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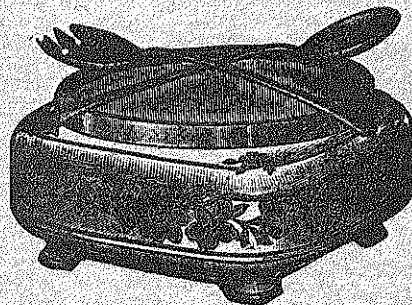
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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
1. A Christmas Medley	87
2. A Visit to Some Far Eastern Ports	95
3. Confidential Reports	110
4. Proceedings of a Special General Meeting	117
5. Genealogy of the Dickman Family of Ceylon	125
6. Notes and Queries	180
7. Notes of Events	132
8. Editorial Notes	188

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— THE —
DUTCH IN CEYLON

VOL. I.

BY
R. G. ANTHONISZ, I. S. O.

*Copies may be had at the D. B. U. Hall
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A CHRISTMAS MEDLEY.

BY L. E. BLAZE.

So much has been said and written about Christmas that very few of us can hope to say anything new about it. Editors of newspapers are hard put to it to express the customary Christmas greeting in any new form. What are called "Christmas Numbers" have generally ceased to provide articles specially characteristic of Christmas. I sometimes think that our clergymen must be sorely puzzled at Christmas time about their sermons for the great day of the Festival. Our poets, both local and foreign, discover that all that can be said has already been said, and probably said better than they can say it again.

But, if there is nothing new to be said, the old story is still there, and can be treated with more or less freshness. A good deal of what we talk about remains practically unknown. We take so much for granted about the names, and customs, and facts, that really we know little or nothing about their origin and meaning. Hence, every new generation has to look back, to study the old traditions, and to re-state them for new needs and circumstances. And Christmas bears the strain. It bears talking about, and having its old incidents repeated year after year. The reason is, that though very old, the Festival is always new. Every year it appeals to us with fresh and alluring charm. It is irresistible. It is indestructible. The Puritans, in Oliver Cromwell's time, tried hard to destroy it; but that unhappy attempt failed, as it was bound to fail. The Russian Bolsheviks are doing their best now to destroy it, though their motive is a quite different one. They will fail too, as the Puritans failed.

There are a few people of another sort, the Wise Men from the West, who seek to belittle Christmas, and take away its peculiar charm, by giving to it an ignoble origin. Christmas is nothing more, they say, than the ancient festival of the Sun, which was observed by Romans when they were still non-Christian. The holly and mistletoe are mere relics of pagan superstition. Let it be so, if they will. But then it is one of the many examples of the transfiguring power of that living and cleansing Faith which began on the first Christmas Day. There is nothing pagan about the Christmas Festival. It is Christian, and it is human,—the most human of our festivals. And thus, in its unique way, it links the human with the Divine. It has taken from paganism what was harmless in it, what was human in it, and ennobled and hallowed it.

Let us first see how the season is celebrated in the Christian Church. Christmas-tide, that is, the whole period associated with the Festival, is reckoned as beginning with the First Sunday in Advent, and closing with the Festival of the Epiphany on the 6th January.

The old English spoke of December as the "Winter month." When they were converted to Christianity, they called it "Holy Month." The Germans gave it the brighter name of the "Christ Month." All the events in it are connected with the Advent, or Coming, of Christ.

There are four Sundays in Advent, that is, four Sundays before Christmas Day; so that when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, the first Sunday in Advent is at the end of November.

The 30th November is the Day of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. He was the first of the Apostles. Two other Apostles are commemorated during Advent: St. Thomas the doubter, (21st December), and St. John, the Evangelist, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (27th December). There are other commemorations:—Lady Day, or the Feast of the Annunciation, 8th December; St. Stephen the first Martyr, on the day after Christmas; the Holy Innocents on the 28th December. Two Bishops are commemorated in the Church of Rome, though not in the Church of England:—St. Silvester, Bishop of Rome, the Pope who converted the Emperor Constantine the Great to Christianity, and Bishop Nicolaus, of Myra in Asia Minor, of whom something will be said

later. The first week-day after Christmas is known as Boxing-Day, a term derived, not from the art of prize-fighting but because it was the day on which presents or "Christmas Boxes" were given from one person to another. Exactly one week after Christmas Day is New Year's Day, to which the church has given the name the "Feast of the Circumcision"; and the twelfth day after Christmas is known as the Feast of the Epiphany, or Manifestation of Christ to the Wise Men of the East, to the Gentiles, and to His Church in the world. The Eve of the Epiphany, or Twelfth Night, a night of festivities and revels, is remembered from Shakespeare's play of that name.

So ends Christmas-tide in connection with the church. The question arises, when did Christmas begin to be celebrated in this fashion?

It was not till the fourth century after Christ that the Feast was established as an authorized festival. In Western Europe, the day chosen was the 25th December, while in Eastern Europe and Asia Minor, the 6th January was preferred, and the Armenians still keep to that day. Neither of these dates can be accepted as correctly representing the day of our Lord's Birth; for such evidence as there is points to that Birth as occurring between the months of April and October. It is unlikely that the precise date will ever be ascertained.

On the 25th December the Romans were accustomed to celebrate the ancient festival of the Sun; while during the week previous, from the 17th to the 24th December, they kept the festival of their god Saturn. This festival was a time of holiday. No schools were held, no punishments were inflicted, no war could be declared, no criminal could be executed. For one day, all distinctions of rank were forgotten, and slaves sat at table with their masters. It was a day of giving of gifts from one to another, and a reminder of the golden reign of Saturn when all men were free and equal. That was all to the good. But it was also a day of unrestrained riot and unbridled licence. The Christians, many of who were slaves, shrank from the evil, and kept the day holy. Little by little, the custom grew of celebrating the Day as a Christian Festival. The giving of gifts continued. The merry-making continued, without degenerating into riotous or sinful excess. And good-will prevailed among all.

The Christmas celebrations of which we read and with some of which we are familiar are nearly all derived from English books, and most of them refer to customs which were common in England two or three hundred years ago, but have since fallen into disuse. Sir Walter Scott describes them so graphically that I cannot do better than quote his words:—

“On Christmas Eve the bells were rung;
 On Christmas Eve the mass was sung:
 That only night in all the year,
 Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear.
 The damsel donn'd her kirtle sheen;
 The hall was dress'd with holly green;
 Forth to the wood did merry-men go,
 To gather in the mistletoe.
 Then open'd wide the baron's hall
 To vassal, tenant, serf, and all;
 Power laid his rod of rule aside,
 And ceremony doff'd his pride.
 The heir, with roses in his shoes,
 That night might village partner choose;
 The Lord, underogating, share
 The vulgar game of “post and pair.”
 All hail'd, with uncontroll'd delight,
 And general voice, the happy night,
 That to the cottage, as the crown,
 Brought tidings of salvation down.

The fire, with well-dried logs supplied,
 Went roaring up the chimney wide;
 The huge hall-table's oaken face,
 Scrubb'd till it shone, the day to grace,
 Bore then upon its massive board
 No mark to part the squire and lord.
 Then was brought in the lusty brawn
 By old blue-coated serving-man;
 Then the grim boar's head frown'd on high,
 Crested with bays and rosemary.
 Well can the green-garb'd ranger tell,
 How, when, and where, the monster fell;
 What dogs before his death he tore,

And all the baiting of the boar.
 The wassel round, in good brown bowls,
 Garnish'd with ribbons, blithely trowls.
 There the huge sirloin reek'd; hard by
 Plum-porridge stood, and Christmas pie;
 Nor fail'd old Scotland to produce,
 At such high tide, her savoury goose.
 Then came the merry maskers in,
 And carols roar'd with blithesome din;
 If unmelodious was the song.
 It was a hearty note, and strong.
 Who lists may in their mumming see
 Traces of ancient mystery;
 White shirts supplied the masquerade,
 And smutt'd cheeks the visors made;
 But, O! what maskers, richly dight,
 Can boast of bosoms half so light!
 England was merry England, when
 Old Christmas brought his sports again.
 'Twas Christmas broach'd the mightiest ale;
 'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
 A Christmas gambol oft could cheer
 The poor man's heart through half the year.”

If you wish to have graphic and intimate details of how Christmas was celebrated in Merrie England of the olden time, I will refer you to Washington Irving's “Sketch Book,” and for later times, to Dickens's “Christmas Carol”. They are doubtless, well known to you; but if they are not, it is hardly fair to spoil the pleasure you will have in reading them, by any summary. And they have already been partly summarized in Walter Scott's ringing verse: The blazing, roaring fire; the Church bells; the family dinner, with the bringing in of the boar's head crowned with rosemary, the plum pudding, and the rest of it. Washington Irving tells us more: of the *waits*, who correspond to our roving Carol-Singers; the great Yule log, or clog, which was religiously burnt, and the remaining brands of which were carefully put away to light the next year's Christmas fire; the Christmas Candles; the holly and the mistletoe.

Possibly it is not only the younger people who would like to know more about the holly and the mistletoe. The holly is a plant with prickly leaves and scarlet berries. It was used for

decorating houses and Churches, and even the pulpit. The mistletoe is a parasite, growing on the oak, the apple, and other trees. Its berries were white. The Druids, who were the priests of the old pagan English, regarded the oak as sacred, and worshipped it as a god, as sun god. The mistletoe was thought of as the soul of the god, and with great ceremony, it was solemnly cut from the tree, with a golden knife and carried away to be worshipped. The later English used it, like the holly, for decoration; but not for decoration only. Bunches of it were hung up at suitable places in the house, and wherever a gentleman found a lady under a bunch of mistletoe, he had the privilege of kissing her. The correct procedure was that he should then pluck a berry from the bunch, and present it to her. When there were no more berries there were to be no more kisses. The kiss, according to one account, was "as a sign of peace and goodwill."

Shakespeare speaks of the "baleful mistletoe", the deadly plant. The legend is that Balder, the sun-god of the hardy Norsemen, dreamed that his life was threatened. His mother therefore made every living thing swear not to harm her son; but she overlooked the insignificant mistletoe growing on the oak at the gate. One day the gods were at play, and they flung all kinds of missiles at Balder, knowing that he could not be harmed. A secret enemy, however, made a shaft from the wood of the mistletoe, and gave it to Balder's blind brother, who, shooting it at Balder, killed him. He was afterwards restored to life, and the mistletoe was dedicated to Freya the Scandinavian goddess of love.

There was another element in the old English festivities—the cold and the snow. This accounts for some of the special characteristics of an English Christmas, and that is why, perhaps, the festival is not quite the same to Englishmen who spend it in tropical countries like ours.

Modern features have ousted some of the older. The Christmas Tree is an old institution in Germany, but it is said to have been introduced into England by the Prince Consort. Christmas Carols date from 1846, when Mr. J. C. Horsley, the artist, designed one, describing a family of several generations gathered happily together, and bearing the words, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you". And then, there is *Father Christmas*.

Father Christmas is only an English version of the Continental Santa Claus, who is specially honoured in Holland, Germany, Austria, and Norway and Sweden. The well-known celebrations were taken over to America by the Dutch, and from America brought across to England.

But the name Santa Claus is a form of St. Nicolaas, the bishop of Myra, whom I mentioned previously, and whose feast is kept on the 6th December. Myra is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as the port in Asia Minor, where St. Paul embarked on his fateful voyage to Rome. Good Bishop Nicolaas lived in the fourth century after Christ, and was widely known and loved for his piety and unstinted charity. To young people and children he was particularly good. Children in Holland believe him to be an old man with a long beard, who rode on a white horse over the roofs of houses, on the night before Christmas, and who dropped presents down the chimney for good children. He was accompanied by a black negro boy who carried a cane for the punishment of those who were disobedient. The practice of hanging up stockings is traced to this visit of St. Nicolaas.

It will have been noticed that very many of the customs mentioned are observed by Christian people in Ceylon. There are others which may be said to be peculiar to us, but these are few. We have no sprigs of mistletoe hung up at odd places. Ceylon parents would, I fancy, object to them; and I suspect that our children nowadays do not particularly need them. We have Christmas Crackers, made in Europe, which conceal little trinkets and messages called "mottoes", which are sometimes, but not *always*, handed round for general reading. But the true Christmas Crackers for Ceylon, are those imported from China, and no box of European Crackers can quite equal in interest the bundles of good, resounding Chinese Crackers. They wake us up on Christmas morning, and the sound of them travels with us wherever we go. There are also "dashing crackers", with which mischievous children delight to startle the unsuspecting wayfarer and lounge; and to these we add blue-lights and other fireworks.

Not many of us care for the famous English roast-beef and plum-pudding. Instead, we feast on "Yellow rice" or "String hoppers", with their numerous accompaniments, and find them far more enjoyable. There is no disputing about differences of taste in

foods. The Ceylon "bruther" is more palatable and less heavy than the English plum-pudding; while a well prepared leg of ham takes the place of the Boar's Head, crowned with rosemary.

If any of you are curious on the subject of Christmas drinks, there is an article published by the inimitable C. A. Lorenz in "Young Ceylon". It is entitled "Christmas that was, and Christmas that is to be", and it tells us how Leonardus Pietersz the Shoemaker spent two successive Christmas seasons.

Legends connected with Christmas are plentiful. Shakespeare perpetuates one, that on Christmas night the cock crows all the night long; and then spirits, witches, planets, and fairies have no power over mortals. A Russian Legend tells of an old miser who even grudged to burn the Christmas log in his lonely house. He dreamed once that the Child Jesus came to him and said that the miser made Him cold. The Child asked for and received a golden coin. As the Child held up the coin, the log on the hearth burst into flame, and cheerfulness glowed in the room. Then He went on to beautify the room. He put up some sprigs of laurel and holly, saying, "That is for *life*". He placed two candles on the shelf, saying, "That is for *light*". Then he stirred the burning log, which blazed high, and He said "That is *love*".



A VISIT TO SOME FAR EASTERN PORTS.†

BY R. L. BROHIER, F.R.G.S.

Not so very long ago, travel abroad was considered the privilege of a wealthy few. To-day, partly through cheap tours and chiefly because we have learnt to realise that travel experience not only enlivens the mind, but frequently strengthens the physique and above all helps us to realize the limitations of our views, the desire to see other countries is universally increasing.

Small journeys eventually lead to others further afield. So, means permitting, if you have "short leave" at hand, I would fain tempt you with a few impressions affording glimpses of some Far Eastern ports and that enchanting region sometimes described as the "Land of the Rising Sun".

Having recently returned from a holiday in Japan, I can vouch for the profit and pleasure which may be secured at a remarkably reasonable cost by accepting the attractive offer made by a popular steamship company who schedule a cruise occupying a little under two months.

It is a happy circumstance that the ships of this Company, which make the far Eastern run, leave Colombo on a Sunday evening. Many entrancing pictures have from time to time been drawn affording day-light impressions captured from the deck of a passenger liner approaching or leaving the palm-margined coast of Ceylon. An equally fascinating vista is unfolded when you leave Colombo in your wake, bathed in a flaming afterglow.

As dusk quickly slips away to be followed by darkness, a boundless panorama of electric lights-glitters along the sea front. Strange flares in red and blue make bolder splashes and betoken the City's latest acquisition—her Neon signs. And then, in remarkable contrast, as we steam past the suburban coast-line of Colombo and round the jutting shoulder pin-pricked by the lights of the Mount Lavinia Hotel, trembling jets here and there mottle the deep shadows to show where land lies.

It is indeed a supreme impression to carry away as we leave Ceylon's shores to contrast her beauties with those of other lands.

† Summary of a lecture delivered at the D. B. U. Hall on 10th July, 1936.

Having rounded the south-eastern coast of Ceylon, we steam across the base of the Bay of Bengal. The monotonous panorama of the sky and water remains unbroken for two days. Then heralded by the mountains of Sumatra and the low swampy extensive coast-line of these far-flung dominions of the Netherlands, we catch frequent glimpses of land. In opposition to Sumatra's luxuriant tropical vegetation created by the magical wand of an abundant rainfall, three rugged islands come into view off her northernmost headland. On the largest of these called Pulo-Weh, the Dutch have a settlement and the harbour of Sebang.

Penang is our first port of call. It will doubtless be good news to a bad sailor that we have only been three and a half days at sea. Indeed, it must be very heartening to those who recall experiences of *mal-de-mer*, to learn that during the whole cruise one is never more than four days making port.

Guide-books tell us that Penang strictly speaking is an island. It is a little larger than the District of Colombo. An English captain, who married the daughter of a Malayan prince while he was on the coast of Malacca, obtained sovereignty over Penang as a marriage dowry. Without delay he transferred it to his country. The English called it Prince of Wales Island, and within the century and a half which has since lapsed, formed on it important establishments.

We berth at Swettenham Pier and freely pass from ship direct to land without any customs or passport formalities. To the visitor from Ceylon, the bustle which fills the streets of Penang town, its clangour and colour and nose-pinching smells, will be no new experience. But the essentially Chinese atmosphere conjured by Chinese ideographs drawing attention to shops and business places, by the Chinese rickshaw pullers with quaint peaked hats and blue dungarees, or by the be-spectacled Chinese merchants rolling to the city in their cars, lends a strangeness and difference to the street-scenes.

One would perhaps give much to get to know these people and thus learn something of their conservative habits and peculiar beliefs. Strange customs and alluring traditions appear to lie in subtle concealment below a veneer blended by two mighty civilizations—Eastern and Western.

Given the time, something might be picked up in the busy town, much more perhaps from the villages further afield, embowered by palms on a picturesque coast-line, or set in the valleys and wrapped in the beautiful high-land scenery of a central mountain range, which rises abruptly two thousand feet above the level of the sea.

But to get to know people necessarily takes time. A ship waits for no passenger. So, in deference to the usual custom of travellers arriving in a strange country, we enter a motor car, hoping for something queer to turn up round the corner. We found this in what was named "Temple of the Snakes", the only institution of its kind in all Malaya.

In Ceylon, a tangible link with serpent worship is forged by the legend of how the gigantic King of Cobras proved his reverence for Gautama by rearing his great hood above the Teacher's head to protect him from the sun as he sat lost in meditation. In this manner, the earlier serpent worship, which if tradition speaks truly, gave to a portion of Ceylon the name Nagadipo or "Island of Serpents", has been made subservient to Buddhism.

The old reverence for the Naga, the cobra de capello, is therefore by no means extinct in Ceylon, but there are no snake temples in the true sense, except two, said to be of ancient origin, which until quite recently were to be found in the twin islands of Nainativu and Iranativu, off the Jaffna Peninsula.

To stand therefore on the threshold of a temple dedicated to the most gloomy form of idolatry, where people gave expression to the most primitive form of worship—that of live, venomous, uncaged snakes—presents itself as an experience strange as it is unique.

Within the principal shrine room, hundreds of these creeping, crawling creatures of all lengths and sizes, lay huddled together. They had ingeniously coiled themselves on the dry branches of trees set up on altars. They strangled the statuary, and lodged on the strange pictures which hung on the walls. Rather remarkably, they all appeared to be of one particular species, varying from a moist green, to dark green in colour.

It was noon. A subdued hush and stillness reigned over this barbaric institution. Overcome, as it seemed, by the languor of a tropical day, these strange slippery gods were all asleep.

We were told that all night they gorged themselves on a plentiful supply of food—cooked rice and eggs, which the priests of the temple would leave to them from the offerings made by the votaries of this strange creed. Throughout the day-light hours they remained dead to any intrusions on their sanctuary. And so, although gripped by an uncanny feeling almost to the point of terror, we follow the Chinese priest as he passed from one point to another in the sacred chamber.

It would indeed have been futile to enquire how long the temple had stood on this hill-side surrounded by jungle and forest, or to guess at the possibilities of its origin. Barriers of a strange tongue prevented us from gathering any information from the priest, but from the meagre details drawn through our Malay guide, we were left to understand that these reptiles came and went at will on dark nights.

They came, we were told, at the call of worship, from the mantle of jungle which clothed the hills behind the temple. Having been afforded this satisfaction they returned to the recesses further away in the damp forests.

"What would happen" we asked "if anyone was to wander into the precincts of this temple at night"? Would he be killed or what?

There could of course be but one answer. The followers of this peculiar form of worship are for the most part simple minded folk, who go about their daily tasks without disturbing the community; but so deeply seated in their natures are the roots of this primitive belief that they assert no evil can follow if the Green Snake is worshipped and suitably propitiated.

These sacrifices have to-day been divested of many ghoulish antics and ghastly ceremonies which are said to have been associated with the worship of the Green Snake in days which have passed. What was known as the stomach dance, the movement of which represented the action of the snake working its way along the ground, is also no more. It is merely an ancestral belief that these snakes, if worshipped, keep off the malignant effect of evil spirits, which remains.

A few hours later, dining comfortably in the saloon of a well-ordered liner, it was indeed difficult to believe in the existence of snake-temples, or of hosts of people who perhaps at that very

moment were reverently kneeling, making offerings, or devoutly tending live serpents gliding about at large. But, too truly, the impossible, or rather, the improbable, might turn up anywhere in the inscrutable East.

The fair-way for all vessels from Europe and India bound for the Far Eastern ports lies through the Straits of Malacca. On the one side of it the horizon is smudged by the coast-line of the Island of Sumatra, on the other a long serrated range of mountains rises silhouetted against the sky, splintering into peaks from three to seven thousand feet in height.

This dividing range runs down the entire length of the Peninsula of Malacca or Malaya. It seems, at the distance, entirely clothed with dense tropical vegetation. The coast-line of Malaya is marged by a labyrinth of low swampy islands intersected by numerous creeks. Here the mangrove thrives in the luxury of a black, loamy mud, and a ferocious species of man-eating crocodile is said to abound.

Epics of early pioneering hold that Portugal, in virtue of her priority of discovery, was the first European power to monopolise the right to exclusive navigation in these quiet Eastern waters. She was chiefly harassed in her gorgeous expeditions by the piratical raids, and the fury of pagan tribes who lived in colonies of screen-sheltered houses along the coast. The interior of the Peninsula, nevertheless, long remained a bewitching, unexplored tract, even through the era of the Dutch occupation on the coast which supplanted the waning power of Portugal.

Clippings from old time Batavian Memoirs recall that the first attempt to send detachments into the interior was made by a Dutch Governor, Van Vliet, by name, three centuries ago.

But apparently, the lure of this untarnished belt of country, arrayed in eternal verdure, was destined to remain unconquered for some considerable time to come. It was in those spacious days of the past pictured as a land where the undergrowth was so thick as to render it necessary to cut a path-way through with a hatchet, where mosquitoes flew in swarms like thick clouds, where one ran the risk of treading on a poisonous serpent at every step, and where leopards and tigers were ready to devour any traveller who was not provided with a strong escort or did not keep up a fire during the whole night.

Nor was an escort easily commanded. The Malay, it was said, a hundred times more dangerous than the tigers and serpents even where he was subject to Dutch authority, often seized the first opportunity to betray the persons whom he had been employed to conduct. What a striking tale of complex problems which later efforts at colonisation had to face! As we let imagination play with these thoughts, not readily discernible, we have passed in full view of the country from Penang to Singapore. Most passenger liners cover the distance in twenty-two hours.

Singapore, which not unreasonably challenges Colombo for the title "The Clapham Junction of the East" is both a town and an island. It nestles, in more senses than one, in "hush-hush" waters.

Squadrons of aeroplanes droned overhead and dipped, as we glided into this sheltered anchorage, along narrow channels, between picturesque islets to all purposes draped with a mantle of verdant innocence. The display by the units from the Air Base and the unusually strong current of welcome concentrated on the pier, originated from the fact that the ship carried on board a new General for the Singapore Command.

A little more than a century ago, this immense white city, whose stately buildings lie level with a lapping water front, was virgin bush. Lured by the valuable trade which the Portuguese, and later the Dutch had established with Malacca and other neighbouring states, the British India Company challenged this monopoly. Through the genius of a pioneer, Stamford Raffles, the Island of Singapore, 27 miles long, was purchased from the Sultan of Johore and acquired for the British Empire. Its immense strategic importance was perhaps never conceived at that time, and no flight of imagination surely ever pictured the commercial value which has attached itself to such a limited area.

But despite this dip into the past, which discloses Singapore as an Europeanised eastern city of comparatively recent growth, any visitor soon discovers that Asia lies at his very elbow.

The tide of crowded Oriental life which has ebbed and flowed round the corner, unchangingly from day to day, diverted itself into fresh channels. It has swept past the pleasant ease of hotels where the guests from steamers sip ice drinks and watch the representatives of every race in the world pass upon their affairs. It has missed the business and shopping centre of Singapore town.

But, in queer side-streets and noisy bazaars, it swirls with pent up fury, ever mysterious, ever appealing, very nearly divested of any viceroy of Europe. One is in contact here with the mentality of the small dealer with peculiar lassitude of manner and the ramshackle ways which belong to the half civilized tropics, with customs that have centuries behind them and consequently cannot be ignored; and are slow to change.

Naturally, to each and every tourist some peculiar interest makes a higher bid for affection than another. It is too hot in Singapore to speculate on the colour which fills the side-streets and market places, or to dwell on the details of a life inspired by the picturesqueness of Eastern ways. So we wend our way back behind the busy city where the beauty, the real beauty and charm of Singapore, created as it were by the imagination of an enchanter's wish, resides in great gardens where the sounds of the busy streets nearby are deadened, and the air is impregnated with the odour of innumerable flowers which perpetually succeed one another without an interval.

They say that in these botanical gardens of Singapore there lies cradled all Malaya's modern prosperity. It was here that the rubber seeds brought from Brazil were first planted, before rubber eventually invaded the forests of aloe-wood and eagle-wood, sandalwood and wild cinnamon, which originally clothed the face of the country far and wide.

Johore, seventeen miles from the town of Singapore, tantalises a traveller's imagination with visions of a Malay kingdom that still whispers of the pride of a Sultan. A tradition confirmed by authoritative investigation, distinguishes the Malays as an indigenous population of Sumatra and probably also of Java. They are said to have fled before the victorious armies of a Javanese king to the neighbouring Peninsula of Malacca, in the twelfth century.

In this way, perhaps, the eastern extremity of the Peninsula came to be invaded and colonised by a Malay Sultan. Johore, in this order of things, found its place as an integral state on the maps of mediaeval times. Passing in turn from the despotic and hereditary government of Sultans to a state of vassalage to a piratical chief who was called the King of Riom, it reposes again in a Moslem dream of contentment, peculiar to all great little powers which have had their day.

We leave the town of Singapore and go to look at Johore along a macadamised trunk-road made for the motorist. Crowded villages, rubber and pine-apple plantations, coconut-gardens and orchards are reeled off in cinematographical effect before our fascinating gaze. Eventually we arrive at a causeway, that took four years to build, linking the small island where England reigns supreme, with a territory over which a flag bearing a crescent and star timidly flutters in the breeze.

The Mosque of Johore reflects its architectural beauty in the calm inalienable ribbon of blue water that divides Singapore Island from the mainland. The park and the Sultan's Palace are other objects of romantic interest and fascinating novelty for the tourist.

The term typhoon is generally accepted as an anglicized corruption of the Chinese expression *ta fang* meaning a gale. The last two of the four days it took to sail from Singapore to Hong Kong, found us at close grip with the expiring blast of one of these disturbances peculiar to the China Sea.

Undoubtedly, it is merely the poetry of oriental imagination which lends itself to describing a typhoon as a gale. For forty-eight hours our ship was buffeted by heavy confused seas running crosswise, and winds of volcanic force. Harried stewards and stewardesses stumbled and groped along alley-ways in response to insistent pressure on the buttons of electric bells in cabins. The saloons were the exclusive habitat of the few passengers aboard who could call up a smile on their faces.

But the story of this adventure in a stretch of water reputed to be comparatively shallow, and studded with countless islands, shoals and reefs aptly called the Parcels, was necessarily left to be sized up by the gentlemen of the press who boarded the vessel on our arrival in port.

"The trip was made interesting", so one paper said, "by the fact that the after effects of the typhoon which recently passed over, drove the ship a considerable distance off her usual course, and the lead had to be swung considerably as she groped her way past the Parcels."

It is an often told story down the length of the China coast, that when a typhoon blows the only hope for all small-craft sailing in these waters, is the possibility of making the shortest run to shelter. To face its whirl-wind fury in the open, undoubtedly

spells death. The main point of interest which might have appealed to the majority of the passengers aboard was the consolation that they were called upon to face the after effects of the typhoon.

Hong Kong, quite the most interesting port on our trip, proved its worth as a magnificent calm anchorage when agitation reigned over the waters without, more in these peculiar circumstances than it would otherwise have done. As we enter on the one side, the mainland of China—they call it the peninsula of Kowloon—breaks into view in startling patches of yellow where the makers of the port are busy cutting into its steep banks. On the other side, the Island of Hong Kong, eleven miles in length, rising steeply from the water's edge, terminates in three peaks nearly two thousand feet above sea level. Yet other islands, indented by bays and creeks, yield glimpses of other waters that branch from the fair-way and lead to mystic recesses fringing the coast off the entrance to the Canton River. If you would conjure a picture of this in the light of local comparison, pick a few of the more picturesque masses of rugged grass-covered hills from the highlands of Uva, and set them where their base would be lapped by a liquid sheet of azure blue.

Before Hong Kong was ceded to Britain in perpetuity, five short of a hundred years ago by the Treaty of Canton, it was the home of a few fishermen, of some smugglers and hordes of pirates who ravaged the seas and packed pages of history with the most ruthless and blood-thirsty epics of their barbaric and unlawful trade. Its growth since then has however been remarkably rapid. To-day, apart from being an Imperial Naval Base and in possession of a very large garrison, the jurisdiction of the colony has been extended over a large territory on the mainland adjacent to Kowloon, leased from China for ninety-nine years, chiefly for 'the purpose of defence.

From the wharf at Kowloon where the ocean liners tie up, it is but a few minutes' journey by a well equipped ferry service to Victoria, the city of Hong Kong. Very seldom, however, is this city called other than the name of the Island.

The water front named the Praya is granite faced and perhaps fifty feet broad, and on it are many magnificent buildings. Behind it, the city rises steeply with two wide parallel streets, and then terrace after terrace packed closely with handsome residential

bungalows built on these tiers which cling like limpets to the face of the cliffs.

The commercial centre, which lies within easy walking distance of the Ferry Wharf, carries the usual kaleidoscope of eastern colour, eastern manners and eastern life to fascinate the most exacting visitor. In the cross streets everything is genuinely and typically Chinese. There are Chinese restaurants where the whole process of the preparation of food is carried out in the open, drug shops, whose commodities include weird roots, insects, herbs, sea-weed and bones. The Chinese had their pig-tails cut off twenty years ago, but they apparently clung tenaciously to, and still adore the flesh of the pig! The astonishing number of ham-shops in the Chinese quarter, supplemented by roast-duck shops, testified to the principal flesh-diet of these remarkable people.

But whereas divergent interests peculiar to the eastern ports might be picked up and blended behind the water front of Hong Kong, a dream panorama has yet to be unfolded in support of the claim made by this little island to be one of the charming spots of the world. Enchantment went with us from the moment we began our ascent in the Peak Tramway. Why they call it the Peak Tramway we may not tell. More romance is suggested by the slogan which advertises this cable railway as "The short cut to Beauty."

In ten crowded minutes we have covered a straight and steep ascent over a thousand feet from the water's edge. We have passed through a medley of vegetation—in the earlier stages tropical, in the later stages peculiar to a temperate zone. Poised on the seemingly ridiculous gradient of 1 in. 2, we have been illusioned by buildings near and in the distance, set at such an angle as to suggest that they were on the point of falling away, and by trees which appeared to defy the laws of gravity. We eventually emerge on to scenes of beauty, such as few places, even Ceylon, with its charm of superb scenery, can surpass, or show.

Viewed from the summit of the Peak, below the dense forest growth of China pine grown by the hand of man with the assistance of nature, the streets and houses of Victoria lie spread like a model along the margin of the busy harbour. Here ships of war and large merchant vessels sink to the proportion of toy

boats set upon a sheet of blue glass. Camera and brush would only spoil the vision which lies poised between the blue dome of the sky above and the azure plain of the sea below. The brown sails of innumerable junks, the clear-cut wake of the steamers, everywhere as far as the eye can reach, misty pearl hued islands floating in the blue; all crowd into a projection of unforgettable loveliness.

And so, back again to lower levels, to Kowloon which supplies those famous carved camphor wood chests, to our ship tied within a stone's throw of the dock gates. Then, as darkness descends and there comes night, the supreme magician which seems to erase the dross and langour of the fiery day in all Eastern cities, the hill side of Hong Kong is transformed into a scene reminiscent of fairyland. Gradually a shimmering lake of stars encircles the Peak. In the lower reaches the myriad lights of the city are sharply contrasted by quivering reflections in the black water of the harbour, and on the further side, the glaring lights of Kowloon cast their glow high into the heavens. John Chinaman might be said to be self-denying in many respects, but not where it comes to illumination. The glory of Hong Kong by night is something which when once seen will never be erased from memory. It is possibly the most attractive feature of a most fascinating speck of land on the map of the world.

We leave Hong Kong harbour as we entered it down what is called the Lyeemun Pass. The eastern extremity of the island lies on the right, the Kwang Tung province of China, on the left.

Throughout the passage from Hong Kong to Shanghai, the coast-line of China is in sight, a smudge of land, to all appearances barren and tree-less. There is little to show that it supports an over-burdened population known to be the most industrious and frugal people in the world. Enormous fleets of fishing junks which may number as many as four or five hundred lie within hailing distance of our course—strange-looking craft, stoutly built, carrying two patchwork sails.

The romance and tragedy of this mystic land is sometimes presented in tales of primeval simplicity. It is sometimes twisted into the theme of intrigue and stratagem. But it always

centres on the story of a civilization which has varied from one cycle of years to another on an ebb and a flood-tide.

A written history tells that the world has stirred on these waters and off these shores from dim distant times, two thousand three hundred years before the Christian era. But those who have experience to back them vouch that China in the mass is still China. While civil wars and anarchy reign on land, the spectre of piracy continues to pierce the veneer of civilization, and rides the China Sea.

From days of long ago this traditional, lucrative, easy trade has flourished, and then as now any merchant ship which runs ashore on the coast of China takes the risk of being boarded by local fishermen who all practise piracy as a side-line. A fellow-passenger, a master of a ship, drew our attention to the Bias Bay district as we steamed up the coast.

Falling back on the experience of many years spent in coasting in these waters, it was he who told us that when Hong Kong was occupied by Great Britain, piracy shifted its headquarters to the Bias Bay and nested in the hinterland of Hong-hai and Hai-chi-chin, a hundred miles north of the busy naval port from which it was ousted. Whereas the fishermen practise piracy merely as a windfall and as those who know no other method, the Bias Bay Community secure their prize by organised stratagem and often, disguised as peaceful passengers, seize the ships by force during a voyage.

This might have been easy in the days of sailing ships. But so very wonderful are their organisations, that they have made it equally easy in spite of steam, wireless and increased traffic.

How then, we ask, is trade on these coasts safeguarded against the misguided menace of men who were described to us as the most vindictive devils under the vault of heaven? The navy do much to protect these trade routes. Other precautions repose in an Ordinance of the Hong Kong Government, which they call the Hong Kong Government Anti-Piracy Regulations.

And so, in this year of grace and enlightenment, all ships coming under these regulations are fitted with grilles which extend across the deck and shut off the after-part, in which Chinese passengers travel, from the navigation part. Four men

of the Hong Kong police force are carried on each ship and they must take watch at this barrier in turn.

The idea we were told, has seldom worked. Often enough, the most ingeniously organised coups make for the total breakdown of every one of the anti-piracy regulations, and the population for the moment gasps in well-feigned amazement that such a symbol of terrorism can go unchecked.

The estuary of the three thousand mile Yangtze, with its banks invisible from shore to shore, bore us on a rushing spate of yellow-ochred waters, and swathed us with an arctic weather and biting blasts of wind. Shanghai lies sixty miles from the sea on the Wang-Pu river which flows into the Yangtze.

It is a December morning. A thin sleety rain is falling. The sun has not been seen for many days and the dull grey light of winter mantles the scene. Picturesque river-boats, some burdened with cargoes, others packed and pressed down with Chinese passengers, pass on their way up-stream with gongs sounding. May be, they are bound for the great towns which line the banks of this mighty river, or perhaps make for some other corner of mystery within a navigable range of 1,800 miles.

Huge junks and gigantic Yuhols laden with merchandise—flour, rice, timber, pigs—move up or down, as the tide flows in or out, anything from two to a dozen men, sometimes women too, chanting lustily, propel this cumbrous craft using one large oar dropped over the stern. Groups of children to whom the boat is home, sit or play on the bales of cargo.

Ancient sampans, tugs, and tender, ocean-going liners and long low warships—British, American, French, Italian, Spanish and Japanese—lie moored close behind one another, or move on these waters in never ending variety.

Should you marvel at this activity—listen. China depends on her waterways to transport her merchandise. No less than one-eighth of the total population of the world, they say, live in the area drained by the mighty Yang-tsze-kiang.

Naturally then, Shanghai, occupying such a commercially strategic position, has developed into a metropolis of China.

There is a walled Chinese city called Greater Shanghai whose story belongs to history. Into its recesses none but the very

adventurous will wander. New Shanghai, the city built by the foreigner on land ceded by China, has materialised further north of the old city, on a strip of land bordering the Whang Pu. But a short time ago it was a vast field clogged with rushes and mud, the home of the wimbrel and the snipe; as its very name implies—it is land which has risen above the sea.

New Shanghai is an International Settlement—neither American, nor Japanese, nor British. It is run by a Municipal Council of 14; 5 British, 2 Americans, 2 Japanese and 5 Chinese. The population of the concession is one million. Between this International Settlement and Greater Shanghai, lies the French Concession. This cosmopolitan city, in which such divergent interests are vested, is still in the hands of the builders working on scaffoldings. The rush-strewn bank of the river has made way for a Macadam Frontage called the Bund, with wharves and landing stages on the one side, with office buildings and banks on the other—magnificent structures which smudge the sky-line and afford a riot of ideas in architecture.

Most passenger liners come right up to the city and berth at wharves, others lie out in mid-stream. A fleet of small sampans persistently call to take us across, but the swirling muddy waters of the Whang-Pu spell too much of danger to venture in such frail ancient crafts—besides, the ship's tender waits.

Rickshaws in their hundreds assail us the moment we set foot on land, Chinese news-paper boys jabber strange somethings as they thrust papers into our hands. Groups of little urchins juggle with sticks and balls in the hope of securing a few coppers.

Leading away from the Bund we see Nanking Road, the central street of Shanghai. Everywhere are modern European buildings interspersed with Chinese shops. This is the great shopping district, a spectacle of crowded prosperity, showing Shanghai as a busy money-making city. Way beyond, down cross streets, where the Soochow Creek struggles to meet the bigger river, lies the slum area where the most appalling poverty holds sway. Here the labourer exists on a pittance of a few coppers earned each day, and whole families which go to the making of China's countless millions contend against the pressure and strife of life,

Flotsam and jetsam of this mighty population face the ageless feud for food by picking up the garbage in sewers, while a large section of them, forced out of the land, lie herded in boats. They never set foot on shore, and feed themselves on the offal and refuse swept to and fro by the changing river-tides. Nowhere, perhaps, is plenty and poverty unbarred so vividly side by side.

In Shanghai, the langour and somnolence of the East is missing. All is bustle, day or night. The city in reality wakes to a new life when daylight has faded. Myriads of lights blaze the streets into avenues of illumination.

Business is not forgotten for Shanghai is the home of Neon-tubes. Hotels, talkies and dancing halls glitter with electric jets in red, green and blue. Cafes and cabarets are packed with humanity to the point of overflowing. The latest creation from Paris fitters hither and thither, and the rustle of silk from Chinese loom or workshop moves in rhythm to the strains of dreamy music. May-be, it is this night-life of Shanghai which has led some to call her the Paris of the East.



CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS.

“—*Nothing Extenuate
Nor set down aught in malice.*”

[We make no apology for reprinting this article, which first appeared in “The Illustrated Literary Supplement to the Examiner” of 16th April, 1875. The name of the writer is not given, but there is reason to believe that it is one of Leopold Ludovici’s contributions. He was the Editor of the “Examiner” at this time, having resigned from the Survey Department, hence his intimate knowledge of the inner working of that Department. It is believed that it was in or about the year 1875 that the system of making confidential reports on clerks, which is in vogue up to this day, was introduced. The system has undergone some modification since then, and is now not regarded with disfavour. Ed].

While gloomily engaged in biting our thumb nail and casting appealing looks to the ceiling in stress of copy, one of our ‘devils’ hurried upstairs and deposited before us a big packet in an official envelope, which he made affirmation he had picked up the previous evening at the foot of the Colonial Office stairs. A smile such as our countenance had been a stranger to for some hours, at once irradiated our editorial phiz as the “happy thought” flashes through our mind, that possibly here was the “matter” we had been desiderating. If everything is fair in love and war, why should not this rule apply in our case which is a perpetual effort at combining the amusements of amative-ness and belligerence in one exciting sensation? Our love for the public is of so boundless a nature that we have offered ourselves willing martyrs in their service, and our combativeness in fighting against shams and humbugs has been so pronounced, that we often wonder ourselves at the heterogeneous combination of two such opposite qualities in one individual person. This was the sophistry if not the reason that reconciled our conscience to the appropriation of the aforesaid packet, and though it was addressed to the Hon. A. N.—B—ch,¹ and sealed with a dab of red wax as big as an ordinary cheese plate, once it was in our grasp we felt not the least compunction in making light of the sanctity of confidential correspondence. Tampering with other people’s letters, we are aware, has led to many awkward and painful consequences. Many a tragic event has followed the opening

of private letters by others than those for whose eyes their contents were meant. The drama of the East and the West have utilized the by no means uncommon incidents of epistolary theft with the most thrilling effect. It is a practice which if not approved of by the first of dramatists has yet been availed of in the exigencies of dramatic art. Why then should we pretend to a squeamishness which Shakespeare was above, and sacrifice so rare an opportunity of showing our love for the public by refusing to avail ourselves of the wealth of invention with which the plethoric packet before us was apparently “busting”. In nice and delicate predicaments of this kind, when the moral faculty is in poise between the end and the means, the one justifies the other. Did not the persecuted—we mean prosecuted—Gaekwar of Baroda, that sweet oriental whose faith in diamond dust and arsenic as a love philtre can only be excelled by Oberon’s in that particular herb,

“The juice of which on sleeping eyelids laid,
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees—”

did not, we say, that obese charmer who captivated the ripe affections of Luxmebae by some such potent charm, procure a copy to be taken of a most confidential *Khuruta* hurled by the Supreme Court of India against the luckless Colonel Phayre, and though the *Bombay Gazette* inveighs in words that burn against the practice of writing such confidential reports, does he reprehend their surreptitious abstraction? The evil, if any, clearly lies in writing things against a fellow of which he knows nothing, and in denying the accused the common right of every free man to disprove the accusation. These confidential reports therefore are in our opinion nothing less than epistolary assassinations in which the perpetrator of the gruesome deed turns his pen into a stiletto and his ink into corrosive sublimate. What wonder then if with our constitutional abhorrence of secret machinations, private accusations, and all hole in the wall proceedings, we should feel imbued with a noble revenge against that offending packet, as we proceeded to tear it open. And as there dropped from it sheets and half sheets of closely written manuscript, neatly docketed and deftly superscribed, we realized a literary revel the exquisite agony of which has penetrated into our very bone and marrow. We are willing that our readers

1. Arthur N. Birch, C.M.G., Lieutenant Governor and Colonial Secretary.

should share in the sensation, and now proceed to exhibit the rich and rare beauties of what has been to us a veritable wind-fall—or rather a most appropriate *devilsend*.

The first report we take up is labelled from the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary to J. N. B—ch Esq., Inquisitor-General, and confidential Scrutator to the G-v-nr of C-y-n, and runs thus:—

"That literary Baronet² who wrote the history of Ceylon" and was a predecessor of mine must have had queer notions of clerical industry—brazen wheels forsooth—brazen faces would have been corrector, why the whole 'bilin' of them is not worth the paper on which they sign their pay abstracts. Lazy Sir! Lazy from the top of their head to the toes of their feet, and they are eternally clamouring for an increase because they have prolific families and are fecundacious of twins. My confidential opinion is that they are already paid a great deal too much. They have queer notions of respectability too, and because the stupid tolerance of a benevolent Government has allowed them to dress like Europeans they fancy they are gentlemen! They affect drab hats, kid boots, and blue ties to a dangerous extent, and spend half an hour at mid-day over their tiffin. Measures must be devised to teach them that the humble position of clerk is incompatible with the dignified character of gentleman, or the whole department, in the expressive language of a former Major General, "will go to the dogs."

The next *communiqué* is from the Hon'ble the A-d-tor G-n-l³ to the same. It is brief, to the point, and appreciative withal. "My fellows are a 'doocid' clever lot, and with Richardman⁴ at their head we are getting on famously. I never met with a sharper fellow at sniffin our surcharges than Richardman. Why, it was only yesterday he pounced upon an offending half cent in C. P. L's⁵ accounts of the several bushels of rice distributed to the famine stricken. Altogether we are a funny lot, so much so that everyone has a nickname. It may amuse you to hear that my assistant⁶ is called after the professional title of the modern charioteer."

The Hon'ble the T-rs-er⁷ comes next. He either can't or won't enter upon the desired analysis of private character—and there is

2 Sir Emerson Tennent 3 Sir John Douglas, K.C.M.G.

4 R. A. Brohier, Sr. 5 Sir C. P. Layard

6 Cornelius Dickman, who was familiarly known as "Coachie"

7 George Vane C.M.G.

a charming candour in what he says. "I don't understand my clerks though I have had them with me for a quarter of a century. I think they are an aspiring lot, and one of them has positively had the audacity to ask me—Me—to recommend him for the Assistant Treasurership! Confound their impudence.

The next specimen is a poetical effusion in which the P.M.G.⁸ laments over the gross perversity that insists on tappal books in preference to guinea boxes and duplicate keys—

"There's somewhat on my breast, Guvnur,
 There's somewhat on my breast,
 The live long day I sigh, Guvnur,
 And at night I cannot rest.
 I cannot take my rest, Guvnur,
 Though I would fain do so;
 A weary weight oppreseth me—
 This weary weight of woe!

'Tis not the lack of stamps, Guvnur,
 Nor want of office gear;
 My clerks are good and fair to see,
 My peons smart and clever.
 My runners are leal, Guvnur,
 They mourn to see my grief;
 But Oh! 'tis only a peons's hand,
 Can give my heart relief!

'Tis not the Planter's false, Guvnur,
 Nor the Merchant's unkind;
 Tho' busy meddlers swarm around,
 I know their constant mind.
 'Tis not *Times'* coldness, Guvnur,
 That chills my labouring breast,
 'Tis that confounded Register,
 The 'T'pall book I can't digest."

The next report is from the G. A. W. P.⁹ which, it will be observed, assumes an airy style of easy familiarity dashed with just a *soupcou* of sarcasm to give it point. "My dear B—ch, I have always considered it undignified if not positively mean to make

8. T. E. B. Skinner

9 Sir C. P. Layard

confidential inquiries into the private character of my subordinates, but if you really mean that I should, I am of course bound to believe it is for the interest of the service. I confess the service is not what it was fifty years ago. But about those confidential reports, do you really mean I, the *tom tom*¹⁰ man of the Services, should send you sketches of the private virtues and secret—I mean *delicate*—vices of these people. I am sometimes obliged against my will to open my unwilling ears to little bits of family history and domestic gossip, and if extracts from my private diary like the following will be acceptable, I can send you heaps.

January 5th, 1875. Head Clerk reports that Mrs.—has been confined of twins, and that the nurse has assured him they are as like their father as two peas. Baby and mother doing as well as may be expected. Father, jolly (drunk?) over the auspicious event and wants leave for the day.

February 4th. Second Clerk complains of Mr.—a gay young bachelor in that he had sent a most gushing Valentine to his niece Angelina. Valentine produced—read it with much emotion. It recalled days of old.

Advised Mr.—to encourage the young spark. The wretched old fool swore he would be d—d first, and retired. I wish the young dog success if only to spite the old duffer.

April 1st. Received a letter from the M-h-ra M-dl-ar reporting a sudden and unexpected outbreak of starvation in his district. Very annoying, that confounded *Times* Commissioner is sure to go round gathering “reliable statistics.” Must be before hand with him. Consulted G-ng-r—¹¹ cute dog that is. He declares the letter a forgery, and the whole thing an April Fool perpetrated most probably by the chap who translates for the *Times*. Think so myself but let me catch Mr. Translator, that’s all.

March—1875. My In-t-ter tells me that a young Proctor has eloped with the daughter of his next door neighbour. Pretty girl, poor but virtuous. Those confounded Civil marriages are playing the d—l with morals of the rising generation.

10 See Lorenz’s “Christmas Debates.”

11 A. R. Ginger

When I was young then boys were boys,
And went to bed at ten,
And never put on airs at all,
Nor act the ways of men.
But now they cry for bitter beer
And in your face would blow,
The smoke of many a Jaffna queer;
But I should like to know,
What would our parents say to this,
Some fifty years ago.

The S-v-r G-n-l¹² whose report turned up next is a perfect ethnological study.

“What’s all this rampage about Burgher and native Surveyors?” The Commissioner has not done much for them nor do I think I shall. The fact is they are physically incapable and morally unfit for the work. It was only the other day that a young chap was ordered to go up a rock and he declined the job as “insalubrious to his constitution,” while only the day before an English or rather Scotch Surveyor had set him the example of how to climb a tree and falling down escaped with only a bruise of the arm! It’s simply absurd, preposterous, to talk of native surveyors. They have no staying power, to use the language of the stable. Look at the number who have left voluntarily or *per force*, although they were drawing such magnificent salaries as of from 5s. to 12s. 6d. a day, and then look at the number of young Britons who have within a few months of their joining the department risen to posts of 17s. 6d. and over, from sheer merit. There is a young relative of mine¹³ who has achieved this feat, and if you want a Railway laid to the moon, he is the boy to do it though I say it. Equality of races, Indo-European origin, and all that sort of thing is bosh. (See *Observer* on Trollope).¹⁴ The department must be officered by Europeans, and nominations left to the S-v-r G-n-l.”

The next is from the Hon’ble the acting Q-A-. It is brief and above buttons, if slightly contemptuous. “I have the highest opinion of my clerks. And I have no doubt they have the same of me. I am new to the country and know nothing of its manners

12 Colonel A. B. Fyers

13 The reference is evidently to C. C. M. Fyers 14 In the year 1875 the “Ceylon Observer” reprinted two or three letters to a Darlington Newspaper in which Anthony Trollope described his impressions of Ceylon,

and customs, but if prying into the private life of one's subordinates is a custom which the Government mean to encourage, I must decline lending myself to so un-English a proceeding. By the way, I may tell you, the Clerk of my Deputy gives excellent dinners. For further particulars ask the Chief."

Our delighted vision next fell on the C-lector of C-s-toms' report ¹⁵. Short and to the point, the few sentences of which it consists leave hardly anything more to be said, while the liberty it takes with the orthography of two little words in the first line gives it a character of humorous simplicity quite overpowering. And here it is.

"My department is all Wright and there is no bell Wringing that I know of. I have nothing to say against the moral character of my employees. I believe they go to Church, and say their prayers morning and evening regularly."

The G. A., C. P. ¹⁶ evidently does not relish the idea of Reports upon any pretext, and we shall conclude our selection with his. "Confound those Reports! As if the Annual Administration Reports were not bad enough, a "fellah" must needs be bored with confidential Reports—what does the Government mean at all. Is an Agent to administer his province or is he to devote all his time, like a love sick damsel, to letter writing. Things are coming to a pretty pass if G. A.'s are to take note of the private weaknesses and public failings of their underlings. I for one shant do it, and if worse comes to the worst I will divide the Council on the question or retire. What good could it do Government to know that my head clerk is a Knight Templar, or that my second loves his evening schnaps. The latter I am told is a good old Dutch custom, and I rather like a fellow who is not ashamed of his glass. But suppose the Government does not—what then? Don't they make a blessed lot of revenue out of the—rack rents. In a word, I am not the hoy for confidential reports. If the Government want them, they must go to some other shop. There—I have done."

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

Minutes of a Special General Meeting of the Dutch Burgher Union held at the Union Hall, Reid Avenue, Colombo, on Saturday, 22nd August, 1936, at 6.30 p.m.

Dr. R. L. Spittel, President of the Union, took the Chair, and there were about 40 members present. The Secretary read the Notice convening the Meeting.

2. It was agreed that the proposed amendments be dealt with, paragraph by paragraph.

3. The proposed amendments to the following Rules were unanimously passed:—Rule 4, Rule 5 (c), Rule 5 (g), Rule 6 (a), and Rule 6 (b).

4. On the new Rule 6 (c) being proposed, Mr. J. G. Paulusz opposed it, pointing out that, under Rule 9, an amendment required an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members present at the Meeting. The proposed Rule was then put to the Meeting and carried.

5. The proposed Rule that Colombo Members paying the subscription of Rs. 2/50 a month should have the management and control of the Union, was unanimously passed.

6. Mr. J. G. Paulusz objected to the proposed Rule relating to the subscription of Rs. 1/00 for Colombo Members. After much discussion, the proposed Rule was voted on and lost.

7. Mr. J. G. Paulusz's motion that the present Rule under which Members between the ages of 21 and 25 years paid Rs. 1/00 and enjoyed the privileges of the Rs. 2/50 membership should remain, was lost.

8. Mr. O. L. de Kretser, Jr., proposed that there should be a class of Members at 50 cents a month open to all, and that they should be entitled to the same privileges as the present 50 cents class of Members. This was carried.

9. The proposed Rule that outstation members paying Rs. 1/00 should be entitled to the same privileges as the Colombo Rs. 2/50 Members, and that those paying 50 cents should be entitled to the same privileges as the Colombo 50 cents Members, was passed.

10. The proposed Rule 6 (d) was passed with the interpolation of the following words between the words "subscription" and "as" in Line 5:—"and enjoy the same privileges and be subject to the same disabilities".

11. The proposed Rule 6 (e) was passed unanimously.

12. As regards proposed Rule 6 (f), Mr. J. G. Paulusz suggested that the words "and that" be inserted between the words "this" and "thereafter" in line 15. This was approved, and the proposed Rule, as amended, was passed unanimously.

13. The proposed Rule 7 (a) was unanimously passed.

14. The President proposed, and it was passed unanimously, that the proposed Rule 7 (e) be amended to read as follows:—

"If at the expiration of half an hour from the time appointed for an Annual or Special General Meeting, there shall be less than 30 Members present, no business shall be transacted and the Meeting shall stand postponed to such date as the President shall decide upon, and notice thereof shall be given by the Secretary to the Members of the Union. If at such postponed Meeting a quorum is not present, those present shall be a quorum and transact the business for which the Meeting was called".

15. The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Present Rules.

RULE 4.

A President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer shall be chosen by the vote of the majority of the members present at each Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are appointed. A Secretary of a Standing Committee shall be ipso facto a member of the General Committee. These, and not more than 45 other members, who shall be similarly chosen at the same time, and of whom 15 shall, if available, be members non-resident in Colombo, shall form the Committee.

New Rules as Passed.

RULE 4.

A President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer shall be chosen by the vote of the majority of the members present at each Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are appointed. These and 45 other members, of whom 15 shall, if available, be non-resident in Colombo, who shall be similarly chosen at the same time, shall form the General Committee. The Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer and the Secretaries of Standing Committees, who shall be elected by the General Committee, shall also be members of the General Committee.

PRESENT RULES

RULE 5 (c)

The Treasurer shall collect all monies, defray all authorized charges out of the funds of the Union, and keep regular accounts thereof, which shall be subject to the examination of the President and members. He shall submit at each Annual Meeting a statement thereof, duly audited by an auditor appointed at the previous Annual Meeting.

RULE 5 (g)

The Committee shall, from time to time, make by-laws for the carrying out of the objects of the Union, provided they are not inconsistent with the rules herein contained, and shall appoint from among the members of the Union or their families Standing Committees for the following purposes, viz:—(1) Ethical and Literary Purposes, (2) Purposes of Social Service, (3) Purposes of Genealogical Research and (4) Purposes of Social Recreation, Entertainment and Sport, and other Sub-Committees as may from time to time be necessary. Each Standing Committee shall consist of at least ten members, four to form a quorum, who shall report to the General Committee the work done during each month.

RULE 6 (a)

Members shall be elected by ballot of Committee only. Candidates for admission must be proposed by one member and

NEW RULES AS PASSED

RULE 5 (c)

The Treasurer shall collect all monies, defray all authorized charges out of the funds of the Union, and keep regular accounts thereof, which shall be subject to the examination of the President and, after seven days' notice, by any member of the General Committee. He shall submit at each Annual General Meeting a statement thereof, duly audited by an auditor appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting.

RULE 5 (g)

The General Committee shall, from time to time, make by-laws for the carrying out of the objects of the Union, provided they are not inconsistent with the rules herein contained, and shall appoint from among the members of the Union or their families Standing Committees for the following purposes, viz:—(1) Ethical and Literary, (2) Social Service, (3) Genealogical Research, (4) Social Recreation, Entertainment and Sport, (5) Increasing the Membership and other Committees as may from time to time be necessary. Each Standing Committee shall consist of at least seven members, four to form a quorum, who shall report to the General Committee the work done during each month.

RULE 6 (a)

Members shall be elected by the ballot of the General Committee only. Candidates for admission must be proposed by

PRESENT RULES

seconded by another, and the member proposing a candidate shall state in writing the name of the person proposed, his occupation, place of residence, and his qualifications for membership in the form hereto annexed copies whereof shall be supplied by the Secretary.

RULE 6 (b)

The name of every candidate, with those of his proposer and seconder, shall be sent to the Secretary at least 15 days, and by him submitted to the Committee at least 7 days before he is balloted for. No candidate shall be elected unless he receives an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those 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.

(c) The admission fee shall be Re. 1/- and the monthly subscription, which shall entitle a member to all the advantages of

NEW RULES AS PASSED

one member and seconded by another. A candidate shall state in writing his occupation, place of residence, and his qualifications for membership in the form hereto annexed, copies whereof shall be supplied by the Secretary. Applications for membership must be accompanied by the admission fee of Rs. 2/- together with the first month's subscription, which shall be refunded in the event of the candidate not being elected.

RULE 6 (b)

The application form of every candidate duly filled in and bearing the signatures of the applicant, the proposer and seconder shall be sent to the Secretary for transmission to the Genealogical Committee and on being returned by the Genealogical Committee with its report the name of the candidate shall be submitted to the members of the General Committee at least seven days before he is balloted for. No candidate shall be elected unless he receives an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present. The application of any candidate who has failed to secure a sufficient number of votes at a meeting of the Committee may be submitted again at a subsequent meeting on the written requisition of three members of the General Committee.

(c) The admission fee shall be Rs. 2/- and the monthly subscription which shall entitle a member to the advantages of

PRESENT RULES

the Union for himself, his wife, and his children, excepting sons over 21 years of age, shall be as follows, subject to the right of the General Committee to make any rules from time to time with regard to the introduction of children into the Union premises:—

	R. c.
Members resident in Colombo	... 2 50
Members between the ages of 21 and 25 years	... 1 00
Members resident at Outstations	... 1 00
Ladies desiring independent Membership	... 1 00

(a) There shall also be a class of members at -/50 cents a month who shall be entitled to the use of the Reading Room, and of the Bridge and Billiard Tables, and the Bar, all on a cash basis, on the following occasions only:—

- a General Meetings.
- b St. Nicolaas' Fete.
- c Lectures.
- d Concerts, Dances, and Dinners.
- e Committee Meetings of which they are Members.
- f Ordinary visits not to exceed 12 a year.

(b) The General Committee shall not include more than 6 members of this class resident in Colombo and 3 resident at outstations.

NEW RULES AS PASSED

the Union for himself, his wife, and his unmarried children, excepting sons over 21 years of age, shall be as follows, subject to the right of the General Committee to make any rules from time to time with regard to the introduction of children into the Union premises:—

Colombo Members.

Rs. 2-50 Class.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected from this class; also the members of the General Committee. They shall have the full management and control of the Union. This class shall have the right to use the Bar, and the Billiard and Bridge Tables on a credit basis up to the limit of Rs. 20 subject to sub-section (f) below.

50 c. Class.

This class shall be entitled to use the Bar and the Billiard and Bridge tables on a cash basis on the following occasions only:—

- (a) Annual and Special General Meetings.
- (b) St. Nicolaas' Eve Fete.
- (c) Lectures, Concerts, Dances and Dinners.
- (d) Ordinary visits not to exceed 12 a year.

Outstation Members.

Re. 1 Class.

This class shall be entitled to the same privileges as the Colombo Rs. 2-50 class.

50 c. Class.

These members shall be entitled to the same privileges as the Colombo 50 cents class.

PRESENT RULES

(c) The new class of 50 cents members shall be entitled to full votes at Committee Meetings and to one-fifth of the sum total of votes given by them at General Meetings.

(d) Any person who was a member on the 27th February, 1926, and has not agreed to pay the rates herein prescribed, may, if he so desire, continue to pay the annual subscription of Rs. 6/- as heretofore. No candidate, although elected, shall be considered to be a member until he has paid his admission fee.

(e) The subscription shall be due on the 1st of each month in advance and be payable on or before the 10th day of the month. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid at the end of the month shall be promptly notified by the Honorary Treasurer, and, at the expiration of three months from the date of such notification, should he be still in default, his name shall be submitted by the Honorary Treasurer at a meeting of the General Committee, and the said Committee may direct the removal of such member from the list of members in good standing. Such member shall, thereafter, cease to enjoy the privileges of membership until such time as he may be restored by the Committee to the said privileges on such terms as the Committee may deem proper. On a member being removed from the list of members in good standing he shall be informed of the said fact by the Honorary Treasurer.

NEW RULES AS PASSED

(d) Any person who was a member on the 22nd August, 1936, and has not agreed to pay the rates herein prescribed, may, if he so desire, continue to pay the subscription and enjoy the same privileges and be subject to the same disabilities as heretofore.

(e) The subscription shall be due on the 1st of each month in advance and be payable on or before the 10th day of the month. Any Colombo member whose subscription remains unpaid at the end of three months and in the case of an outstation member six months, shall be promptly notified by the Treasurer, and his credit at the Bar stopped. At the expiration of one month from the date of such notification, should he be still in default, his name shall be submitted by the Treasurer to a meeting of the General Committee, and the said Committee may at its discretion direct the removal of the name of such member from the list of members in good standing. Such member whose name is so removed shall, thereafter cease to enjoy the privileges of membership until such time as he may be restored by the Committee to the said privileges on such terms as the Committee may

PRESENT RULES

(f) All bills must be settled by members by the close of the month following that in which the liability is incurred. Failing payment by the end of that month the amount shall become an arrear.

On a debt becoming an arrear a reminder shall be addressed by the Honorary Treasurer to the defaulting member; and should the arrear still remain unpaid after the lapse of a month from the date of the Treasurer's letter, the name of the member shall be posted up in some conspicuous place in the Union Hall by the Honorary Secretary who shall at the same time send him an intimation of this by registered letter. Should he not pay by the end of one month after the date of the second intimation, his name shall be erased from the list of members and he can only be admitted again after a fresh election.

No credit shall be given to any member who is in arrear, or who is in debt to the Union to a greater amount than Rs. 20/-

NEW RULES AS PASSED

deem proper. On a member's name being removed from the list of members in good standing, he shall be notified of the said fact by the Secretary.

(f) All bills must be settled by members by the close of the month following that in which the liability is incurred. Failing payment by the end of the third month the amount shall become an arrear.

On a debt becoming an arrear a reminder by registered post shall be addressed by the Treasurer to the defaulting member with the intimation that should the arrear still remain unpaid after the lapse of a month from the date of the Treasurer's letter, the name of the member will be posted up by the Secretary who shall thereupon send him an intimation of this and that thereafter he shall not be entitled to the use of the bar and billiard and bridge tables even on a cash basis. Should he not pay by the end of one month after the date of the second intimation, his name shall be erased from the list of members and he can be admitted again only after a fresh election, on payment of all his dues up to the date of the removal of his name from the list of members.

No credit shall be given to any member who is in arrear, or who is in debt to the Union to a greater amount than Rs. 20/-

PRESENT RULES

Meetings. 7. (a) The Annual Meeting of the Union shall ordinarily be held before the 15th of March every year.

RULE 7 (e).

If on the day fixed for any Special General Meeting there shall be less than 30 Members present no business shall be transacted, and the meeting shall stand adjourned to such date as those present shall decide upon, and notice thereof shall be given by the Secretary to the Members of the Union.



NEW RULES AS PASSED

Meetings. 7. (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Union shall ordinarily be held in the month of March every year, 30 members to form a quorum.

RULE 7 (e).

If at the expiration of half an hour from the time appointed for any Annual or Special General Meeting there shall be less than 30 members present no business shall be transacted, and the meeting shall stand postponed to such date as the President shall decide upon, and notice thereof shall be given by the Secretary to the members of the Union. If at such postponed meeting a quorum is not present, those members who are present shall be a quorum and may transact the business for which the meeting was called.

GENEALOGY OF THE DICKMAN FAMILY OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Attendorff).

Johan Heindrich Freiderich Dickmann, Surgeon, of Magdeburg, arrived in Ceylon in 1786 in the Ship "De Draak," died 8th November 1832, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 30th December 1788, Carolina Helena Le Dulx, baptised 22nd November 1772, died 12th August 1832, daughter of Frans Le Dulx, Boekhouder of Tutucorin, and Anna Maria Heyzer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 72, Vol. XXI, page 152, and Vol. XXVI, page 25). He had by her:—

Magnus Fredrik Willem, who follows under II.

II.

Magnus Fredrik Willem Dickman, Chief Clerk of the Customs Department, baptised 30th August 1789, died 17th January 1849, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 14th September 1818, Johanna Gerhardina Justina Mack, born 21st September 1801, daughter of Johannes Pieter Mack and Maria Elizabeth Reckerman. He had by her:—

1. Henricus Gerardus, who follows under III.
2. Irsina Petronella, born 8th May 1824, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—
 - (a) 25th October 1841, Peter Cornelius Raffa.
 - (b) 20th May 1847, John Gerard Alvis, widower of Johanna Frederica Loos. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 97).
3. Johannes Jacobus Cornelius, who follows under IV.
4. Arnoldus Gerhardus, born 23rd August 1827, died 31st May 1859.
5. Johanna Frederika, born 20th April 1830, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 14th April 1853, James Adriaan Loos, died 23rd January 1863. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 99).
6. Gerhardina Wilhelmina, born 17th August 1832.

III.

Henricus Gerardus (Henry George) Dickman, F.R.C.S., Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, born 11th June 1822, died 31st March 1875, married:—

- (a) In St. Stephen's Church, Trincomalee, 3rd June 1844, Matilda Henrietta Mack, born 26th August 1862, died

19th March 1855, daughter of Johannes Cornelius Mack and Johanna Gerhardina Berenger.

(b) In Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 2nd July 1857, Henrietta Whitfield, died 7th November 1875.

Of the first marriage, he had :—

- 1 Alice Matilda, born 9th August 1845, died 20th December 1892, married in St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 16th February 1863, George Stewart, C.C.S., born 7th December 1822, died 29th May 1877.
- 2 Mary Ann Eliza, born 7th April 1850, died 10th March 1922, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 26th August 1880, Frederick Theobald Keyt, M.D. (Aber.), born 20th January 1842, died 18th December 1904, widower of Henrietta Elizabeth Kriekenbaek, and son of Henry Keyt and Louisa Elizabeth Vander Smagt.
- 3 Walter Henry, who follows under V.
- 4 Lydia Jocelyn, born 7th April 1852, married Arthur Francis Henry Pompeus, born 8th September 1845, son of Henry James Pompeus and Henrietta Arnoldina Fermer.
- 5 Selina Louisa, born 19th July 1853, died 5th July 1935, married :—
 - (a) 20th December 1875, Richard Francis de Saram, died 20th April 1916, son of Frederick John de Saram and Arnoldina Henrietta Martensz.
 - (i) 31st August 1922, Frederick Dornhorst, K.C., Advocate, born 28th April 1849, died 26th April 1927, widower of Lydia Hester Sisouw, and son of Frederick Dornhorst and Johanna Petronella Schultze. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 106).
- 6 Richard Henry, born 22nd September 1854.
Of the second marriage, he had :—
- 7 Henrietta Anne, born 25th October 1858, died 12th February 1891, married in the Straits Settlements, Henry Keyt, son of Frederick Theobald Keyt, M.D. (Aber.) and Henrietta Elizabeth Kriekenbaek.
- 8 Henry George, Surgeon, born 8th December 1861, married and settled in England.
- 9 Arthur Cyril, Surgeon, died in Puttalam.
- 10 Magnus, died in infancy.

IV.

Johannus Jacobus Cornelius Dickman, Assistant Auditor General, born 20th August 1825, died 8th February 1896, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 20th May 1850, Drusilla Johanna Engelina Woutersz, born 17th March 1833, died 17th February 1889, daughter of Wilhelmus Arnoldus Woutersz, Surgeon, and Arnoldina Petronella McLoughlin. He had by her :—

- 1 Julia Evangeline, born 19th October 1853, died 14th June 1854.
- 2 Charles Edgar, born 27th August 1855.
- 3 Richard Walter, born 2nd February 1857.
- 4 Laura Jemima, born 6th June 1858, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 17th November 1881, Frederick Clement Loos, died 5th March 1909, son of James Adrian Loos and Johanna Frederika Dickman (Vide II, 5).
- 5 Daughter, born 24th November 1860, died when one month old.
- 6 John Wilfred, born 29th July 1862.
- 7 Henry Theodore, who follows under VI.
- 8 Frederick George, born 14th April 1866.
- 9 Egbert Clement, born 9th March 1868.
- 10 Evelyn Maud, born 24th May 1871, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th May 1888, James Charles Stewart, born 28th January 1865, died 22nd July 1928, son of George Stewart, C.C.S., and Alice Matilda Dickman (Vide III, 1).
- 11 Robert Annesley, born 30th September 1873, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 23rd January 1902, Harriet Stewart.
- 12 Louis William, who follows under VII.

V.

Walter Henry Dickman, Barrister at Law, born 1st March 1851, died 26th July 1908, married in Christ Church, Galle Face, in 1882, Sarah Margaret de Saram, born 22nd July 1854, died 27th August 1936, daughter of Christoffel Henricus de Saram, C.C.S., and Sarah Margaret Armour. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 83). He had by her :—

- 1 Walter Henry Hilton, who follows under VIII.
- 2 Stanley Treherne, born 7th September 1886.
- 3 Vernon Treherne, who follows under IX.

- 4 Linda Treherne, born 19th August 1889, died 13th December 1925, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 11th April 1917, Stanley Mack, born 27th September 1885, son of Peter Daniel Anthonisz Mack, Proctor and Notary Public, and Abigail Maria Garvin.
- 5 Enid Treherne, born 22nd July 1891, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 3rd March 1928, Stanley Mack, widower of Linda Treherne Dickman (Vide 4 above).
- 6 Hilda Treherne, born 12th August 1893.

VI.

Henry Theodore Dickman, born 19th July 1864, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya :—

- (a) 20th June 1895, Eliza Hope Stewart, born 10th December 1867, died 29th May 1910.
- (b) 21st January 1914, Charlotte Magdalene Ondaatje, daughter of Philip de Melho Jurgen Ondaatje, Crown Counsel, and Frances Julia Sophia Morgan. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XI, page 62).

Of the first marriage, he had :—

- 1 Cornelius Stewart, Proctor, born 25th March 1896, married in St. Mary's Church, Matara, 3rd April 1929, Gwendoline Ernst, born 13th March 1906, daughter of Hugh Victor Ernst and Eugenie Lilian Bultjens. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 92).
- 2 Hulbert Theodore Stewart, born 25th March 1896, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 14th April 1925, Cecile Louise Phoebus, born 29th May 1898, daughter of George Phoebus, C.C.S., and Frances Van Langenberg.
- 3 Ridgeway Francis Theodore, born 26th July 1897, died 3rd February 1936, married in St. Mary's Church, Dehiwala, Elsie Senn. He had no issue.
- 4 Allan Stanmore Fairfax, who follows under X.
- 5 James Frederic Bertram Cecil, who follows under XI.

VII.

Louis William Dickman, died 4th January 1930, married Angelberta Petronella Altendorff, born 6th August 1877, died 1st January 1934, daughter of Andreas Charles Altendorff and Caroline Emelia Bastiaensz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XI, page 60). He had by her :—

- 1 Charles Frederick Theodore, born 10th February 1902.
- 2 Irene, born 2nd November 1907.

VIII.

Walter Henry Hilton Dickman, born 9th August 1883, married :—

- (a) In the Registrar General's Office, Colombo, 12th May 1908, Ada Constance Seddon, born 8th June 1884, died 21st January 1923, daughter of Giles Seddon, and Edith Mercy Waller.
- (b) In All Saints' Church, Galle, 23rd June 1926, Enid Charlotte Jansen, born 4th February 1898, daughter of Thomas Richard Jansen and Armintha Euphrasia Wittensleger.

Of the first marriage he had :—

- 1 Ruby Enid, born 31st March 1909.
- 2 Mavis Coral Linda, born 26th September 1911.
- 3 Doris Treherne, born 31st May 1916.
- 4 Constance Margaret, born 9th March 1920.

IX.

Vernon Treherne Dickman, Assistant Superintendent of Police, born 26th July 1888, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 23rd February 1916, Victoria Alice Wambeek, born 24th May 1890, daughter of Charles Lorenz Wambeek and Alice Adeline Van Geyzel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 77). He had by her :—

- 1 Phyllis Treherne, born 13th February 1917.
- 2 Lorna Treherne, born 20th October 1918.
- 3 Vernon Treherne, born 4th February 1925.

X.

Allan Stanmore Fairfax Dickman, born 6th November 1898, married Irene Quyn. He had by her :—

- 1 Madge.
- 2 Douglas.
- 3 Sidney.

XI.

James Frederick Bertram Cecil Dickman, born 23rd November 1899, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd February 1924, Ameta May Boucher, born 4th May 1902, died 18th April 1927, daughter of Justus Bernard Boucher and Roslind Emelia Jansz. He had by her :—

- 1 Frederick Cecil, born 18th November 1924.
- 2 Percival Clifford, born 21st March 1927.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Historical Map of Galle:—We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a well-executed historical map of the Fort of Galle by Mr. R. L. Brohier, F.R.G.S., Superintendent of Surveys, Galle. The work was undertaken at the request of the Galle Municipal Council, and Mr. Brohier is to be congratulated on the excellent map he has produced. The various bastions comprising the Fort are indicated, with explanatory notes, while the Dutch Church, the Old Gate, and the streets which still bear Dutch names are also reproduced. The site of the cemetery outside the town is shewn, while a reduced facsimile of the Dutch crest over the archway of the old gate is not the least interesting detail in the map, which has been well turned out by the Survey Department. The map has been mounted and now adorns the walls of the Union Hall.

A Book Review:—Many people have lived a full life, but have left nothing by which posterity can remember them. Mr. H. C. R. Anthonisz is an exception to this rule. Having served in two departments in which physical fitness is of the first importance, there is scarcely a single outdoor pursuit in which Mr. Anthonisz has not been actively engaged, and in his book "The Ramblings of an Old Stager" written in a characteristically racy style, he gives us the fruits of his experience extending over a long series of years. Mr. Anthonisz is seen at his best in the chapter on snipe shooting in which he is an unquestioned authority, while the chapter on fishing is bound to make a strong appeal to the votaries of that pastime. In the concluding chapter Mr. Anthonisz pays a well-deserved tribute to Sir Herbert Dowbiggin, under whom he had the privilege of serving. The book has been well turned out by Messrs. Frewin & Co., of Baillie Street, from whom copies may be had, as well as from the leading Colombo booksellers, at the modest price of Re. 1.

Racing. Mr. H. C. R. Anthonisz writes:—"Racing in Ceylon, as very likely elsewhere, has become a happy pastime for punters. Many a brainy man has been bitten by the infection and has bet on horses after a close study of their performances.

"And what is the result? Have 90% of them scored on the whole? I am firmly convinced that it is a mug's game, and those who indulge in it are bound in the majority of cases to lose.

"It is purely the spirit of gambling which leads them on, and to what purpose?

"If you possess a good horse or two and you are a good horseman, by all means try to ride your favourite to victory. But gambling at races is by no means a paying or elevating influence. Look at the youngsters who are great punters. It has brought them to absolute penury. At their first success in winning from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000, they fancy that this is a fine business to go on with. But alack and alas, they invariably come a bad cropper and are in a worse condition than when they started this footling game."

Inferiority Complex. Mr. H. C. R. Anthonisz writes:—"I regret to find that this failing is prevalent amongst a few of our members. If any of the affluent folks, don't happen to look at them and be genial, they fancy they are being slighted and get their backs put up. This is all rubbish. Club life is not quite understood by us yet. In a big club, there are members who do not know each other, or, at most, have only a nodding acquaintance. They form their own circles and carry on. Why shouldn't we do the same? I am afraid we are, or some of us are, too thin skinned and fancy slights where none are dreamt of or intended, a purely imaginative tendency, rather aggravated in some. One man is as good as another, so carry on, form your own coteries and have a good time, and the devil take the hindmost."

NOTES OF EVENTS.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 15th September 1936: (1) There were 14 members present. (2) Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Mr. E. O. Felsing and Mrs. H. P. Beling. (3) It was reported that the President, Dr. R. L. Spittel, had made another gift to the Union of a table for the Reading Room. This was gratefully accepted by the Committee on behalf of the Union. (4) The Treasurer's Statements of Accounts for May, June and July 1936 were passed. (5) The Accounts of the Dance on New Year's Eve and the Accounts of the Dinner on the 29th February 1936 were tabled by Mr. O. L. de Kretser (jr.), who was Secretary of the Entertainment Committee at the time. They were duly accepted. (6) The Secretary of the Entertainment Committee reported that the Race Dance on the 7th August 1936, resulted in a profit of Rs. 36.43, and that the profits on the "Fun and Fare" Carnival in September amounted approximately to Rs. 450.00. (7) A Sub-Committee was appointed to make arrangements for the St. Nicolaas Fete Celebrations on December 5th next. (8) The proposed amendments to By-laws V, VIII (4), X and XI were passed. The proposed By-law VI (6) was considered not necessary.

Tuesday, 20th October 1936: (1) There were 20 members present. (2) A letter from the Secretary of the Entertainment Committee forwarding Statements of Accounts of the Race Dance in August and the "Fun and Fare" Carnival in September was read. The profit on the former was Rs. 36.43, and on the latter Rs. 465.20. In remitting this money the Entertainment Committee made certain recommendations which were approved. (3) It was resolved to convey the hearty congratulations of the General Committee on the appointments of Mr. H. K. de Kretser as Director of Public Works, Mr. O. L. de Kretser (Sr.) as Commissioner of Assize, and Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand to the Ceylon Civil Service. (4) The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for August 1936 was passed. (5) Dr. I. E. Dirckze's re-enrolment was approved, and Mr. C. H. Ohlmus was elected a member of the Union.

Tuesday, 17th November 1936: (1) There were 20 members present. (2) It was decided to ask Messrs. Mackwood & Co., to

execute a Guarantee Bond in respect of the duties of the D. B. U. Clerk for Rs. 650.00 on the terms set out by them. (3) It was reported that as in previous years a wreath of poppies, costing Rs. 7.50, was placed on behalf of the Union at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day. (4) A sub-committee consisting of Dr. V. R. Schokman, Messrs. J.R. Toussaint, J.G. Paulusz, R. Koch, and G.H. Gratiaen, with Mr. E. de La Harpe as Secretary and Convener, was appointed to report on the Educational policy of Government in recent years in respect of Burgher children. (5) It was reported that application had been made to the Registrar General for the authorization by His Excellency the Governor of the incorporation under Section 114 of the Ordinance No. 9 of 1917 of the Dutch Burgher Union Board created by Rule 5 (d) of the constitution. (6) The resignations of Mr. Allanson Raffel, Miss D. Bartholomeusz and Dr. J. Van Langenberg were accepted with regret. (7) The re-enrolment of Mr. V. A. Loos as a member was approved. (8) The following candidates were balloted for and elected as members of the Union: Messrs. S. V. Vander Smagt and S. V. Schokman, Mrs. Elsie Jansz and Dr. W. M. Müller.

Princess Juliana. Princess Juliana of Holland, the only child of Queen Wilhelmina, is to be married on the 7th January 1937 to Prince Bernard Zur Lippe-Biesterfeld. Our thoughts naturally go back forty-six years to the death of William III (1890) and the accession to the Netherlands throne of the young Princess Wilhelmina; to her coronation ten years later; and to her marriage to Prince Henry of Mecklenburg in 1901. We recall the enthusiasm with which her Jubilee was celebrated in 1923, and again the 35th Anniversary of her reign in 1933, when she made a memorable speech, in which she declared, "We will be ourselves and remain so. We shall continue to build on the foundations laid by our fathers".

And now, her daughter, the idol of the nation, is to marry and to follow the Queen her mother, in maintaining the national ideal. Princess Juliana was born on the 4th April 1909, and educated privately with children of the Court in the palace of the Hague. She then studied at the University of Leyden, living the life of an ordinary College girl. Thanks to the simple life prescribed for her by a wise mother, she has remained unspoilt, free from most of the fashionable frivolities of the day. Her tastes are simple. She is described as an expert in needlework, "a Doctor of Jurisprudence,

a good cook, an enthusiastic dancer, a bad tennis-player, a publicity hater, a lover of camp life, and one of the most eligible Princesses in Europe."

All weddings are interesting to everybody, but there will be a keener thrill of interest and pleasure in the approaching marriage of this Princess of the ancient and most honourable House of Orange. She takes her name Juliana from the mother of William the Silent, who founded the United Netherlands.

Prince Bernard is 25 years old, and is employed in the Dutch Trading Company, working through all the departments of a Bank so as to make himself acquainted with the financial institutions of Holland. He belongs to one of the oldest German princely families. Lippe itself is now a republic, 469 square miles in area (about a third of our Western Province), with a population about two-thirds that of Colombo.

Our Activities:—During the last few months the Union has shewn welcome signs of activity. The ball was set rolling by Mr. R. L. Brohier, who delivered an excellent lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on "Some Far Eastern Ports". This was followed by two plays staged by Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen and Mr. R. J. Beling, respectively, entitled "The Spinsters of Lushe" and "Heaven on Earth", in which the actors acquitted themselves admirably. The Reading Circle, of which Mr. Neill Wille is the Secretary, is becoming very popular, and is giving an opportunity to the younger members of the Union to take part in literary pursuits. The Comrades also have had their say, and their annual dance was an unqualified success. Not to be outdone by the younger members, the votaries of billiards were at home to the members on the occasion of the presentation of prizes to the winners in the annual competition. The social festivities of the year were brought to a close with the celebration of St. Nicolaas Day, a report of which appears elsewhere.

The Hon'ble Mr. O. L. De Kretser:—We congratulate this gentleman on his well-merited appointment as Commissioner of Assize. The signal services rendered by him both as District Judge, Colombo, and as a member of the Judicial Commission, marked him out as deserving of special recognition, and his appointment to the higher judiciary followed as a natural consequence. We wish him all success in the high and responsible office he has been called upon to fill.

A Silver Wedding. Mr. & Mrs. L. G. Vollenhoven attained the 25th Anniversary of their marriage on 18th December. They celebrated the event by an "At Home" at the Girls' Friendly Society Hall, at which a large number of their relations and friends were present.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. Hector Koch which occurred with tragic suddenness at Kandy on 26th November. Mr. Koch joined the Union shortly after its establishment and did all he could to further its aims. He leaves behind a widow to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

S. Nicolaas' Fete:—Conducted on the same lines as in previous years, this annual celebration was as successful a function as it has always been. In the early part of the evening sports and other amusements were provided for the children, and as the shades of night began to fall an adjournment was made indoors. Here the good Bishop, personated by Mr. A. E. Meier, made his appearance, and this was the signal for the distribution of toys. Refreshments were lavishly served and dancing followed until a late hour of the night.

Unveiling of a Portrait:—A pleasing ceremony was performed on Tuesday, 15th December, at 6 p.m., when the President, Dr. R. L. Spittel, unveiled a portrait of his immediate predecessor in office, Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, in the presence of a fair gathering of members, among whom was the gentleman honoured. Dr. Spittel said:—"We meet here to-day to do honour to our past President, Mr. E. H. Vanderwall. This portrait, which I now unveil on your behalf, will take its fitting place in the gallery of our Presidents, who, during their periods of office, have striven, each according to his own light, to hold us together, maintain our traditions, and advance our interests. Mr. Vanderwall's signal contribution towards those ends has been the prominent part he took, with Mr. Wille to support him, in obtaining for our boys and girls the benefits of free primary education. He has thus reared for himself a more living and lasting memorial than any we can raise. Recently we have missed very much his presence at our meetings, and so we are doubly glad to see him here today. We do sincerely hope that he will not take this function to signify the coping stone of his efforts to further the work of this Union, but that it will be an incentive to keep alive the interest he has always shown from its very inception.

"Despite our motto, 'Unity is Strength', I regret to say we are a community of selfish individualists, easily disheartened. Many of our older and more influential members, to whom we are entitled to look for support, are quite content to hold aloof, indifferent whether the Union survives or not. Many have not come forward at all. Others have shown enthusiasm awhile and retired disheartened. But there are still others who have always striven, despite all set-backs, to do their best for our community and have kept their interest in it alive. Prominent among them has been Mr. E. H. Vanderwall. We are a small community and cannot afford to do without such men. That is why, while we do him this small honour to-day in setting up this memorial, we do him the much greater honour of asking him never to let his concern for this Union wane, even though he lives far away in retirement."

Dr. Spittel unveiled the portrait amidst applause.

Mr. Vanderwall replied as follows:—

"Mr. President and members of the Dutch Burgher Union, I greatly appreciate the honour you have done me in providing a portrait of myself and giving it a place among the portraits of the past Presidents of the Union.

When one is elected President of the Dutch Burgher Union, he regards it as a high honour paid to him by his community mainly because it is a mark of confidence.

When later, he lays down the seals of office and the Union desires to perpetuate his memory by hanging his portrait on its walls, it is a ratification of their confidence.

I therefore gratefully appreciate your action, and in particular I thank those members of the Union who took an active part in the movement.

It was only the other day I received a compliment from the Union, which gave me much satisfaction, although I think it was unintended as such.

At the Special General Meeting recently held for the revision of rules of the Union, you adopted as your rule for membership the identical rule which I proposed for your acceptance when I was President, but which failed to secure sufficient support in the Committees. While realising that bread cast on the waters could be found after many days, I can assure you that the rule you have now adopted will best secure the stability and the progress of the Union.

I need hardly tell you that my interest in the Union continues unabated. If, in recent months, you have not seen me in your midst, it is because my personal affairs need more attention than I have been able to give them in the past and I was confident that there were others who were able to take my place.

I also believe that periodic changes in the personnel of the Committees of the Union are in its best interest.

Service to the community does not necessarily lie within the Dutch Burgher Union alone. It is only a few weeks ago that I carefully scrutinised over a thousand applications for the scholarships granted by Government to English-speaking children, among whom so many children of our own community are found.

Like all human institutions, the Union may have its ups and downs, but it is a striking characteristic of the Dutch, as I am sure it is of us, their descendants, to restore confidence and success, when things are at their lowest ebb.

I feel quite sure that the Dutch Burgher Union, which is now nearly thirty years old, will not cease to continue its useful and beneficial life.

While thanking you once again, gentlemen, for the honour you have done me, I wish the Union all success and prosperity."



EDITORIAL NOTES.

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

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

The Journal will be issued at the end of every quarter, post free, to each member of the Union who pays a subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum towards its cost of publication. Literary and other contributions are invited and should be sent to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, "Muresk", Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya, to whom also all remittances on account of the Journal should be made.

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

Remittances.—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Acting Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. W. W. Beling, Buller's Road, Colombo, and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mr. Wace de Niese, Bambalapitiya, the Honorary Treasurer of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

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



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