

# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



*"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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# JOURNAL

OF THE

## DUTCH BURGHES UNION OF CEYLON.

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*"Eendracht maakt Macht."*

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1918.

# Journal of the \* \* \* \*

## Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon

VOL. X.]

PART IV.

[1918

### DUTCH GOVERNORS WHO DIED IN CEYLON

The lamented death of our late Governor Sir John Anderson, the only instance of a British Governor dying in Ceylon, if we except the case of Major General Welbore Ellis Doyle, an early Military Governor, who died in 1797 after a few months' administration, recalls the long list of Dutch Governors who died in harness here and were buried, most of them, in the old church which stood on the site of the Gordon Gardens, from whence their bones were removed in state to Wolvendaal Church about a hundred years ago.

The following is a fairly complete list of these distinguished men with the dates of their death :—

Willem Jacobsz. Coster ...	died 21st	August	1640
Gerard Hulft ...	„ 10th	April	1656
Gerrit de Heere ...	„ 26th	November	1702
Isaak Augustyn Rumpf ...	„ 11th	June	1723
Johannes Hertenbeg ...	„ 19th	October	1725
Gerard Joan Vreeland ...	„ 25th	February	1752
Lubbert Jan Baron van Eck ...	„ 13th	May	1765
Iman Willem Falck ...	„ 7th	February	1785
Joan Gerard Van Angelbeek ...	„ 3rd	September	1799

Of these, Willem Jacobsz. Coster, the Commandeur of Galle, who always heads the list of the Dutch rulers in Ceylon, met with a sad and untimely end, for he was treacherously murdered



by the Sinhalese at a village called Nilgalla on his return from a visit to the Kandyan King.

Gerard Hulft did not bear the title of Governor; but, as Director General, he had the supreme command of the military and naval forces of the Dutch during a very eventful period of their rule in Ceylon; viz., the siege and conquest of Colombo. His death on the 10th April 1656 was caused by a shot fired from one of the Portuguese bastions while he was inspecting the fortifications during the siege. The body was taken to Galle by sea, buried in the Church there, and removed to Colombo after the conquest, when a second stately funeral took place.

Gerrit de Heere, who became Governor of Ceylon on the 22nd February 1697, in succession to the nominated Governor Paulus de Rhoo, but actually took over the government from Governor Thomas van Rhee, died on the 26th November 1702, after a short illness, and was buried in the old Fort Church. His tombstone now lies on the floor of Wolvendaal Church over the remains which were removed there in 1813.

Isaak Augustyn Rumpf, Governor of Ceylon and Councillor of India Extraordinary, one of the ablest of the Dutch Administrators, succeeded Governor Hendrik Backer in 1716. His death occurred on the 23rd June 1723 rather suddenly from a shock which he received on hearing of the murder of the Fiscal Barent van de Swaan and his wife by their slaves. An account of his stately funeral appears in Valentyn (*Byzondere Zaaken*.) and his tombstone with a Latin epitaph is in Wolvendaal Church.

Johannes Hertenberg, who succeeded Rumpf, had but a short career. He is said to have suffered from a lingering and wasting disease (*een guynende en uyteerende ziekte*.) The death occurred at 6 p.m. on the 19th October 1725 and the burial took place with great ceremony on the 27th following, his son Abraham Hertenberg, a young lad, following the bier as chief mourner. Governor Hertenberg's tombstone may also be seen at Wolvendaal Church.

Gerard Joan Vreeland became Governor and Councillor Extraordinary on the 6th March 1751, to which he was advanced from Commandeur of Galle. He had come out in the Company's Service and risen step by step. But he was not destined to hold the reins of Government long for he died on the 25th February 1752 having ruled scarcely twelve months. There is no means of ascertaining the cause of his death, but it appears to have been some time expected, as the Jaffna Commandeur Jacob de Jong was already in Colombo when it occurred, and there was no loss of time in his assuming temporary authority according to precedence and the rules of the Service. Vreeland's funeral took place at 4 p.m., on the 4th March with the usual pageantry.

Lubbert Jan Baron van Eck, who assumed the Government on the 11th November 1762 came here on the eve of the conflict with the Kandians. He was an able administrator and bold general. He marched with the forces against the Kandians and invested their capital; but on the return to Colombo contracted a fever from which he died on the 13th May 1765, just when the hostilities were at their highest. Among other memorials of his rule is the beautiful Star Fort at Matara, known as the "Redoubt van Eck," built to ward off the Sinhalese incursions on the south. An elaborate granite tombstone with heraldic and emblematic carvings stands over his grave in Wolvendaal Church.

Iman Willem Falck, one of the best known and respected of the Dutch Governors, succeeded Baron van Eck and ably concluded the war by a treaty which secured to the Dutch the whole maritime seaboard of the island. Falck was born in Colombo. The son of the Dissave of Matara whose memorial is to be seen in the little Church there, Governor Falck received his education in Holland, where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Laws. His administration is the longest on record and was marked by many wise and successful measures of policy. His illness appears to have been brought on by exposure to bad weather in a tour made to the Baygams in the

Matara district. He was confined to his bed from the day of his return and passed away at half past two of the morning of the 6th February 1785. The body was enclosed in a leaden coffin and had a very stately burial on the 10th following.

The names of Joan Gerard van Angelbeek, the last Dutch Governor, has been added to this list although at the date of his death, 3 September 1797, he was no longer in office, the Island having already been ceded to the British. It was quite recently (1916) that an account of him appeared in this Journal so the reader may be referred to that article for further particulars. (*D. B. U. Journal* Vol. IX. Part I.)

R. G. A.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BY BAAS KREVELAAR

Why Jan van Deventer ever came out to Ceylon was the puzzle. His father, Hugo van Deventer, was the burgomaster of Haarlem and used to send out 200 rix dollars every month to Jan as an allowance, as Jan, who came out to the Indies as a *hoop-looper*, did not care to enter the service of the Honourable Company. He chose to remain a *vrijman*. It must be understood however that Jan was not a "remittance man" paid to remain out of Holland. On the contrary, he would have made a most desirable citizen anywhere he chose to make his home. Jan's maternal uncle, Philip Steenbrug, was the Commandeur of Galle, a fact which induced Jan to live at that town. It was not long before Jan became a general favourite. He was the friend of everybody from the Governor to the grave-digger. No "social function" was complete without him. He was present at all school prize-givings, taught at the Sunday school, and was for ever ready and willing to recommend any one for any office under the Company. He was, of course, in great favour with the ladies and always quite pleased to execute any commissions—he called them "commands"—for them on his frequent visits to Colombo.

It was one of these "commands" that afterwards worried Jan van Deventer a little and made him break out as an author. Clementine du Pont of Pondicherry, wife of the Commandeur, was never happy unless she had her little "joke." Her pet aversion was a sour-tempered old maid, Agneta Huysman, who thought that all French women were so many *filles du diable*. She kept a bakery in Zeeburg Straat. It was Jan who brought to her from Colombo a complete set of false teeth which was carried away one night by the rats which infested Miss Huysman's *bakkery*. She lived "over the shop"—a fact which tickled the fancy of Mrs. Steenbrug every time she spoke of the airs put on by this venerable ruin Miss Huysman. Miss Huysman's sister was the wife of the apothecary

Herman Kruidhof. They had been married for 20 years, *mais pas d'enfants* as Mrs. Steenbrug was often heard to remark with seeming sympathy, but really with a touch of malice. The Commandeur himself was no beauty. His mouth gaped from ear to ear showing two rows of long teeth—*un coup de sabre* as his wife used to call him in her occasional fits of temper, as he knew no French. Among the vulgar Portuguese street urchins he was known as the *croc—o largarto*.

Jan had gone up to Colombo on one of his periodical visits and was bringing for Miss Huysman a steel rat-trap a consignment of which had recently arrived from Holland and about which there was much talk at Galle among the bakers, shopkeepers, shoemakers, and warehouse keepers, who were the greatest sufferers from these rats. He had also promised to bring some toys for two little girls of the Sunday school, and selected a brass crocodile, of Negombo manufacture, with ruby eyes, and a toy cradle for a doll's house. He had just arrived at Galle late in the evening with these things, when he suddenly remembered that he had to preside at a meeting of the "Society for the Relief of the Unemployed." Leaving his things in the hackery and forgetting to pay the driver, he rushed to the place of meeting to find that he was just in time to join in the opening prayer by the Rev. Theodorus van Sanden. The meeting, I am sorry to say, was not a success. Some law students of the local Debating Society had arrived there in full force after celebrating their annual dinner at the "De Roode Haan," the *herberg* kept by widow de Boezer, accompanied by some Colombo medical students who had come down specially to Galle as their guests. One of these law students, Hubert Deugniet, claimed to be heard before the motion on the agenda was discussed, stating that if he were permitted to say a few words they would not be wasting any time by discussing a profitless motion but could all go home and eat pickles (laughter). He said that his friend from Colombo the licentiate Don Pedro d'Angostura of the University of Salamanca, who had made a special study of the *inertia Ceyloniensis*

was of opinion that if unemployment was due to laziness, laziness was due to a microbe. He therefore thought that the problem of the unemployed was very simple. He proposed that each working man be given 2 rix-dollars a week, and each person who declined to work 4 rix-dollars, as such person would have more time to spend it. All persons who had foolishly spent valuable time in seeking for employment where they ought to have known that they would not get it, should get nothing as a punishment for their folly. This proposal received the uproarious approval of the students. Don Pedro, who was really the son of the *Baas* of the *wapenkamer* at Colombo, Jan Hartman, and who spoke a very good imitation of Dutch as pronounced by a Spaniard, was quite willing to give his views on the subject, if the audience thought it was not too late. Jan said he would love to hear what Don Pedro had to say. But the Rev. van Sanden thought that they had not come there to be fooled by a pack of drunken students and left the place, whereupon the meeting dispersed. Jan was so upset by what had taken place that he clean forgot about the things which he had left in the hackery. These had however been duly delivered to the Commandeur's servant and reached the hands of Mrs. Steenbrug. When she opened the parcel and discovered its contents, a brilliant idea struck her. She would send the toy cradle to Mrs. Kruidhof, the rat-trap to Miss Huysman, and, in order to disarm suspicion on herself, the brass crocodile to her husband. She was not long in doing so. The brass crocodile had a ticket attached to it bearing the words "Behold your long-lost brother," the toy cradle had the words "In anticipation of the coming event, from a sincere friend and admirer" on its label, and the rat trap was marked with the words, "To catch the rats that carry away rat traps."

The Commandeur was mad with rage and put the matter in the heads of the Detective Police who wasted six months without discovering any clue and finally gave it up. Neither Miss Huysman nor Mrs. Kruidhof suspected the Commandeur's wife. In fact they had soon afterwards conceived a great

affection for Mrs. Steenbrug who got the best bread from the bakery and the best patent medicines from the Kruidhof dispensary. This change of feeling seemed explicable only on the basis that they were told in confidence of the insult offered to the Commandeur and regarded him as a fellow sufferer. And the matter was kept a profound secret by the parties concerned in the hopes of hereafter discovering the culprit.

In the meantime Jan's mind was quite a blank with regard to the articles he had lost. The brass crocodile had remained in the Police Office for years and was afterwards advertised to be destroyed with other unclaimed and unserviceable articles. Jan as usual was appointed a committee of one to sit on and condemn these things. When the red eyes of the crocodile glared at him he vaguely remembered that it was once his property, but the past records of the office had been destroyed and the oldest clerk had a dim recollection that the Commandeur of blessed memory had brought it to the Police *Kantoor*. Mrs. Steenbrug was too old to recollect anything. Miss Huysman had long since departed to realms where rats cause no trouble, and Mrs. Kruidhof had died *sine prole* as genealogists would say. Jan rescued the crocodile from destruction and took it to Holland with him when he repatriated to take up the office of Burgomaster in succession to his father. In going through his father's papers he discovered a letter from the Commandeur (in which was enclosed the insulting ticket) which gave full details of the insolence shewn to him by some unknown scoundrel. Jan could never unravel the mystery. He was beginning to doubt whether the brass crocodile was the identical article which he lost at Galle on that eventful evening. He never forgave himself for not making any inquiries at the time about the loss. But "*Het geheim van den koperen krokodil*" (the Mystery of the Brass Crocodile), a romance in three volumes by Jan van Deventer, Burgomaster of Haarlem, which was published in Holland soon afterwards, used to be read by many in Ceylon as one of the weird and inexplicable events which occurred in this sunny island in the "Good Old Days."

## FROM THE V. O. C. REGISTERS

(Continued from page 7.)

Coninck	(Herdrik) word absoluut capt. op Gale	23 Nov. 1684
Costa	(Gregorius da) word capt. op Colombo	15 Mey 1693
Coster	(Willem Jacobsz.) Commandeur na het Vaderland verlost word vice-gouverneur en directeur van Ceylon	14 Nov. 1634 17 Sept. 1640
Coulster	(Ludolf van) word Commandeur van Cochin zal mits de aanstelling uit het Vaderland van den E. Goosken na Ceylon overgaan tot dat op Coromandel kon geëmployeerd werden	16 July 1663 11 Nov. 1665
	word directeur van Bengalen aangesteld	30 Oct. 1666
Court	(Jan del) word capt. op Colombo aangesteld	20 Oct. 1673
Cracknow	(Govert) opperhoofd van Tranquebaar, over particulieren handel op te ontbieden	1 July 1655
Cronenburg	(Regnerus) Predikant, na Ceylon beroepen, van daar na het Vaderland verlost	20 Ap. 1692 13 Aug. 1700
Cuyterus	(Johannes) Predikant na Ceylon beroepen naar het Vaderland verlost	8 Sept. 1681 5 Sept. 1685
Chavonnes	(Dominicus de) Capt. tot Colombo, fl. 100 toegelegd	6 Oct. 1692
Damessen	(Adriaan) pakhuismeester in Gamron, word koopman gevordeert	6 July 1700

<i>Dielen</i>	(Isaac van), als administrateur op Jaffanapatnam geapprobeerd en tot koopman verbeterd	8 Sept. 1681
<i>Dielen</i>	(Willem van), secretaris op Colombo, word Koopman gevorderd,	8 Feb. 1681
	om zyn* affiliciteit (?) met den Gouverneur Pyl, als dissave van Mature gedimoveerd, en tot opperhoofd van Negapatnam aangesteld	24 July 1683
<i>Diræ</i>	(Harmen), word Capt. van Colombo	20 Oct. 1673
<i>Donker</i>	(Johannes Nathaniel) *Predikant, geen admisse tot den predikstoel te verleenen, also zyn acte van aanneming by de Heeren Bewindhebbers niet onder- teekend is	5 Aug. 1661
	de evengemelde admisse verleend	16 Aug. 1661
	naar Ceylon beroepen	23 Aug. 1661
	buiten qualiteit na het Vaderland te zenden	9 Dec. 1664
<i>Duyker</i>	(Hendrik) word koopman en secunde in Pegu	28 May 1666
	word opperkoopman en opperhoofd van Tegenapatnam	6 July 1676
<i>Duyn</i>	(Cornelis van der), opperkoopman van Ceylon, zonder gagie herwaarts (Batavia) gezonden, weder hersteld	3 Nov. 1676
	Na Ternaten ter assistentie van den Gouverneur Padbrugge gecommitteerd	3 Nov. 1679
	word opperhoofd des zoldy Comptoir	6 Nov. 1682

	word Commandeur van Jaffnapatnam	22 Sept. 1684
<i>Dyxhoek</i>	(Pieter van) onderkoopman, word koopman en secunde op Cassembasaar gevorderd	4 Mey 1683
	word van opperkoopman tot Directeur van Bengalen	7 Mey 1696
<i>Eysleben</i>	(Michiel) onderkoopman in het Fiscaalaat op Palliacattta geconfirmeert, en tot koopman gevorderd	27 July 1683
<i>Fauconier</i>	(Jan) koopman, word cassier op Colombo	12 Sept. 1679
<i>Fernie</i>	(David) predikant, naar Ceylon beroepen	15 Oct. 1675
<i>Goens</i>	(Rycklof van) word admiraal over de navale krygsmagt na de Custe van India en Commissaris tot het visiteeren der gouvernementen van de Custe, Ceylon, Malacca, en der directien van Souratte en Bengalen	16 July 1657
	zyne huisvrouw toegestaan naar Ceylon te mogen vertrekken	2 Sept. 1658
	desselfs gevoelen als ook dat van den Heer Pit schriftelyk te vorderen op het voorstel om de twee gouvernementen Ceylon ende Cust tot een te maken	10 Sept 1658
	aan te schryven dat zyn oorlogs commissie op de Custen van India en Ceylon zal staken en den Majoor van der Laan met een gedeelte van het krygsvolk herwaarts zenden om de Oosterse provinciën te voorzien.	17 Sept. 1658

\* A curious word. Does it mean relationship or disagreement? Laurens Pyl was married to Johanna van Dielen. F. H. de V.



zal nauw onderzoek op de particulieren handel moeten doen, en den gouverneur op Ceylon van der Meyden daarvan suspect zynde, in Commissie van de hand zenden

17 Sept. 1658

te vereeren met een goude keten en medaille ter waarde van 1000 rds.

24 Sept. 1658

op desselfs petitie een tonne gouds\* naar Ceylon te zenden

26 Oct. 1660

mits zyn Ed. indispositie het commando aan den Heer *Hustaard* op te dragen

21 Aug. 1662

gelicentieerd om herwaarts (Batavia) te komen, en het Ceylonse gouvernement aan den Heer *Hustaard* gedefereerd

10 Aug. 1663

benevens den Heer *Over't water* tot commissaris aangesteld om met den Portugeesen ambassadeur te handelen

1 Ap. 1664

word gouverneur van Ceylon aangesteld

12 Aug. 1664

de stukken en documenten van den licentie meester *Jacob van Rhee* zyn Ed. in handen gesteld, om wanneer op Ceylon komt nader te onderzoeken

2 Sept. 1664

van het gouvernement te ontlasten ten waare nog alterceerde tot continuatie

19 Ap. 1669

Gouverneur-general (Rykof van, de jonge)

4 Jan. 1678

word opperhoofd op Tegenapatnam

1 Nov. 1666

Goens

\* 100000 guilders F. H. de V.

word opperkoopman met f. 90 per maand 22 Aug. 1667  
denselven extra ordinariis raad zynde,  
op ordre der Heeren Ms., van het Gouvernement van Ceylon te verlossen en  
herwaarts te laten komen 12 Sept. 1679

word extra ordinariis raad na zyn rang  
sessie in rade te geven, dog om de  
naanwe verwandschap met Edt. alleen  
met een adviseerende stem op de  
sessie te staan \* 22 Jan. 1680

*Goës* (Anthony van der) word negotie boekhouder van Colombo met de qualiteit van koopman aangesteld 2 Sept. 1697

*Goës* (Daniel) onder gagie als koopman van Ceylon opgekomen, deselve aan hem te laten goed doen 20 Aug. 1677

*Gomes* (Pieter Andreas) ambassadeur van wegens den viceroy van Goa Dom Anthonio Mello de Castro krygt audientie 25 March 1664

op desselfs verzoek met 100 rds.

g'assisteerd, †

18 April 1664

neemt afscheyd van Haar Ed.

21 Juny 1664

*Goudsmit* (Jan) word koopman en opperhoofd van Trinquenemale aangesteld 20 Oct. 1673

*Grantham* (Thomas), ridder Commandeur van hier ter rhee de gearriveerde Engelsch oorlog schip "Charles II." door den licentie meester en eerste klerk der secretarye van boord te laten halen 3 Juny 1684

*Groeneveld* (Thielman) vryman in Souratta, word koopman om Ceylon g'employeerd te werden 26 Aug. 1676

\* Over Ryklot van Goens verscheen in 1916 een monografie door Dr Albers te Groningen.

† De Portueezen schynen desijds ook al "slecht by kas" te zyn

<i>Grouwels</i>	( Bartholomeus ), predikant naar Ceylon	28 Oct. 1618
<i>Haan</i>	( Johannes de ), onderkoopman, word koopman en fiscaal op Colombo	23 Oct. 1684
<i>Hacoma</i>	( Gerardus ) predikant op Gale tot f. 120 verbeterd	16 Aug. 1691
<i>Ham</i>	( Cornelis van den ) onderkoop- man, tot koopman en fiscaal op Colombo	1 Sept. 1682
	goodgevonden naar Persie te zenden	1 Sept. 1682
<i>Hartsinck</i>	( Joris ) hoofd op Brootchia, word onderkoopman	31 Aug 1667
<i>Heere</i>	( Gerrit de ) onderkoopman tot eerste administrateur der west- zydse pakhuizen aangesteld	22 Sept. 1691
	word koopman	25 Ap. 1692
	word opperhoofd van Japan	9 June 1693
	word tweede opperkoopman des Casteels	21 Sept. 1694
	word eerste opperkoopman des Casteels	29 Ap. 1696
	word Gouverneur van Ceylon g'eligeerd	16 May 1696
<i>Hemmeling</i>	( Laurentius )	
	Predikant op Gale verbeterd	28 Oct. 1684
<i>Herman</i>	( Paul )	
	expert doctor en herbarius op Ceylon van f. 50 tot f. 70 per maand verbeterd	12 Sept. 1679
<i>Hewel</i>	( Nicolaas van der )	
	word opperhoofd van Trin- quenemale en koopman aangesteld	24 Sept. 1694
	( word vervolgd )	

## GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF FYBRANDSZ OF CEYLON

COMPILED BY MR. F. H. DE VOS

### I

JOAN FYBRANDSZ of Ansbach ( Middle Franconia ) m.  
*Anna de Silva ? ( de Almeida )* and had by her :—

I JOAN JOACHIM FYBRANDSZ ( who follows under II )

### II

JOAN JOACHIM FYBRANDSZ, Predikant, bap. at  
Colombo 5 March 1724, m. there 25 Oct. 1750 *Catharine  
Elizabeth Dormieux* ( widow *Fabritius* ). He had by  
her :—

I GERARD JOAN FYBRANDSZ ( who follows under III )

II *Maria Justina Fybrandsz* b. 9 Ap. 1753 m. 17 Sept.  
1768. *Justinus Kriekenbaek* ( V. 69 ).

III *Johanna Gertruida Fybrandsz* bap. at Colombo 15 June  
1755, d. 10 Oct. 1811, m. (1) at Colombo 17 Feb. 1771  
*Jacobus de Bordes* of Amsterdam, boekhouder and (2) at  
Colombo 29 July 1781 *Mattheus van der Spar* of Jaffna,  
administrateur, Galle.

IV *Catharina Elizabeth Fybrandsz* bap. Colombo 19 Sept.  
1756.

V *Antonius Henricus Fybrandsz* bap. Colombo 29 Jan. 1758.

VI *Johanna Arnoldina Fybrandsz* bap. Colombo 29 Jan. 1758.

VII *Joan Joachim Fybrandsz* bap. Colombo 4 Feb. 1759.

### III

*Gerard Joan Fybrandsz* boekhouder, bap. at Colombo  
30 Jan. 1752, m. Colombo 12 Oct. 1777 *Agneta Cornelia  
Toussaint*. ( IV. 35 ) He had by her :—

I *Joan Joachim Fybrandsz* bap. Colombo 11 Sept. 1785,  
d. 14 June 1818.

II *Catherina Adriana Petronella Fybrandsz* bap. Colombo  
7 Nov. 1787, d. at Jaffna 13 Dec. 1858, m. at Galle 1811  
*James Hollowel* of Wexford, Lieut. 2nd Ceylon Regiment.

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
**GENEALOGY OF THE  
 FAMILY OF KOCH OF CEYLON**

COMPILED BY MR F. H. DE VOS

I

GODFRIED KOCH of Alt-Ruppin, Brandenburg (Prussia) came to the Indies in the Ship. "Rosenberg," a<sup>o</sup> 1755, b. 11 September 1734, d. Jaffna 1811, m. there 9 November 1760 *Wilhelmina Magdalena Rovert* and had by her :—

- I. *Petronella Cornelia Koch* b. Jaffna, m. Colombo, 25 May 1794 *Dirk Busselman* of Duuren.
- II. *Maria Dorothea Elizabeth Koch* m. (1) *Hendrik Speldewinde* and (2) 31 December 1786 *Fredrik Gerard de Niesse*.

III. JOHANN GODFRIED KOCH (who follows under II)

II

JOHANN GODFRIED KOCH, Lieutenant. b. Jaffna 1768' d. there 13 June 1822, m. there 23 August 1795 *Susanna Isabella Brohier* and had by her :—

- I. CYRUS GODFRIED KOCH (who follows under III)
- II. *Susanna Henrietta Koch* m. *Carl Fredrik Isaac Ebell*.
- III. *George Koch* b. 21 August 1803.
- IV. *Eliza Eva Petronella Koch* b. 14 October 1805, d. 1893, m. 14 Oct. 1829 *Johan Gerard Gratiaen* (VI 16, 84.)
- V. JOHANN GODFRIED KOCH (who follows under IV)
- VI. *Cyrina Dorothea Henrietta Koch* b. 24 August 1815, bap. Jaffna 17 December 1815, d. 1896.
- VII. *Pieter Henry Lucian Koch*, b. 5 May 1813, d. 1887, m. 5 May 1846 *Harriet Carolina Maartensz* and had by her :—  
(1) *Alexander Koch*
- VIII. *Louis Henry Koch*, d. 11 October 1854, m. (1) *Mary Anne Kennedy*, b. 15 October 1813, d. Jaffna 16 November 1833 and (2) *Louisa Maria Brechman*.

Of the 1st marriage :—

- (1) *Louis Henry Koch* d. at Delhi 1857.

Of the 2nd marriage :—

- (2) *Henrietta Elizabeth Koch* b. 26 January 1839 m. *Robert Henry Leembruggen* (IV. 26)
  - (3) *Elizabeth Dorothea Koch* b. 29 May 1840, d. Nuwara-Eliya 11 May 1905 m. 1 May 1860 *James Francis Koch*.
  - (4) *Matilda Maria Koch* b. 7 November 1842, m. 24 May 1861 *Casper Henry John Leembruggen* (IV. 25)
  - (5) *Catharine Koch* b. 2 March 1844, m. *John Maartensz*
  - (6) *Isabel Koch* b. 1849, d. Mannar 1851
- IX. *Susan Elizabeth Koch* b. 18 March 1821, m. Jaffna 11 February 1839, *Peter Frederick Toussaint* (IV. 38)

III

CYRUS GODFRIED KOCH b. 10 April 1797, d. 18 April 1867, m. 1 April 1826 *Jacomina Bernardina Toussaint* (IV. 35) and had by her :—

- I. JOHN GEORGE KOCH (who follows under V)
- II. CHARLES HENRY THEODORE KOCH (who follows under VI)
- III. JAMES FRANCIS KOCH (who follows under VII)
- IV. *Catharine Koch* b. Jaffna 21 January 1832, d. 18 December 1893, m. 15 July 1847, *John Henry Ebell*
- V. CHARLES ALEXANDER KOCH (who follows under VIII)
- VI. *Thomas Koch*
- VII. *Ellen Koch*
- VIII. *Anne Koch*, d. 13 November 1904, m. 8 January 1863 *Richard Annesley Brohier*.
- IX. *Louisa Koch* d. 1869, m. 27 February 1865, *Robert Brohier*.

- X. WILLIAM HENRY ALFRED KOCH (who follows under IX)
- XI. *George William Koch* d. November 1872, m. 1871 *Margaret Rosaline Tousaint* (IV. 39, 40), who married, as widow *Koch*, *Marie Nell*.
- JOHN GODERFIED KOCH b. 2 November, 1811, d. 1890, m. *Angenita Dorothea Aldons* and had by her :—
- I. EDWIN LAWSON KOCH (who follows under X)
- II. *Arthur Francis Koch* m. *Julia Kellar*
- III. *Angelina Dorothea Koch* m. 14 May 1860 *James Gerrit Toussaint* (IV. 35).
- IV. *Merciana Koch* m. *A. W. Andree* (X. 16)
- V. *George Koch* d. 1912.
- VI. EBENEZER KOCH (who follows under XI.)
- VII. *Elizabeth Koch*, b. 29 April 1851, m. *Arnold Henry Toussaint* (IV. 37)
- VIII. *Alexander Rose Koch* b. 26 April 1856, d. 29 June 1913, m. *Augusta Mary Anthonisz* and had by her :—
- (1) *Charlotte Koch* m. *Angell Brohier*
- (2) *George Anthonisz Koch* m. *Myra Koch*
- (3) *Francis Walter Koch*
- IX. *John Koch* m. 1878 *Ada van Cuylenburg* (VII. 77)
- X. *Susan Koch*

## V.

- JOHN GEORGE KOCH b. 27 February 1827, m. Jaffna 7 February 1849 *Maria Jane de Niesse*, b. Jaffna 8 December 1826. He had by her :—
- I. ELLIS GLADWIN KOCH (who follows under XII)
- II. *Edgar Adkins Koch* b. 25 June 1852, d. 10 July 1886
- III. *Allan Eglinton Koch* b. 16 March 1854, d. 30 October 1909.
- IV. *Lily Jane Koch* b. 10 December 1859, m. 21 May 1884, *James Gibson Toussaint* (IV. 39)

## VI.

CHARLES HENRY THEODORE KOCH m. *Ellen Macready* and had by her :—

- I. CECIL THEODORE KOCH (who follows under XIII)
- II. *Ada Ellen Koch*, b. 2 February 1864, m. 24 September 1878 *Samuel Fredrick Toussaint* (IV. 41)
- III. THOMAS ALLAN KOCH (who follows under XIV)
- IV. *Arthur Wilson Koch* b. 28 May 1859, d. 28 December 1899, m. 12 September 1894, *Anna Elizabeth Toussaint* (IV. 42) and had by her :—
- (1) *Edith Ellen Koch* b. 7 July 1895
- (2) *Elsie Eugenie Koch* b. 27 June 1898.
- V. EDWARD LAWSON KOCH (who follows under XV)
- VI. ANGELL MACREADY KOCH (who follows under XVI)
- VII. *Constance Koch* m. *James Fredrick Toussaint* (IV. 43)
- VIII. *Florence Koch* m. *Fredrick Gamble*.

## VII.

- JAMES FREDERICK KOCH b. 25 April 1830, d. 8 Nov. 1890, m. at Jaffna 1 May 1860, *Elizabeth Dorothea Koch*, b. 29 May 1840, and had by her :—
- I. SAMUEL GODFRIED KOCH (who follows under XVII)
- II. GERALD CHARLES KOCH (who follows under XVIII)
- III. LOUIS HENRY KOCH (who follows under XIX)
- IV. *Rosaline Louisa Koch* b. 31 December 1870, m. 11 June 1899. *Charles Adolphus Leembruggen* (IV. 25)
- V. *Elizabeth Hortensia Koch* b. 1. October 1873.
- VI. *Edith Anastasia Koch* b. 4 December 1876, m. 29 September 1899 *Wilfred Harris Koelmeyer*.
- VII. *Grace Vivienne Koch*, b. 25 May 1879, m. 17 October 1900 *Stephen Maurice Leembruggen*.

## VIII.

CHARLES ALEXANDER KOCH, Colonial Chaplain, b. 28 July 1833, d. 6 November 1907, m. at Borneo 2 November 1859, *Rosina Eleanor McKee*, d. 13 April 1897 and had by her:—

- I. *Frank Lewis Hampton Koch* b. in Borneo 22 January 1861 m. at Assam 18 June 1910 *Anny Evelyn Gray* daughter of Dr. Gray of Regent's Park, London
- II. *Brenda Mabel Koch* m. 12 December 1900 *G. Chamney*.

## IX.

WILLIAM HENRY ALFRED KOCH, b. 17 May 1842, m. 26 January 1870, *Nancy Jane Toussaint* (IV. 42) and had by her:—

- I. *Marianne Mildred Koch*, b. 13 April 1873, m. 28 December 1904 *Angell Brohier*, d. 24 January 1907.
- II. *Elfrida Jane Koch*, b. 8 December 1876, m. 12 December 1901 *Charles Brohier*
- III. *Hilda Evangelina Koch*, b. 25 June 1878
- IV. *Alfred Cyrus Toussaint Koch* b. 17 April 1880, m. *Madge Jansz*
- V. *William Henry Alfred Koch* b. 12 April 1884.

## X.

EDWIN LAWSON KOCH, Surgeon, b. 29 November 1837, d. 30 December 1877, m. at Calcutta, *Emma Miller*, and had by her:—

- I. VINCENT KOCH, M.D. Superintendent, General Hospital, Hongkong, m. *Ida Nathan*
- II. *Ernest Koch*
- III. *Josephine Koch* m. . . . . *Bower*.

## XI.

EBENEZER KOCH m. 7 January 1877 *Georgiana Eliza Schubert* b. 7 November 1852 (widow *Alfred Schokman*). He had by her:—

- I. *Uranie Rosalind Koch* b. 27 June 1878, m. . . *Iudekens*.
- II. *Augusta Georgiana Koch* b. 19 August 1880, m. *Laurence Vollenhoven*.
- III. *Edwin Godfried Koch* b. 27 October 1881 m. *Ida Garvin*
- IV. *Ida Eliza Koch*, b. 27 October 1882, m. *Eric Ernest*.
- V. *Carl Schubert Koch*, b. 13 October 1883, m. *Annie de Run*
- VI. *Ruth Violet Koch* b. 6 December 1884.
- VII. *Myra Jemima Koch* b. 21 June 1886, m. *George Anthonisz Koch*
- VIII. *Samuel Arthur Koch* b. 15 February 1888
- IX. *Mary Koch* b. 24 November 1889
- X. *Edith Marion Koch* b. 26 December 1890
- XI. *Ebenezer Theobald Koch* b. 12 June 1893
- XII. *Lena Tera Koch* b. 22 August 1895

## XII.

GLADWIN ELLIS KOCH b. 8 March 1850, m. 9 November 1871 *Catharine de Rooy* and had by her:—

- I. *Frances Ethel Ellis Koch* b. 15 August 1872, m. 28 December 1896 *Henry C. Staples*
- II. *Ruth Sylvia Ellis Koch* b. 17 March 1874 m. 27 June 1906 *James Dunbar Jonklaas*, Proctor, Kandy.
- III. *Gladwin Ellis Koch*, b. 24 March 1876, m. 12 June 1905, *Emmeline Schokman* and had by her:—
  - (1) *George Ellis Gladwin Koch* b. 6 October 1906
  - (2) *Aubrey Koch* b. 29 November 1913.
- IV. *Hector Evan Ellis Koch* b. 1 October 1878
- V. *Elsie Amelia Ellis Koch* b. 25 October 1880
- VI. *Ralph Vivian Ellis Koch* b. 30 April 1882, d. 16 February 1888
- VII. *Evelyn Catharine Ellis Koch*, b. 15 January 1885



## XIII.

CECIL THEODORE KOCH b. 28 May 1852, d. 28 September 1890, m. 31 December 1876 *Evelyn Harriet Foenander*.  
He had by her :—

- I. *Cecil Evan Foenander Koch*, b. 19 November 1877, m. 29 December 1902 *Ada Ohlmus Fernando*
- II. *Francis Harold Bertram Koch* b. 8 August 1879
- III. *Beatrice Evelyn Koch* b. 3 April 1881, m. 18 August 1912, ~~*Maurits Maartensz Anthontsz*~~
- IV. *Cecilia Margaret Koch* b. 16 September 1882, m. 18 December 1907 ~~*Percy Lees*~~
- V. *Arthur Denzil Koch* b. 12 January 1884
- VI. *Hugh Theodore Rosslyn Koch* b. 21 December 1886, m. 7 May 1915 *Flossie Kriekenbeek* daughter of *Clement Kriekenbeek* and *Florence Foenander*

## XIV.

THOMAS ALLAN KOCH m. 1882 *Edith Angelina Stork* and had by her :—

- I. *Ruby Koch*
- II. *Reginald Koch*
- III. *Walter Koch*
- IV. *Ronald Koch*

## XV.

EDWARD LAWSON KOCH b. 28 May 1859, m. *Evelyn Eaton* and had by her :—

- I. *Bel Koch* m. *Reginald Koch* and has issue :—  
(1) *Arthur Koch*

## XVI.

ANGELL MACREADY KOCH m. 28 October 1865 *Bridget Agnes Gibson* and had by her :—

- I. *Ernest Angell Koch*
- II. *Clarice Bridget Koch* m. *Alexander Moulton*

## XVII.

SAMUEL GODFRIED KOCH b. 23 October 1862, m. 17 May 1899 *Genista Charlotte Cameron de Niesse*, b. 13 June 1879 and had by her :—

- I. *Vera Charlotte Jocine Koch* b. 30 March 1900

## XVIII.

GERALD CHARLES KOCH, Asst. Treasurer, Port Swettenham, F. M. S. b. 24 July 1864 m. 21 December 1887, *Grace Matilda Leembruggen* (IV. 25) and had by her :—

- I. *Gerald Trevor Koch* b. 15 December 1888
- II. *Leslie Francis Koch* b. 10 February 1891
- III. *Gerald Carl Sydney Koch* b. 12 October 1893
- IV. *Leonard Percival Koch* b. 2 September 1895
- V. *Esma Grace Koch* b. 10 January 1898
- VI. *Dudley Evan Koch* b. 24 April 1902
- VII. *Mervyn Vere Koch* b. 19 December 1903
- VIII. *Brian Aneslie Koch* b. 2 June 1906.

## XIX.

LOUIS HENRY KOCH b. 6 March 1867, m. 5 December 1900 *Mabel Albrecht* and had by her :—

- I. *Estella Mabel Koch* b. 31 October 1901
- II. *Louis Vernon Koch* b. 25 October 1904
- III. *Melroy Godfried Koch* b. 20 February 1910

## CEYLON IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

"There is no island in the world," writes Sir James Tennent, "Great Britain itself not excepted, that has attracted the attention of authors in so many distant ages and so many different countries as Ceylon. There is no nation in ancient or modern times possessed of a language and a literature, the writers of which have not at some time made it their theme. Its aspect, its religion, its antiquities, and productions have been described as well by the classic Greeks as by those of the Lower Empire; by the Romans; by the writers of China, Burmah, India, and Kashmir; by the geographers of Arabia and Persia; by the mediaeval voyagers of Italy and France; by the annalists of Portugal and Spain; by the merchant adventurers of Holland, and by the travellers and topographers of Great Britain."

Ample justification for these statements will be found in Tennent's remarkable book, which still remains by far the most valuable and useful book written about Ceylon. Aristotle, Pliny, and Ptolemy; the chroniclers of the Arabian Nights; Cosmas Indicopleustes, the Egyptian; Ibu Batuta, the Moor of Tangiers; the Chinese travellers, Fa Hian and Hiouen Tsang; Marco Polo, the Venetian, who for 17 years served at the court of Kublai Khan, the Asiatic emperor famous for ever in Coleridge's poem; Camoens of the *Lusiads*, and Captain Joan Ribeiro; Baldaeus and Valentyn;—of all these and many others you will find elaborate mention in Tennent's encyclopaedic work.

It is not now intended, however, to investigate these references and to draw any deductions—political or historical—from them. Let us rather stray out of the beaten track, into one of the many pleasant by-ways of Literature, where for a short while we may seek relief from more serious, and doubtless more useful, questions of Church and State, and a respite even from the Higher Criticism of Literature.

To a student, also perhaps to the ordinary reader of English Literature, in Ceylon, it is a peculiar pleasure in the course of

his reading to come unexpectedly upon some mention of the island or its people. The feeling may perhaps be compared to the pleasure felt on seeing one's own name in print—especially if one has not thought oneself entitled to that distinction. Thus, it pleases our vanity to know, for instance, that an English Home Secretary, was born in Ceylon, or that an English Admiral was not only born in Ceylon but also attended a Ceylon school. And when we are breathlessly following the adventures of, for instance, Sindbad the Sailor, it is a delightful surprise to read that Sindbad actually landed on our coasts, bringing with him a letter from the Khalif of Baghdad to the King of Ceylon.

In this paper we shall confine ourselves to books that are more or less literature, omitting the frequent references to Ceylon in scientific, naval, and military works, in the annals and annuals of sport, and in geographical readers and guide-books compiled for the instruction of visitors and commercial travellers.

Did Shakespeare, to begin with, know anything about Ceylon? He had doubtless heard and read about India, but of Ceylon there is alas no mention, direct or indirect, in his writings. Tennent quotes Shakespeare's reference to the elephant—but only to point out that the poet held the then popular belief that the elephant was so constructed that he could not bend his knees and therefore slept standing. The passage occurs in *Troilus and Cressida*:—

"The elephant hath joints, but none for courtesy. His legs are legs for necessity, not for flexure."

But there are elephants in India, and Shakespeare did not even need to see an elephant; the error he perpetuates is as old as Aristotle. He knew, also, that the elephant is "slow" in his movements and that he is trapped in holes.

In Shakespeare's time the voyages of English, Dutch, and Portuguese adventurers revealed to Europe the wonders of the Old and New Worlds. Many accounts of these adventures were published, and English Literature was greatly enriched by them.

One of the earliest references to Ceylon occurs in Butler's *Hudibras*, first published about fifty years after the death of Shakespeare. In this poem the Puritans are described as strongly opposing such sports as bear-baiting,—one forcible argument against which was that in some countries animals were actually worshipped as gods. Thus, says the poet,—

"The Indians fought for the truth  
Of th' elephant and monkey's tooth;  
And many, to defend that faith,  
Fought it out *mordicus* to death."

Here is an obvious allusion to the famous relic believed to be now enshrined in Kandy, which some detractors allege to be a bit of ivory and others the tooth of an ape. It may be remembered that, about the year 1560, the Portuguese invaded Jaffna, and in one of the temples found the tooth-relic which had been carried there for safety. "And from one *pagode*, their principal one," says the Portuguese historian (as translated by Mr. Donald Ferguson) "they brought to the Viceroy an enchased tooth, which was commonly called that of an ape, which was commonly held amongst all these heathens as the most sacred object of all those of their worship." This tooth—whether the genuine relic or not—was burnt by the Portuguese at Goa in spite of the offers of large sums of money from the king of Pegu for its ransom.

The next reference directly names Ceylon. In his poem on the Year of Wonders, 1666, Dryden begins with a bitter and somewhat envious attack on the Dutch:

"For them alone the heavens had kindly heat,  
In eastern quarries ripening precious dew;  
For them the Idumean balm did sweat,  
And in hot Ceilon spicy forests grew."

Dryden lived during the Dutch wars of Cromwell and Charles II., and much indulgence must be allowed a patriot who taxes even the elements with unkindness in their partiality for a rival power. The Dutch were at that time masters of the maritime districts of Ceylon, and their exports of cinnamon and

other spices, and of gems, naturally excited the envy and rivalry of other nations. It was a queer fancy of that time that precious stones are only dew, which condenses, and is then hardened by the heat of the sun or by subterranean fires.

But note that the accent is on the first syllable of the word *Ceylon*. *Ce'lon*, *Ce'-lon* was evidently the original pronunciation, not *Ceylon*'.

The same accent is found in Keats's poem, "*Isabella, or the Pot of Basil*," and the following verse is certainly reminiscent of Dryden. "For them," writes Keats, but he is alluding not to the Dutch but to the wealthy brothers of Isabella,—

"For them the Ceylon diver held his breath,  
And went all naked to the hungry shark;  
For them his ears gush'd blood; for them in death  
The seal on the cold ice with piteous bark  
Lay full of darts; for them alone did seethe  
A thousand men in troubles wide and dark;  
Half-ignorant, they turn'd an easy wheel  
That set sharp racks at work, to pinch and feel."

Keats, as we know, was a friend of Archdeacon Bailey of Ceylon, and one of the Archdeacon's sonnets from Ceylon was printed in the London *Athenaeum*. But we do not know if Bailey corresponded with Keats from Ceylon. Archdeacon Bailey's name will, however, survive in the history of English Literature, mainly on account of his friendship with the poet, but also for his own merits as a literary man.

Returning to Dryden's time, we find Ceylon mentioned by a contemporary poet, Matthew Prior, and again it is the elephant by which the island is distinguished. Prior writes an epistle in verse to a friend and in it describes his manner of life:

"The books of which I'm chiefly fond  
Are such as you have whilom con'd,  
That treat of China's civil law,  
And subjects' rights in Golconda;  
Of highway elephants at Ceylon,  
That rob in clans like men o' th' Highland."

You will note that the poet is aware of the gregarious habit of the elephant; the allusion to the clannish Scots is rather unkind.

Butler, Dryden, and Prior are not so frequently read by us as Milton, whose oft-quoted reference to Ceylon will next engage our attention. We recall at once his mention of Taprobane; but that mention is not made in a poem commonly read. It occurs, not in *Paradise Lost*, but in *Paradise Regained*, in Milton's account of the temptation of Christ in the wilderness; when the devil took Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and shewed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. It was a fine poetic achievement to place chief among these kingdoms, Rome, to which all the world then paid obedience, to which embassies were sent

"From regions far remote,  
From the Asian kings (and Parthian among these),  
From India and the Golden Chersonese,  
And utmost Indian isle Taprobane,  
Dusk faces with white silken turbants wreathed."

There is no question as to what island is meant by Taprobane, and there need be no surprise at the mention of embassies in those early days from so remote and so small a kingdom. Pliny records the embassies sent from Ceylon to Rome in the first century of the Christian era.

Half a century after Milton's death, the author of *Robinson Crusoe* published another equally realistic work entitled, *The Life, Adventures, and Piracies of the famous Captain Singleton*. In this story we have an excellent account of the unfriendly relations which then existed between the Dutch and the English in the East Indies, and Ceylon has a prominent place in Captain Singleton's narrative. The pirates were sailing westward from the Philippines, and put in on the south coast of the island for fresh water and provisions. "Some of the sailors," says the writer, "were a little too familiar with the homely ladies of the country"—Captain Singleton is not very complimentary to either the gentlemen or the ladies of the south coast—and the unwarranted familiarity caused what he calls a skirmish. A few days after, a sudden storm came on and the ship ran aground. The islanders swarmed on the beach waiting for their prey, and

a Sinhalese chief came forward with a white flag and invited the sailors to land. The Captain was for going, as their case seemed desperate, but he was dissuaded by William the Quaker—an engaging character in the story—who declared that the barbarians could not be trusted. William himself then went in a boat to within speaking distance of the crowd, and was able to parley with one of them—a Dutchman who had been a prisoner in Ceylon for many years. There was a long discussion, but in the end the ship contrived to get away, and the Dutchman too escaped in it from captivity.

Where did De Foe get his detailed and for the most part accurate information about Ceylon? Clearly from the well-known *Historical Relation*, written by Robert Knox. Several pages of De Foe's narrative are taken up with a good summary of Knox's capture and twenty years' imprisonment in Kandy during the second half of the seventeenth Century; and Knox's latest editor states that the "introspective and religious passages" in De Foe's *Robinson Crusoe* are also indebted to "Knox's account of his own religious difficulties in captivity."

One of the greatest names in eighteenth-century literature is that of Edward Gibbon, the historian of the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. In the first of his chapters on the famous Emperor Justinian, who was the first to give the Roman laws a settled form, Gibbon writes of the Chinese traders who were accustomed to bring silk from China across Asia to the Persians, by whom it was afterwards sold to the Romans. The Chinese caravans were beset by many dangers in their journey by land, and later, they found a way by sea to Ceylon—"in square-built ships," writes Gibbon, "which, instead of iron, were sewed together with the strong thread of the cocoanut."

His account of the condition of the island in early times is worth quoting from:—

"Ceylon, Serendib, or Taprobane was divided between two hostile princes; one of whom possessed the mountains, the elephants, and the luminous carbuncle, and the other enjoyed the more solid riches of domestic industry and foreign trade, and the capacious harbour of

Trinquemale, which received and dismissed the fleets of the East and West. In this hospitable isle, at an equal distance (as it was computed) from their respective countries, the silk merchants of China, who had collected in their voyages aloes, cloves, nutmeg, and santal wood, maintained a free and beneficial commerce with the inhabitants of the Persian Gulf. The subjects of the Great King exalted, without a rival, his power and magnificence; and the Roman who confounded their vanity by comparing his paltry coin with a gold medal of the Emperor Anastasius, had sailed to Ceylon in an Ethiopian ship as a simple passenger."

Gibbon derived his information from Cosmas Indicopleustes, an Egyptian merchant, traveller, and monk of Justinian's time, and mentions, among other details, that a Christian church existed in Ceylon in the sixth century, and that the Chinese monarch "actually received an embassy from the isle of Ceylon." Tennent points out that there were embassies from Ceylon to China at least a century earlier, and he corrects Gibbon's error as to the meeting of the fleets at Trincomalie. They met at Galle, or it may be, at Mannar.

Gibbon's mention of Serendib as one of the names of Ceylon reminds us of the word *Serendipity*, coined by Horace Walpole some little time before Gibbon's book was published. In a French fairy tale, named *The Three Princes of Serendib*, the heroes were continually making discoveries by accident of things they were not seeking. Instances of this occur in actual life. Thus, a book-collector in England once bought *one* volume of a rare Italian book for which he paid a guinea. On his way home he saw in a cobbler's stall *both* volumes of the work, and got them for only sixpence. Another case is that of "a collector of Hogarth, who heard that two of the Master's designs illustrate an English Moliere of 1761. Next day he found them in a wheelbarrow full of old books standing at the door of a public-house where the owner was taking a modest quencher." To this "faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident," of "looking for one thing and finding another," Horace Walpole gave the name of *Serendipity*.

And Trincomalie suggests another coined word—the coiner this time being Theodore Hook, the famous wit who left so little

in writing as evidence of his distinctive genius. Early in the nineteenth century, two prominent topics occupied the attention of the English people—the splendid harbour of Trincomalie just acquired from the Dutch, and the establishment of a new University, the University of London. In the old Universities of Oxford and Cambridge no one who was a Nonconformist could in those days take a degree. In the new London University no religious tests were allowed, and Churchmen were very angry that a rival and godless institution should be established. They ridiculed it and stormed at it.

Unfortunately, the University buildings were erected on the site of what was once a refuse field where sweepings of all sorts were thrown. Theodore Hook cleverly combined this fact with the acquisition of the new harbour, and branded the new University with the nickname *Stinkomalie*.

Contemporary with Theodore Hook was Archbishop Whately, a man, it need scarcely be said, of a totally different type. In 1856 Whately published an edition of Bacon's *Essays* with copious annotations, and in illustrating Bacon's statement that "There is no stound or impediment in the wit, but may be wrought out by fit studies", he relates an incident told him by Sir Alexander Johnston, Chief Justice of Ceylon. The Chief was trying a prisoner for robbery and murder, and the evidence was so conclusive that he was about to charge the jurors, who were Sinhalese, to find a verdict of guilty. One juror, however, obtained permission to examine the witnesses himself, and he did this so ably that it was proved that the prisoner was innocent, and that the witnesses were themselves the perpetrators of the crime.

Sir Alexander was so struck by the intelligence shewn by this juror that he afterwards asked him what his studies had been. The man replied that he had but one book, and this he delighted to study in his leisure hours. The book turned out to be a Sinhalese translation of a large portion of Aristotle's *Organon*, and to the study of this the Sinhalese juror attributed any intelligence and culture he possessed.



One would not look in a learned treatise like Whately's *Bacon* for any mention of Ceylon, and the reference is interesting. But Whately can scarcely be correct in stating, as he does, that Six Alexander Johnston acted as Governor of Ceylon.

Sydney Smith, the witty Canon of St. Pauls' and Thomas De Quincey the English opium-eater, are fixed names in English Literature, and to be mentioned in their writings is a distinction. Both of them reviewed books on Ceylon. Sydney Smith reviewed Percival's *Ceylon*, which was published in 1803 when the British held only the maritime provinces. De Quincey reviewed Bennett's *Ceylon and its Capabilities* published in 1843 after the cession of the Kandyan kingdom. Both wrote in the superior, cynical style affected by the "irresponsible, indolent reviewers" of the last century. Both begin with a well-deserved eulogy on the colonising genius of the Englishman, especially as shewn in India; and the attitude of both writers towards other races is that of the contemptuously tolerant conqueror. Sydney Smith is hard on the Ceylon Dutchman, in describing whom he lapses into the vulgarity which not infrequently spoils his writings. De Quincey is hard on Napoleon and suspects his hidden hand even in the local intrigues between Pilame Talawa and Governor North. Both writers distinguish between the Kandyans and the Sinhalese of the Low-Country, and are not very kindly disposed to either. Both, it need scarcely be said, are very amusing. This is how Sydney Smith, acting as showman to the King of Kandy, pictures to us the last of a long line of kings:

"The history of his life and reign presents the same monotonous ostentation and baby-like caprice which characterize Oriental governments. In public audiences he appears like a great fool, squatting on his hams; far surpassing gingerbread in splendour; and, after asking some such idiotical question as whether Europe is in Asia or Africa, retires after a flourish of trumpets very much out of tune. For his private amusement, he rides on the nose of an elephant, plays with his jewels, sprinkles his courtiers with rose-water, and feeds his gold and silver fish. If his tea is not sweet enough, he impales his footman; and smites off the heads of half a dozen of his noblemen if he has a pain in his own."

Before coming down to more modern times, let us turn our attention for a moment to two American poets—Longfellow and Whittier; not perhaps the greatest names in American Literature, but two names better and more affectionately known than the others.

Longfellow has two references to Ceylon. One is in the poem on "the Hanging of the Crane," and he tells us that of those members of the household who are absent from home on that occasion,

"One is a wanderer now afar,  
In Ceylon or in Zanzibar,  
Or sunny regions of Cathay."

As we shall presently see, Ceylon is one of the conventional places to which wanderers are exiled by writers of romance. But Longfellow's wanderers were not unmindful of him, and they impressed Ceylon on his memory by presenting him with an iron pen which had a circlet of gold inset with three precious stones from Siberia, Ceylon, and the State of Maine. The gift was, of course, acknowledged in verse:

"When you gave it me under the pines,  
I dreamed these gems, from the mines  
Of Siberia, Ceylon, and Maine,  
Would glimmer as thoughts in the lines."

Whittier has three allusions to Ceylon. In one of his poems he dwells affectionately on his own home, though he is not insensible to the attractions of warmer countries.

"I dream of lands where summer smiles,  
And soft winds blow from spicy isles;  
But scarce would Ceylon's breath of flowers be sweet,  
Could I not feel thy soil, New England, at my feet."

Another allusion is in his "Vision of Echard," where he speaks of the apparent failure of the old creeds:

"The Gods are gone for ever  
From Zanskar's glacier sides,  
And in the Buddha's footprints  
The Ceylon serpent glides."

The third allusion consists of a whole poem, on "the Cypress Tree of Ceylon," a tree which we cannot now find,—unluckily, for its leaves "were said to fall only at certain intervals, and he who had the happiness to find and eat one of them was restored, at once, to youth and vigour."

One French author, well known to English readers, must be quoted—Alexandre Dumas, whose *Black Tulip*, in an English version, has become a school-reader for children. In this story, an enthusiastic Dutch tulip-grower succeeds, after many experiments, in producing a black flower. His dream is now to grow a tulip which should have scent as well as colour.

"Ah, if I succeeded," he says, "in giving it the odour of the rose or the carnation, or, what would be still better, a completely new scent; if I restored to this queen of flowers its natural distinctive perfume, which she has lost in passing from her Eastern to her European throne, and which she must have in the Indian Peninsula at Goa, Bombay, and Madras, and especially in that island which in olden times, as is asserted, was the terrestrial paradise, and which is called Ceylon—oh what glory!"

As familiarity with Ceylon increases in Europe and America, the references to it grow in number, and in the magazines there is occasionally found a short story of which the scene is laid in Ceylon. But the island attracted novelists and poets for at least two or three generations before ours. Thus, in Dickens's *Great Expectations* one ambitious young gentleman says: "I think I shall trade, also, to the West Indies, for sugar, tobacco, and rum. Also to Ceylon, especially for elephants' tusks."

Dickens has, however, a more personal connection with the island. In 1851, while presiding at a dinner in London, news was brought to him of the death of his little girl, Dora. He sent a letter, breaking the news, to his wife, who was then in Worcestershire; and with the letter he sent a prayer of his own composing. This letter and prayer, or a copy of them, happened to be in the possession of a planter in Ceylon who sent them to the "Ceylon Observer," where they were published for the first time, in 1874. It was through the "Ceylon Observer" that they became known to the friends of Dickens in England.

In Miss Kingsley's novel *The Wages of Sin*, an artist expresses a dislike on his part for Paris and his desire to see the East, "where men treat each other worse than we treat our beasts." A Chinese prison or the slave-market of Baghdad would attract him.

"I want to see Ceylon, too," he adds,—“colossal stone Buddhas sitting cross-legged upon the sacred lotus, in the dim heart of the tropic forest, the smile of completed and absolute impersonality upon their lips."

So far as the author of the novel was concerned the wish was gratified, for she visited Ceylon five years after the book was written, one of her objects being the study of Buddhism.

The remoteness of Ceylon was part of its attraction to Western writers and this is humorously shown in Hall Caine's novel, *The Christian*. The hero, John Storm, was bent on the religious life and on working among the poor. His uncle the Prime Minister understood only the fashionable view of the Church and offered his nephew a bishopric. "It was only a colonial one he said," the bishopric of Colombo. The income was small, no more than seventeen hundred pounds, the work was not light, and there were eighty clergy." John Storm protested that he did not want so exalted a position, he only wanted to live the "life of a poor priest out of sight of the world and the Church." "Surely," said the Prime Minister, "surely Colombo is sufficiently out of sight, my boy."

From a Bishop to a Governor is no difficult transition. When Sir West Ridgeway was appointed to Ceylon, the Rev. T. E. Brown, one of our modern poets, wrote a sonnet on him. It began:

"A stainless sword, Ceylon, we give to thee  
Jewelled with gems as precious as thine own."

And this sonnet will doubtless find a place in the collected writings of the poet.

John Masfield is another modern poet who may be quoted. In a poem published not long ago he described a dancing party, and the after history of some of the dancers :

"Nan was the belle, and she married her beau,  
Who drank and then beat her, and she died long ago ;  
And Mary, her sister, is married, and gone  
To a tea-planter's lodge in the plains of Ceylon."

The *plains* of Ceylon, rather than the usual hill-country, is a realistic touch. A similar idea occurred to Mr. E. V. Lucas, the genial essayist, in one of whose tales a character is made to say :

"My other daughter, Allison, is completely lost to me, except for letters, for her husband has taken her to Ceylon."

R. L. Stevenson refers once at least to the island in his published letters. He writes in June 1892 to Sidney Colvin :—

"About my coming to Europe I get more and more doubtful, and rather incline to Ceylon again as place of meeting."

Admirers of R. L. S. may be able to say if he ever came to Ceylon.

In one of Francis Smedley's delightful stories, *Lewis Arundel*, one of the characters was educated at Westminster, where the cock of the school (meaning, I suppose, the biggest fighter) was a boy who afterwards became "a judge in Ceylon, weighed 16 stone, and had a wife and six little children." A few years ago, the *London Times* published an unfinished novel by Lord Beaconsfield in which one of the characters was a Ceylonese. Both these references are, as the story-tellers say, "founded on fact." Francis Smedley's cousin was a judge in Ceylon and is still remembered by old lawyers for his humorous judgments. The Oriental in Lord Beaconsfield's novel was named Kusinara. He was a Buddhist missionary who had heard that faith was decaying in Europe and had come to England to see if Buddhism could not supply the spiritual needs of the West. He described himself as "a subject of Her Majesty and an inhabitant of Ceylon." He had a private letter

to his banker in England as well as a letter of credit. Now, Kusinara was intended to represent Sir Muttu Coomaraswamy, who was well known to Disraeli. He is mentioned also in Lord Houghton's *Life* and in Matthew Arnold's published *Letters*. Matthew Arnold writes of a dinner in which one of the company was a "Cingalese in full costume."

The use of the word "Cingalese" as the natural adjective for all people from Ceylon was and is still quite common in England. Sir John D' Oly, whose *Diary* was lately published, was described a hundred years ago as "the only Cingalese scholar in the Ceylon Civil Service." His was a hermit life, "living on a plantain and inviting nobody to his house." The writer adds, "when I saw him come in to dinner at Mr. Wood's I was struck with the change of a Cambridge boy into a Cingalese hermit, looking as old as I do."

But it is time to bring to an end this desultory paper. There are other references which might be quoted, but I shall now refer only to one poem, which is admittedly the finest ever written about Ceylon, but which is far too little known. Its merits as verse, no less than the glowing affection for the island which warms every line of it, should make it a compulsory recitation in all English schools in Ceylon. We have all of us, or, at any rate, many of us, written verses on the beauty and romance of the land in which we live ; but none of us has been fortunate enough to get his works or his name recognized in the High Courts of Literature. We have to be content with the garlands flung upon our necks locally by indulgent critics and fond admirers. That is but little. The poet Ovid, in his exile, thought it less than little, nineteen centuries ago.

"Suppose," he complained, "Suppose my works to be read, and, what is surprising, suppose they give pleasure ; assuredly that will avail the author nothing. Of what use is it to thee if thou art praised when situate in the hot Syênê, or where the Indian waters surround Taprobâne?"

But Mrs. Fletcher, with whose poem we are now concerned, will live in the history of English Literature as the friend of

Wordsworth, if not as the author of an exquisite poem on Ceylon. She wrote poems which Wordsworth thought full of promise. He addressed one of his own poems to her, and wrote of her as his "gifted friend," of whose future as a writer he had no doubt; and he grieved over her early death.

Mrs. Fletcher came to Ceylon in January 1833, left it in February for India, and died at Poona in October of the same year. Her poem was published in Colombo a month before she died. In it is almost perfectly expressed the rapturous delight of a cultivated mind on its first glimpse of the luxuriant beauty of a tropical home like ours—this "Eden of the Sea." To her the novel experience after the long sea voyage from England is a dream. The contrast is amazing.

"Short sojourn make we, yet how sweet  
The change; the unaccustomed air  
Of all we see, and hear and meet.  
Ceylon—thy wooded shores are fair!  
I love the land left far behind,  
Its glorious oaks and streamlets clear—  
Yet wherefore should my eye be blind,  
My heart be cold, to beauty here?

No—in a world as childhood new,  
Is it not well to be a child?  
As quick to ask, as quick to view,  
As promptly pleased, perchance as wild?  
Deride who will my childish wit,  
My scorn to-day of graver things—  
Let *them* be proud, but let *me* sit  
Enamour'd of a beetle's wings."

So she puts aside for the time the thought of books and graver things. The calm around her makes her think of the time when man and beast lived trustingly together in that first Eden before man's fall. Let hunters track to their lair the strange and fierce creatures which still lurk here and here make man afraid. She prefers to sit in her bright shade, and watch the dancing wings of butterflies, the tame birds pecking near

her seat, the squirrel at his morning sports, the resplendent flowers, and the wonderful coconut palm—"a column, and its crown a star." And then, as the glamour of the past and the charm of the present cast their spells over her, she bursts into this enraptured strain:—

"Ceylon! Ceylon! 'tis naught to me  
How thou wert known or named of old,—  
As Ophir, or Taprobane,  
By Hebrew king or Grecian bold;  
To me, thy spicy-wooded vales,  
Thy dusky sons, and jewels bright,  
But image forth the far-famed tales,  
But seem a new Arabian Night.

And when engirdled figures crave  
Heed to thy bosom's dazzling store,  
I see Aladdin in his cave,  
I follow Sindbad on the shore.  
Yet these the least of all thy wealth,  
Thou heiress of the eastern isles!  
Thy mountains boast of northern health,  
There Europe amid Asia smiles."

And with this pleasant vision in our minds we may fitly conclude these references to Ceylon in English Literature.

L. F. BLAZE.

## IN MEMORIAM

I read again in Motley's glorious page

Of those staunch freemen who, in days of old

The sacred flag of Liberty dared hold

Against French fury and the Spanish rage :

Warrior and statesman, scholar, saint, and sage ;

Maurice and Louis, Brederode, Horn,

Saint Aldegonde. and the Beggars sworn,

Egmont, and unnamed myriads of that age.

Then, in a dream. their shining spirits came,

Watching in France the doubtful battle set ;

And he, the Silent Prince of deathless name,

Smiled, and with outstretch'd hand our Brother met :

"Welcome, true Comrade, who gave Home and Youth

To die, like us, for Freedom and for Truth."

B.

## NOTES AND QUERIES

**24** The note on page 144 of the *D. B. Journal* for September 1909 is not quite correct. Captain John Morris, maternal grand father of Mr. W. Herft of Kandy, died in Ceylon. The following is a copy of the inscription on a stone now lying in S. Paul's burial ground opposite Wolvendaal Church.

Sacred to the Memory

OF

JOHN MORRIS

late Commander of the Government brig "Hebe"

WHO

died on the 29th March 1825

AGED 63 YEARS.

W. H.

**25** DUTCH FURNITURE IN THE COMPANY'S DAYS.—Mr. M. Serrurier Ten Kate has written an article, with illustrations, on the old Dutch furniture in the Company's room of the Museum of the "Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences." (*Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten in Wetenschappen*), which article has been included in the Bulletin of the "Dutch Antiquarian Union" (*Nederlandsch Oudheidkundige Bond*). The furniture as illustrated is in all details similar to the old Dutch furniture in Ceylon. There are straight-backed, square-bottomed chairs with elaborately carved legs, chairs with semicircular backs and circular seats, elaborately carved almirahs with glass shutters, and beds with gorgeous curtains and the old-fashioned "Dutch wife" pillows. Dr. W. C. Oosterhoff had previously written a paper (also beautifully illustrated) entitled *Oud-Indische Meubelen* (Old Indian Furniture) which was published in *Elsevier's Geillustreerd Maandschrift*, 1898 No. 10, a copy of which should be acquired for the Union Library. It appears that the furniture made of Ceylon satin-wood with flowered work and heraldic figures, is known by the name of Indo-Portuguese furniture. The introduction of family arms and heraldic lions is said to be due to the Dutch, and some furniture bears the arms of a Governor-General. An amusing instance of imitation of heraldic designs on furniture is the picture of a flower-pot with two lions as supporters, evidently inspired by a Dutch shield which was taken for a flower-pot and the crest for a plant. Dr. Oosterhoff speaks of an ebony chair in the "Old Dutch Government House" at Colombo. There hangs on the walls of the Company's room a rack for long pipes adorned with the van der Parra arms. Governor-General van der Parra it may be remarked was born in Ceylon. (III. 66). There is also an illustration of the arms of the same Governor-General, gorgeously carved in wood, something after the style of a hatchment, with elaborate mantling and scroll work. Mr. J. P. Lewis, C. M. G. of the Ceylon Civil service (retired) was a keen collector of old Dutch furniture in Ceylon and is the highest living authority on the subject. We lose a great deal in Ceylon by not keeping ourselves *au courant* with what appears in Dutch periodicals relating to the old Dutch East India Company.

F. H. DE VOS.



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L. A. JOSEPH.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

*Genealogies.*—The publication of the genealogies of Dutch Burgher families will always form one of the features of the Journal. Those members of the Union, who have complete genealogies of their families and desire their publication, should communicate with the Editor with a view to their being considered by the Genealogical Committee.

As considerable delay is caused in endeavours to bring the genealogies up to date, special regard will be paid to the earlier genealogy of families connecting them with the original settler. Later genealogical details can always be supplied afterwards by existing members of families. It is the earlier history that is apt to be lost or forgotten if not collected and preserved in time.

*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 Editor of the Journal a week previous to the date of issue of each number, viz: 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December of each year.

*Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.*—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the objects 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. L. E. Blaze, Kandy.

*Changes of Address.*—All changes of address should be notified to the Honorary Secretary of the Union, Dutch Burgher Union Hall, Serpentine Road, Colombo. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations, reports, 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. A. R. Bartholomeusz, Selkirk, Dickman's Road, Havelock Town, and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to the Rev. L. A. Joseph, Deepdene, Ward Place, Colombo, the Honorary Secretary of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

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