medical School has been referred to, but his interest in that school continued till he died. He presented it with instruments and models, and more than one student was helped with books as well as instruments.

Like many other medical men Dr. Loos had a keen interest in English Literature, and he was not slow to urge good reading on all the young people he met. To the Pettah Library he made a

handsome donation of valuable books. In the education and improvement of the young he was always interested, and his public lectures were not confined to medical subjects. Two at least can be recalled—on "Charles Lamb" and on "Macaulay in India." Nor were the extracts in his numerous common-place books wanting in reference to literature and education. There is a good deal in them about books and great writers—and about ethics and religion.

Religion was to Dr. Loos a living experience and a motive power. No reference to his life can be complete without mention of his convinced belief in the main principles of Christian truth and his constant practice of them. He was a friend of the poor, and his charity was unostentatious. Intimate association with suffering and death neither blunted his human feelings nor deprived him of the faith that death is but a doorway to life immortal. In 1887 he published a little "Manual of Prayers for Medical Men," compiled and arranged from manuscript books kept from 1842. In his Preface he writes: "Having now in a great measure retired from active life, I desire gratefully to ascribe any success I may have had in life to the Fountain of all blessing and the Giver of all good." With that glimpse of a great and good man's inner mind this brief sketch may fitly close.

L. E. BLAZE.

OLD MATARA AND THE REBELLION OF 1760-61.

A Lecture delivered at Matara on the 19th February, 1925.

BY E. REIMERS.

Matara, in Sinhalese and early Portuguese times, was a far more important place than it is now. It was the seat of the Sinhalese Dessave or Governor of the Province or Dessavony of Mature, which included among other districts the Galle Korale. Later, when the Portuguese were masters of most of the maritime provinces on the west and south of the Island, its strategic importance was recognised by them, and a large force of Portuguese and lascorins stationed here. But, although its importance as a military station or "camp" was recognised by the Portuguese, no attempt would appear to have been made by them to fortify it permanently as in later Dutch times. Valentyn, it is true, states that Matara was fortified by King Dharmapala with the aid of the Portuguese so early as 1550, but this can hardly be said to refer to fortifications similar to those with which we are so familiar. On the contrary, Ribeiro makes no mention of any, and an earlier and greater authority than Ribeiro, to whom I shall refer later, says that none existed. It was only in Dutch times, 5 years after the capture of Galle from the Portuguese, that Matara was fortified, probably with a smaller fort than the present one, or, perhaps, only a martello tower. The existing "so-called fort" (according to a Dutchman) was, judging from the date on the structure, the cumulative result of periodical improvements. The Star Fort, which was built so late as 1762-65 by Barou van Eck, known to fame as the Dutch Governor who sacked Kandy in 1765, was doubtless the result of the bitter lesson learnt by the Dutch during the great rebellion of 1760-61,—although it must be remembered that Jomini describes a star fort as the worst description of fortification, owing to the space taken up from the body by the re-entering angles. There are several interesting references to old Matara in contemporary Dutch writers and in the Dutch records in the Government Archives. First, by way of date and importance as a hitherto unpublished document, is a MS. atlas of Ceylon by the great Portuguese General Constantine de Sæ Noronha, who would appear to have compiled it about the year 1626. The

photographs of the Dutch "edition" of the atlas are with me here, and I shall read to you the translation of the descriptive matter relating to three of the places in which I believe you are most interested, viz, Dondra, Matara, and Weligama.

"TANAVARE" (DEWINUWARA OR DONDRA.)

Tanavare is situated 33 leagues from Batecalou on the same coast. It has a small bay of little importance, as one can see from the plan, but of good depth, and a good anchorage, being the place where the enemy from Europe come to lie in wait for the ships coming from China. This place is well populated but has no fortifications, which signifies that none are necessary, because the enemy can effect their purpose by anchoring out at sea. In former times here stood a pagoda which has now been destroyed and on the site of which the Franciscans have built a church. The pagoda was one of the most magnificent works of the heathen of this island.

"MATURE."

Mature is situated $\frac{1}{2}$ a league from Tanavare on a river which can admit only "chaloups" and little boats, or "vaartych" of that draught, for its bar is only four palms deep. It is the place where the Dessave, or governor or captain, of the natives of this district resides. The affairs of the Church are administered by the Franciscans. This place has no fortifications whatever since it has no haven or bay. Twenty leagues of its extent in the direction of Paneva are thinly populated where the creeks or channels of the salt pans of Waluwe come in, where salt is formed by nature without any help from man.

"BILIGAO."

Beligao is situated two leagues from Mature. Its bay which is one league in circumference and half a league wide at its entrance has some reefs and shallows. The anchorage is unsheltered on the South, so that hardly one galleon can winter there. The navigable "channel runs under the point of Mirisse and is 78 fathoms wide. "I have come here frequently in connection with the rebels from Europe, and have satisfied myself that the fort which Your Majesty has so often ordered to be built here would be of little use, all that is necessary being a breastwork which could easily

"be erected at the point of Mirisse where it could also be of service to protect any ships that are chased and vexed by the enemy. It would also be advisable for our ships to sail out to sea after sighting Capello de Frade in the high lands of Ceylon instead of sailing along the coast. The captain of this haven has 3 leagues under his jurisdiction. The affairs of the Church are administered by the Franciscans."

The "pagoda" or temple referred to in the description of Tanavare is shown prominently in an early map of Ceylon. The "enemy" and "rebels" from Europe refer, of course, to the Dutch who were at war with Spain the crown of which was personally united with that of Portugal at the time.

In the early days of Dutch rule in Ceylon, Galle, which was captured by them in March 1640, was their only important station in the Island.* Negombo, which had also been captured by the Dutch a month earlier, was retaken in the same year by the Portuguese who now controlled nearly the whole of the West and South of the Island with the exception, of course, of Galle, which, however, was closely invested by them. They directed their operations against the Dutch chiefly from Hakmana, and many were the hardfought encounters in the surrounding district, in which the Portuguese, due perhaps to their better knowledge of the country, were more often the victors. The most famous of these engagements was the action at Akuressa in May 1643, where the Dutch lost more than a hundred in killed alone, a short-lived triumph, by the way, for the Dutch strongly reinforced from Batavia captured Negombo seven months later for the second time. By the Treaty of Goa, which was concluded between the Portuguese and the Dutch in November 1644, the Portuguese resigned their possessions south of the Alutgama River, so that Matara automatically came into the hands of the Dutch and was duly inventorised by them as one of their stations. A fort, as already stated, was built in 1645, and, later, the Matara District was constituted under the subordinate jurisdiction of the Dessave of

* It was their principal station in Ceylon till Colombo was taken in 1656. Batticaloa, conquered in 1638, also still remained in their possession but Trincomalee, taken in 1639, had been given over to King Raja Sinha to be demolished — (Editor.)

Mature, who ranked next to the Commandeur of Galle.* A fort was also built at Katuwana and outposts stationed at Hakmana, Akuressa, Maracade and Gandura (sic.) These outposts were not intended so much to guard against an enemy as to control the output in paddy and elephants for which the Girreways and Baygams, as they were known in those days, were so famous.

Of the earlier plans and representations of Matara, the Portuguese plan referred to by me above is undoubtedly the earliest on record. Crude though it is, it is certainly interesting, and, if I may say so, pretty. The coastline has not changed much, nor the river. The "povoassam," or town or residential quarter is shown on both sides of the river, viz, where the fort now stands and the opposite bank. One also notices an attempt to draw according to scale. Of later, Dutch plans, there are several, all of them faithful representations of the Company's "so-called" Fort, the Company's buildings including the Dessave's residence, the Church, the cinnamon and arecanut warehouses, the gunpowder magazine, guard rooms, etc., and the Elephant Stalls which would have accommodated eighty elephants and more. One of these plans of Matara which I have here with me, might be an up-to-date picture of the fort and principal buildings (making due allowance, of course for the absence of the moat and the flagstaff) although it is dated 1717. The plan also includes the fort of Katuwans, or Cattoene as it was then called. The following is Heydt's description (extracted from the C. L. R. Vol. 3, p. 310) which he illustrates with two views and a plan of "this fort, which he got from Arent Jansen," probably in 1734-36. Heydt's description, which might fairly be taken to include the earlier plan of the fort referred to, is as follows:—"This place has a small fortification and is provided only in the front with a good wall. The rest of the fortification consists of water The whole consists of a half and one whole bastion (it should be *two* halves etc), which last moreover is of no special height, and is provided with only a wretched ditch in front. In front of these works lies a longish

* The title *dessave* is one which the Dutch borrowed from the Sinhalese. It was first used by them in 1650, when the Sinhalese *dessave* Rampot (Rambukpota?) was replaced at Matara by Marcus Cosser, a *Kooyman* in the Dutch Company's service. The title was afterwards applied in the same sense to two high officials in the provinces of Colombo and Jaffnapatam.—(Editor.)

vegetable garden which also belongs to the Company. Over the bridge (a floating wooden bridge is referred to) goes the road to Galé, whilst up the river one gets to Cattoene. This place has as its defence on both sides water, and is built on the side adjoining the water, the other however being provided with palisades. The residence of the Dessave lies not far from the entrance, before which is a large and handsome piece of ground which is planted with trees. Opposite to the whole bastion lie the Church and Churchyard, and in the same direction are also various private dwellings. Moreover the place has no uniformity. On both sides run two streets. At the end instead of the bastion is a large tank to which they take the elephants daily to water. Their stables lie between the quarters of the inhabitants and are 4 in number. The breadth thereof is 20 ft. two are 15½ roods, and two 10 roods long. At least 80 elephants can be stabled in these four stables. Not far there from is a brook called the elephant brook from which water is fetched for the elephants to drink. These stables stand in two rows built alike, and elephants are constantly to be found there, at least tame ones, which are kept for captivating the others and are called by the Hollanders "soul sellers." Beyond the abovementioned tank, outside the town, are various other gardens in which stand several dwelling houses. The large river that flows past on the north side has an island which is pretty long and is overgrown with beautiful trees Below the bridge is a dwarf dam in the river which acts as a breakwater in order to turn off the water somewhat from the town, but this execution is already submerged by the water and no longer appears above the surface."

One thing remains to complete my picture of Matara and that too, is an unchanging feature of your landscape. Saar states in his "Account of Ceylon" (1647-57), referring to the obvious crocodile for which Matara was, and is, famous: "One evening she (the wife of a Dutch captain) wanted to walk down the river, not far from her house, when she fortunately saw a crocodile that was waiting for her and began to move towards her. Although very much frightened she just managed to escape. The captain at once sent for the blacksmith and ordered him to make a great hook and when it was ready he caused a dog to be shot, fastened to the hook, and put into the water with a long chain. Two hours afterwards the crocodile appeared again, came to the carcass and

swallowed the hook. We saw this and quickly ran to the place. Some of us pulled it on to the bank, others took iron rods such are used to load guns with, and nearly beat it to death; then we filed a big powder flask, put it into its mouth, and exploded it with a train from a distance. Next day when we cut the animal open, we found that it had been living for fully 8 hours afterwards."

The history of Matara in Dutch times is practically that of any other "Comptoir" or District Agency of the time, with the exception perhaps, of the stirring events of 1760-61 to which I shall refer later. The Dessave, in his capacity of Assistant Government and District Judge, presided over the departments of Policy, Justice, and Commerce, assisted by the civil and military officers of the district. His establishment consisted in 1760 (which year is of special interest as bearing on the events which I am about to describe) of an Ensign (or subaltern), the Commissariat Officer, the officer who was authorised to attest public notarial documents called the Geauthorizeerde, a Senior Surgeon, 10 clerks, 4 Sergeants including one at Katuwana, 1 Reader, 1 Junior Surgeon at Katuwana, 1 Surveyor, 1 Blacksmith, 1 Constable's Assistant, 8 Corporals viz, 3 at Matara, 2 at Katuwana, 1 at Weligama, 1 at Gandure, and 1 at Tangalle, 56 soldiers, viz, 43 at Matara and 13 at Katuwana, 1 Master Gunner at Katuwana, 1 Flagstaffman, 1 Mohotiar, 1 Sworn Interpreter, 1 Mocquedor, 1 Shroff, 1 Grain-measurer, 1 Gardener for the Company's Garden, 1 Bellows-blower for the Smith's workshop, and 18 Sinhalese Schoolmasters, total 125, the following being required to bring up the establishment to its full strength viz, 1 Cooper, 1 Sworn Interpreter for the Secretariat, and 4 soldiers. The Native Department consisted of 1 Master of the Hunt and the Sowing, 1 Head of the Attapattu and Titular Mudaliyar, 1 Gajenayake and Assistant Mudaliyar, 12 Muhandirams, 2 Overseers, 3 Vidanes, 2 Mohotiars, 1 Mahavidane of the Fishers, 68 Arachchies, 1 Flagbearer, 138 Canganies, and 1618 lascorins. The Schools and Parishes of the Fort (which includes the School of the Nanayakarsas or "Grandees" of Matara), that outside the Fort, Walgam, Dondra, Talalle, Naandoenne, Bamba-rende, Dikwalle, Poeakdandawe, Kahawatte, Gettemane, Hakmano, Ocottewatte, Attoerelle, Akuressa, Mirisse, Polwatte, Denepittie, and Weligama, have as many as 34,629 names on their registers. The Land Raad, from which an appeal lay to the Raad van Justitie

of Galle, unlike those at the provincial stations of Colombo, Jaffna and Galle, exercised jurisdiction over both Europeans and natives. It was presided over by the Dessave and was composed of both Dutch and Sinhalese members. The personnel of the court on a day in March 1767, which I give below may be of interest as including the builder, or I should say the renovator, of the existing Dutch church, Daniel Burnat:—Present—the Dessave Daniel Burnat, Captain Johannes Burnardus, Lourens Christiaan Frobis, Commissariat Officer, Pieter Arent de Moor, Authorised Officer, Godfried Knaus, Headmaster, Jakobus de Rooy, Commissioner for the Thombo, Harmanus Nagel, do, Harmanus Engelbrecht, do, Maha Mudaliyar Don Joan Ilangakoon, and Mudaliyars Don Abel Abesoendere Manamperi, Don Kohosma de Za Banderaike, and Ekanaike Wickremeratne Amerkoon; Absent: Enno Riemers Eieuwenhove, on duty, Mudaliyar Don Siman Widjewardene Tinnekoon, sick, Don Alexander Wanigeratne Manamperi, away from the district, Don Siman Widjogoenawardene Warnegediwager in the Baigams, Don Konstantyn Dissanaike Tillekeratne, sick, Don Raphiel Wickremeratne, do, Widjosoendere Wieresinge, away from the district, Johannes Fairfax Anatte Abesinge, at Katuwana, Wickremeratne Banderaike, sick, and Don Abraham Wickremeratne Ameresegere, away from the district; total 22 members.

We now come to the stirring events which I have referred to more than once, but, before reading the extracts from the Dutch Resolutions of Council which give a vivid account of the events as they occurred, I should like to correct a few mis-statements which occur in a modern work on the Dutch period.* The fort of

* It may be mentioned that the work referred to is that of Dr Paul Peiris entitled "Ceylon and the Hollanders," and the passage occurs on p. 105. There is absolutely no authority for the statement therein made. According to Baron van Eck, whose assertion is recorded in the official members of the Council Proceedings, "the forts of Katceue, Matara and Hangwelle were taken by the Sinhalese by cunning, deceit and probably, by treachery, and not by force of arms." When Captain Pedder, acting as Dessave of Matara, found he could no longer hold out, as the enemy outside had raised batteries all round to a height above the rampart works, he decided to evacuate the fort and to convey all the Company's effects by boat to Galle. He was killed on the morning of the 24th March when walking from the point within the fort to another; but at night, the whole garrison, except 10 or 12 men who were drowned by the capsizing of a boat, escaped with the property, which, of course, included all the valuable records.—*Govt. Archives*. D. 243.—(Editor.)

Matara, for instance, was not "stormed" in 1761 nor was its garrison put to the sword. "The new Dutch Thombo which had been prepared with so much trouble" was not an accomplished fact at the time. Portions, or I should say sections, of this doomsday book of the Matara District were undoubtedly in existence, but they were all removed with the other Dutch records when Matara was abandoned in 1761. A priori, the Thombo was not "destroyed" by the insurgents in 1761,—but in 1796, by a hotheaded Dutchman just before the British occupation.† Nor, incidentally, was Hanwellla "stormed" although "the entire garrison . . . with the exception of two officers," and including the sick and wounded were slain—in cold blood.

(To be continued.)

† The compilation of the Matara Thombos, begun in 1740; was long delayed. At the date of these events, the only portion completed was that relating to the Morruwa Korele; the rest (except that of the Girraway Pattuwa, which was being proceeded with), viz, the Four Gravets, the Belligam Korle, the Gangaboda, Candaboda and the Welleboda Pathuvas, Bondra, the Baygams, Kattuwana and Udorbokka, were yet to be taken in hand.—*Despatches to Batavia* 1677 D. Certified extracts from the lost Thombos issued up to within a couple of years of the arrival of the British are still found in the possession of inhabitants of Matara. The Dutch official responsible for the destruction of the Thombos in 1796 was the Dessave Willem Ferdinand Adriaan van Schuler.—See Anthonisz's *Report on the Dutch Records*, p. 6.—(Editor.)

DUTCH PREDIKANTS IN CEYLON.

TRANSLATED BY C. E. DE VOS.

(Continued from page 131)

Carl Friedrich Schroter, Schroeter, Schroter or Schroder was proponent and appointed at Amsterdam on the 3rd September, 1787, to the Indian Ministry. He married Gertrude Petronella Gilbert, was born on the 18th November, 1774, and died on the 18th March, 1840. His station was first Colombo and in 1790, Jaffnapatnam where he remained till 1805. He died in 1806. I cannot ascertain whether Johannes Henricus Schröter, who was born in Ceylon and matriculated in 1786 at the University of Utrecht was related to him.

Andreas Frederik Schultz or Schultze was appointed proponent on the 4th October 1745, predikant at Galle in 1751 and at Trincomalee in 1756 and died in 1762.

Henricus Silvius or Sylvius had studied at Lingen and was subsequently appointed proponent for the Indian Ministry at Amsterdam on the 7th January, 1749. On the 1st September, 1750 he was invited to Ceylon and stationed at Galle: in 1754 he was predikant at Negapatnam, on the Coromandel Coast. In that year he was administering the Sacraments at the Company's offices at Jagenayk, Pura, Palicol, Palliacatte, Sadraspatnam and Porto Novo. The number of Portuguese communicants at the head office was then 103 and of native Christians 19. In 1758 he was predikant at Onrust. On the 11th May, 1762 he was invited to Colombo and preached his farewell sermon at Onrust on the 26th June, 1762. He left Batavia on the 5th August and arrived in Colombo on the first October, 1762 and on the 17th of the same month preached his first sermon there out of 1 Corinthians iv. verse 1—4. Since 1774 he was again at Galle and was still there in 1785.

Johannes Silvius or Sylvius, the son of Johannes S. was predikant at Point de Galle, Ceylon, in 1739 or 1740 and was stationed subsequently on the island Onrust till 1756. He was invited to Ceylon again on the 30th July, 1739.

Thomas Simey or **van Simey** also **Symel**, was appointed predikant by the classis of Zeeland and arrived at Batavia in the ship "Schelde" on the 20th September, 1688. Three months later he was appointed to Banda and went there on the 7th May 1789 and was stationed at Lonthoir. In 1690 he arrived at Neiva. Being ill and feeble he obtained permission to make a trip to Batavia and arrived there on the 7th January, 1692. At the end of the same year he sailed to Ceylon and was stationed successively at Jaffnapatnam 1694, Galle 1697, and Colombo 1699. At the last mentioned place he was the third predikant. In 1700 his period of service expired. At his request he was discharged from the ministry of these churches and went to Batavia. In November, 1700 he was still unable to decide what he was to do. He was ill and was yet without a proper certificate of discharge—owing to the carelessness of the Rev. Johannes Ruell—and on his arrival at Batavia—he had indeed rightly applied for the said document—received it at last on the 7th June following "as the Governor of Ceylon had nothing to record against him." In December, 1700 he was appointed by Government to the ministry at Ambonia. He arrived there on the 4th March, 1701 and was stationed at Honimoa to succeed the Rev. Christian Nucella.

Petrus Sinjeu or **Synjeu** studied at Franeker and passed his Examination at Amsterdam and was appointed to Ceylon. He went there in 1704 and was stationed at Colombo. In 1705 he was Rector of the reorganised Sinhalese Seminary. At this institution he did much to train native proponents. As Rector he preached only once a fortnight but owing to his singular zeal and extraordinary services in that office he was given a higher salary of 120 guilders a month. But already in 1719 he was shewing signs of weakness and lack of zeal. He had indeed "taught his students" so far in natural theology that they had already gone over to "the study of revelation and were about to take up the history of the old Testament." But on the 3rd November of the last mentioned year there were serious complaints about his "inefficiency: for one whole year was there no progress to record." He died on the 3rd May, 1726 and was married to Maria van Reijssen. Petrus Synjeu published: "The Justice of God's ways and the Reasonableness of the Christian Religion,"

"Lessons concerning the existence of Angels," "Jesus the Lover of Souls."

Gosuinus Slipperius, from the Netherlands to Batavia on the 13 July, 1662, just 11 days later he arrived in Ceylon and was stationed at Colombo. He was very proficient in Tamil. He died in 1668.

(To be Continued.)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

THE MURDER OF WILLEM JACOBSZ COSTER

"VERSIONS" AS AGAINST "SOURCES"

Views of Mr. R. G. Anthonisz.

In the "Times of Ceylon Sunday Illustrated" of the 12th April there appeared an article on "The Murder of Willem Jacobsz Coster" by L. A. D., a lady writer who seems to have made a careful study of the circumstances of the tragedy and has followed the recorded narrative of events faithfully, even as to certain minor particulars. She has undoubtedly written without prejudice or bias. The story of this tragedy has been told in many places and is probably known to most students of Ceylon history; but as it may not be sufficiently familiar to the general reader it would perhaps be necessary for my purpose here to repeat it in brief outline.

On the 13th March, 1640, the Dutch Vice-Admiral Willem Jacobsz Coster, after the conquest of other Portuguese stations in the Island, succeeded in taking by storm the fortified town of Galle. He was then appointed President of the Council and placed in general authority of the Dutch East India Company's affairs in Ceylon, and he has been regarded as the first of the Dutch rulers in Ceylon. The conquest of Galle having been accomplished, Coster

had to apply to the Sinhalese King Raja Sinha for the fulfilment of his obligation under treaty to supply certain produce of the Island, which the King was bound to deliver to the Dutch in repayment of their expenses. But, receiving no response to his repeated appeals, Coster had to start for Kandy on the 4th July, accompanied by the Secretary and a retinue of men, with a view to a personal interview with the King. Having arrived in Kandy after a tedious journey of a fortnight, he found he could obtain no redress of his grievances. He was put off with various excuses and needlessly detained. In place of the courtesy and consideration which he expected, as a return for his friendly and chivalrous conduct towards the King, he was treated with suspicion and indignities. Exasperated beyond measure by his long, forced, detention; by the unmerited insults he had received; and by the attitude of the King's Mudaliyars, who, he perceived were hostile towards him and had been calumniating and defaming him to the King; Coster was roused to anger and in his blunt, sailor fashion, first threatened them and then burst into vehement abuse of them and their treacherous conduct. This proceeding no doubt only served to intensify their feeling of hatred towards him, and no time was lost by them in communicating all this to the King, whose permission they obtained at last for Coster to depart from Kandy but, without the customary honours and ceremonies accorded to Ambassadors on such occasions. He then started on his return journey via Batticaloa. His Secretary and the greater part of his retinue were separated from him to proceed by a different route, and his only attendants were eight Dutchmen and a party of "blacks." When he had reached a place called Badulgama, he found, awaiting him there, one of the Mudaliyars he had left behind at Kandy, with a band of 400 or 500 armed Lascorins, avowedly for the purpose of escorting him on his way. The Mudaliyar caused half of his men to proceed in front and the other half to follow behind, a circumstance which seemed to Coster suspicious, but which he disregarded in view of the Mudaliyar's affability and friendly demeanour. Proceeding thus, they arrived at a village called Nilgala, where there were some small houses, and where Coster, tired after his journey, desired to take some rest and refreshment. As he was entering one of the huts, stooping to do so on account of the low doorway, he was taken by surprise and

attacked from behind with some 40 odd lances, and, as he fell, a lascorin sprang forward and cut off his head. Some eight of his followers, who attempted to defend themselves, were also killed on the spot, and the rest were stripped, miserably beaten, and bound. A little while after, they were taken before the Mudaliyar, who gave them the following explanation, viz., that Coster had called for some milk, which not having been given him quickly enough, he smote the Mudaliyar on the chest with a cane, and the inhabitants who would not tolerate this, therefore beat him to death. We have but the Mudaliyar's unsupported statement for this dubious story. It would not be necessary here to proceed further with the circumstances of the tragedy, the story of which has been given in greater detail by the writer of the article in question, who has added to it a personal conclusion of her own as follows: "Willem Jacobsz Coster, according to the reports from which the writer has made her studies, was an honourable gentleman, but his chief fault lay in being haughty and overbearing in his manner, which created ruffled feelings and indignation. His was an excellent career, and it was unfortunate that, when he was at the height of his ambitions, he should have been so cruelly murdered."

To this article the Editor of the "Times of Ceylon Sunday Illustrated" appended a critical note, in which he complained that the writer L. A. D. had derived "a large proportion of her information from Dutch sources which after all, are likely to be somewhat biassed." He was not prepared to accept her account without reservation, "for there are other versions which throw a somewhat different light upon the tragedy." It is obvious whence he has drawn these conclusions, for he adds, "it will be admitted that Dr. Paul Pieris is an historian whose research work may be relied upon with a fair degree of safety" and he quotes the following passage from Dr. Pieris's work, "Ceylon: the Portuguese Era." (Vol. II. p. 303). "There (at the village Nilgala) the arrogance and hasty temper of Coster brought on him his death. Annoyed at the delay experienced in supplying him with some milk he had called for, Coster struck the Mudaliyar on the chest with his cane. The indignant Sinhalese who witnessed this raised a great tumult and attacked the Hollanders with their pikes; Coster tried to

escape into a house and, as he stooped to enter through the low door, he was run through by spears, while a blow from a sword cut off his head. His surgeon, three soldiers and four negro servants were also slain, while his escort was stripped and severely flogged and bound. They were then taken back by the Mudaliyar to Badulla, whence they were despatched to Sammanturai under escort along with Coster's baggage, while the man who killed Coster was hanged on the King's orders." Having thus far dealt with the story of the murder of Coster the editor goes somewhat beyond the subject to prove that the Dutch, as a nation or race, were utterly unworthy—that they were grasping, full of avarice and rapacious—and he quotes Percival in support of this view. Coming back to Coster, he concludes his note with the remark that "L. A. D. had understated the vulgarly rude and blustering arrogance of the Dutch Admiral."

On the 20th April following, I sent the editor the article which I here enclose and in which I commented on his note, being compelled to do so in the interests of truth. He neither published my contribution, as I expected he would do in common fairness, nor did he acknowledge it in any way; although I am sure it will be admitted the subject is one of both public and historical interest. Having waited nearly a month, I wrote asking him to return me my copy, and I then received from him the letter to which I shall refer further on, in which it will be seen he proposes to enter into a private discussion with me on the subject, which, for good reasons, I have declined. The following is my article:

MR. ANTHONISZ'S REPLY.

The account of the murder of the Dutch Commander Coster by L.A.D. in your issue of the 12th April last is, in the opinion of those with whom I have discussed the subject, a fair and reasonable statement of the occurrences according to the most reliable sources of information before us. In the editorial note you have appended to the article you decline to accept this account "without reservation" on the grounds, 1st that the writer has derived a large proportion of her information from Dutch sources, which you say, are "after all likely to be somewhat biassed," and 2nd that there are other versions which throw a different light upon the

tragedy. One would wish to know what these other versions are, whence they have been derived, and the grounds for their acceptance. This is a subject to which I have devoted a certain amount of attention and I fear it will be found that the information available to us of this episode is largely, if not entirely, derived from Dutch sources. These Dutch sources, besides Baldaus and Valentyn, comprise letters, extracts from diaries, and resolutions of Council—all candid and artless enough in their nature and origin to be worthy of acceptance as free from bias. This is the kind of testimony on which historians all the world over rely in their investigation of past events. The Portuguese writers of this period do not appear to have considered it necessary to give any particulars of the tragedy, and I am not aware of any Sinhalese Record of it.

If any such authority could be quoted, which could reasonably be taken to refute the conclusions drawn by your writer L. A. D., I am sure any impartial reader and indeed, all lovers of truth, would be glad to have the question thus settled.

It will be seen that on the issue between these two versions hangs the good name of a distinguished man. Willem Jacobsz Coster was a Vice-Admiral in the service of the States General of the United Netherlands. He had performed many deeds of valour for his country, had received honours and decorations, and was a trusted servant of the State. I am loath to encumber this short communication with any historical details, but I think it necessary to mention some of the events which preceded the tragedy. After the capture of Batticaloa and Trincomalee and the death of the Director General Lucasz, the chief command devolved on Coster. His first act was to satisfy Raja Sinha and to come to a fresh understanding with him. The fortress of Trincomalee was to be handed over to the King to be demolished, and this was done. On the Portuguese being completely driven out of the island, and matters settled between the allies, the Dutch were to hold only one fort, but all those taken by them were in the meantime to remain in their occupation until the expenses of the war had been defrayed by the King. The war against the Portuguese was then proceeded with. What assistance the Sinhalese king rendered the Dutch in this is a matter into which we need not to enter here. Negombo and Galle, in succession, fell into the hands of the Dutch,

who were now in the possession of three important fortresses, Batticaloa, Negombo, and Galle, with Coster as President of the Council to administer affairs, having his headquarters at Galle. Meanwhile Raja Sinha was holding back the promised repayment of the expenses which the Dutch had incurred. To Coster's repeated and urgent appeals he made not the slightest response, and Coster, having his suspicions raised by this and the unfriendly attitude of the King's officers, determined to seek a personal interview with the King. He accordingly set out from Galle on the 4th July, 1640, accompanied by his secretary and a retinue of men. From this point the story is clearly related in the article you have published.

I fear there is not sufficient support for the epithets "vulgarly rude and blustering arrogance" applied to Coster. These are strong expressions and it is possible to "give a dog a bad name and hang him." That he may have been hasty under provocation is very likely, and all the circumstances point to the provocation having been great; but it seems most unlikely that a wise, shrewd, and able administrator, as we find Coster to have been, would have imperilled the cause he had undertaken by such conduct as has been attributed to him. Taking everything into consideration, we are forced to the conclusion that the story related of the incidents of the murder was concocted for obvious reasons, seeing that the eye witnesses of the tragedy, by whom the alleged circumstances were reported, were those whose interest it was to exculpate the perpetrators of the crime and to put all the blame on their victim. A scandalous story also in some way reached the ears of the Company's Chief at their factory in Persia, who related it in a letter to the directors in Holland, not as an official intimation, but casually: and he added that *the actual facts were not ascertainable*. No credence appears to have been given to this story by the Supreme Government in Batavia, where the official record refers to the murder in resentful and indignant terms as a treacherous act.

That much capital has been made of certain ingenuous passages in the published Dutch records by those who appear anxious to give a certain colour to the character of the Dutch in their relations with the Sinhalese will be evident to any one. We are not concerned here either with the general character of the Dutch, whether they were avaricious, mercenary, and rapacious, or

with the forbearance, magnanimity and noble disposition of Raja Sinha. The point at issue is whether the character of Coster and the circumstances of the tragedy according to the version opposed to the or derived from Dutch sources are true or not. Until we are put in possession of the authority for that version, and are in a position to form our judgment of its merits, as against the conclusions to be drawn from the documentary evidence furnished by the Dutch records, we must, I fear, adhere to the view that the murder of Vice-Admiral Coster was a dastardly act, treacherously planned, and brutally executed; for which it is difficult to see how any justification or palliation could be found. It is entirely opposed to all rules of life and conduct among civilized people.

It seems unfortunate that you should rely on two writers whom no student of Dutch history in Ceylon will be prepared to accept as authorities on this subject, viz., Dr. Paul Pieris and Captain Robert Percival. Dr. Pieris's prominence as a scholar and writer and his character and position entitle him to all the respect which we would fain accord him; but his undue animosity towards the Dutch has been manifested at every opportunity and in every book he has written, and the accuracy of many of his published statements has been repeatedly challenged. I think it scarcely fair that he should be referred to in a question of this kind. As regards Captain Percival whom you quote, not to support the view which you favour of the Coster tragedy, but as an authority to prove the evil character of the Dutch generally, it must be mentioned that he has long had the reputation of being a merciless detractor of the Dutch, and no student of Ceylon history would, I think, consider him a safe guide. Lord Valentia, who visited Ceylon shortly after the publication of the work, makes reference, in his "Travels," to the manner in which it was received here on publication; and subsequent writers have shown that the book is full of inaccuracies and wrong conclusions. So that he could not be taken seriously. For the present, however, we may dismiss him altogether, as he does not throw any light on the Coster tragedy.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER.

Instead of publishing this article, the Editor, as I have said, sent me a letter replying to my objections more than a month after the receipt of my communication, and only after his attention

was drawn to the matter. I declined to discuss the subject with him in this personal way, and propose to deal with the material points of his letter here.

1. His excuse for the delay to notice my communication is, that he had been ill and unable to attend work. I am sorry I cannot accept this as quite a satisfactory explanation of the absolute silence with which I was treated, seeing that during all this time the paper was in full working, with some responsible person at its head.

2. He does not agree with me that his editorial note is unfair. I fear he does not quite understand the simple issue between us. I have said that there are no sources of information open to writers on this subject, except Dutch sources, and I practically challenged him to produce any authority on the subject from a Portuguese or Sinhalese writer. This was my refutation of his argument that L. A. D.'s information was largely derived from Dutch sources and was therefore likely to be biased. He does not answer my challenge, but persists in repeating, "there is another version of this murder and it is only fair the other version should be given equal publicity." I would point out that we have got nothing to do with "versions" in a matter of this kind, but rely solely on original sources of information. He seems to be hopelessly at sea on this subject, and, in his helplessness, appeals to Dr. Paul Pieris, who, he says, "draws most of his information from Portuguese sources, which tainted though they may be are less likely to be so prejudiced as must be official Dutch records in connection with an event such as the murder of Coster." Had he been better informed on this subject, he would have known that Dr. Paul Pieris went to no Portuguese source for his "version" of the tragedy, but drew it from the late Mr. F. H. de Vos's translation of a passage occurring in the Dutch "Dag Register" of Batavia, and published in the *Ceylon Literary Register* (Vol. II p 350). Dr. Paul Pieris is one whom I have always held and now hold in high personal esteem; but whenever I have differed from him in any of his facts and conclusions, and where I was convinced that he was wrong, I have never hesitated to tell him so. It is wrong to make the whole case against Coster hang on the dubious statement of one who may be justly regarded as the principal, or at least, a participator in the crime.

It would be as well to have before us the actual rendering of the passage by Mr. de Vos. I am prepared to vouch for the accuracy of this rendering, but would be glad to place the Dutch original before any one desiring to see it. The following is the translation:

"At noon having arrived at a certain village called Nilegala, where stood some small houses, and His Honour desiring to enter a low hut to eat and rest a bit, whilst bowing, as the door was not very high, was treacherously attacked and speared from behind with 41 lances and as many spears, without any talk or word. Being thus hurled forward one of the aforesaid fellows sprang forward and at once cut His Honour's neck off, so that the aforesaid His Honour who had before this been by sea and land in various perils and dangerous encounters and by God's help always preserved, was there most miserably and unjustly murdered and killed. He was a brave soldier and intelligent enough to commence matters prudently, but too haughty and hard to his subordinates, so that, in this respect, he was quite the sailor. Some of his suite, who attempted to defend themselves were also killed on the spot, viz., the surgeon, 3 soldiers and 4 black servants, in all 8 persons. The rest were disarmed, their bodies stripped of their cloths, miserably beaten, bound, and put aside. But about half an hour afterwards they were called before the aforesaid Modliar who told them, that the President, as the milk that he had called for was not given him quick enough, had struck him on his chest with his cane, and that the inhabitants of the aforesaid village being mostly wild men, could not tolerate it, and had therefore beaten him to death."

I would invite a close comparison of the above with the "version" of it which Dr. Pieris has given (*vide supra*), and this again with his footnote on p. 270 of his Ribeiro's Ceylon. It would enable any one who, like the Editor of the "Sunday Times," is not prepared to accept the information derived from Dutch sources, to form a correct estimate of the value of the "other versions" of which so much has been made. What credence the Dutch authorities at Batavia, in faithfully recording the reports received by them, placed on this plausible story of the Mudaliyar, it is not difficult to conjecture. Taken in conjunction with all the circumstances preceding and following the tragedy, it is hard to conceive how such a story could be believed.

The Editor maintains that Dutch sources are "tainted and prejudiced," because the Dutch were interested in the matter. This is indeed a novel view of history and absolutely revolutionary. If this is right all English history written by Englishmen and derived from English sources, is tainted and worthless. What then about Sinhalese and Portuguese sources? If an English writer like Macaulay gives us an insight into the conduct of Clive and Warren Hastings in India (contemporary with the Dutch in Ceylon), we must conclude, according to the Editor's logic, that these are English versions and therefore tainted unfavourably in English interests. What then would be the truth when Macaulay gives a picture bad enough?

3. The Editor agrees with me and with his contributor L.A.D. in totally rejecting the story of the abduction of a Portuguese woman, as entirely without foundation and probably a Sinhalese invention." I am pleased to find him arrive at this conclusion, but I do not understand on what reasoning he finds this story false and the other, of the Mudaliyar's true.

4. He next proceeds to justify his remark that Coster was "vulgarly rude and blusteringly arrogant," to which I took exception. Here again he refers to what we may conveniently call "versions," for they are of no historical value. His authority here is Emerson Tennent, from whom he quotes the following: "The Dutch were singularly unfortunate in the selection of their agents on these occasions. Koster, a rude sailor, insulted Rajasingha II as De Weert had previously outraged Wimala Dharma; he was dismissed without the usual diplomatic courtesies, and murdered on his return to Batticaloa. ("Ceylon": Vol. II p. 43, footnote). Now Emerson Tennent, although he was free to draw his own conclusions and to express his own views on matters, must have based the foregoing statement on authorities he had consulted. We are not left in doubt as to these, for he refers to Baldeus and Valentyn—the only authorities, in fact, available to him; as the translated extracts from the Dutch "Dag Register," which have been so helpful to some of our present historians, had not yet then seen the light of day. Emerson Tennent has not described Coster as "vulgarly rude and blusteringly arrogant" nor by any expressions nearly as offensive as these. Yet we may as well ascertain how far he was justified in saying what he has said. I add translations of the passages referred to. In the case of Baldeus, I have

gone to the original Dutch edition, although Emerson Tennent has apparently consulted the faulty English translation in *Churchills Voyages* (Vol. 3). I presume that in the case of Valentyn, who, by the way, wrote some eighty years after the event, Emerson Tennent was able to peruse the original.

Baldeus writes (p. 112): "Coster had gone in person to Kandy, but could obtain none of his perfectly just demands. He was detained in vain, and thus growing disappointed and impatient, he began to threaten the courtiers (really a piece of great imprudence and a mark of want of tact). To this he added words of abuse, which were conveyed to His Majesty in the worst light; and he quickly gave leave to Coster to depart from Kandy, without any of the honours he was entitled to. On the way he was shamefully murdered by those who had come on the pretence of leading him to Batticaloa—an infamous return for all his great services."

Valentyn writes (p. 120): "Having arrived there (Kandy), he could obtain none of his just demands, and was needlessly detained, which disappointed and chafed him so, that he began to threaten the courtiers, although he should have had the case of Sebald de Weerd as a warning. To his threats he afterwards added abuse, which the Sinhalese would not brook, and which they immediately communicated to the King, who thereupon gave Coster leave to depart from Kandy, without receiving any of the tokens of honour which were usual on such occasions. Thereupon, being led to Batticaloa by some Sinhalese, he was, on the way, lamentably murdered by them at the village Nilgal."

I would now ask what evidence is there that Coster was "vulgarly rude and blusteringly arrogant"? One wants a certain stretch of imagination to draw such a conclusion from the authorities available. That he was of a hasty temperament has been established; but so also has it been established that in this particular instance he had received the utmost provocation. A hasty temper is not incompatible with the character of a well-mannered gentleman, and so far as may be ascertained, from all the accounts preserved of Coster, he was of a chivalrous and magnanimous disposition, and he had been especially liberal and considerate in his dealings with Raja Sinha. One may therefore well exclaim in the words of the Dutch historian: "What an infamous return for such great services"—*een godillooze belooning voor zoo grooten dienst*.

5. I have shewn in my article that the question of the general character of the Dutch is one quite outside that of the Coster tragedy, with which the original article by L. A. D. was concerned and to which I had applied myself in my comments on the editorial note; but the editor comes back to the subject in his letter. He is apparently very angry with the Dutch, as no doubt some others are. He says, "As to the rapacity and greed of the Dutch I do not rely on Percival 'alone.'" Percival forsooth! "It is not necessary to inform 'you that I could fill quite a considerable volume with quotations on the subject from various authorities.'" It is indeed painfully true that such writers did and do exist, who have possibly afforded him a great deal of pleasant reading. I believe that in the course of the last hundred years Percival was followed by several others of a like turn of mind, some of whom have quoted him, some have enlarged on what he has written, and others have expounded their own views on the subject. We have a right to question their credentials, but would not deprive them of the joy of their congenial task in abusing the Dutch, of whom, as a matter of fact, they knew very little. I may just mention that one could easily fill a volume with the "atrocities" of any European nation that went abroad, conquering or colonizing, during the 17th and 18th centuries.

6. The Editor has concluded his letter with the following passage: "In my opinion to sentence a man to death and to carry out that sentence for destroying a cinnamon tree found growing in his own garden was as reprehensible a murder as was the murder of Coster." We may presume that it is historically correct this execution took place; but the Editor is somewhat confused in his mind when he calls this a murder of the same dastardly class as that of Coster. A judicial sentence for breaking the law of the land, however hard that law may be, is not murder. For years after this event took place here in Ceylon, they were hanging men for sheep stealing in England. Would that be murder too?

How the Dutch ruled in Ceylon; by what right they did so; what they accomplished; and what benefits they conferred on the inhabitants, are subjects that must be treated elsewhere, but the information for the purpose should be sought from sources other than those which have been available to the Editor of the "Sunday Times."

R. G. ANTHONISZ.

Ceylon Independent, Thursday, June 11, 1925.

THE MURDER OF COSTER.

The "Queer Story" we publish to-day explains itself, and we are glad that this ample and decisive correction has been made of statements recklessly made and as recklessly defended. The time has come when a stand should be made against the subtle misrepresentations and misstatements of fact by which the true character of an important period of this Island's history is being darkened. All this while, the diatribes against Dutch rule in Ceylon and the absurd caricatures of the Dutch people were allowed to pass comparatively un-noticed. They were read with amusement chiefly, and neither MR. R. G. ANTHONISZ nor the late MR. F. H. DE VOS of Galle could ordinarily be induced to contradict assertions which the slightest investigation would have shewn to be either unwarranted inferences or baseless fables. So long as the late MR. DONALD FERGUSON was alive to check readings and misreadings, some care was shewn in the enunciation of theories and descriptions of events in Portuguese history. His place has since been taken by the REV. FATHER S. G. PERERA, who keeps a watchful eye and a sharp rod for offenders. One has to be careful now what one says about Portuguese rule and Portuguese policy in Ceylon. Generalities may, of course, be freely indulged in, for they are safe, and a student or any thinking reader knows they are negligible; but specific statements must be justified, and proof does not consist in merely quoting chapter and verse, volume this or page that, in support of an incident or an assertion. Anything can be proved or disproved by isolated quotations; but it is necessary that authorities, unlike the votes at an election, should be weighed as well as counted.

The immunity which aspersions against the Dutch and Dutch rule in Ceylon have enjoyed all these years has been mistaken by many who are beginning to think that there is really nothing to be said in favour of the Dutch. There are many who are led to believe that they can freely say anything whatever against Dutch or Portuguese rule, especially if one or two discreet and flattering allusions to British rule accompany the easy gibes against previous governments; and if one finds it imprudent to say frankly all that one feels and wishes to say about British misdeeds there is always MARSHALL or some other writer who can be quoted. The responsibility for the remarks is thus shifted—so one thinks. We are glad that the case for the Dutch is no longer to be allowed to

go by default. In the present instance the exposure is complete. MR. R. G. ANTHONISZ's cold, pitiless logic cuts away like a knife the trappings which encumber the truth. He allows no evasion. He insists upon differentiating between fiction and reality, between theory and fact, between vain imaginings and historical evidence, between the thing as you wish to be and the thing as it actually is. He draws up no indictment against a whole people. Even the blatant assertion based on PERCIVAL—on PERCIVAL, of all writers on Ceylon!—that the Dutch were a grasping, avaricious, and rapacious people, is passed over with dignified restraint. He confines himself to the main issue—the murder of WILLEM JACOBSZ COSTER.

What were the circumstances in which that murder was committed? The story of Coster attracted the attention of L.A.D. a lady whose studies of Ceylon have brightened many a page of our periodical literature. L.A.D. sent a newspaper the account she had compiled of the murder of Coster. The Editor printed it, and added a note of his own which pointed out that L.A.D.'s information was derived from Dutch sources which would naturally be biased, that there were other versions of the incident, and that the Dutch were difficult and objectionable people. MR. R. G. ANTHONISZ happened to come across the paper and he wrote in support of L.A.D.'s narrative, but the Editor neither printed the article nor referred to it in his paper. Instead, after an interval and a reminder, he wrote a letter to Mr. ANTHONISZ in which he discussed the circumstances of the murder, the character of the Dutch, and the value he set on his authorities. In other words, he wanted to turn into a private argument between MR. ANTHONISZ and himself, what he himself began as a public debate! MR. ANTHONISZ, as we might have expected, declined the privilege, and as the matter is one of much historical interest, he has sent us the whole case for publication. Students of Ceylon history will be grateful for the light thrown on the incident and on an obscure period by our most eminent authority on that period. We may add that MR. ANTHONISZ's statement in its lucidity, precision, and restraint will serve as an excellent model which younger, less experienced, and more ambitious writers may copy with great advantage.

THE MURDER OF COSTER.

MR. R. G. ANTHONISZ, whose decisive confutation of the statements which distorted the facts of Coster's murder we published recently, writes supplementing his article:—"In my remarks on the article in the "Times Sunday Illustrated" on the murder of Coster which you were good enough to publish in your issue of the 11th instant I stated that 'the Portuguese writers of this period do not appear to have considered it necessary to give any particulars of the tragedy.' I was led to this belief chiefly by the fact that Dr. PAUL PIERIS, who is supposed to be well read on this subject, drew his version of the tragedy from Dutch sources. A gentleman, high in authority on the ancient history of the Sinhalese and well acquainted with the Portuguese and Dutch periods, has kindly referred me to a passage in De Queiroz which gives what we may consider the Portuguese account of the tragedy. The Portuguese, suspicious of Coster's object in proceeding to Kandy, surmised that he went there to induce the King to make an attack on Colombo; but with regard to the tragedy itself the Portuguese writer is in full agreement with the several Dutch accounts. In clear and explicit terms De Queiroz states that Coster was assassinated on the orders of the Sinhalese king. It is strange that Dr. PIERIS, who lays such store by the De Queiroz narrative, should have failed to notice so important a fact."

Murder will out, says the proverb; so will Truth.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO THE HON'BLE MR. L. M. MAARTENSZ.

One of the most enjoyable social events held within the walls of the Dutch Burgher Union Hall in recent years was the dinner given to the Hon'ble Mr. L. M. Maartensz, to commemorate his elevation to the Supreme Court Bench.

The dinner which was organised and successfully carried out by Dr. H. P. Joseph, our energetic Club Secretary, was open to members of the Club and the Union and their families.

The well known caterer Mr. Arthur Ephraums provided a *recherche* dinner and a Jazz Band which was in attendance added considerably to the enjoyment of the evening. Much conviviality and excellent feeling prevailed and the party broke up at a late hour.

Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, our President, took the chair and had the guest of honour at his right. The following sat in addition:

Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Altendorff, Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Carron, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Joseph, Dr. and Mrs. H. P. Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. M. Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Vanderstraaten, The Hon'ble Mr. G. A. Wille, Drs. V. Langenberg and R. L. Spittel, Messrs. M. M. Anthonisz, H. H. Bartholomuesz, C. P. Brohier, L. E. Blazé, H. O. Beven, P. G. Cooke, H. P. Christoffelsz, A. Driberg, G. V. Grenier, A. C. B. Jonklaas, C. K. Joachim, J. A. Maartensz, P. A. Maartensz, D. Maartensz, W. de Niese, J. R. Toussaint, J. T. van Twest, H. C. de Vos, F. W. de Vos, and E. H. Vanderwall.

After the loyal toast, the Chairman proposed the toast of the guest of the evening which was enthusiastically drunk to musical honours. The Hon'ble Mr. L. M. Maartensz replied. Mr. E. H. Vanderwall next proposed the toast of the Chairman which was received with equal enthusiasm. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz replied. We are indebted to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, the handy man of our Union, for the following excellent report of the speeches on the toast list.

THE GUEST.

(PROPOSED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. R. G. ANTHONISZ)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—We must now drink to the health of the honoured guest we are entertaining tonight. It gives me great pleasure indeed, and it is also a great privilege to me, to propose this toast. I am sure I am expressing the feelings of all present when I say that the appointment of our worthy friend Mr. Maartensz, to the Supreme Court Bench has given us unbounded satisfaction and pride. The honour which has been conferred on him should be a source of peculiar gratification to our community. We are a small community and we know that in it prizes and preferment are only gained by personal merit. I shall not go on here to praise the abilities of our friend or to speak of those high qualities of head and heart which have raised him to his present position, as he is seated here beside me and I know that with his characteristic modesty he will object to any personal allusions of this kind; but I should like to mention at least one reason why to us members of the Dutch Burgher Union his elevation to the highest tribunal of the land is a source of much pride and satisfaction. He has been so closely associated with the Union from its very outset, and has always worked so zealously, yet unobtrusively, for its interests, that we have come to look upon him as a tower of strength. The Union has passed through many vicissitudes during the eighteen years of its existence. We have met with many discouragements and disappointments in our efforts to achieve our objects, but the support of those who have adhered to the Union through all its varying fortunes has been a source of great encouragement. I am sure that so long as we have members of the type of Mr. Maartensz in the Union, who have been always able and ready to give it their time and their labours, we have nothing to fear. The Dutch Burgher Union will yet win its way. I anticipate a time, perhaps after some of us old folk have passed to our rest, when, with careful and tactful management, and by keeping its main objects in view, the Union will still be an institution to reckon with in this country. I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, there is one regret that you will all share with me, and that is that Mrs. Maartensz is not here to accept our felicitations on this occasion. Herself a member of the Dutch Burgher Union, she has always taken a great interest in its

welfare, and I am sure when she is back amongst us again she will continue to give it the same sympathy and support she always did. I shall now ask you to join me in offering our worthy friend Mr. Maartensz our hearty congratulations on the high honour that has been conferred on him and in hoping that in the near future he will be the recipient of yet higher honours. (Loud cheers.)

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

THE HON'BLE MR. MAARTENSZ'S REPLY.

Ladies and Gentlemen—I felt very much honoured when I was told that the Dutch Burgher Union wished to entertain me at dinner. My only fear was that I should not be able to express sufficiently my appreciation and thanks for the honour that you have done me. I share the regret expressed by Mr. Anthonisz that Mrs. Maartensz is not here tonight. Mr. Anthonisz has referred to me as a pillar of the Dutch Burgher Union. I am only sorry that I am not a bigger pillar. The Union is an institution in which I have always taken the keenest interest because it came into existence at a time when the community to which we belong was in danger of losing its identity, and it was due to Mr. Anthonisz's enthusiasm, energy and courage, in spite of criticism both in his own camp as well as outside it, that the Union came into being. The Union is the symbol or rather the sign manual of the Dutch Burgher community, and it will be a very sad day indeed when it ceases to exist, as that will mean that the Dutch Burgher community itself will cease to exist as a separate entity.

I feel very much touched by the appreciation which you have shewn at the honour that has been done me by my appointment, and I look upon this entertainment not so much as a recognition of my official appointment but as an appreciation of your good feeling towards me personally as a member of your community. I have tried my best to express myself and I know you will pardon me if I have not said all that I should have said.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you most heartily for the honour you have done me today and for the cordial manner in which you have received this toast.

THE CHAIRMAN

(PROPOSED BY MR. E. H. VANDERWALL)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I rise to propose the toast of our respected President and Chairman, a toast which is always entitled to be received with loyalty and pride within these walls.

In the life history of communities, there have been at various times great popular movements—religious, political, and social—which have owed their success to the genius and inspiration of one great man.

The history of the Burgher community since the British occupation is a short one, but in that history there stand conspicuous the name of two men who have rendered signal service to their community. I refer to Mr. C. A. Lorenz and Mr. R. G. Anthonisz.

The first of these placed a valuable hall mark on his community, the latter performed the difficult and seemingly impossible task of consolidating it. Up to this day, if we try to discover to what great heights a Burgher is capable of rising, the life and career of Lorenz will furnish the answer.

When Lorenz died in 1871, seventy five years had passed since the British occupation of the island and the position and the prospect of the Burghers were already beginning to wear the semblance of a difficult problem.

In the year of Lorenz's death, there was an earnest-minded youth on the threshold of his dawning manhood, who boldly looked into the future and dreamed great dreams. He saw that the goal was distant, that the way was weary and long, and yet his heart did not fail him, for his eyes had seen the vision splendid.

Need I mention to you, ladies and gentlemen, that I am referring to our respected Chairman. With characteristic zeal he prefaced himself for the great adventure which was to be his life's work. He studied and mastered the Dutch language. He studied and mastered Dutch history. He studied and mastered the history of every family in this island with a Dutch connection, until the details of these are now as familiar to his lips as household words. Here I feel a tribute is due to his marvellous powers of memory.

Off-hand and without a single note to guide him he is able at all times to give complex and continuous details of the family history of any Burgher in this island.

In course of time the Dutch Burgher Union, the product of his own brain, came into existence. It is true there were loyal helpers and to these our hearty thanks are due. Loyal hearts, loyal hands, loyal purses rallied to the cause. Among the pioneers was our distinguished guest. He was one whose heart never failed him and whose courage never grew dim.

But in spite of all, it is nothing but the truth that but for Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, the Dutch Burgher Union would have been absolutely impossible of accomplishment.

To come to the personal qualities of our Chairman, there seems to me to be a striking resemblance between him and his illustrious exemplar, William the Silent, the saviour of Holland and the founder of Dutch independence. It is said of William the Silent that whenever he pulled off his hat to a man, he won a subject from the King of Spain. In the same way our respected Chairman by his geniality, his readiness to help and his entire freedom from ostentation of any kind, is eminently suited to be the leader of our somewhat varied community. A marked characteristic of his is his fine old world courtesy, which is seen equally in his dealings with the highest in the land and with the lowliest. If we wish to realise the grandeur of a mountain we cannot do so by standing at its foot. Little trifles such as stones and shrubs obstruct the view. In the same way, the perspective of years is necessary to get a full realisation of a great man. Much as we in our day and generation respect and admire Mr. Anthonisz, I am firmly convinced that the generations to come will respect and admire him still more.

Shakespeare referred to the seven ages of man. I propose to adapt the phrase to our respected Chairman and by its means point a moral and adorn my tale. If we review Mr. Anthonisz's life we shall find that he has already passed through six stages and that the seventh and the best stage of all still awaits him. In the first stage he was a lawyer, in the second stage he was a member of my own department the Education Department. In the third stage he belonged to the Registrar-General's Department. In

the fourth stage he was a judge, in the fifth stage an Assistant to a Government Agent, and in the sixth stage he was Government Archivist.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is not difficult for us to indicate what the seventh stage should be. It is the stage for which Mr. Anthonisz's whole life and training have eminently qualified him, that of Historian of the Dutch Period in Ceylon.

I address myself directly to you, Sir, and ask you to complete the great work you have begun.

I ask you in the name of all of us present here this evening and those whom we represent, I ask you in the name of the generations yet unborn. I ask you also in the name of our illustrious dead, whose graves and memories are desecrated by pseudo-historians, whose rough, rude hands distort the truth.

You may answer me, Sir, that you are now old and that you have finished your life's work. But let me hearten and encourage you with the words of the aged Ulysses :

Something ere the end,
Some work of noble note may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with gods.

(Loud applause)

MR. ANTHONISZ'S REPLY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Until a moment ago I had no idea that the toast of the Chairman was going to be proposed. I am therefore very much taken aback, not only by the toast itself, but by the manner in which Mr. van der Wall has proposed it. Had I known that he was going to eulogize me in such terms I should have been better prepared to reply to him. I would not have been able to emulate his eloquence, but I might have thanked him in an appropriate manner. I am afraid that he has been carried away by his warmth of feeling and enthusiasm to very much exaggerate my humble virtues. (Cries of "No, No"). What really appals me is that he should have placed me on a level with the great C. A. Lorensz. I dare not covet such a distinction. I do not know how to thank you for the appreciation you have shown of the sentiments expressed by Mr. van der Wall. It is to me a great

source of pleasure to feel that what little services I have rendered to the Dutch Burgher Community have been so much appreciated. I do not myself put so high a value on them. At the time the Dutch Burgher Union was started our community was in a bad way and many of us were filled with dismay at the signs abroad. All I did was to propose to a few friends some movement such as this to stem the tide, and we had to consult together as to our plans. To give me the sole credit of bringing the Union into existence is, I fear, to carry the matter too far. Yet what Mr. van der Wall has said is perfectly true, that there was a time when it was absolutely necessary that something should be done to prevent the downfall of our community. We were sailing like a ship without a rudder, and I do not know where we would have drifted these eighteen years had the Union not been formed to keep us together. The detractors of the Union do not know how much it has done for them and how much they themselves owe to it. It has served to keep the Dutch Burgher Community alive. I should like you all to bear in mind that whatever support we give to the Dutch Burgher Union we give to the community to which we belong, and in doing so we not only honour our ancestors but also ensure the prosperity of those who come after us. (Applause)

Speeches were also made by Mr. A. Driesberg, Mr. W. de Nisse and Dr. H. P. Joseph.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Pipe of Clay.—The following lines have been sent to us from an old scrap-book, and are said to have been written by Sir Richard Cayley, late Chief Justice, during his early years in Ceylon, when staying at Elie House with his friend O. A. Lorenz. Lorenz is said to have set the verses to music and they were sung to his pianoforte accompaniment at some of their happy convivial gatherings:

The Pipe of Clay.

To Beauty's charms or wars alarms
Let others tune their lay, Sir,
But as for me my theme shall be
My rare old pipe of clay, Sir,
Though bowls of wine may be divine
To drive dull care away, Sir,
Yet there's no bowl can ease the soul
As the bowl of a pipe of clay, Sir.

What incense breaths from fleecy wreaths
Of vapour lightly rising,
As we sit at night with our pipes alight
All care and strife despising.
Though Fortune flies, though Friendship dies,
Though Hope may fade away, Sir,
Yet there's a friend that'll last to the end
In the rare old pipe of clay, Sir.

And what is Life with all its strife,
Its pomp, its vain display, Sir,
It seems to me most like to be
To a well-filled pipe of clay, Sir.
In youth 'tis bright with glowing light
And fresh as the break of day, Sir,
But soon 'tis sped, the spark has fled,
And there's nothing left but the clay, Sir.

The Coster Tragedy.—Inquirer writes: "Are there any versions of the murder of Coster based on sources other than

Dutch? Seeing that the occurrence took place in 1640, while the Portuguese were still here, it seems strange that their chroniclers, Ribeiro and De Queros, have not made mention of it. The Editor of the "Sunday Times Illustrated" maintains there are other versions. It would be interesting to have this subject threshed out."

This matter has been fully dealt with in two articles in the issue of the *Ceylon Independent* of the 11th and 25th June last, which we publish in this number with permission.

Dutch Paintings.—With reference to the report of a recent meeting of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, a correspondent wishes to know "whether the statement made by Dr. Paul Pieris that Silva was the only portrait painter Ceylon has produced is correct. He is said to have painted portraits of a W. de Neys and his wife in Dutch times." It is hardly necessary for us to say that Silva was not the only portrait painter in Ceylon. We might name among others; Pieter Philip van Houten of early British days, Pieter van der Straat of a later decade and John Leonard Kalenberg van Dort of more recent times. Mr. Silva the painter did not live in Dutch times, and therefore could not have painted portraits of any one during that period. As a matter of fact, he came to Ceylon from Pondicherry in the late twenties of the last century, and died in Colombo in 1843. Of portrait painters in Dutch times particular mention might be made of Pieter de Bever and Carl Frederik Reimer. There were probably several others as we have seen in our youth some exquisite portraits in ivory of old Ceylon people. It is feared that owing to the characteristic neglect and indifference of a past generation few, if any of these could now be recovered.

NOTES OF EVENTS.

Commissioner of Assize.

The Honourable Mr. L. M. Maartensz was appointed commissioner of Assize to preside over the Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court held at Galle and Matara.

King's Birthday Honours.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Mrs. G. S. Schneider, who has been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire and to Mr. E. A. Vanderstraaten who has received the Imperial Service Order.

Dutch Burgher Town Guard.

We also heartily congratulate Major W. E. V. de Rooy on his promotion to Field Rank.

Obituary.

We regret to record the death of Mr. C. J. H. Leembruggen, one of the oldest and most respected members of the Dutch Burgher Community.

New Members.

The following were elected during the quarter:

Mr. A. N. Weinman, Mr. L. A. Muller.

THE FINANCES OF THE UNION.

The following special subscriptions to the Union, received up to 24th June 1925, are thankfully acknowledged:—

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Mr. Gladwin Koch | Rs. 10 |
| Mr. Arthur E. Ephraums | " 50 |
| Mr. A. E. Keuneman | " 10 |
| Mr. Allan Driberg | Dividend on shares in Building Coy. |
| | Rs. 10 |
| Mr. A. L. Fretz | " 10 |
| Mr. H. K. de Kretser | Dividend on shares in Building Coy. |
| Mr. E. H. Joseph | Rs. 10 |
| | " 10 |
| Mr. D. V. Altendorff | " 10 |
| Mr. C. E. de Vos | " 10 |
| Mrs. Dr. S. E. Aldons | " 10 |

J. R. TOUSSAINT,
Hony. Treasurer.

The following committees have been appointed : —

STANDING COMMITTEES.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| R. G. Anthonisz | L. K. Toussaint |
| D. V. Altendorff | Mrs. E. A. van der Straaten |
| J. R. Toussaint | Miss Phyllis van der Straaten |
| Miss Ray Blazé | Mrs. E. H. Vander Wall |
| Mrs. T. K. Carron | Miss Grace van Dort |
| Mrs. A. E. Ephraums | Miss D. van Langenberg |
| A. C. B. Jonklaas | Mrs. F. W. de Vos |
| Mrs. Rosslyn Koeh | Mrs. H. P. Joseph |
| Mrs. Beatrice Loos | (Secty. and Convener.) |
| Mrs. W. Ludovici | Mrs. E. H. Joseph |
| Mrs. T. D. Mack | Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen |
| Mrs. E. L. Mack | Miss Rene Willé |
| Mrs. W. E. V. de Rooy | Miss Mildred de Kretser |
| Mrs. R. L. Spittel | Mrs. A. R. Bartholomeusz |
| L. P. Stork | |

PURPOSES OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| R. G. Anthonisz | Miss H. Collette |
| D. P. Altendorff | Miss E. de Vos |
| A. R. Bartholomeusz | Miss N. van der Straaten |
| Mrs. H. P. Joseph | Mrs. C. Driberg |
| Mrs. J. A. van Langenberg | Mrs. W. S. Christoffelsz |
| Mrs. H. A. Loos | Dr. E. H. Ohlmus |
| Mrs. G. A. van der Straaten | Rev. G. H. P. Leembruggen |
| Mrs. A. E. Keuneman | Mrs. G. S. Schneider |
| Mrs. Beatrice Loos | (Convener) |
| Mrs. E. H. Vander Wall | Hon. Mr. G. A. Willé |

PURPOSES OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| R. G. Anthonisz | E. A. vander Straaten |
| D. V. Altendorff | E. Reimers |
| A. R. Bartholomeusz | C. Foenander |
| A. W. Metzeling | W. E. V. de Rooy |
| Dr. E. H. Ohlmus | L. E. Blazé |
| Ed. de Kretser | Dr. H. N. Leembruggen |
| E. H. vander Wall | G. H. Gratiaen (Convener.) |
| W. Ludovici | |

FOR LITERARY AND ETHICAL PURPOSES.

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| R. G. Anthonisz | A. E. Keuneman |
| D. V. Altendorff | C. E. de Vos |
| A. R. Bartholomeusz | J. G. Paulusz |
| Mrs. G. S. Schneider | R. A. Kriekenbeek |
| Miss G. van Dort | S. J. C. Schokman |
| E. H. vander Wall | C. A. Speldewinde |
| C. Driberg | J. R. Toussaint (Convener) |
| L. E. Blazé | Hon. Mr. G. A. Willé |
| Dr. R. L. Spittel | |

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths.—Members of the Union are entitled, free of charge, to the insertion of notices of domestic occurrences. These notices must be restricted to a bare statement of the name or names, place, and date of occurrence, and must be sent to the Editors of the Journal.

Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the object laid down in sub-section (f) of Rule 2 of the Constitution. Any suggestions on this subject are to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee for Literary Purposes, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Muresk, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.

The Journal will be issued at the end of every quarter, post free, to each member of the Union who pays a subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum towards its cost of publication. Literary and other contributions are invited and should be sent to Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, Linton, Brownrigg Road, Colombo, Secretary of the Board of Management, while all remittances on account of the Journal should be made to Mr. J. R. Toussaint as above.

Changes of Address.—All change of address (especially within the last three years) should be notified without delay to the Honorary Secretary of the Union, Dutch Burghier Union Hall, Serpentine Road, Colombo, or to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations, report, etc.

Those members who have not received their copies, are kindly requested to notify the fact to the Honorary Secretary of the Union.

Remittances.—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Muresk, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mrs. G. S. Schneider, Braemar, Ward Place, Colombo, the Honorary Secretary of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

Dutch Burghier Union of Ceylon-Buildings Co., Ltd.—All communications should be addressed to G. H. Gratiaen, Esq., Secretary of the Company, D.B.U. Hall, Serpentine Road, Colombo.