

Journal of the Dutch Burgher & Union of Ceylon

"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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JOHAN GERARD VAN ANGELBEEK,
GOVERNOR AND DIRECTOR OF CEYLON.
1794 - 1796.

(Reproduced from a Black and White drawing).

Journal of the * * * Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

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JOHAN GERARD VAN ANGELBEEK.

Johan Gerard van Angelbeek, the last Dutch Governor of Ceylon was about sixty years of age when, in 1794, he succeeded his son-in-law Willem Jacob van de Graaf as ruler of this island. He had come out to the east from the town of Wittmunde in East Freisland in 1751, taking passage as a "soldaat" in the Dutch East India Company's ship "Schaagenbosch". In a comparatively short time he was promoted to high office, becoming *Onderkoopman* in 1756, *Koopman* in 1767 and *Oppekoopman*, the highest grade in the Company's Civil Service, in 1770. He was elected a *Raad Ordinair*, i.e., a Councillor in Ordinary of Netherlands India, in 1787. For particulars of his services and of his family and descendants we must refer our readers to the note on "The Dutch Governors of Ceylon" by Mr. F. H. de Vos in D. B. U. Journal Vol. II. (p. 141). But it may be mentioned here that van Angelbeek had served in Colombo in more than one capacity previous to his coming here as Governor. In 1764 he was *Fiscaal*, an office which corresponded in many respects to that of Attorney-General or Public Prosecutor, and the following year he became Political Secretary. He left for Tutucorin in 1767 and from that year up to his return to Ceylon as Governor he served in South India, where, in 1780, he succeeded Adriaan Moens as Governor of the Malabar Coast. It was from this post he eventually came here as Governor and Director.

Van Angelbeek's name has been a good deal associated with the events which took place here at the latter end of 1795 and the beginning of 1796. No little opprobrium has been cast on it, chiefly by his own countrymen, for what was supposed to be his share in the treacherous surrender of the fort of Colombo to the British. This opinion was

carried down to posterity and the present writer well remembers the bitterness with which old Ceylon Dutchmen spoke of him when referring to the events connected with the "Capitulation of Colombo." That there were many circumstances to give colour to such a suspicion in the minds of those who stood in the closest relation to the events of the time cannot be denied. To add to this, allowance must be made for the disappointment and chagrin of those who suddenly found themselves thrown out of office or forced to swear allegiance to a foreign power. In the absence of any disclosure of the secret communications which took place between the prime movers in the drama it was only natural that van Angelbeek's should have been the head chosen by the innocent participators and the silent spectators of those events to bear the burden of all the shame and ignominy which had fallen on them.

The real facts relating to the transactions between the various parties in authority during those dark days have not yet been fully disclosed, nor is it our purpose here to enter into any of those debateable questions suggested by them; but we, free from any of the passions or prejudices which nearness to the events created in the minds of our ancestors, may, in the long perspective of a hundred and twenty years, calmly review the grounds, so far as we see them, on which the charges against van Angelbeek have been based. It is necessary to understand clearly the position in which he stood before and at the time the British forces arrived here. The Governor of Ceylon was a servant of the United Dutch East India Company which received its charter from the States General of the United Netherlands. All the servants of the Company were held to bear allegiance to the States General and to the Prince of Orange, who was the Hereditary Stadhouder (*Prins Erfstadhouder*) and head of the State. On the appointment of each Governor to Ceylon he subscribed to an oath to this effect. We will now briefly follow the course of events which preceded the final act of the surrender of the Dutch possessions in Ceylon to the British. In 1793 the French National Convention declared war against England and the States General of the Netherlands, and sent an army into Holland. This was followed by the flight of the Stadhouder William V, Prince of Orange, to England. England, constituting herself the protector of the Prince, the following year (1794), sent the Duke of York with a force for the defence of the country from the French. It is true he

returned without accomplishing anything, but England's friendly relations with the Stadhouder were thus emphasised. In the meantime the French, who were now in occupation of Holland, reorganized the government of that country and replaced the States General by the Batavian Republic in close alliance with France. This was the position of affairs when the British forces appeared before Colombo. It is needless to remark that van Angelbeek was in a dilemma, and perhaps, to complicate matters for him, the British Commander brought with him a letter from the Prince of Orange, then an exile in England, in which the Prince, claiming still to represent the States General, requested van Angelbeek "to admit into the territory within his rule the troops of the King of Great Britain and into the harbours of the Colony the warships of the same monarch; as these troops and ships were to be considered those of a Power in friendship and alliance with the States General, and who came to prevent the Colony being invaded by the French." We need not go into the subject of the skirmishes which took place between the Dutch and the English in Colombo. They have been characterized by some writers as a mere pretence at hostilities. It seems to us that even Percival's account of the movement of the Dutch troops lends colour to such a view. We know that what van Angelbeek eventually did was to capitulate the Dutch fortress of Colombo with the town of Galle to the British.

We must avoid, as we have said, the debateable questions which arise out of these transactions. But it is as well to mention here the two extreme opposite versions which have come down to us of the events in question. Captain Robert Percival, whose animosity towards the Dutch appears throughout his book (*An Account of the Island of Ceylon* 1803), has not hesitated to characterize the conduct of the Dutch as 'cowardly', 'pusillanimous', and 'shameful', and we fear he is mainly responsible for the judgment which unlearned posterity has formed of the circumstances under which Ceylon was ceded to the English. On the other hand, M. de la Thombe in *Receuil de Notes sur l'Attaque et Defense de Colombo** which appeared in *Voyage aux Indes Orientales*,

* There have been two distinct English translations of this French account: the one by Mrs. C. A. Lorenz which appeared in the *Ceylon Examiner* and was afterwards reprinted in pamphlet form, and the other by the Hon. Lt.-Col. A. B. Fyers, R.E., in the *Journal C.B.R.A.S.*, Vol. X. p. 365.

speaking as the mouthpiece of some of the Dutch officers of rank who were in the garrison at Colombo at the time, while commenting on the unreliable account of Percival, points out that treason alone obtained for the English the possession of Ceylon and its fortresses. It seems to us, taking all the circumstances into account, that there was a good deal of misunderstanding between the highest Dutch authorities and the military. The latter were apparently kept in ignorance of the policy which governed the conduct of the former. If treachery is to account for the surrender, we fear the charge must be transferred from the shoulders of Governor van Angelbeek to those of some higher powers working behind him. We have said that he was in a dilemma. Was he to hold the island for the Bonapartist Government of Holland, to which he owed no allegiance, or was he to declare for the Prince of Orange who represented the States General of the Netherlands? There is no doubt that there were powerful agencies at work to prevent the island from becoming part of the dominions of the Batavian Republic, and the readiest way to do so seemed to be to put it into the hands of the English. That this was the policy which guided those who are to be held responsible for the surrender is clear when we come to the Treaty of Amiens. This was signed on the 27th March 1802. The Batavian Republic still represented Holland and the Prince of Orange was with his cousin George III, King of England. So, true to the policy referred to, "all the possessions and establishments in the Island of Ceylon that before the war belonged to the Republic of the United Provinces and to their East India Company" were ceded to his Britannic Majesty.

When the Treaty of Amiens was signed Governor van Angelbeek had been three years in his grave, and he cannot be said to have foreseen, much less to have calculated on, the disposition of territory effected by that document. As our purpose in this article has been chiefly to question the justification for the charge of treachery brought against him we will not pursue the fortunes of the Batavian Republic or the House of Orange any further. It is of course a matter of history that the latter was restored to power again in 1815, when William, the son of the runaway Stadhouder, became Sovereign of the new kingdom of Holland with the title of William I.

There is an old familiar Dutch proverb: *Als men een hond wil slaan kan men altijd een stok vinden*, which we may

translate, "When one makes up his mind to beat a dog one will easily find a stick to do it with." This is nearly equivalent to the English "Give a dog a bad name and hang him." If we may, without any disrespect, apply this trite aphorism to the case of Governor van Angelbeek, we shall see how stories have been invented and incidents in themselves trifling and of no import have been used to give colour to the foregone conviction in the minds of the suffering Dutch in Ceylon that van Angelbeek had acted as a traitor to his country. M. de la Thombe was made to believe by his informants in Batavia that van Angelbeek, "horrified at his own treason," had blown out his brains in Colombo. This story, which was readily believed by those who had no other sources of information, was supposed to throw light on certain passages in Cordiner's account of Governor van Angelbeek's funeral. (*Description of Ceylon* 1807, Vol. I. p. 36) This plain and ingenuous description of a scene which was no doubt strange to the writer was believed to describe the obsequies of a miserable *felo de se* whose former high state alone saved him from a more ignominious burial. We will quote the words of Cordiner: "The funeral procession of the Dutch Governor van Angelbeek paraded through the streets of Colombo, by torchlight, on the third of September, 1799. It was attended by a party of mourners in black gowns, all the European gentlemen of the settlement, and a crowd of natives. The body was deposited in the family vault, by the side of that of his wife, whose skeleton was seen through a glass in the cover of the coffin. No burial service was used on the occasion; but when the necessary duty was performed, a crier stood upon a tombstone, and proclaimed that nothing more remained to be done, and that the company might retire. Those gentlemen who felt inclined repaired to the house of the deceased, where a large party of ladies was assembled: and the rooms were soon crowded with a mixture of all nations, who spent the evening in drinking various liquors and smoking tobacco."

Now, to any one acquainted with the customs of the Dutch, there is nothing out of the common in this account of a stately funeral. The parading of the streets by torchlight was a ceremony which was specially accorded to those of the highest rank. The following general description of the funerals of the Dutch, taken from a paper* written

*The Dutch in Ceylon: Glimpses of their Life and Times." By R. G. Anthonisz.—*Ceylon Antiquary and Literary Register*, Vol. I. Pt. 3.

several years ago and lately reprinted in the *Ceylon Antiquary and Literary Register*, will be found to accord exactly with the scene given by Cordiner. "The subject of funerals reminds one of some of the quaint and ceremonious usages of that time: of the *aanspreker*, or funeral agent, in *rouwband* and *mantel*, who busied himself, first, in the arrangements for the funeral, and, afterwards, in the entertainment of the guests in the house of mourning; of the long row of mourners following the bier in single file with cloaks and trailing crape bands; of the *draggers* or bearers who bore the body, and of all the numerous and ostentatious trappings of woe. When the deceased happened to be a person of any consequence, the attendance of the military and the stateliness of the procession invested it with a weird magnificence worthy of mediaeval times."

But the chief point upon which stress has been laid is that there was no burial service. This is easily explained; as the Dutch Reformed Church has no burial service prescribed in its liturgy. No such service was used by the Dutch in Ceylon nor is it used in Holland to this day. This was of course strange to a Church of England minister, and it was only natural that the Reverend Mr. Cordiner should remark the omission at the Governor's obsequies. The "crier" referred to was of course the *aanspreker*, but we fear his address to the company assembled has not been correctly reported. He was there to carry out his customary functions and what he must have repeated were the words of the prescribed formula at the conclusion of the interment, which were as follows: "*De Heeren naastbestaanden, de dragers, en de andere heeren worden vriendelyk weder na de sterfhuis verzocht.*" ("The gentlemen, relatives of the deceased, the bearers, and the other gentlemen present are kindly requested to return to the house mourning.")

We may now state that there is absolutely no foundation for the story of the suicide, but that, on the contrary, all the circumstances go to show that van Angelbeek died a natural death. Apart from other negative evidence, the fact that Cordiner, who was on the spot, makes no mention of it is sufficient to discredit the story. But we have the positive fact that van Angelbeek had been more or less in feeble health for sometime before the events of 1796 and that after his retirement, worn out in body and mind, he gradually declined until the end came peacefully.

The portrait of Governor van Angelbeek which is given as a frontispiece to this number of the Journal is from a black and white drawing made during an early period of his life. We regret that no likeness has been preserved of him in his later years.

R. G. A.

THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO CEYLON.

By R. L. SPITTEL.

It is my object in this address to bring into cursory survey the various peoples that have, at one time or another, come to this Island.

To deal fully with such a subject is impossible within the limits of a single address. I propose to get out of the difficulty by concentrating on certain aspects.

I shall consider the subject from three points of view.

1. The ancient inhabitants, invaders, and visitors.
2. How West met East.
3. The People in Ceylon to-day.

I. THE ANCIENT INHABITANTS, INVADERS, AND VISITORS.

When we attempt to glance at *the dawn of history in Ceylon*, we find ourselves confronted, as with the dawn of history anywhere, with a fabric in which legend and probable truth are intimately intermixed and blended. For our minds of to-day, from which the cobwebs of superstition have to some extent been removed, it is not difficult to sift legend and superstitious overgrowth from probable truth. But to pick from out the medley of earliest writings iotas of truth with any degree of certainty is no easy matter. Still, recognising the fundamental fact that man cannot think in terms of the abstract, cannot cut himself aloof from the phenomena around him, cannot in fact give rein to a fancy untrammelled by human experience, it comes to this, that we must accept the conclusion that underlying legend is a substratum of truth; of truth so distorted it may be, and obscured by parasitic fancy and superstition, that the iota gleaned is out of all proportion to the spurious growth that chokes and distorts it.

Thus legendary myths that have survived to our day may contain in them fragments of truth the nature of which we can but vaguely surmise. Reading truth into the Ramayana is as difficult a task as the attempt to deal similarly with the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer, the Niebelungenlied, or the sagas of the Norsemen. That authentic record of Ceylon, the Mahawansa, gives us valuable information, but it does not go far enough back.

Traditions unfortunately do not add much to information furnished by monuments, and fade rapidly away into myths and legends. But when we go further back than

myth, legend, and tradition, paradoxical as it may seem, we begin to arrive at more certain and much more ancient data. For this evidence we must go to geology. The earliest inhabitants of Ceylon are held to be the ancestors of the modern Veddas; in their caves have been found paleolithic stones, showing an ancestry of untold ages. This gives us a clue to what nature of being the earliest inhabitants of the island were. Paleolithic man, the man of the middle stone age has left his mark in this, as in other lands.

The existence of certain types of men within certain remote periods of time, and contemporary animal and vegetable growth, are made known to us by the discovery of the bones of men and animals, and implements of man in certain geologic strata, the age of which can only be fixed to within thousands of years. To reach these remote periods we must go beyond the strictly historical period, the oldest of which takes us back certainly for 7000 years in Egypt, and probably 9000 years in Chaldea. If we would go to earlier beginnings than these, we should look for them, not in stately tombs, temples, and pyramids, but in flint implements, incised bones, a few rare specimens of human skulls and skeletons, the meaning of which has to be deciphered by skilled experts in their respective departments of science.

Flint instruments have been found in Ceylon; let us follow the clue and see where it takes us. Immediately behind the historic age, lies the neolithic period, during which existing fauna and flora, climate and configuration, were not materially different from what they are to-day. In this age, we find polished stone the precursor of the copper, bronze, and iron ages of early history. Behind the neolithic period lies the pleistocene or glacial period; and behind this the pliocene, miocene, etc. To date these periods we cannot count the years in terms of the birth of Christ; geologic years are counted by thousands; a thousand years are in this relation 'like an evening gone.'

To arrive at the period of paleolithic man, we must look beyond the metallic periods, 4,000 years back; beyond the neolithic period, 25,000 years back; beyond the late paleolithic period, 150,000 years back—the period of the reindeer and the mammoth in Europe. The early paleolithic or the glacial period of the earth's history dates between 200,000 and 400,000 years back. It is somewhere to this period that a stone adze or axe-head would belong

if those found in Ceylon are authentic. Some hold that convincing proof of this is wanting. But let me point out a somewhat relevant fact. Close to our shores, in the island of Java, at a time when that island and this were perhaps part of the mainland of the great dark, trackless, and abysmally primitive Asian continent, there has been found, what is perhaps the oldest type of human remnant so far discovered, the *homo Javanensis*, or *pithecanthropus hominis*, which is debateably held to be the remains of pliocene man, i.e., of a period beyond the paleolithic. At the time of its discovery the *pithecanthropus hominis* was thought to be the missing link. It was discovered by Eugene Dubois Professor of geology in the University of Amsterdam, trained under the veteran Dutch zoologist Professor Max Weber.

There is then some evidence, the evidence of paleolithic stones, to show that heavy-jowled, primitive man, with prominent brows and receding forehead, more ape than man, inhabited this island, and struggled with mammoth forms for existence some 400,000 years ago. How fascinating it is for us of to-day to contemplate this!

From the time of paleolithic man it is indeed a far, far cry, some hundreds of thousands of years, to the historic times we shall now proceed to rummage with a very sparing hand.

The earliest mention of Ceylon in ancient writings is that occurring in the Ramayana of the great Hindoo epic poet Valmiki. Although written very much later, the events of the Ramayana are supposed to date back to a period of 4,000 years, or the cycle of Duwapara Yuga. In it we read that Ravana, a monster with ten heads, is king of the Rakshas, the ancient inhabitants of Ceylon. He distinguishes himself by kidnapping Sita the wife of Rama, a reincarnation of the deity, and a prince of Ayodhya or the present day Oudh. Hanuma, the monkey general, builds Adam's bridge for Rama and his troops to cross over from India to Ceylon. Rama kills Ravana in single combat and rescues Sita from her place of captivity in the Asoka forest near Kattragam. On his way back to India he builds Munieswaram temple. That is the ancient story. It shows how closely southern India and Ceylon were connected in early times. Many of the places mentioned in the Ramayana are realities to-day. Repeated allusions are made in the epic to the beauties of Ceylon, such as: "The emerald island girdled by the sapphire wave"; "gray, and green, and

glorious Lanka was like garden of the sky."

The authentic history of the Island begins with the landing of Vijaya from India in 543 B.C. as told in the seventh chapter of the Mahawansa, that valuable Pali record which can take a modest place among the oldest books of the world. Vijaya came over with 700 Aryan-speaking followers and founded the Singhalese dynasty in Ceylon. He found here a people called the Yakkus, who were, be it noted, at the time of Vijaya's landing, not an entirely savage forest people like the Veddas, but a coherent race representing a fairly high type of civilisation with some sort of stable political organisation. There is some evidence that metal was known in Ceylon before this invasion. It seems difficult to believe therefore that the forest Veddas, with little else than the law of the jungle, were the prototype of the Yakkus of the Mahawansa.

The Veddas could not have been other than a forest people in the time of Vijaya; and rather than have suffered contact with invaders, it is more likely that they receded farther and farther with each invasion into their forest fastenings, where they remain to this day, ever yielding before the steps of civilised men. Indeed so difficult is it for the Vedda to live in contact with civilisation, that to-day he is rapidly dying out.

The people Vijaya found probably represented earlier settlers from India who no doubt had come over from time to time. Vijaya and his band were obviously only one of many parties of settlers who came from India in prehistoric times. The coming of Buddha as described in the Mahawansa and the legend of Rama in the Ramayana may have been others. Even the Nagas of the Mahawansa, may have been an immigrant race. (Seligmann).

But the Veddas are perhaps the true aborigines. They are the descendants of the paleolithic men who used the stones we have found in their caves to-day; these in turn must have been descended from such half-human, half-animal types—monsters in very truth—to which the *pithecanthropus hominis* belonged. With the Veddas probably rested the discovery and first ownership of Lanka; all those who came after were invaders who robbed this simple people of their birthright.

Vijaya shortly after his arrival, married Kuweni an aboriginal princess or Yakkini, daughter of a native chief. The marriage was a diplomatic one, and served to make strong his foot-hold in the island. With the assistance of

Kuweni, Vijaya destroyed a great number of her people, mastered them, and parcelled out the land among his followers. Later, when his mastery was assured, Vijaya turned Kuweni out with her children, to marry a royal bride from Madura; and she with her sons sought refuge in the capital of her people and paid for it with her life at their hands. Her children were helped to escape to Adam's Peak and there begat the race afterwards known as Pulindas or Hillmen.

What a drama was this, the earliest recorded in Ceylon history! Surely the sorrows of this princess of old far surpassed the griefs of Hagar; Vashti dethroned from the favour of her lord could not have suffered more! She was rejected by the man for whom she had betrayed her people, to whom she had sold her soul. Of all the episodes of passion and sorrow that were to follow in the after years of Ceylon's history, this, the earliest on record, stands out in its meagre details, the most poignant and arresting, even as the story of Adam and Eve takes precedence of love episodes in the Christian, Mohamedan, and Jewish worlds.

Although Vijaya and other settlers came from the region away up in the valley of the Ganges, there is evidence that there were highly civilised maritime powers in Southern India 2,000 years ago, long before Vijaya's landing. The Tamils of that era acquired wealth and civilisation by their commercial intercourse with foreign nations such as Arabs, Greeks, Romans, and Japanese. Their wonderful and ancient lore in astrology and kindred sciences, is strongly suggestive of their having come into touch with the oldest civilised nations of the world such as those of Egypt and Chaldea. From the time of Vijaya's landing, civilisation made rapid strides in Ceylon. The Sinhalese introduced from the mainland a comparatively high type of civilisation, notably agriculture.

The earliest of the great irrigation tanks near Anuradhapura was opened about 504 B.C. by Vijaya's successor. Mahinda, the son of the great emperor Asoka, converted the island to Buddhism in the third century B.C., and dagobas and Buddhist monasteries grew apace.

Then followed a monotonous record of Malabar or Tamil invasions, conquests, and usurpations. A Tamil from Tanjore, Ellala, held the reins of power for 44 years. He was slain by Dutugemini, one of the great Sinhalese heroes of Ceylon. The ruins of that great monastery, the brazen palace, remain a memorial, to this day, of Dutu-

gemi's splendour and religious zeal. After his death, further Tamil invasions followed. The beautiful rock of Sigiri bears witness to one of the fiercest tragedies of history. It served as the refuge of the parricide Kasyapa who was in his turn overthrown by his brother.

Prakramabahu I. was so powerful that he was able to send an expeditionary force to India.

Malabar invaders again and again came in, and the Sinhalese capital moved farther and farther south, till in 1410 it was established in Cotta.

In 1408, in revenge for an insult offered to a Chinese envoy, a Chinese army invaded the Island and carried away King Vijaya Bahu IV into captivity. For 30 years from this the Sinhalese kings were tributary to China.

From this time it is not far to the year 1505 when the Portuguese Francisco de Almeida landed in Ceylon and found it divided into 7 kingdoms. From then onwards the complexion of things changed in the East. Internal dissensions paled before the greater question that now assailed the Sinhalese and Tamil inhabitants—the conquest of their land by a foreign foe, a white race.

There can be no doubt that although Ceylon was barely known to mediaeval Europe before de Almeida came, still it *played its part in the earlier years of European history*.* Ceylon was known to both Greeks and Romans as Taprobane, and later by the Arab name Serendib. But even earlier than these old civilisations, before the birth of history, the adventurous Phoenicians issuing from the Red Sea reached India in their ships; centuries later they piloted the fleets of Solomon in quest of Eastern luxuries to the port of Tarshish, probably the present Galle. "Once in every three years came the ships of Tarshish, bringing gold and silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks."

Although rumours of the wealth and wonders of India had reached western nations in the heroic ages, it is doubtful whether Ceylon had been heard of in Europe, even by name, until the companions of Alexander the Great returning from his Indian expedition brought in accounts of what they had heard concerning its elephants and ivory. If the report is authentic that Onescritus, the pilot of Alexander's fleet, visited Taprobane, then he is the first European on record to have done so. But such writers as Strabo, 200 years after Alexander, and Pomponious Mela, who lived in

* For much of what follows the writer is indebted to Sir Emerson Tennent's account of the Island.

the first century, had such vague ideas with regard to Taprobane, that they were even doubtful as to whether it was an Island. Since the memoirs of Alexander's Indian officers are vague, and only survive in fragments preserved by later historians and geographers, we must take it that the *earliest historical notice of Ceylon in Western annals is Aristotle's treatise "De Mundo,"* where it is mentioned that Taprobane is an island smaller than Britain.

Eighteen centuries passed after the death of Alexander before another European power—the Romans—tried to establish its dominion in the East. Egypt under the Ptolemies traded plentifully with the East. When Augustus conquered Egypt a fresh impulse was given to intercourse with India; but up to the reign of Claudius this was done by small craft creeping cautiously along the shore line, the crews of which were too timid and too ignorant to face the dangers of the sea. But in the reign of Claudius a great discovery was made. The courage of one man solved the difficulty and dispelled the alarm of putting out into the open sea. Hippalus, a seaman (A.D. 47), observing the steady prevalence of the monsoons which blew over the Indian Ocean alternately from east and west, dared to trust himself to their influence, and, starting out from Arabia, he set sail fearlessly across the unknown deep and landed in Muziris, the modern Mangalore. Hippalus was acclaimed and honoured; the monsoons were given his name.

This discovery gave a great impulse to trade and navigation; larger ships were built; and soon Rome began to fear lest its empire should be drained of its wealth to maintain the commerce with India. Roman magnificence and luxury, says Gibbon, was not satisfied within the limits of its empire. The most remote countries of the ancient world were ransacked to supply its pomp and delicacy. Every year about the time of the summer solstice, a fleet of an hundred and twenty vessels sailed from Myos-hormos a port of Egypt, on the Red Sea. With the assistance of the monsoons they traversed the ocean in about forty days, having as their objective the coast of Malabar or the island of Ceylon. It was in these markets that the merchants from the more remote countries of Asia expected the arrival of the Roman ships. The objects of oriental traffic were both splendid and trifling. They included silk, a variety of aromatics consumed in religious worship and at funerals, and precious stones among which the pearl ranked next to the diamond, and came as at present from the two great

pearl fisheries of Ormuz and Cape Comorin. Roman silver poured irrevocably away in the purchase of female ornaments to foreign and hostile nations. The Phoenicians were the chief trading intermediaries. Roman coins which have from time to time been found in Ceylon, confirm with tangible evidence the statements of Roman historians.

So great was the knowledge gained of our island through trade, that Pliny writing in the first century, 50 years after the discovery of Hippalus, was able to give a detailed description of the island at the time, not only through knowledge acquired from ancient writers, but by actually having come in contact with natives of Ceylon. It happened in this way. A Roman ship sent to collect Red Sea revenues was caught by the monsoon and carried to Hippures, the modern Koodra-malie in the north-west of Ceylon. Here the officer in command was received courteously by the king who, struck with admiration of the Romans, and eager to form an alliance with them, despatched an embassy to Italy consisting of a rajah and a suite of three persons; they were probably Indians, as the king (Chanda Mukha-siwa) was one of the Wijeyan dynasty who ascended the throne in A.D. 44 and was deposed and assassinated by his brother in A.D. 52. From these envoys Pliny gleaned much accurate information about Ceylon. Among other things they spoke of an overland commerce with China by way of India and Tartary. They described the way of trading among their own countrymen just as it is practised by the Veddas in Ceylon to-day.

Seventy years after the death of Pliny, Ptolemy of Alexandria in his great work "A System of Geography," was actually able to give a detailed map of Ceylon, from information he had gleaned from mariners and merchants returning from distant voyages.

"De Moribus Brachmanorum," written in the fourth century, ascribed to Palladius, records the account given the author by a Theban scholar, who having failed to prosper as an advocate turned traveller and explorer. The Theban stated that when in Ceylon he obtained pepper from the Besadae, or jungle people, who were very shy and hid themselves in the jungle. This is the earliest known description of the Veddas.

The Arabic geographer Alberuni, describes trade with the ginn, by whom he means jungle-folk. Mention of Zeilan is found in Marco Polo's travels, together with many interesting particulars with regard to it.

In the crannies of history and in the tales of adventure of various lands are found many allusions to this island. I cannot dwell even on a tithe of these, nor do I know most of them, but must hasten forward to mediaeval times to trace briefly the events that culminated in the permanent occupation and colonisation of Ceylon by the people of the West; the movement which brought our Community into being, and placed us in this beautiful and historic land which we occupy for the space of a few years while history marches on.

II.—HOW WEST MET EAST.

The early days of western colonisation forms one of the most enthralling pages of history and reads more like fairy tale than fact. The movement was at its height between the years 1420 and 1522. During that century more than half the globe was explored.

To Portugal, the little strip of land that projects into the vast seas that border its intrepid coast, is due the everlasting honour of having tempted, in the frail craft of the day, uncharted seas. The first explorers, the first great navigators and colonisers, were the Portuguese. Their names shine with incomparable lustre in that galaxy of great explorers that the 15th century produced.

It was HENRY OF PORTUGAL (1394—1460) surnamed *the Navigator*, who was the inspiring spirit of pioneer navigation and it was he who set the movement in full action. Under him Portugal, victorious against Castile and the Moors of Morocco, began to take prominence among European nations. His explorations, limited at first, developed later into a search for a better knowledge of the Western ocean, and for a seaway along the unknown coast of Africa, and to the rich negro lands beyond the Sahara, to the half true, half fabled realms of Prester John, that fabulous mediaeval Christian monarch of Asia, and so ultimately to the Indies. Up to this time the Canarian Archipelago was well known to French and Spanish mariners. Henry's ships explored the Canaries, the Western Archipelago, Madeira, etc., and pushed still farther into the Atlantic, a fact which seems to show that Henry was not unmindful of the possibility of a western route to Asia, such as Columbus attempted in 1492 only to find America across his path. He gathered information from the Moors with regard to the coast of Guinea and the interior of Africa.

In 1441 Gonsalvez, one of his captains, brought to Portugal the first slaves, the gold-dust from the Guinea

coasts. Cape Blanco was reached. These successes made sea enterprise popular, and merchants and mariners came forward.

Soon there was an immense burst of maritime and exploring activity especially along the coast of Africa.

The slave-trade began in earnest. Cape Verde Islands were discovered, and many other discoveries were made. Much new information was gathered of the trade routes of North-West Africa and of the native races.

The Portuguese caravels in the days of Henry the Navigator were the best sailing ships afloat. His court was the centre of active and useful geographical study as well as the fountain-head of the best practical exploration of the time. The glory attaching to the name of Prince Henry does not rest merely on the achievements effected during his life, but on the subsequent results to which his genius and perseverance had lent the primary inspiration. To him the human race is indebted for the maritime exploration within one century (1420—1522) of more than half the globe especially of the great water-ways from Europe to Asia both by East and West. His own life only sufficed for the accomplishment of a small part of his task. The complete opening of the South-African or South-East route to the Indies needed 40 years after his death; and though the Prince's share is forgotten in the achievements of Diogo Cam, Bartholomew Diaz, and Vasco da Gama, to his intelligence and foresight must be traced back all the fame that Portugal gained in the 15th and 16th centuries.

In the years that were to follow, discoveries came fast.

Columbus (1451—1506), Francesco de Almeida (1450—1510) who came to Ceylon, Vasco da Gama (1460—1524), and Ferdinand Magellan (1480—1521) were contemporaries; and the great discoveries remembered to this day in connection with these great names and many another followed in rapid succession.

Explorers sent out by Henry, we have seen, discovered the Azores and the African coast, whence came reports of a great monarch who lived east of Benin. John II of Portugal attempted by sea and land to reach this potentate. With this object he sent BARTHOLOMEW DIAZ (1481—1500) with 2 vessels westward by sea. After many days he came back with the report that he was carried far to the East by fierce storms past the southern end of Africa. When the storm subsided, the Portuguese stood east, and failing to discover land, turned north and struck the south coast of Cape

Colony. Diaz reconnoitered along the coast with the result that the way round Africa was laid open. He had discovered the Cape of Good Hope which he called the "Cape of Storms," in commemoration of the storms he had experienced in those far southern waters. When the Indian expedition was prepared under Vasco da Gama's leadership, Bartholomew Diaz only superintended the building and outfit of the ships. On Cabral's voyage in 1500 he took part in the discovery of Brazil and thence should have guided the fleet to India but that he perished in a great storm off his own Cabo Tormentosa. Like Moses he was allowed to see the promised land but not to enter in.

In the year Prince Henry the Navigator died VASCO DA GAMA (1460-1524), discoverer of the sea route to India, was born; if we follow in the trail of his adventures we shall find ourselves very close to Ceylon.

John II had died, Bartholomew Diaz had discovered the Cape. Nine years after this, Emmanuel, who succeeded John, completed preparations for the great voyage to India by the Cape route. These preparations were hastened by Columbus's discovery of America in the meantime. It was to Vasco da Gama, the bold soldier who had hitherto fought in Castile, that the supreme command of the expedition fell. Four vessels, specially built, sailed down the Tagus in July 1497 on the fateful voyage, after prayers and confession made by the crew. Four months later they rounded the Cape and got on to the port Malindi on the east coast of Africa. Here they procured a pilot from the Indian merchants, sailed, and arrived in Calicut on the Malabar coast in May 1498. Here he set up, according to the custom of his country, a marble pillar as a mark of conquest and a proof of his discovery of India. The Hindu ruler of Calicut would have been favourable to him, had not the jealous Mohamedan traders incited the Hindus against the new-comers, as a result of which da Gama was unable to establish a Portuguese factory. He returned to Portugal in September 1499 with stories of the vast resources of India. Thirteen ships were immediately sent out to India under Pedro Alvares Cabral, who in sailing too far west by accident discovered Brazil. Later he reached Calicut, established a factory there and returned. The natives, incited by the Mohamedans, murdered all whom Cabral had left behind. This was the incident that first evoked cruelty and harsh treatment from the Portuguese. To avenge the outrage on Cabral's crew, a powerful armament of ten ships

was fitted out at Lisbon under command of da Gama who received the title of Admiral of India. Calicut was bombarded and the inhabitants were treated with a savagery too horrible to describe. From Calicut he proceeded to Cochin doing all the harm he could on the way to all he found at sea. Having made favourable trading terms with Calicut and the towns on the coast, he returned to Lisbon in September 1503 with richly laden ships. Then Vasco da Gama retired to enjoy the wealth and position that was his. He was now one of the richest men in the kingdom.

Soon Portuguese conquests increased in the East and were presided over by viceroys. The 5th viceroy was so unfortunate, that da Gama was recalled from his seclusion by Emmanuel's successor John III and appointed viceroy of India, an honour which he left Lisbon in April 1524 to assume. He arrived at Goa and immediately set himself to correct the abuses left by his predecessors; but on the Christmas Eve following his arrival he died after a short illness at Cochin, and was buried there—meet resting place for the stern warrior who with culminating acts of grace, closed an earlier, more relentless, and bloodier career. His voyage enriched Portugal and raised her to one of the foremost places among the nations of Europe.

The first viceroy of Portuguese India appointed in 1505, was DOM FRANCISCO DE ALMEIDA (1450-1510) who belonged to one of the most distinguished families in Portugal. It was his son, Lorenzo de Almeida, famed for his discoveries in these waters, who was probably the first Portuguese to visit Ceylon.

In 1505 Francisco de Almeida landed in Ceylon and found the Island divided into seven kingdoms. He erected a fort in Colombo 12 years later and from this time to the advent of the Dutch, the Portuguese amid perpetual wars with the native kings, assisted by Arabs and other traders, tried to establish control over the Island. De Almeida had soon to resign to the claims of Albuquerque who had been sent with a commission from Lisbon empowering him to supersede Almeida in the government. Albuquerque was a splendid man and a valiant soldier. He was surnamed the Portuguese Mars and was buried in Goa. To his tomb Mussulmans and Hindus used to resort to invoke protection against the injustice of his successors.

Time does not permit me to trace further the steps by which the Portuguese consolidated their power in India. But narrowed as we have the sphere of navigatory activity

to the East, it would be unfitting and unjust, if we were to leave this part of our subject without mentioning the name of FERDINAND MAGELLAN (1480—1521) the first circumnavigator of the globe. He had sailed with Francisco de Almeida to India, and was wounded in Cannanore. He explored the Spice Islands, Java, Malacca, etc., and was lamed for life in a battle in Morocco against the Moors. Discouraged by the Court of Portugal he renounced his nationality and sought the Court of Spain. His hope was to discover a Strait at the extreme south of South America and to reach the Spice Islands this way. How he accomplished this, his hardships and adventures, form the most enthralling reading at a period when adventure and exploits of bravery and endurance were common. He it was who first saw and named, those interesting people whom Darwin studied in a later day—the Patagonians, or men with big feet. Through the Straits of Magellan or Eleven Thousand Virgins, their discoverer got on to the Pacific which he found smooth. He left his mark in the heavens there; for “Magellan’s Clouds” are still an interesting sight to mariners as they weather the tempests off Cape Horn at the far southern end of South America, where the cold bleak winds blow in from the polar wastes of the farther south. For 98 days Magellan and his crew roamed on the broad waters of the Pacific with little water and no fresh provisions. Putrid biscuit was their food at first; later ox-hide, sawdust, and rats became coveted food. Scurvy ravaged them. At last he reached Londres and discovered the Philippines.

Here Magellan contracted friendship with a treacherous native sovereign and was killed in a fight with the natives whom he wished to christianise. So died the man of whom it may well be said:—

* “this soul has been
Alone on a wide, wide sea.
So lone it was, that God himself,
Scarce seemed there to be.”

Magellan died in the Philippines, and in the strict sense of the word failed to complete the circumnavigation of the globe, the most perilous and unknown part of which he had so gloriously accomplished. But what remained, the way home from the Philippines by the Indian Ocean and the Cape of Good Hope, was well known to the Portuguese and to Magellan. Thirty-one men returned in Magellan’s ship the Vittoria, without their chief; the first vessel that had ever made a tour of the Earth.

To-day Magellan’s name does not appear where it should. Its rank is with Columbus, Marco Polo, (that restless spirit who traversed the very heart of Asia and lived with Kubla Kahn the great Tartar monarch), and Henry the Navigator. The circumnavigation of the globe is as great an event as, if not a greater event than, the discovery of America. Magellan achieved what Columbus planned.

Here we will leave the Portuguese explorers and their incomparable deeds. In frail craft, not much bigger than the Maldivian dhows we see in our harbours to-day, they dared to tempt the perils of unknown seas. All honour to them. No nation did for navigation what they did. They trod the paths of desperate adventure which led them to fabled lands. Their eyes indeed had seen “charmed magic casements, opening on the foam of perilous seas, in fairy-lands forlorn.” Among other lands, to old Lanka they came and broke down for ever the aloofness it had enjoyed from the beginning of time. From henceforth the ancient fanes of eastern traditions became the repositories of western culture, aims, and ideals.

Before leaving the Portuguese a word must be spoken in defence of their methods. Rough warriors they of the flintlock and cutlass; but harder and more terrific than their steel were their gnarled souls inspired with religious fanaticism, which impelled their willing arms to deeds of hellish cruelty in the furtherance of a religion whose founder averred He had come to bring peace and not the sword. In the fair name of religion were committed some of the foulest crimes in history, when they strove to force untutored minds to espouse a strange faith.

But we must remember that cruelty was not an exclusive or special feature of Portuguese colonisation; the Dutch were cruel too; and so were the English buccaneers. Portuguese cruelty was the outcome of the fanatical era of catholicism. The wave of fanaticism which devastated Europe at the time spread its malefic influence wherever its minions drifted—and Ceylon had her share.

It so happened that colonisation synchronised with the day of the Inquisition, and of conversion at the point of the sword.

(To be concluded).

THE JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF (Von) DRIEBERG OF CEYLON.

COMPILED BY MR. F. H. DE VOS.

I.

Diedrich Carl von Driberg of Hanover (P), Capt. Lieut. Chilaw, 1766, Commandant, Galle, 1782, Major 1783, Lieut. Col. 1791, came out to the Dutch Indies in 1756 in the ship "Vrijburg." He died at Negapatnam 22 June 1804. He was married to *Johanna Maria Aubert*, probably the daughter of *Jan Michiel Aubert*, ontvanger der domeinen van Colombo 1755, opperhoofd Calpentyn 1758, koopman 1759, died at Calpentyn 1762—3. He had by her:—

- I. *Frederik Willem von Driberg* (who follows under II.)
- II. *Johan Carl von Driberg* (who follows under III.)
- III. *Jacoba Christina von Driberg* bap. at Galle 12 Jan. 1783.

II.

Frederik Willem von Driberg, Commandant Calpentyn 1799—1892, Commandant Putlam 1802, Commandant Mullettoe 1802—7, died at Jaffna 7 July 1807, m. *Susanna Petronella Jacoba Tarree*, b. 1768, died Jaffna 5 May 1843. He had by her:—

- I. *Theodora Elizabeth Rudolphina Driberg* bap. at Colombo 19 August 1790, m. at Jaffna 13 June 1807 *Abraham White*, Asst. Surgeon 66th Regt., Surgeon 1st Ceylon Regt., b. 1782, died at Colombo 19 January 1818.
- II. *Charlotte Caroline Driberg* m. Mar. 1805 Lt. *C. C. Torriano* b. 1780, died at Jaffna 14 June 1808.
- III. *Susanna Dorothea Driberg* m. at Colombo 7 April 1832 *William Ridsdale* (Cotta Church Mission).
- IV. *Frederick Jacob Driberg*, Lt. 3rd Regt, bap. at Colombo 13 April 1794, died at Trincomalie 15 May 1814.
- V. *Pierre Fredrik Henry Driberg*, Lt. 3rd Ceylon Regiment, b. at Colombo 19 Apr. 1794, bap. at Calpentyn 24 Jan. 1800, died at Trincomalie 13 May 1814.
- IV. *William John Driberg*, Major C.R.R. Hambantotte 1833, Trincomalie 1842, bap. at Colombo 13 March 1796, died at Boulogne 30 Apr. 1860, m. at Kalutara 18 Aug. 1835 *Anna Henrietta Zelig* (widow Capt. *Edward Chauval*, Company's Madras Service). He had by her:—
 - (1) *William Charles Driberg*, Lt. 84th Regiment, b. 27 March, bap. Galle 7 July 1839, m. at Penelly (Pembrokeshire) 14 November 1861 *Selina Sophia Wells*.

III.

Johan Carl Christiaan von Driberg, Lt. 19th Regiment, Capt.-Commandant Hambantotte 1820, b. 1777, bap. at Chilaw 15 Sept. 1780, died at Hambantotte 8 Oct. 1826, m. at Colombo 1 Nov. 1810 *Gertruida Elizabeth von Mullertsz*, died at Hambantotte 8 Oct. 1826, daughter of *Fredrich Christiaan von Mullertsz* of Kolding (Jutland) Commandeur Crangenoer (India) and *Anna Elizabeth Medeler*. He had by her:—

- I. *Charles Edmund Driberg* bap. St. Peter's, Colombo, 8 Nov. 1812.
- II. *Thomas James Driberg* bap. St. Peter's, Colombo, 12 June 1814.
- III. *John Gordon Driberg* b. at Baticalo 26 March 1816, bap. Jaffna 5 Jan. 1817.
- IV. *Margaret Cecilia Driberg* bap. Galle 27 Aug. 1818, died Hambantotte 18 Feb. 1820.
- V. *Mary Helen Driberg* b. 10 Nov. 1823, bap. at Baddegama 11 March 1824.
- VI. *Martha Julia Bennett Driberg* b. Hambantotte 10 May 1826, bap. there 17 Dec. 1826.

DUTCH PREDIKANTS OF CEYLON.

(Continued from Vol. VIII, page 32.)

THEODORUS KLOPPENBURG, proponent, applied on the 10th April 1672 to the classis of Amsterdam to serve in the East Indies. He was at Negombo in Ceylon till 1676.

WILHELMUS KONYN was born at Amsterdam and studied at Francker. He arrived in Ceylon as proponent in 1706 where he was employed in the Seminary. He was proficient in Sinhalese and preached in the language. In 1711, still as proponent, he was employed at Matara. In 1715, however, by order of the Directors he was promoted predikant and was in that capacity stationed at Galle. In 1717 he received a call to Colombo as successor to the Revd. Engelbert F. le Boucq. He died there, it would seem, somewhere between 1724 and 1726. The opinion that we find recorded of him that he was a preacher "of great merit and distinction" was fully deserved. Already in 1711 he had translated the four gospels into Sinhalese and in 1724 the Heidelberg catechism which, in 1726, was revised by the Colombo Consistory.

ADOLF KRAMER was already proponent when he arrived in Ceylon in 1706. He was at once ordered to take up his studies in Tamil: for several years from 1711 he was engaged in these studies at Jaffna and at the same time assisted the predikants there, particularly the Revd. Mr. Bruining who was ill in 1715. In 1720 he was appointed predikant. The confirmation of his appointment had however to be postponed as there was some neglect in informing the Governor of Ceylon of it. This was rectified later and he was accordingly stationed at Colombo and, about 1720, at Negombo, and in 1732 again at Jaffna which congregation (as well as the subsidiary ones at Mannar, Trincomalee and Batticaloa) he served up to a ripe old age. He preached in Tamil and was greatly esteemed by the native as well as the European congregations.

CONRADUS KROONENBURG came from the fatherland direct to Ceylon in 1686 and became predikant at Jaffna but died soon after in the following year.

PETRUS KROONENBURG was educated in Ceylon and arrived in the East from Hoorn in 1717. He was on the 14th September of the same year appointed predikant to

the Dutch congregation at Batavia and remained there till his death on the 20th March 1720.

REGUERUS KRONENBURG, born at Medemblik in 1655, was accepted as proponent for the Indian ministry by the chamber of Zeeland and the classis of Walcheren and sent out. He left for Java in the ship "Saamslag" on the 23rd April 1691 and arrived at Batavia on the 28th April 1692. On the same day he received a call to Ceylon and was stationed at Matara, at Jaffna in 1696, and at Galle in 1698 or 1699, and returned home in 1701. In regard to the differences between himself and his colleagues Philippus de Vriest and Joannes Roman, the Governor-General W. van Outshoorn sought the advice of the consistory of Batavia. On his return to the Netherlands he was proponent to the classis of Amsterdam and was so even in 1720.

HENRICUS á DAER, was born at Tiel and studied first at Harderwijk and later at Utrecht. He was appointed proponent at Eck and Wiel in 1657. Accepted by the classis of Amsterdam, he set out in 1682 for the Indies in the ship "t Land van Schouwen" and arrived at Batavia on the 12th July 1683. He was sent to Ceylon and was stationed at Colombo where he died in 1685.

JOANNES VAN LEESTEN, came to Ceylon as proponent in 1706 and officiated as such at Matara in 1711, at Jaffna in 1713, and died at Colombo about the year 1715.

ANTHONIUS LENTIUS was proponent at Leenwarden when he, in October 1647, announced his desire to go to the Indies as predikant. There were indeed objections to his appointment: but he was accepted and appointed on the 4th November 1647 and sent out the same month. He arrived in India in 1648 and on the 10th August of the same year was stationed at Galle. But he had disputes with the magistrate or the consistory in 1650 and consequently, in 1651, left for Batavia.

The Governor-General gave him the choice either to return to Galle and to settle his disputes with the consistory there or to go back to the fatherland with his certificate or salary. He chose the latter and in 1652 returned in the ship "De Vogel Struijs". As there was neither a predikant nor reader on that ship, he took the services daily and preached on Sunday and other feast days and conducted himself with modesty and dignity. For these services a gratuity of 800 guilders was awarded to him by the Directors

on the 3rd April 1654. The Synod of North Holland being of opinion that Lentius was unjustly treated petitioned the Directors on the 19th September 1652—after his return to the Netherlands—that he be rehabilitated in his good name and compensated for the material loss suffered by him. The matter was referred to the Commissioners for an examination of the Indian documents. The further result remained unknown.

NOTES ON THE DUTCH PREDIKANTS.

By MR. F. H. DE VOS.

Theodorus Kloppenburg. He was evidently a native of Swol, and father, perhaps, of *Anna Helena Kloppenburg*, *Wilhelmina Kloppenburg*, *Cornelia Elizabeth Kloppenburg* and *Edward Hendrik Kloppenburg* (all natives of Swol), who were in Ceylon about the end of the 17th century. As *Edward Hendrik Kloppenburg* names his eldest son *Theodorus* (A.o. 1697) the relationship, above indicated, so far at least as he is concerned, is almost certain.

Wilhelmus Konyn (I. 173). He married (2ndly) at Colombo 6th June 1706 *Magdalena van der Hanegrift* of Batavia widow of *Dirk Sterreman*, *Equipagie meester*, and (3rdly) at Colombo 25 Feb. 1706, *Cornelia van Wynbergen* of Leyden widow of *Marcus Visboom*.

Conradus Kroonenburg of Meurs married at Colombo 14 Nov. 1696 *Sibilla Christina Henkelius* of Oy, widow of *Revd. Arnoldus Japyn*.

Reguerus Kroonenburg (I. 173). One *Reguerus Kronenburg* Chief of Baticalo married in Ceylon (circa 1740) *Magdalena Maria van Buren*.

Joannes van Leesten (I. 172). *Johannes van Leesten* was married to *Johanna van Steerling* and had a son *Jan Jacob* baptized at Colombo 3 Sept. 1705. So he must have arrived in Ceylon a year earlier than that stated, accompanied by his wife. There was a *Revd. Johannes van Leesten* at Leyden in 1736. His wife was *Anna Bavelaar*.

OLD DUTCH POETRY.

MIDDELMAAT.

Bemin de gulden middelmaat,
En zet ter zy den hoofschon staat !
De stormen treffen 't steil gebergt,
En wat er trotsch den Hemel tergt.

Wat hoog is, lydt te grooten last,
Waar 't rysje buigt, daar scheurt de mast;
De bliksem tast paleizen aan,
En laat de slechte hutten staan.

Wie 't zeiltje hyscht tot in den top,
En zet breëfok en blinden op,
En dan op storm noch buyen past,
Die wordt wel onvoorziens verrast.

Dus houd u matig onder 't land,
En leg by tyds af 't staande want :
't Is beter, dat me aan 't roeyen slaat,
Eer schip en man te gronde gaat.

Early 17th Century.]

DIRK PIETERSZ, Pers.

THE GOLDEN MEAN.

Desire the safe and golden mean,
Avoid the summit's tempting sheen ;
Storms strike the mountain's bristling side,
And Heaven ill-brooks assuming pride.

Greatness its weighty burden takes ;
Where the osier bends the tall masts breaks ;
Lightning attacks the palace grand
And lets the humble cottage stand.

Who hoists his maintop gallant sail,
Cross-jack and sprit sail, 'gainst the gale,
And then, defiant, drops his cares,
Is often taken unawares.

Then keep your middle course on land
And on the sea your ropes in hand ;
Rather with modest oars be toss'd
Than ship and man be sunk and lost.

R. G. A.

PROCEEDINGS OF A
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DUTCH BURGHER UNION.

HELD AT THE UNION HALL, SERPENTINE ROAD,
ON SATURDAY, THE 15TH JANUARY, 1916.

The following members were present:—Messrs. C. E. Albrecht, D. V. Altendorff, A. W. Alvis, C. L. Alvis, G. St. E. Anthonisz, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Anthonisz, Messrs. W. E. Barber, A. R. Bartholomeusz, F. R. Bartholomeusz, H. H. Bartholomeusz, P. L. Bartholomeusz, H. P. Beling, W. W. Beling, L. E. Blazé, Dr. Alice de Boer, Mr. A. B. Brohier, Dr. L. C. Brohier, Messrs. R. L. Brohier, A. E. Christoffelsz, H. C. Christoffelsz, Dr. H. S. Christoffelsz, Mrs. J. E. Christoffelsz, Messrs. W. S. Christoffelsz, G. W. Collette, H. A. Collette, H. H. Collette, J. A. Collette, T. J. Collette, T. W. Collette, W. P. Conderlag, C. H. Deutrom, P. L. A. Deutrom, Miss Aline van Dort, Messrs. E. F. van Dort, Allan Drieberg, C. B. H. Drieberg, P. H. Ebell, G. F. Ernst, S. O. Felsing, C. V. Foenander, J. M. Foenander, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fryer, Mr. A. N. G. van Geyzel, Dr. C. W. van Geyzel, Messrs. E. G. Gratiaen, Alfred Grenier, Dr. F. C. H. Grenier, Messrs. G. V. Grenier, H. E. Grenier, W. E. Grenier, Sam de Heer, George de Hoedt, Dr. Michael de Jong, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Joseph, Messrs. E. H. Joseph, E. M. C. Joseph, Revd. L. A. Joseph, Messrs. Colvin Kelaart, T. Kelaart, A. E. Keuneman, C. E. Koch, E. Gladwin Koch, F. H. B. Koch, H. E. E. Koch, L. H. Koch, E. de Kretser, Dr. Edgar de Kretser, Messrs. Ernest de Kretser, H. E. de Kretser, L. H. de Kretser, Oswald de Kretser, P. H. de Kretser, Colin Kriekenbeek, Cyril A. La Brooy, Drs. V. C. van Langenberg, E. R. Loos, Messrs. F. E. Loos, L. M. Maartens, T. R. Modder, Dr. Andreas Nell, Mr. W. de Niese, Dr. E. H. Ohlmus, Messrs. P. L. Potger, R. S. V. Poulier, A. W. Raffel, Dr. G. A. Rode, Messrs. J. A. Rode, W. E. V. de Rooy, T. C. van Rooyen, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Schneider, Mr. C. G. Schokman, Drs. G. P. Schokman, V. R. S. Schokman, Messrs. P. D. Siebel, J. G. van der Smagt, Revd. J. A. Spaar, Mr. Chas. Speldewinde, Dr. F. G. Spittel, Messrs. E. A. G. van der Straaten, W. L. Thomasz, J. R. Toussaint, L. S. Vollenhoven, J. P. de Vos, W. A. S. de Vos, S. J. Williamsz, A. L. de Witt, R. J. de Witt and W. P. de Zilwa.

1. It was

Proposed by Dr. C. W. van Geyzel, and
Seconded by Mr. J. P. de Vos,

That Mr. A. W. Alvis take the chair.—Carried.

2. Mr. J. P. de Vos raised a preliminary objection to the notice and purpose of the meeting based on Rule 4 of the Constitution.—The Chairman ruled that the meeting was in order.

3. It was

Proposed by Mr. J. P. de Vos, and
Seconded by Mr. W. de Niese,

That Mr. R. G. Anthonisz be elected President of the Union.—This was supported by Messrs. G. S. Schneider and Allan Drieberg and carried unanimously.

4. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz then took the chair and in a few words thanked the meeting for the honour conferred on him.

5. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. A. W. Alvis for presiding, seconded by Mr. G. S. Schneider. Mr. Alvis returned thanks and the meeting terminated.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DUTCH BURGHER UNION.

HELD AT THE UNION HALL, SERPENTINE ROAD,
ON SATURDAY, THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 1916.

The following members were present:—Mr. C. E. Albrecht, Mrs. R. C. Aldons, Jr., Messrs. D. V. Altendorff, A. W. Alvis, C. L. Alvis, R. G. Anthonisz, W. H. Anthonisz (Ragama), A. R. Bartholomeusz, H. H. Bartholomeusz, P. L. Bartholomeusz, H. P. Beling, W. W. Beling, L. E. Blazé, Drs. Alice de Boer, L. C. Brohier, Messrs. R. L. Brohier, D. J. Caspersz, A. E. Christoffelsz, H. C. Christoffelsz, Dr. H. S. Christoffelsz, Mrs. J. E. Christoffelsz, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Christoffelsz, Messrs. J. G. Claessen, H. A. Collette, H. A. Collette, Jr., H. H. Collette, T. W.

Collette, C. H. Deutrom, P. L. A. Deutrom, W. D. Deutrom, E. F. van Dort, C. B. H. Driberg, P. H. Ebell, F. W. Ebert, E. W. Foenander, A. L. F. S. Fretsz, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fryer, Dr. C. T. van Geyzel, Messrs. E. G. Gratiaen, G. H. Gratiaen, W. E. Gratiaen, G. V. Grenier, W. E. Grenier, S. de Heer, Dr. S. J. H. L. de Heer, Mr. G. de Hoedt, Dr. M. de Jong, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Joseph, Messrs. E. H. Joseph, E. M. C. Joseph, Eric Joseph, J. Joseph, Revd. L. A. Joseph, Messrs. A. E. Keuneman, G. P. Keuneman, C. E. Koch, E. Gladwin Koch, F. H. B. Koch, H. E. E. Koch, L. H. Koch, E. de Kretser, Dr. Edgar de Kretser, Messrs. H. E. de Kretser, J. H. de Kretser, L. H. de Kretser, Oswald de Kretser, P. H. de Kretser, Colin Kriekenbeek, R. A. Kriekenbeek, Mrs. P. R. Loos, Messrs. J. Ludovici, L. M. Maartensz, T. R. Modder, Dr. A. Nell, Mr. W. de Niese, Dr. E. H. Ohlmus, Messrs. J. G. Paulusz, A. Raffel, Jr., A. W. Raffel, C. L. Reimers, Dr. G. A. Rode, Messrs. J. A. Rode, F. B. de Rooy, W. E. V. de Rooy, G. S. Schneider, Dr. V. R. S. Schokman, Messrs. P. D. Siebel, J. G. van der Smagt, Chas. Speldewinde, Dr. F. G. Spittel, Messrs. E. A. van der Straaten, H. P. van der Straaten, L. van der Straaten, M. O. van der Straaten, W. P. D. van der Straaten, J. R. Toussaint, J. O. de Vos, J. P. de Vos, W. A. S. de Vos, A. L. de Witt, R. J. de Witt, C. A. Woutersz and W. P. de Zilwa.

1. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, President of the Union, took the chair.

2. The Secretary read the Notice convening the Meeting, and the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on the 15th January 1916 were read and confirmed.

3. The President, Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, then addressed the Meeting as follows:—

In view of the business before us this evening I do not propose to take up your time with a long address. But, as the present occasion seems to be peculiarly fitted for a few introductory words from me, I will use my privilege by opening the proceedings with a short retrospective sketch. It seems to me that after an existence of eight years, during which we have been endeavouring to carry out the objects laid down in our Constitution, it was time we took some sort of stock of ourselves as an association and struck a balance sheet of our achievements during the period. We have to ask ourselves how far we have succeeded in carrying out the purpose for which the Dutch Burgher Union was formed. It was, as you know, with many drawbacks and

obstacles that we started. These were no doubt inevitable in a renascent movement like ours. We had been going with the tide for some time and the sudden attempt to stem it was calculated to disturb the complaisance of some of our friends and to raise doubts in the minds of others; while, it is feared, it also roused the unjust suspicions of those outside our community to whom our true objects and motives were not sufficiently clear. Time, however, has smoothed down most of the impediments which hindered us at the start, and it is gratifying to observe that to-day we are not only an acknowledged fact but a strong force, quite able, if we only willed it, to work out our social advancement. There can be no doubt that we have progressed in many ways since we started, although it was not to be expected that we could accomplish in this time, or indeed, for a long time to come, all the objects which are categorically set down in the Constitution. Some measure of our success may be obtained from a glance at the work which our principal agencies have accomplished. It cannot be claimed that such qualities as sympathy and benevolence, patriotism, *esprit de corps*, courage, and loyalty, which exalt the individual and go in the aggregate to throw lustre on a community, can be created by any organized effort. But when we observe how members of the Union have rallied round its Social Service Scheme, some of them to carry on the work and others to aid it by subscriptions, we are forced to the conclusion that charity and benevolence has been a virtue of ours and only needed some agency to bring it into the light of day. Those again who have exerted themselves in the raising of this building in which we are now comfortably housed, with no immediate pecuniary advantage to gain, but actuated by the hope that it will be the means of binding the individual members of the community more closely together, have shewn a devotion and patriotism in a worthy cause which cannot, I think, be too highly appreciated. Nor have we been wanting in manliness, courage, and loyalty when the occasion arose. We have but to turn to the recent disturbances in our midst. Our youth and manhood, under the banner of the Dutch Burgher Union, were among the first who boldly offered their services to the authorities. The courage, loyalty, and devotion to duty which they displayed in a time of great public danger are well known and we here may, I am sure, take some pride to ourselves from their conduct on the occasion as it was a credit to the

Community. All this which I have indicated and also the *esprit de corps* which I venture to believe exists among us to-day and enables us to sink our little personal differences in the pursuance of our common aim, are part of the fruits of the Dutch Burgher Union. The virtues of sympathy and benevolence, patriotism, *esprit de corps*, courage, and loyalty, inherent in the individual and the community, have been quickened into activity by the spirit of the Union. It is the bond which unites us together as a distinct Community with one common social aim that spurs us on to pursue our objects. Keeping, as we have done, to these objects, without intermeddling in the concerns of others, or swerving for a moment from our fixed principle of avoiding politics, we have, I make bold to say, maintained our prestige in this land of our birth. This fact was very forcibly brought to my mind by a letter which I received a short time ago from a gentleman whose views did not permit him to join the Union; who was, as a matter of fact, opposed to the formation of such an association as ours. This is what he says after he had watched our movements for eight years: "All I can do is to wish long life and prosperity to the Dutch Burgher Union which justly commands the respect and regard of everyone and has always carried itself with such dignity and loyalty." This spontaneous and straightforward testimony from one outside the Union must, I am sure, convince you that we have not laboured altogether in vain. To win respect is, I think, to add to our strength, and given strength, it is for us to use it in continued effort in the same direction. We have therefore to take counsel together how best to improve our position with the strength and resources which we have acquired. A Union such as ours can only be held together by mutual agreement as to conduct and intention. Individually we are prone to error, beset by infirmities over which we often have little control. But by misunderstanding and forbearance among ourselves and by loyal co-operation combined with earnestness and singleness of purpose, we may, I am sure, accomplish all those laudable objects for which we have united together. What those objects are it is scarcely necessary for me to specify here. They are enumerated under seven heads in our Constitution. If I were to sum them up I would say they consist purely and simply in the moral, intellectual and social amelioration of the community. As these objects are accomplished we must rise in the estimation the world and this is an end worth striving for. The

consciousness that we belong to a Community that is honoured and respected in the country is, I think, a possession worth every effort that we can put forward and every individual self-sacrifice that comes in our way.

4. The following Report and Financial Statements for the year 1915, which had been previously circulated among the members, having been taken as read, were submitted to the Meeting:—

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Committee of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon beg to submit the following Report for the year 1915:—

Members.—The number of members on the Roll on the 31st December, 1915, was 455, as compared with 448 given in the Report for 1914, shewing an increase of 7. The Union has to record with regret the loss during the year of 10 members, 9 by deaths and 1 by resignation on leaving the Island. Against this, it is gratifying to note that 17 new members were enrolled. Towards the end of the year the Union had to lament the loss of its President, the Honourable Sir Hector van Cuylenburg.

WORK OF SUB-COMMITTEES.

1. *Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.*—There was only one issue of the Journal during 1915, covering the first three quarters of the year and forming parts 1, 2, and 3 of Volume viii. Part 4 which will complete the volume is in the press. The proposal to issue the Journal monthly was under consideration but the Committee were not able to arrive at a decision. It is hoped, however, that measures will soon be taken to put the Journal on a more satisfactory footing so that members may be kept more regularly and promptly informed of the work done by the various committees.

No expenses were incurred in connection with the literary work of the Union during the year and, there having been no receipts, last year's credit balance of Rs. 42.16 is carried forward this year.

2. *Committee for Purposes of Social Service.*—It is a satisfaction and pleasure to be able to report that the good work done by this Committee in the past has been continued throughout last year. Some estimate of the work done may be gathered from the following statement of disbursements:—

School fees and books for 7 children ..	Rs. 340.62
Regular allowances to poor widows, &c. ..	360.50
Temporary assistance	36.00
Funeral expenses	39.50
Postage and petty expenses	6.30

The total amount collected from members during the year was Rs. 559.49, which, with a balance of Rs. 250.74 brought forward from last year's account and Rs. 32.65 collected at the General Meeting, placed a sum of Rs. 842.88 in the hands of the Committee for disposal. It will be seen that the expenditure on "temporary assistance" and "funeral expenses" was restricted as much as possible, and this was done by the grants under these heads being only made under extreme circumstances. It is also noteworthy that the working expenses were only Rs. 6.30.

The special subscriptions from members, on which the Social Service of the Union mainly relies, were maintained notwithstanding the heavy burden which the war had cast on all. An organised effort made by the lady members of the Committee to add to the list of subscribers met with marked success. The thanks of the Union are due to these ladies for their kindly exertions in this direction and to those members whose generous contributions have enabled this work to be carried on. And a large measure of thanks is also due to the Rev. L. A. Joseph, Honorary Secretary of the Social Service Committee, for the time and labour ungrudgingly devoted by him to the trying duties of his office.

3. *Committee for Purposes of Entertainment and Sport.*—The gloom and depression caused by the war acted as a restraint on the operations of the Entertainment Committee and it was felt undesirable under the prevailing circumstances to carry out arrangements for the usual annual dance. The Committee, however, did not feel themselves equally constrained in regard to the celebration of the children's fête of St. Nicolaas. This event took place on Saturday, 4th December, St. Nicolaas Eve, 5th December having fallen on a Sunday. A marked feature in the celebration this year was the simplicity and economy with which the Committee were able to carry out the arrangements. Yet the gathering was a large one and the children were as happy as possible.

4. *Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research.*—There is nothing new to report under this head. But the Committee desire to reiterate here what they stated last

year; viz., that the Genealogical Committee have decided to exercise their right to refuse to entertain any application for membership which does not contain on the face of it the particulars required in the prescribed form and also sufficiently full details of the descent of the candidate. It may also be repeated that all applications must be sent through a member of the Union and not by the candidate himself. Any communication which may become necessary in the case will be made to the member who proposes the candidate. The Committee have found themselves obliged to adopt this rule to save themselves the trouble caused by applications imperfectly and indifferently made.

BUILDING SCHEME.

The balance in the hands of the Secretary of the Building Committee on 31st December, 1915, was Rs. 1,636.33, representing rents and interest received from the Club and the Union. Against this there was a sum of Rs. 4,000.00 and interest due to Dr. Prins on account of the loan made by him. The Committee expect to be in a position shortly to liquidate Dr. Prins's loan and the property will then be entirely free from debt. A meeting of the shareholders will then be summoned and matters in regard to this scheme finally settled.

DUTCH BURGHER UNION CLUB.

The Club has continued to make progress in every direction: the membership has steadily increased and the financial position is at present most satisfactory.

The Tennis Court, of which an intimation was given in last year's Report, has been opened, and is available not only to members of the Club but to all members of the Union generally.

A second billiard table was purchased last year and its acquisition has fully justified the expectations of the Committee.

In addition to this a Gymnasium is in course of being started and a Reading Room with periodicals and newspapers ordered out from England has been provided.

It may be repeated here that all members of the Union are eligible to join the Club, and that it is hoped as large a number as possible will avail themselves of its advantages. The success of the Club and its usefulness as a social

organisation of the Dutch Burgher Union will depend to a great extent on the support it receives from the members of the Union.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. *The Furniture Fund.*—There was no expenditure on account of furniture during 1915. The sum of Rs. 73.28 remaining as a balance at the beginning of the year has therefore been brought forward to this year's account.

2. *The D. B. U. Town Guard.*—The Town Guard has continued to give a good account of itself. A large number of recruits were enrolled in the course of the year and, under the able and energetic command of Lieutenants W. P. D. van der Straaten and A. E. Keuneman, it acquitted itself very creditably during the recent disturbances. The smartness and zeal of the officers and men won the commendation of high military authorities and reflected great honour on the Union.

3. *Christmas Gift to the Soldiers at the Front.*—A committee of ladies of the Dutch Burgher Union initiated and successfully carried out in November last a scheme for sending a Christmas Gift to the soldiers at the Front. By the able exertions of Mrs. G. S. Schneider, who acted as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund, and the contributions of those ladies who generously provided gifts in the form of parcels or in money, the Committee were able to despatch by the s.s. "Clan Chattan" which sailed on the 24th November to the "Queen Alexandra Field Force Fund" 64 parcels of the value of Rs. 15 each, containing clothing and other useful articles which were calculated to be of service to the poor sufferers in the field.

4. *Children's Gift to the Belgian Relief Fund.*—It was resolved at the latter end of 1914 that a contribution be made as from the children of the Dutch Burgher Union towards the relief of the oppressed Belgians, in pursuance of which the amount usually expended in toys and as much more as could be reserved from the collections made towards St. Nicolaas Fête, amounting in all to Rs. 516.11, were remitted early in 1915 to the Belgian Relief Fund, through the Belgian Consul in Colombo.

FINANCES.

The accounts of the Honorary Treasurer, duly audited are herewith submitted, from which it will appear that the receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 2,367.11 which, with a balance of Rs. 39.88 brought forward from the previous year, gave a total income for the year of Rs. 2,406.99. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 2035.88, leaving a balance at the end of the year of Rs. 371.91. Of the amounts received and paid out a sum of Rs. 516.11 represents the contribution made to the Belgian Relief Fund on behalf of the children of the Dutch Burgher Union.

W. A. S. DE VOS,
Hony. Secretary.

Colombo, 26th January 1916.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE

A. R. BARTHOLOMEUSZ,
Hony. Treasurer, D.B.U.

DUTCH BURGER UNION

Colombo, 18th January, 1916.

SOCIAL SERVICE BENEVOLENT FUND.

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Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year 1915.

RECEIPTS.	Rs. c.	EXPENDITURE.	Rs. c.
To Balance from last account ...	250 74	By School Fees and Books of 7 children ...	340 62
„ Contributions (detailed list printed in Journal) ...	559 49	„ Allowances to poor widows and others ...	360 50
„ Collection at General Meeting, 1915 ...	32 65	„ Temporary Assistance ...	36 00
„ Advance from Mr. G. S. Schneider ...	100 00	„ Funeral Expenses ...	39 50
		„ Stamps, M. O. Commission, etc. ...	6 30
		„ Balance ...	159 96
	<hr/> Rs. 942 88 <hr/>		<hr/> Rs. 942 88 <hr/>

Audited and found correct,

SAM. WILLIAMSZ,

Auditor.

Colombo, 28th January, 1916.

L. A. JOSEPH, Almoner,

Social Service Fund, D.B.U.

THE JOURNAL OF THE

Dr. DUTCH BURGHER UNION ENTERTAINMENT FUND, 1915. Cr.

RECEIPTS.	Rs. c.	EXPENDITURE.	Rs. c.
To Balance from last account ...	542 96	By Amount paid Hony. Treasurer D. B. U. towards Belgian Relief Fund ...	516 11
„ Additional Subscriptions received in 1915 ...	50 95	„ Amount transferred to General a/c 1914 ...	77 80
„ Subscriptions collected towards St. Nicolaas' Fete 1915 ...	465 00	„ Amount expended St. Nicolaas' Fete 1915 ...	394 95
		„ Balance in hand ...	70 05
	<hr/> Rs. 1058 91 <hr/>		<hr/> Rs. 1058 91 <hr/>

Audited and found correct,

SAM. WILLIAMSZ,

Auditor.

Colombo, 8th February 1916.

P. D. SIEBEL,

Hony. Secretary,

Entertainment Committee.

DUTCH BURGHER UNION.

5. It was

Proposed by Dr. L. C. Brohier, and
Seconded by Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz

That the Report and Financial Statements for the year 1915 be adopted.—Carried unanimously.

6. Pursuant to notice given the Secretary submitted for consideration the following amendments to the Constitution recommended by the Committee:—

1. Rule 6 (b). The substitution of the words "two-thirds" for "six-sevenths" and the addition of the following after the word "present": "The name of any candidate who has failed to secure a sufficient number of votes at a meeting of the Committee may be submitted again on the requisition of three members of the Committee."
2. Rule 7. By the addition of the following:—"No member whose subscription shall be six months in arrear on the first day of the month in which a meeting is held shall have the right to vote at such meeting."

The amendments were unanimously adopted.

7. It was

Proposed by Mr. J. P. de Vos, and
Seconded by Mr. W. de Niese,

That the Constitution be amended as follows:—

1. Rule 4. The addition of the word "Vice-President" after the word "President" and the word "Auditor" after the word "Treasurer."
2. Rule 5 (a). The addition of the word "Vice-President" after the word "President" and the substitution of the word "their" for "his".

The amendments were put to the Meeting and lost.

8. At this stage Mr. R. G. Anthonisz vacated the Chair, and Mr. A. W. Alvis was temporarily voted to it.

It was

Proposed by Mr. H. H. Bartholomeusz, and
Seconded by Mr. W. de Niese,

That Mr. R. G. Anthonisz be re-elected President of the Union.—Carried unanimously.

Upon resuming the Chair, Mr. Anthonisz briefly thanked the Members present for the honour they had done him.

9. It was

Proposed by Mr. L. M. Maartensz, and
Seconded by Mr. P. H. Ebell,

That Mr. W. A. S. de Vos be re-elected Honorary Secretary.—Carried unanimously.

10. It was

Proposed by Mr. L. E. Blazé, and
Seconded by Mr. W. de Niese,

That Mr. A. R. Bartholomeusz be re-elected Honorary Treasurer.—Carried unanimously.

11. It was

Proposed by Mr. C. Kriekenbeek, and
Seconded by Mr. D. V. Altendorff,

That Mr. Sam. J. Williamsz be re-elected Auditor for the ensuing year.—Carried unanimously.

12. It was

Proposed by Mr. A. W. Alvis, and
Seconded by Mr. O. de Kretser,

That the following do compose the Committee for the ensuing year:—

1.	Mr. D. V. Altendorff	Colombo
2.	" A. W. Alvis	"
3.	" H. H. Bartholomeusz	"
4.	" H. P. Beling	"
5.	" L. E. Blazé	Kandy
6.	Dr. L. C. Brohier	Colombo
7.	Mr. W. S. Christoffelsz	"
8.	" Allan Drieberg	"
9.	" P. H. Ebell	"
10.	" E. O. Felsing	"
11.	" J. M. Foenander	"
12.	" J. A. Fryer	"
13.	Dr. C. T. van Geyzel	"
14.	Mr. G. V. Grenier	"
15.	" Sam. de Heer	"
16.	Dr. M. de Jong	"
17.	Mr. Edwin Joseph	"
18.	Revd. L. A. Joseph	"
19.	Dr. A. Kalenberg	Kurunegala
20.	Mr. A. E. Keuneman	Colombo

21.	Mr. G. E. Keuneman	Matara
22.	" F. H. B. Koch	Colombo
23.	" E. de Kretser	"
24.	" C. Kriekenbeek	"
25.	" G. E. Leembruggen	Jaffna
26.	Dr. W. E. Leembruggen	Negombo
27.	" E. Ludovici	Galle
28.	Mr. L. M. Maartensz	Colombo
29.	Dr. E. H. Ohlmus	"
30.	Mr. L. G. Poulier	Tangalle
31.	Dr. L. A. Prins	Tuticorin
32.	Mr. G. S. Schneider	Colombo
33.	Dr. G. P. Schokman	"
34.	Mr. W. H. Schokman	Matara
35.	Revd. J. A. Spaar	Colombo
36.	Mr. Chas. Speldewinde	"
37.	Dr. F. G. Spittel	"
38.	Mr. E. A. van der Straaten	"
39.	" L. van der Straaten	Kandy
40.	Dr. G. W. van Twest	Nuwara Eliya
41.	Mr. C. E. de Vos	Galle
42.	" F. H. de Vos	"
43.	" J. P. de Vos	Colombo
44.	The Hon. Mr. Chas. van der Wall	Kandy
45.	Mr. E. H. van der Wall	"

13. A collection in aid of the Social Service Benevolent Fund of the Dutch Burgher Union, was then made, as announced in the notice convening the Meeting, and a sum of Rs. 67-10 was realised.

14. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Mr. P. H. Ebell and seconded by Mr. C. Speldewinde.

NOTES OF EVENTS.

Meetings of the Committee.—The Monthly Meetings of the Committee were held on the 13th January, 3rd February, and 9th March.

New Members.—The following new Members were enrolled during the quarter:—

Lieutenant Frederik Hendrik Agterbos	Batavia
Dr. Rudolph Arthur Frederick Lach de Bere	"
Miss Grace van Dort	Colombo
Mr. Geerard Marinus Fey	"
" Rex Vivian Ellis Koch	Colombo
" Allanson Glanville de Kretser	"
" Samuel Dudley Anjou de Kretser	Kurunegala
" Norman Alexander Keegel	Kandy
" James Aubrey Martensz	Colombo
" Gracie Banning de Vos	Kandy
" Clair Adrian Woutersz	Colombo

By-Laws.—By a resolution passed at the Meeting of the Committee held on the 3rd February, By-Law VI was amended by the addition of the following:—

(5) Purposes of Increasing the Membership. And the following By-Law was added:—

XI.—It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee for the Purposes of Increasing the Membership to ascertain the names and addresses of all persons eligible for membership and to use its best endeavours to induce them to join the Union.

Standing Committees.—At the Meeting of the General Committee held on the 9th March, the following Standing Committees were appointed for the year:—

(1) FOR ETHICAL AND LITERARY PURPOSES:—

Mr. A. W. Alvis
Miss Grace van Dort
Dr. W. G. van Dort
Mr. G. V. Grenier
Mr. Edwin Joseph
Revd. L. A. Joseph
Mr. A. E. Keuneman
Miss Etta van Langenberg

Dr. L. A. Prins
 Mr. G. S. Schneider
 Revd. J. A. Spaar
 Dr. R. L. Spittel
 Mr. C. E. de Vos
 " F. H. de Vos
 " E. H. van der Wall and
 " L. E. Blazé, *Hony. Secy. and Convener.*

(2) FOR PURPOSES OF SOCIAL SERVICE :—

Mrs. J. A. Fryer
 " E. H. Joseph
 " E. H. Koch
 " F. H. B. Koch
 " J. A. van Langenberg
 " H. A. Loos
 " L. M. Maartensz
 " G. S. Schneider
 " W. A. S. de Vos
 Miss Dora Anthonisz
 " H. Collette
 Mr. H. H. Bartholomeusz
 Dr. L. C. Brohier
 Mr. E. de Kretser
 " L. M. Maartensz
 Dr. A. Nell
 " E. H. Ohlmus
 " G. A. Rode
 Mr. M. O. van der Straaten and
 Revd. L. A. Joseph, *Hony. Secy. and Convener.*

(3) FOR PURPOSES OF ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT :—

Mr. E. F. van Dort
 " E. O. Felsingier
 " Edwin Joseph
 " A. E. Keuneman
 " E. de Kretser
 " Colin Kriekenbeek
 Dr. E. H. Ohlmus
 Mr. M. O. van der Straaten
 " E. A. van der Straaten
 " J. P. de Vos and
 " P. D. Siebel, *Hony. Secy. and Convener.*

(4) FOR PURPOSES OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH :—

Mr. H. P. Beling
 " W. S. Christoffelsz
 " P. H. Ebell
 " J. M. Foenander
 " E. de Kretser
 Dr. E. Ludovici
 Revd. J. A. Spaar
 Mr. Chas. Speldewinde
 Dr. F. G. Spittel
 Mr. F. H. de Vos
 " J. P. de Vos and
 " C. Kriekenbeek, *Hony. Secy. and Convener*

(5) FOR PURPOSES OF INCREASING THE MEMBERSHIP :—

Mr. D. V. Altendorff
 " E. W. Foenander
 " Oswald de Kretser
 " P. H. de Kretser
 " F. E. Loos
 Dr. H. L. Ludovici
 Mr. E. H. Schokman
 " E. A. van der Straaten
 " W. P. D. van der Straaten
 " E. H. van der Wall and
 " W. A. S. de Vos, *Hony. Secy. and Convener.*

Gift of a Photo.—The Union has to thank Lieut. W. P. D. van der Straaten, the Commanding Officer of the Dutch Burgher Union Section of the Colombo Town Guard, for the gift of an enlarged copy of the photograph taken on the occasion of the Church Parade held at Wolvendaal Church last September. The Committee have on behalf of the Union, duly conveyed their thanks to Lieut. van der Straaten.

Annual Meeting.—At the conclusion of the General Meeting on the 26th February the Committee were "At Home" to the Members and their families. The band was in attendance and a very pleasant evening was spent, the younger folk being able to indulge in a few impromptu dances.

Christmas Gifts to Soldiers at the Front.—(See p. 36). The following is a copy of a letter received by Mrs. G. S. Schneider:—

Dear Mrs. Schneider,
In the Field,
16/2/16.

The cases of comforts arrived just before we went into trenches last time and I was able to get everything divided up before we left. The men were absolutely delighted with their parcels and I expect some of them will have written to let you know how much they appreciated them.

Will you please convey to the ladies of your Union my very grateful thanks and that of the men of "B" Co. 10th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. for their kindness in sending the parcels.

Unfortunately there are not many of the original Company left but every man who came out with the Company got a parcel and after that I took the drafts in the order they arrived to join us.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) S. W. LOUDOUN-SHAND.

Dinner to Dr. V. van Langenberg (Major, C. L. I.)—The Members of the D. B. U. Club entertained Dr. V. van Langenberg to dinner at the Union Hall on the 4th March. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, President of the Union, took the chair and had the guest of the evening on his right. There were present, besides several of the principal members of the Union, a large number of guests from the general community.

After the loyal toasts were drunk with the usual musical honours, the Chairman in a few well-chosen words proposed the health of their gallant friend, the guest of the evening and Dr. van Langenberg suitably replied. Mr. G. S. Schneider in a humorous speech proposed the toast of the other guests, to which the Hon. Mr. De Sampayo, Lt.-Col. Hayward, the Hon. Dr. Rutherford, and the Revd. Mr. Tweed responded.

After dinner the company repaired to the Club Rooms upstairs and a pleasant evening was spent till the early hours of the following morning.

Obituary.—The following death among members occurred during the quarter:—Mr. James van Houten.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Constitution, By-Laws and List of Members.—A revised edition having been received from the Printer, members desirous of having copies are requested to apply for the same to the Honorary Secretary, D. B. U., Union Hall, Serpentine Road, Colombo.

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.

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. Blazé, Kandy.

Changes of Address.—All changes of address should be notified to the Honorary Secretary of the Union. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations, reports, etc.

The Journal is being printed at the Albion Press, Galle. Those members who have not received their copies, are kindly requested to notify the fact to the Manager of that Press, when the same will be forwarded to them.

All changes of address, so far as the Journal is concerned, should be notified to the Manager, Albion Press, Galle, who has undertaken to circulate the Journal.

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 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.

Remittances on account of the Building Fund must be made to Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy, Colpetty, Colombo, Honorary Secretary of the Building Committee.
