

# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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## Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

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### ELEANOR LORENZ.

From time to time there have been published in these pages sketches of the lives of some of the members of our Community who have left their mark on the period in which they lived. These sketches have been confined to men. But there are also women of the Community who have played a prominent part in the social and literary spheres. Not the least prominent of these was Eleanor Nell, the wife of Charles Ambrose Lorenz. She was the daughter of George Michael Nell, two of her brothers being Frederick and Louis Nell, who were at the head of the literary coterie in the early fifties of the last century. Facilities for the higher education of girls were practically non-existent in those early days, but belonging, as she did, to a family possessing rich intellectual leanings and gifts, Eleanor could not help being literary minded herself. Books were not so plentiful then, or so easy to acquire, as they are at the present day; but the few works they had were of the best, and were read with appreciation and understood thoroughly. His fondness for literary pursuits must have ensured for Lorenz a friendly welcome at the home of the Nells, in Small Pass, where he met the gifted sisters of his friends. We can imagine the sparkling conversation and the sallies of wit that must have taken place when these young people met together.

In these circumstances it is not surprising that the young Proctor—for Lorenz was only twenty-one years old at the time, and had not yet qualified as an Advocate—should have conceived an affection for Eleanor Nell, possessed as she was of many of those qualities which made a strong appeal to him. They were married in 1850, and there is no doubt that his young wife exercised a great influence for good on Lorenz's future career. He set about building up a practice, and within three years of his marriage, he felt justified in leaving for Europe with his wife, the primary object of the visit being to read for the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, for he had already discovered his aptitude for the higher branch of the profession. But he had another purpose in view, and that was, in the words of Leonard Ludovici, his biographer, "to enter into the spirit of English law, to learn its hidden springs of vitality, to study its currents of thought, and to master the intricacies of its language, in order to appreciate whatever was grand and noble in its arts and sciences." Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz left Ceylon on the 10th February, 1853, in the barque "Persia", the others who accompanied them being

Frederick and George Nell, and his nephew Henry Andersen. Lorenz put his skill as an artist to good use on the voyage, making humorous sketches of incidents on the voyage. One of them depicted his wife in her cabin, where she is described as being "cribbed, cabined and confined".

These words, written in jest, were soon to have a very serious import, for Mrs. Lorenz suddenly took ill, and her condition was such as to cause Lorenz a great deal of anxiety. Writing to a relative after their arrival in England, Lorenz says:—"I don't think it any harm to tell all the world that E.----- really was as delirious as 'a march hare' at the time we reached the Cape. Her whole nervous system had given way, and though the delirium and confusion have passed away, yet one of the consequences of the shock to her nerves remains in a small degree, viz., weakness of memory. But even this she is fast getting over, and now she remembers almost everything that has taken place since her birth, whereas, some time ago, she could not even be made to believe where she was, or who I was; for she had forgotten every blessed circumstance in her life. I cannot see where's the harm in mentioning this, for it has been a disease like any other disease; and the more thankful to God ought I to be that she is recovering from a state more mournful both to me and to her than even death itself".

A few months in the invigorating climate of England soon restored Mrs. Lorenz to health, and Lorenz was able to write:—"E.----- is literally rosy, and after a walk in the Park, comes home as red as a boiled crab, as if one could light one's pipe at her nose". Again, on another occasion he writes:—"We take frequent walks in the Kensington Gardens opposite..... There are but few handsome ladies, and the gentlemen are mostly very ugly and very morose. But the ladies are, on the other hand, very talkative, and quite ready to carry on a conversation at a moment's notice. E.----- always gets a good share of their notice whenever she stirs out". This was owing to her not being so fair as the English people.

After seeing all the sights of London, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz contemplated a trip to Holland, as the former was anxious to get in touch with some of the leading Dutch jurists. In preparation for their stay in that country, they began to acquire a knowledge of conversational Dutch. Lorenz, in one of his letters, gives the following humorous account of their efforts to talk the language:—"I have hitherto taught E.----- a few necessary phrases—to suit indispensable wants. She is to say 'Geef mij een beetje'—whenever she wants anything, and add the most convenient Dutch-like word that occurs to her". He then gives the following conversation between them:—

E.----- "Geef mij een beetje—what?"

L.----- "Well, what would you say?"

E.----- "Go away, I don't know—what is it?"

L.----- "Water, no, you jackass!"

E.----- "That's English!"

"No," says L., "it's Dutch". "Well, now, if you want breakfast, what would you say?"

E.----- "I don't know the name for breakfast".

L.----- "Why, can't you say *Aalmoes*?"

E.----- "Why, that's Portuguese, no?"

L.----- "No, my dear, it's Dutch. Well, if you want dinner, what would you say?"

"I know I won't say '*Mediye soe coemere*'" says she, "because that's pure unadulterated Portuguese; and now, don't come with your humbug any more!"

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz made the most of their holiday in Holland. They found the Dutch people more to their liking than the English. Lorenz writes:—"The people we met with in the streets here, and the servants at home, are far less curious and inquisitive than those in London; and E.----- has walked through Amsterdam without more than a quiet look from the people around; whilst in England, nothing was more common than that the people should be staring at her in the rudest manner possible..... Only on one occasion, three Flemish women who were passing us, with their odd head dresses, remarked to each other, "Ja, ja, een swarte vrouw", and I quietly turned round and said, "Ja, ja, een Flemsche vrouw—een, twee, drie", which so flabbergasted them that they began laughing".

This happened nearly a century ago. Since then, the colonising activities of the Dutch have brought them into closer contact with people of a darker hue, and they do not entertain the same ideas as did Lorenz's landlady, referred to below, in regard to the efficacy of "*karne melch*" for converting a dark skin into a fair one. Lorenz, in one of his letters, relates this story with much gusto:—"The lady examined E's skin very carefully, and then proceeded to tell me that the darkness thereof must be corrected. 'Ja, maar, m'nheer, ik sal een medicyne geven voor deze swarte'; and in the evening what does she, but comes up with a bottle of *karne-melch*, takes a towel, pours the milk on it, and begins rubbing and scrubbing E's face, hands, and arms, as if expecting that in a minute more she'll get quite fair. We literally screamed with laughter at the simple old girl; but she was determined on it; and with her 'Ja, maar m'nheer', and her 'Noch m'nheer', and 'Wacht maar een oogenblik', she went on, and is to return again to repeat the dose to-day".

Lorenz returned to Caylon in 1855, leaving behind Mrs. Lorenz, who, it was thought, would benefit in health by a longer stay in England. That this expectation was well-founded is borne out by the following letter written by Mrs. Lorenz to her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Driberg, regarding the latter's eldest son, Alfred, who had been sent to England for his education. The letter is written in that angular handwriting which was so much in vogue among ladies a century ago, and besides presenting as perfect a specimen of good English as one could wish, is marked by a pleasing tender-

ness of feeling which was such a conspicuous trait in Mrs. Lorenz's character. The letter reads as follows:—

26th April, 1865.

My dear sister Harry,

I am very glad indeed to be able to inform you that Alfred arrived quite safe and was brought here by Major Driberg himself yesterday noon. You will be pleased to hear he is looking remarkably well and is in very good spirits; his face is as round as an apple and quite rosy. Of course, on first meeting him, I was rather overcome and burst out crying, for "Home, Sweet Home", with all the loved ones there, seemed present to me and made me so happy that I could not help it. Poor Alfred cried in company, but I made a great effort and conquering my emotion, attended to the stranger present, whose eyes, by the bye, were rather moist also. Major Driberg told me that Alfred was a very good boy on board, and spoke of his docility and the very little trouble he gave him. He did not leave his address as he said he was going to Paris to see his son, but on his return he promised to call and see us again. Mrs. Stephens came in and he was introduced to and talked to her, but declined taking any refreshment as he had just dined. I pressed him to have a glass of wine even; but he said he had a strong chest cold and dared not take it—he was coughing rather painfully. When he was leaving, you may be sure I did not forget to thank him for the care he had taken, evidently, of Alfred, and I told him I did so, not only individually but in his mother's name also. Alfred is already quite at home here, and he sits talking to Mrs. and Miss Stephens about the passengers in the steamer and the places where the vessel put in for coals, &c., so there is no fear of his not feeling comfortable. I shall go with him myself the first day to Dr. Major's and introduce him to the family, and I am sure he will get on very well.

"And now I hope you will make your mind easy, my dear sister, and I repeat my assurances to yourself and brother John, that he shall be well cared for here.

With best love to all,  
Affectionately yours,  
ELEANOR NELL.

Mrs. Lorenz must have returned to Ceylon towards the end of 1856, for we find her taking part in an entertainment for children at their home in Sea Street in December of that year. Invitations were issued in the joint names of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz and were as follows:—

Mr. and Mrs. the undersigned  
Being a little to pleasure inclined,  
As all at this season should be,  
And having invested in crackers and toys,  
Will give them away to all girls and boys,  
Who come to the Christmas Tree.  
Will you come to the tree we have planted for ye,  
Your food shall be cakes and your drink shall be tea.  
Will you, will you, will you, will you come to the tea,  
On Thursday evening at 8 p.m.

C. A. LORENZ,  
ELEANOR LORENZ.

Although Mrs. Lorenz, after her trip to England, never enjoyed perfect health, she yet did her best to take part in all the social activities of her husband. One of Lorenz's friends, in his reminiscences, gives us the following insight into the way in which Mrs. Lorenz tried to discharge her social obligations:—"C. A. L. was at home and gave me the heartiest of welcomes. He spoke and I listened. He took me to his kitchen and shewed me an American

Range which he had just purchased, and he called my attention to a lot of birds that were hung in a particular compartment and being roasted, as he quaintly said, for the benefit of his ninety-nine nieces and nephews. All at once he remembered that it was time to dress for Sir R. Morgan's breakfast, and asking me to make myself at home and take a seat in his drawing room, he went up and fetched Mrs. Lorenz. 'Here, my dear', he said, 'is an old and valued friend of mine. He's a very influential man from the mountains. If you want Kandyan mats, or cabbages, or flowers, you have only to send him a line, and you'll get a cartload of them.' "Mrs. L. was very chatty and communicative, and we had a pleasant talk on a variety of subjects. C. A. L. re-appeared in about ten minutes, very sprucely got up, and said in an arch manner, with a wink at me, 'Now, Ellen, my dear, what do you think of your young man? Isn't he an out and out swell?' 'Well, my dear, we are going to a swell place, and I think you are faultless', said Mrs. L.

Mrs. Lorenz's health was gradually deteriorating, and it became necessary for her to have a companion who would relieve her of her routine domestic duties. Such a person was found in Miss Eliza LaBrooy, who proved herself worthy of the trust reposed in her. In a letter to a friend, dated 16th November, 1870, Lorenz writes:—"Ellen and Miss LaBrooy are anxious to come and see you at Ekele. But I must wait for a vacant Saturday. Next Saturday I cannot leave Colombo. I'll write to you a day or two before we come, to enable you to get an additional supply of beer. Mind! you mustn't let them know about the beer we (i.e. I) consumed last Saturday and Sunday, and you must give me a few bottles on the sly when the girls come".

Little did their friends guess that in less than a year from the date of this convivial gathering, both their friends would be no more. The first to answer the call was Charles Lorenz. His wife followed him in three months. The best tribute to Eleanor Lorenz's memory was paid by Leopold Ludovici, who knew her intimately. "Perhaps the most accomplished of Ceylon's daughters, as her husband was undoubtedly of her sons, she united in herself the accomplishments of the Lady with the naturalness of the Woman. Learned, clever, and accomplished, there was that charm in her conversation, that refinement in her manner which at once told of the cultivated mind; while the goodness of her heart, and the kindness of her disposition won for her the esteem and the love of all who were brought within her acquaintance. Of her talents as a writer, we need only refer to her contributions, original and translated, to the periodical literature of Ceylon".

Mrs. Lorenz was an accomplished French scholar and her literary contributions consist chiefly of translations from that language. She made an important contribution to Ceylon history by her translation of the French version of the capitulation of Ceylon by the Dutch to the British in 1796, and also of Admiral Spilbergen's Account of his Voyage to the East Indies, which was a French translation from the Dutch.

## THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH IN CEYLON 1602-1795

Extracts from a work on "De Hervormde Kerk in  
Nederlandsch Oost Indie"

by C. A. L. Van Troostenburg de Bruyn,  
lately Predikant at Batavia.

Translated by the late F. H. de Vos, Esq., Advocate, and  
prepared for publication by Dr. H. U. Leembruggen.

(Continued from page 130 of our last issue).

### CHAPTER VII.

#### Education.

That there was at Utrecht a Seminary for preparing ministers for the Indies is only known to me from the assertion of an anonymous writer in the *Tijdschrift voor Nederland Indie*. It is true that former pupils of the Colombo Seminary often studied there, as in 1747 and following years. Franciscus Jansen, Petrus de Sylva, Benjamin Cabraal, and Johannes van den Broek, and in 1752 and following years William Juriaan Ondaatje and Hendrik Philipsz, but these went to the University as ordinary students. There was never an Indian Seminary at Utrecht.

The Church Council at Batavia resolved, 22nd November, 1638, to renew their request of the Seventeen to establish a Seminary in the East Indies. But the Church in Holland was generally against this plan. They did not want theological schools in the Indies. And their reasons for this were not altogether groundless. The Synod of North Holland went so far as to protest against the schemes to the Seventeen. Not so the Synod of Tholen (8-22 April, 1638). In the same year in which the request was repeated in Batavia for an Indian Seminary, the Synod appealed to both the East and the West India Companies for the establishment of "Scholae illustres" in the Indies, in order that by degrees competent ministers may be trained from the ranks of the natives themselves.<sup>1</sup> Good results were expected in the Indies from Seminaries

1. Hofstede, O. Ind. Kerk, II, 17. 8.

for the natives. Later in 1687, a scheme was submitted<sup>2</sup> to the Directors, and the Council of Seventeen resolved to establish two Seminaries in the Indies—one in Jaffnapatnam, and another in Colombo, with the further proviso that the East India Company should, at its own expense, from time to time allow students to go to the Dutch academies.

The Theological Seminary for the Tamils was established by the East India Company in 1690 at Nalore,<sup>3</sup> a village in Jaffnapatnam. The scheme for this Seminary was prepared by the Commissioner-General, Mr. Adriaan van Rheede van Drakestyn. Its object was to prepare Indian youths as ministers, teachers, clerks, catechists and interpreters. It started with 24 pupils. These were taught by a master in Tamil. A Dutchman, Dirk Otteley, was the first teacher. Two natives assisted him. According to a regulation of the establishment (2nd December, 1690), school hours were fixed from 7 to 11 a.m., and from 1 to 5 p.m. The Minister, Adrianus de Meij, was the first Rector. He was born at Paleacotte (Palamcottah) on the Coromandel Coast, his mother being a native woman. He learnt Latin for the most part in Batavia, and afterwards studied at Utrecht. He was an active and very zealous man, who preached with great ease in Tamil. He was chief of the Seminary for six or seven years, and when he died, 28th February, 1699, there was universal grief and the Seminary sustained a great loss. The pupils then requested the Political Council to appoint Rev. Johannes Roman, a Zeelander and a "peace-loving man",<sup>4</sup> in his place. From him and his successors the pupils received higher education in the Dutch language and the principles of the Christian religion. Also lessons were given in natural and revealed religion, in preaching, and in the art of "catching souls with wisdom".

The compendium of Burman,<sup>5</sup> *Synopsis Theologie et speciatim foedenum Dei ab initus saeculorum usque ad consummationem eorum* (Utr. 1671, 1681, 1687 and later also elsewhere) and that of T. H. van den Hopert (Prof. at Leyden) entitled "De waaragtige wegen die God met den mensch houdt uit een vast grond beginsel, volgens de ingeschapene en geschrevene openbaring Gods afgeleidt en samen geschekelt" (1693, 1706, 1730 and 1741) were used.

2. Neurdenburg, t.a.p. bl. 70-75.

3. Nalore, probably the Nallur (or Nalloor) of to day, a few miles out of Jaffna town.

4. Fabricius, *Lux Evang.* p. 591.

Hofstede, t.a.p. II, 20-22, 25, 29, 30, 296. Tennent's *Christianity in Ceylon*, pp 44, 73, 74. He was a native of Haarlem and married at Batavia, 14th Nov., 1647, Maria Hendriksdr. Pot of Amsterdam. His daughter Margareta married Rev. Bartolomeus Heynen. See Navorscher, XXXVIII, 472, 653. XL 611. Cey. Lit. Register, Vol. IV, Note. Translator.

5. Burman was Professor at Utrecht.



Instruction in, and the use of, the Latin language was not introduced. Two letters are preserved of the first Rector, one of the 6th November, 1690, and one dated 22nd January, 1692, in which he speaks of the progress made by the pupils. "They know Dutch, can read and write, can repeat and translate into Tamil the Catechism of Borstius".<sup>6</sup> The Classis of Amsterdam also wrote concerning the pupils of the school at Jaffnapatnam that they gave good hopes.

On the 31st December, 1691, Hendrik Swaardecroon (afterwards Governor-General), then Secretary of the General Commission at Surat, sent the following report on the aforesaid institution to the Directors in Holland:—"The Seminary established at Jaffna has been a marked success and may God protect it, for the children there learn so admirably, and make such rapid progress, that one can almost say that the Dutch children in the other schools are thrown in the shade in this respect".

The household arrangements were under the charge of a manager who provided the pupils with all necessaries. The funds for the school were obtained from Church fines, sale of elephants, the fish farm, etc. For the promotion of young men to the office of Proponent there was an examination. Such an examination was once held in Colombo on 29th April, 1705, in the presence of all the members of the Government and Church Council there. Four students educated at the Seminary at Jaffnapatnam by the Rector, Rev. Petrus Sinjen were then examined in the following subjects:—(1) Technical terms (2) Definitions (3) The essence of a thing and to find it from everything (4) That which appertains to the nature of a thing for the purpose of solving all questions relating to that kind of thing (5) To assign the causes from which all questions arise (6) Solution of all questions (7) To point out the fixed rule in everything (8) That there is one God (9) What God is (10) God's unity (11) God's real and voluntary actions (12) God's eternal nature (13) God's necessity (14) God's simplicity (15) God's all-sufficiency (16) God's independence (17) God's eternity (18) God's immutability (19) God's life (20) God's immortality (21) God's freedom (22) God's superiority (23) God's knowledge (24) God's love (25) God's blessedness (26) God's right (27) God's holiness (28) God's purity (29) God's perfection (30) God's emotions (31) God's counsel (32) its everlasting nature (33) its unchangeability (34) its unity (35) His independence (36) His omniscience (37) His punishment (38) His creation (39) His sustenance (40) His government (41) His image in man (42) His laws, commandments, &c. And more other matters in the Dictata. More than 60 subjects out of the domain of rhetoric, logic, metaphysics, theology, moral science, dogma, anthropology, &c.<sup>7</sup>

6. Jacobus Borstius—Minister at Rotterdam—(died 1st July 1680).

7. Wemdy. Verhaal van de tegenwoordigen toestand der Christlijken godsdienst in de landen onder het bewind van der Nederl.

The history of the Tamil Seminary is very discouraging. It is a series of disappointments and failures: ignorance and rivalry between teachers, continual changes in the teaching, want of order and discipline, dull and slow scholars, "most of them remained heathen at heart". Indeed, in 1719 a proponent renounced Christianity and went over to the heathens. On the 20th October, 1704, nineteen students were dismissed, and four others were removed to Colombo. There were 23 in Colombo at that time. Sterner measures had to be adopted in the way of punishment for misbehaviour. The Seminary (of Jaffna) was merged in that of Colombo and ceased to exist in 1723. The opinion of the Rector, Rev. Philippus de Vreest, in his report to the Governor-General Willem van Outshoorn was most unfavourable, and the account of the same by Petrus Hofstede is painful.<sup>8</sup>

The original object of the Seminary was to make native ministers of Sinhalese and Tamil youths. Already in 1671 (6th May) the Directors had agreed to engage Rectors for the Seminary. In their resolution of 28th June, 1703, there is mention of six provisional proponents who should learn the languages spoken in Ceylon. This Sinhalese Seminary, planned in 1689, had in the first place to provide for the wants of the Church districts of Colombo, Galle and Matara. It was opened with 15 pupils who were chosen by nomination. In 1743 there were 24, and 40 in 1760, afterwards less, in 1775 twenty seven viz., 9 Sinhalese, 9 Tamils, and 9 Europeans (coloured men). Those who excelled in intelligence and industry in their studies were sent to Holland. One wrote a pamphlet against the ministers in the Indies, published in Holland before 1750, but the writer himself, having become a clergyman in Ceylon, recanted what he wrote.

The first Rector was the clergyman Johannes Ruël, the same person who compiled the Sinhalese Grammar. When one of the ministers of Colombo was elected Reyd. Principal or Rector of the Seminary, he was relieved of a part or the whole of his work as minister. The latter was the case in 1695 with Revd. Isaac vande Bank, while Petrus Sinjen as minister had to preach once a fortnight (1705-22). The original plan was afterwards repeatedly not adhered to. Under the Government of Gustaaf Willem Baron van Imhoff in Ceylon (afterwards Governor-General) the Seminary in 1737 was greatly extended and changed. In 1750 there were, besides the Rector, a Con-Rector, a Sinhalese master, a preceptor in Hebrew and Tamil, and a Dutch teacher. The latter received a salary of 24 guilders a month, and ration money of an assistant (clerk). Others borne on the establishment were two clerks (mess-tices) and two Sinhalese clerks. We are also in a position to form

8. Hofstede. t.a.p. II, 21, 28, 32-35. Hist. eccles. T. Spanhemii, III, P. 752, etc.

an idea of the instruction imparted. The Rector, P. Sinjen, used with his pupils the "Schets of d'Outrein *Eerste beginselen van de Christelijke Godsdienst, van Joh. d' Outrein*) minister at Amsterdam (died 1722).

It should not therefore be inferred, however, that he quite slavishly followed the footsteps of others. Nay, he had his own method of teaching, so that others even thought this a "bold undertaking". He was of opinion that a knowledge of heathen religions was imperatively necessary. What he and others further taught consisted of the Dutch language, general geography, logic, metaphysics, dialectics, psychology, the theory of the passions and their government, natural, moral and Christian institutions, disputation and justification of Christianity, dogmatic and homiletic. Afterwards instruction in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Church history was introduced, and Latin was used in the higher theological class. In Greek, the New Testament was used. The Latin writers read were Nepos, Terentius, Cicero, Ovidius, Phaedrus, Erasmus, &c. The teachers are known to us by name—Vrolijk, a good classic, was Con-rector in 1738, and when he returned to Holland two years later, was succeeded by Herscher. In 1758 and following years Hebrew was taught by L. Immanuel, I. van Dort, a converted Jew from the Dukedom Gulich, who was allowed by the Directors by Resolution dated 25th March, 1754, a free passage on one of the Company's ships from Europe to Ceylon, and who, on his departure from Holland, was intended for the Seminary. Croschel, a man who had studied at Halle, was preceptor then, about 1767, &c.

Some idea can be formed of the progress made by the pupils from the report of what was learnt by them, as regards the Dutch language, in 1½ years, viz., from 22nd April, 1706, to 21st July, 1707. This included the following:—Dutch and Sinhalese letters and syllables, their pronunciation and form, the spelling of words and names, the reading of different print and writing in a running hand, translation in both languages of 2,077 words, and besides 36 titles, the numbers, names of days, months, &c., the genders and declension of nouns, the difference in the persons, use of articles, pronouns, and the declension, the combination of substantives and adjectives, conjugation of the verbs *zijn* or *wezen* and *worden*, and some general orations. One would imagine from this that Dutch was a very difficult language for Indian pupils. Of course, examinations were held from time to time. This was when they left the Seminary, and it was a condition for their advancement and entry into social life. Such an examination for three pupils was held in Colombo on the 15th and 18th October, 1706, by the Rector in the presence of the Rev. Arnold Swem, Gerardus de Oude, and Nicholas Rimersma. The first had specially come from Point de Galle. First of all, three texts (Rom. III, 24; 2nd Peter I, 20 and 21, and I Cor. II, 2) were given to the candidates to be "propounded". If

the result of this was unfavourable, the three students could not be passed as proponents. The examiners, the aforesaid ministers, submitted a detailed written report, with reasons for their decision, to the Governor of Ceylon on the 22nd October, 1706.

I think it unnecessary to recount all the vicissitudes through which this Seminary passed. Suffice it to know that it was established, abolished, re-opened and extended, and finally quite discontinued. The agreement between men of earlier and later years on this point is remarkable. While Heldring finds in the Seminaries spoken of, the adaptability of Oriental peoples to higher culture and religious development, an opinion shared by the late Professor Millies and the Rev. Schumann, the Governor-General van Imhoff's advice was perseverance in the face of disappointment and failure. "Il n'importe qu'on en ait fait l'épreuve sans succès. Ce qui n'a point réussi dans un siècle peut réussir dans l'autre. La Seminaire établi à Ceylon est un épreuve de la possibilité de l'entreprise".

And now we have reached the stage at which we have to make some further observations. Dr. Glasius says rightly that the Theological Seminary of Colombo has been of great service. It has produced more competent teachers who have done very good service to the Church in the Indies:—

- 1744. Sigisbertus Abraham van Bronsveld (Misties).
- 1744. Johan Joachim Eybrandsz (Misties).
- 1750. Johan Jacob Meyer, Doctor of Divinity (Misties).
- 1752. Petrus Cornelis (Casties)  
all of whom studied at Leyden.
- 1747. Franciscus Jansen, Tamil.
- 1747. Petrus de Zylva, Tamil.
- 1747. Benjamin Cabraesch, Sinhalese.
- 1747. Johannes van den Broek, Casties.
- 1752. Willem Juriaan Ondaatje, Tamil.
- 1752. Hendrik Philipsz, Sinhalese.
- 1755. Bastiaan Janszen, Tamil.
- 1755. Philip Gerhard Juriaan Ondaatje, Tamil.  
who completed their studies at Utrecht.
- 1755. Andreas Spoor, Misties.

Most of these returned as ministers to the Indies. They received a sum of 300 rix dollars yearly from the East India Company for their education at the Academy.

Apart from these results there cannot, however, be an absolutely favourable opinion passed on the Seminary. Whilst at the Jaffnapatnam Seminary the nearness of parents and relations and contact with them were very prejudicial, the complaint in Colombo was that the pupils were estranged from their families. But apart from this we find it expressly stated that it appeared that "all that

the pupils learnt was to recite from memory", whilst it was even less indirectly stated that the little progress made by the pupils in this institution was not to be ascribed to the imperfect tuition of the masters.

The Governor of Ceylon, Mr. Cornelis Jan Simonsz (1703-1706), thought it necessary to advise that the pupils "should not have their thoughts engaged on the current theological disputes" and "as much as possible improve their memory", but, on the contrary, regard should be paid "to their understanding and judgment". Various other causes combined to defeat well-intentioned endeavours, but the chief mistake has been, in my opinion, to choose natives for difficult studies and prepare them for difficult offices. If they had only in view what are, in our day, called "native fellow-workers" a limited success may have been expected. But no, they would make ministers and theologians of natives who had not learnt anything worthy of the name of learning. They were even obliged to devote themselves to philosophical studies. Edmund Burke has said that a much clearer intellect is required for the moral than for the natural sciences. But here uncultured people were taken from a semi-civilised race to be placed in offices demanding earnest and close study. As if a fetish worshipper could suddenly rise to the elevated conception of Christianity, and as if many centuries were not required for us and our neighbours to emerge from heathenism to their present condition and notions of the world. And what warrant had the Advocate of the East India Company, Mr. Pieter van Dam, to venture to predict that this Seminary would not last twenty years it is difficult for us to say, but we know well that after four years it ceased to exist. It was often re-established and was still in existence in 1780. There are some who say that the Governor of Ceylon, Johannes Schreuder, had much to do with the discontinuance of both Seminaries in the Island.

Two youths left the Seminary (Batavia) to study in Holland. Both were enrolled the same day (21st September, 1754) at Leyden as students, and recorded as alumni of the Directors of the East India Company in this the State College. They were Nicolaas Graay and Anthony Mooyart.<sup>9</sup>

Munnich expressly asserts regarding the schools in Ceylon during the 18th century that in them religious instruction was the chief object. Fully a hundred years ago it was a great complaint against a Sinhalese schoolmaster that he could not catechize. But from early times provision was made for elementary education.

9. Not the Commandeur of Jaffna but his nephew. He married Cornelia Petronella, the daughter of Pieter Schokman and Maria Kijk van Mierop. *Translator.*

Our ancestors sometimes found nice school-houses, (not in large numbers as in the thickly populated province of Jaffnapatnam,) built by the Portuguese and taken over by the Reformed Church.

Once a Christian school was established in a former Buddhist temple, another in a Roman Catholic chapel. The school-houses in the villages of Ceylon were also intended for use as churches, and baptisms, marriages, &c. took place there. The Church Register was kept by the teacher. Among the schoolmasters we find Jan Reijners, Claas Janson, Willem van Langenhove, Gillis Heyndricks, Heijndrik Lucass, Lubbert Claessen, N. Victor, Thomas Rodrigues, Francisco Mole, Jan Tak, Claas Jacobson Snouck, Laurens Tenock. Indeed, in the same Island of Ceylon regarding which we have written so favourably on the point of education in early times, the Sinhalese masters, with two or three exceptions, took to their business only for the purpose of gain, and paid little regard for their souls. Some of them were even reported to the Church Council as being exorcists! Still worse was the testimony of a later period as regards the district of Colombo. The native schoolmasters and catechists were often idolatrous "drunken covetous men, and the few honest men among them great dunces".<sup>10</sup>

Education in Ceylon made most progress in the second half of the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1663 in Jaffnapatnam alone there were 15,012 native school-children. Two years later the figures reached 18,000. In the district of Colombo in 1674 the number was 1,300. It increased rapidly, and five years later it was 3,787. In one of the many villages of Jaffnapatnam, Telipoli, (Telippalay) about which a minute statistical account is given, where the number of school-children was 1,000, there were 480 children who could not only repeat the whole of the Catechism and prayers, but also properly give the reasons concerning what they repeated, shewing that they understood what they learnt.<sup>11</sup> Well disposed Governors furthered education by the establishment of many schools, as for example Governor J. A. van Rumpf, who died in 1723.

The number of schools for the whole of Ceylon amounted in 1722 to 75, viz., 38 in the district of Colombo, 19 in Matara, and 18 in Galle. At the last mentioned place there was much difficulty in inducing the parents to send their children to school (1727), the Sinhalese being averse to it. The yearly school visits of the Commission of Inspection did not often take place in consequence.

10. Hofstede. t.a.p. I, 224. The opinion of Escheiskroon regarding the European teachers in the East Indies in the 18th century is very unfavourable. (Sumatra 184, 185).

11. Baldaeus, t.a.p. bl. 161-164, mentions *inter alia* Mallagam, with 400, Maylitti, 750, Achiaveli, 400 to 500, Oudewil, 600, Batecoite, 800 to 900, Panteripou, 600 children. He also gives illustrations of most of the school-houses.



Once, in 1731, an examination was even prevented by the crowds of shrieking people. The Inspector came there just in time. The teachers had reason often to complain against the villagers. The number of slave children attending school in Ceylon was given separately in the statistics of the District of Jaffna in the yearly reports of this date (first half of the 18th century) forwarded to the Consistory of Colombo. Two hundred of such pupil slaves belonging to the Company received (about 1681) their education at the institution in Colombo. There were also other masters specially appointed by Government to teach the slaves of private persons. In 1723 it was specially provided that when there were more than 200 pupils, a second assistant master should be appointed. And this was done at once in respect of six schools. But later, during the Church visits, there were found in some schools more than 700 pupils who had only one teacher!

In the second half of the 17th century in Ceylon there was a great want of elementary school books, catechisms and school requisites. The preachers of Colombo complained about this in 1662. And on this point the statement of Professor Willmet is wrong "that the East India Company made ample provision in this respect". The supply of teaching material was exceedingly scanty. The children had few or no books. There was still in general use the Sinhalese manner of writing with an iron style on *olas* or palm leaves, before mentioned. There were in Galle in 1702 special schools for the Sinhalese. And while in 1661 the Directors limited the salaries of teachers from 20 to 24 guilders a month, later, about 1720, these people were not all remunerated. In consequence of the over-crowding in the schools, the most advanced pupils had to teach the less advanced, whilst there were those who could only repeat the Lord's Prayer.

The school order of 1684 (for election of Inspectors of Schools) appears to have been in force throughout the whole of the Indies. But before this, 25th December, 1663, there was in Ceylon an "Instructie" passed for the Inspectors of Schools of Colombo, Jaffnapatnam and Galle, which was in March 1667 further confirmed and approved. In each of the three places aforesaid there were to be two influential, pious and intelligent men and members of the Reformed Church, whose business was to see to the upkeep of the buildings and the establishment of new schools, govern the same, direct and control the work of the masters, remove them when necessary, and appoint others, etc.

It is characteristic that in this "Instructie" it is provided that great care should be taken of native girls "above eight years of age, so that they should not be led away by the wantonness of the boys and others. At their 10th year therefore the girls had to

leave the school". The Inspectors appear to have once abused their power. At least, on the 29th February, 1731, it was declared that they had not the power to dismiss native school-masters without the previous knowledge of the Government.

In Ceylon, the "*Commission of the Inspection*" consisted of the Dissave of the District of Colombo (the highest officer next to the Governor), who was president, all the clergymen, of whom one acted as Secretary, and three or four others, Civil or Military persons. The members were nominated by the Governor. Their business related to matters other than education alone. The native village and marriage registers were kept under their supervision; they entertained complaints, settled marriage disputes, and had a discretionary power to grant permission to marry in case of blood-relationship. Two members of the Commission were yearly deputed, with the consent and authority of the Governor, to visit all the schools. Their arrival was previously announced to the villages by beat of tom-toms. At each school the Inspector spent a whole day. During the school inspection, there was service in the afternoons, baptisms were gone through, marriages solemnized, &c. At the age of 15 the children were sent away from school.

In the District of Colombo, from 1700 to 1730, yearly reports on the state of education were submitted to the Committee of Inspection. During the first few years after the creation of that body, about 1681, their meetings were held very regularly, but afterwards they became lax, and from November 1698 to August 1703 these meetings were not held at all, "which caused a great confusion among the schools, they having fallen into ruin and the materials removed by those who had to do the repairs".

As regards the teachers, their lot was not enviable. One of them, who had honourably discharged his difficult and useful duties for 25 years, and was unfit through old age to do his work any longer, was reduced to the utmost poverty, and had to ask for aid from the school management. This took place in Diagam, in the district of Colombo, on 2nd October, 1704. See the report of the school visitors, the Rev. Gerardus de Oude, Petrus Synjen, and the Inspector, G. de Costa, addressed to the Governor, Mr. Cornelis Jan Simonsz.

(To be continued)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of the Thirty-third Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burgher Union, held in the Union Hall, on Saturday, 22nd March, 1941, at 5-30 p.m.

Mr. J. R. Toussaint, the President, occupied the Chair, and there were about 75 members present.

The Honorary Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting, after which the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

### Presidential Address.

THE PRESIDENT then addressed the meeting as follows:—

"It is my privilege to address you once again from this Chair. The period under review has, in spite of war conditions, been characterized by much activity. The Union took its full share in the efforts being put forth by all classes of the people to contribute towards the various War Funds, and the result is such as we have no reason to be ashamed of, considering the smallness of our numbers and the limited range of our resources. But we must not rest satisfied with what we have already done. The circumstances call for sustained activity on our part, and we must see to it that we do not slacken in our efforts as long as the need continues. Everybody connected with the Union co-operated in the task of raising money, but I must make special mention of the work done by our indefatigable Secretary, on whom the brunt of the work fell, and who acquitted himself with credit.

"There is a small decrease in the number of members on the roll at the end of the year as compared with the previous year, but this is of no significance when the abnormal times through which we are passing is taken into consideration. In fact, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves that the position is no worse than it is. The number of new members who joined was 19 as against 32 in the previous year, while the number of members who ceased their connection with the Union for various reasons was 31 as against 41 in the previous year.

"I am glad to say that there was no abatement in the literary activities of the Union. The Literary Committee, under the Secretaryship of Mr. Wace de Niese, and the Reading Circle, provided a full programme of lectures and papers, all of which were of great interest and much appreciated; but I have to repeat the criticism I made last year in regard to the very small share taken by the younger members of the Union in literary matters. If the present tendency continues, it will not be long before our Community loses the reputation for culture which it has enjoyed for many years. The situation is really serious, and I earnestly appeal to the younger members to realise their responsibility in this matter. Proficiency in games is good in its own way, but if it is to serve a useful purpose it must go hand in hand with mental culture.

"The Social Service Committee had more money at its disposal than during the previous year, the usual contributions from members being supplemented by a grant of Rs. 500 from the Public Assistance Committee, and a sum of Rs. 667 realised as the proceeds of entertainments held in aid of Social Service funds; but owing to the fact that these amounts were received towards the end of the year, it was not possible to make full use of our resources. However, a sum of Rs. 2,350 was expended in the payment of pensions, school fees, and casual relief. Among the larger items included in this figure was the amount spent on the maintenance at the Government Training College of a young man who, it is gratifying to report, has now completed his period of training and is earning his own livelihood. The building of cottages for the poor on the land generously donated by Dr. Spittel has had to be deferred owing to the war. In addition to its ordinary work, the Social Service Committee provided hampers for the poor at Christmas time, and the Willing Workers' Depot did useful work in distributing clothes and other useful articles. Miss Grace van Dort can easily find any number of poor persons glad to receive any old things if members will only take the trouble to send them to the Union Hall.

"Mrs. Beatrice Loos, who did excellent work as Secretary of the Social Service Committee, has been compelled, owing to ill-health, to resign this office. Our grateful thanks are due to her for her ungrudging services. She has been succeeded by Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand who, there is no doubt, will apply herself to her new duties with her customary thoroughness.

"There is nothing special to record regarding the genealogical work of the Union. A number of genealogies, prepared with much care by Mr. Altendorff, were published in the Journal, and we are much indebted to him for undertaking this important duty, which to him is a labour of love.

"In spite of the war, the social activities of the Union were carried on almost without interruption. At the beginning it was felt by some members that in view of the grave events that were taking place, all forms of gaiety should be suspended. There were others—and they formed the great majority—who thought that the circumstances did not call for any curtailment of social activities. The view of the majority prevailed, and in the end this was found to be the correct view, as other social organizations were found to be carrying on just as before. As Secretary of the Entertainment Committee, Mr. Fred Loos has proved his worth. His charm of manner has attracted to the Union Hall many new members, and all the entertainments organized by him were very successful.

"The Journal still continues to be supported by only a few loyal members who appreciate its value and subscribe to it year after year. The number of subscribers had fallen so low during the course of the year that it was feared it might be necessary to

discontinue publication ; but thanks to the generosity of a member, who was deeply impressed with the usefulness of the Journal, this calamity has been averted. But this does not mean that the obligation on the part of individual members to support the Journal has ceased to exist. Every member should feel that he has a personal interest in the maintenance of the Journal, and should make it a point of honour to subscribe to it, whether the contents appeal to him or not.

"We have taken an important step forward by establishing a Vocation Fund, but here again it has been left to only a few members to shoulder the whole burden. When it is realised how much ground we have lost, and are continuing to lose, in the higher walks of life, the necessity for supplying new recruits to take the places of those who have retired cannot be over-emphasised. But yet what a little we have done to make it possible for our promising young men, who usually belong to poor families, to compete on equal terms with the young men of other communities who do not lack the means of pursuing their higher studies. We have been able to provide so far for only one young man. If we can provide for at least ten young men in a year, we shall not do badly. But to do this we want the co-operation of a larger number of members. The sum of Rs. 100 fixed as the minimum subscription to the Vocation Fund is within the means of a large proportion of our members, and I earnestly appeal to them to support a Fund which will be of inestimable benefit to the Community.

"Last year, speaking with reference to the Schneider Scholarships, I referred to the extraordinarily little interest that we, as a Community, are taking in the education of our children. I regret to say that this indifference still persists. One would have thought that in a highly literate Community like ours, there would be a scramble for free scholarships, and that the supply would fall short of the demand. But this is far from being the case. The Warden of St. Thomas' College finds it difficult to get sufficient candidates to fill the vacancies, with the result that some of the scholarships have to be left unfilled. Such a state of affairs does no credit to our Community. It is time we awoke to a realisation of our position, and took advantage of the educational benefits offered to us at our very door.

"We are at last within measurable distance of establishing a Reference Library. The value of such a Library cannot be over-estimated. More than ever before, questions regarding the manners, customs, and policy of our ancestors are cropping up, and it is very necessary that we should have the material ready to hand on which to base a correct judgment. The provision of a Reference Library necessarily connotes the existence of research workers, and I hope that when the Library is established, as it shortly will be, we shall see a large number of members, especially the younger ones, making use of the rich store of knowledge which will be available to them.

"Before concluding my remarks, I should like briefly to refer to a subject which is of vital importance to us. When the Union was organised 33 years ago, the position of our Community in the field of politics was more or less secure. Under the system of nomination which then prevailed, the Burghers were always sure of representation in the Councils of Government; but radical changes have taken place since, and influences are now at work to take away even the very meagre representation we enjoy in the way of Nominated Seats. The theory is usually advanced that, in an election, the right type of Burgher would always have an equal chance with the members of the majority communities. This would be a correct statement of the position if merit was the sole deciding factor, but not when considerations of caste and creed and race enter into the matter. It behoves us therefore to take a greater interest in politics and to see that we are not deprived of representation altogether. The Union as a body may not perhaps take an active part in politics, but it is open to us in our private capacity to organise ourselves with the object of preserving the political rights of the Community. It is gratifying to see that this has been done on more than one occasion recently with conspicuous success.

"The accounts which are before you show that the finances are in a satisfactory state. Unlike the previous year, the year under review closed with a balance on the right side, and for this satisfactory result we are indebted to our hard-working Treasurer, Mr. Altendorff, and his equally indefatigable Assistant, Mr. vander-Straaten. I must also tender my grateful thanks to Mr. Cecil Speldewinde and his Assistant, Mr. Pautusz, for the excellent work done by them on the secretarial side. Mr. Johnson as usual performed his duties with efficiency and promptitude.

"I now move that the Report and Accounts be taken as read and adopted."

The motion was duly seconded and on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

### Election of Office-Bearers.

The President then vacated the Chair, and on the motion of Mr. R. S. V. Poulier, seconded by Dr. G. F. Bartholomeusz, Mr. G. A. Willé, M.S.C. was voted to the Chair, *pro tem*.

Mr. G. A. Willé proposed the re-election of Mr. J. R. Toussaint as President for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded by Colonel A. C. B. Jonklaas and carried unanimously. On resuming the Chair, Mr. Toussaint thanked the meeting for this expression of their continued confidence in him.

Mr. C. A. Speldewinde proposed and Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz seconded the election of Mr. W. J. A. vanLangenberg, C.C.S. as Honorary Secretary. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Speldewinde then thanked the meeting for the assistance rendered to him as Secretary during the past year.

Mr. R. L. Brohier proposed and Mr. C. Schokman seconded the election of Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten, I.S.O., as Honorary Treasurer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz proposed and Dr. G. F. Bartholomeusz seconded that the following gentlemen be elected to serve on the General Committee:—

**Colombo Members.** Dr. J. R. Blaze, Messrs. L. E. Blaze, R. L. Brohier, Drs. F. E. R. Bartholomeusz, H. S. Christoffelsz, Mr. A. E. Direkze, Drs. H. A. Direkze, F. V. Foenander, Messrs. G. H. Gratiaen, J. F. Jansz, Rosslyn Koch, Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Messrs. H. K. de Kretser, H. E. de Kretser, O. L. de Kretser, Jr., F. E. Loos, L. M. Maartensz, J. A. Martensz, A. C. Meier, A. J. H. Martin, Dr. A. Nell, Mr. J. P. de Vos, Drs. L. E. J. Poulier, Eric Schokman, R. L. Spittel, Messrs. C. A. Speldewinde, R. S. V. Poulier, H. Vanden Driesen, H. L. Wendt, and G. A. Willé (Snr.)

**Out-Station Members.** Dr. V. H. L. Anthonisz, Messrs. C. P. Brohier, A. E. Christoffelsz, G. V. Grenier, Bertie Grenier, Col. E. H. Joseph, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Messrs. E. G. Jonklaas, G. P. Keuneman, H. R. Kriekenbeek, Drs. H. Ludovici, H. U. Leembruggen, Messrs. Wace de Niese, C. E. de Vos and Hubert de Vos.

Dr. R. L. Spittel and Mr. O. L. de Kretser, Jr., having expressed a desire to stand out, the remaining 43 names, were put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The filling up of the vacancy caused by Mr. O. L. de Kretser, Jr., declining to serve was then taken up. The following names were put up:—

Mr. D. V. Altendorff—proposed by Mr. O. L. de Kretser, Jr., and seconded by Dr. R. L. Spittel.

Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz—proposed by Dr. G. F. Bartholomeusz and seconded by Mr. R. S. V. Poulier.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and resulted as follows:—

For Mr. D. V. Altendorff ... 40 votes.

For Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz ... 33 votes.

Mr. D. V. Altendorff was accordingly declared duly elected.

Dr. R. L. Spittel having now intimated that he was prepared to serve on the Committee, his name was proposed by Mr. J. F. Jansz and seconded by Mr. R. L. Brohier. On being put to the meeting the motion was carried unanimously.

### Auditors.

On the motion of Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten seconded by Mr. R. L. Brohier, Messrs. Krishna and Rogers were re-appointed Auditors for the year 1941 on the same remuneration as before.

The business having been concluded a collection was taken in aid of the Social Service Fund.

## THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee have much pleasure in submitting the following Report for the year 1940.

**Membership.**—The total number of members on the roll at the end of the year was four less than at the end of the previous year, but an increase in the number of members paying higher rates of subscription is encouraging.

Colombo Members.	1939	1940
Paying Rs. 2/50	... 67	70
" Re. 1/-	... 65	78 a
" Cts. -/50	... 176	157 b
<b>Outstation Members.</b>		
Paying Re. 1/-	.. 61	57 c
" Cts. -/50	... 79	80 d
Out of the Island	... 5	7
	453	449

The nett loss of 4 in membership is arrived at as follows:—

At 31.12.39	... 453
Deduct:—Died	... 6
Resigned	... 9
Struck off under Rule 6 (e) & (f)	16 31
	422
Add:—New members	... 19
Re-elected	... 8
	449

**General Committee and Office-Bearers.**—12 ordinary meetings were held during the year, with an average attendance of 19. Mr. A. N. Weinman was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Colombo Committee consequent on the death of Mr. A. L. de Witt,

- a. Includes 15 lady members.
- b. Includes 41 lady members.
- c. Includes 1 lady member.
- d. Includes 8 lady members.

and Mr. Bertie Granier was appointed to fill the resulting vacancy on the Outstation Committee. Mr. Weinman has since left the Island on War Service. Dr. H. A. Dirckze was elected a member of the Committee to fill a vacancy. During the absence of the Secretary on three months' leave, out of the Island, his duties were attended to by Mr. C. L. H. Paulusz, the Assistant Secretary, with much acceptance.

**Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.**—Much sustained activity was shewn by this branch of the Union during the year under review. The Discussion Circle supplies an admirable training ground for young speakers, but is to be regretted that full advantage is not taken of the opportunity thus offered. Nine meetings were held during the year, when the following introduced subjects for discussion:—Dr. H. A. Dirckze ("Science in the Home"); Mr. Ellis Granier ("Mein Kampf in Europe"); Mr. J. Vijaya Tunga ("Literary Experiences in Europe and America"); Mr. R. A. Kriekenbeek ("The Short Story of the Present Day"); Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy ("Some Catch-words in Politics"); Mr. J. R. Toussaint ("Women's Contributions to Ceylon Literature"); Mr. B. D. N. Toussaint, B.A. ("Conventional Morality"); Mr. B. W. Jansz, B.A. ("Impressions of a Student in War-time England"); and Dr. E. V. Burns ("Some of the Work of the Irrigation Department").

In addition to these readings, the series of lectures also was continued, and for this we are indebted to Mr. Wace de Niese, the Secretary of the Ethical and Literary Committee. The following delivered lectures, all of which were of a high standard:—The Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman ("A Visit to England during War-time"); Mr. R. S. V. Poulier, C.C.S. ("More Cine-wanderings"); Mr. G. A. Wille, M.S.C. ("Fifty Years Ago"); Dr. C. S. de Radwan-Pragłowski ("Psychology"); Mrs. D. G. D. Harpur ("The World Youth Conference"); Mr. Abraham Gardiner ("Forty-thousand Miles in Four Months"); and Dr. Lucian de Zilva ("From Parnell's Ireland to Eire").

**Committee for Purposes of Social Service.**—This Committee met regularly every month, the average attendance being 10 out of a total of 19 members. Mrs. B. E. Loos continued to perform the duties of Secretary with much acceptance. In addition to casual relief, to the extent of Rs. 79/-, regular monthly allow-

ances were paid to 36 persons, as against 32 in the previous year, the average amount spent monthly being Rs. 131/-.

The following figures shew the receipts from all sources:—

Balance in hand on 31-12-39	Rs.	150 75
Contributions from Members	"	2,057 54
Grant from Union	"	325 00
Proceeds from Entertainments	"	667 67
Dividend on 29 Building Coy. Shares	"	43 50
Grant from Public Assistance Committee	"	500 00

Rs. 3,744 46

The balance in hand on 31st December 1940, was Rs. 1,351-39. This somewhat large balance is due to the fact that the contribution from the Public Assistance Committee and the proceeds of entertainments were received towards the end of the year, and could not therefore be fully expended. There is still much destitution in the Community, and the Committee hope to be able to take up this year some of the more deserving cases which had to be held over for want of funds.

Much useful assistance has been granted to promising students by the payment of their college or school fees. One of such students, who was attending the Training College, has now completed his course and has obtained employment, while two students are being prepared for a commercial career.

Rough sketch plans of the cottages proposed to be built for the poor on the land generously offered to the Union by Dr. R. L. Spittel have been prepared, but owing to the war conditions prevailing it has not been possible to make any progress with the scheme. It is hoped to do something definite this year.

The usual distribution of hampers to the poor took place at Christmas. Owing to the insufficiency of funds in hand, coupled with the rising price of household commodities, it looked at one time as if the number of hampers, 42 of which were issued the previous year, would have to be considerably reduced; but owing to the generosity of some members, who readily responded to a special appeal for help, it was possible to issue 36 full hampers. Packets of tea, kindly supplied by Mr. A. C. Meier, Mrs. Ruth Kelaart, and Mrs. R. L. Spittel, went to supplement the contents

of each hamper. These ladies were also responsible for providing a Christmas Tree for the children of very poor families. Fifty-six children under ten years of age received toys and were provided with refreshments.

The Willing Workers' Depot continues to do its beneficent work under the careful supervision of Miss Grace van Dort. Several distributions of clothes etc. were made during the year, but the supply is far short of the demand, and it is hoped that all members who have cast-off things—not necessarily clothes alone—will send them to the Union Hall, where Miss van Dort will take charge of them.

**Committee of Purposes for Increasing Membership.**—This Committee has prepared certain data which will be of assistance in the effort to increase the membership.

**Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research.**—During the year the Committee met on seven occasions, with an average attendance of six members. The number of applications dealt with was 19, and all were recommended to the General Committee.

**Committee for Purposes of Entertainment and Sport.**—A full programme of Socials, Tournaments and dances, drawn up at the first meeting of the Committee in March, was practically carried out to completion. The Committee's endeavour has been to try to create a happy environment, and the events were arranged with this idea, and also with the object of attracting to the Club members who do not come here regularly. The Committee feel that these objects have in great measure been realised.

The usual Governor's Cup Dance in August and the New Year's Eve Dance in December drew full houses and were very successful events, especially the latter.

In June the Committee organized a Cocktail Dance in aid of the "Send-a-Plane" Fund, and this enabled the Union to remit to this deserving Fund the sum of Rs. 225. Early in the year the young ladies of the Club were At Home to the members, and everybody enjoyed this function. The Bachelors were not going to be beaten, so they entertained the members in October in a similar manner, with a similar result.

A hard-working Committee and generous contributions from members made the Fun and Fare event held in September an

amazing success. The major part of the proceeds of this Fair was given to war charities.

The Billiards and Russian Pool Tournaments were started in November. Both of them were very keenly contested and drew quite a number of interested spectators.

The Committee desires to record its gratitude to all the members who co-operated in making the programme of the past year so successful.

**St. Nicholaas' Fete.**—The celebrations this year were on the same lines as on previous years, and the function was, as usual, a great success. A large gathering of members, with their wives and children, filled the Hall and grounds to overflowing, and the scene was one of great animation when, outdoor games being over and refreshments partaken of, the distribution of the toys took place with the arrival of the Bishop. The arrangements were in the hands of a Committee of ladies, assisted by a few gentlemen, and they are to be congratulated on the efficiency with which the whole function was run. As in previous years, a special subscription was raised to meet the expenses and totalled Rs. 759/-. out of which Rs. 647/79 was spent, the balance being carried forward to next year's account. 133 children participated in the function as against 144 in the previous year.

**Committee for Historical Manuscripts and Monuments.**—This Committee met on two occasions during the year. At both meetings the desirability and the ways and means of bringing to public notice the early necessity for conserving some of the Forts and Churches of Dutch origin, were considered and discussed.

Although some very constructive suggestions have been collected, obviously in the present unsettled conditions our ambitions must lie dormant. One forward move has been the passing of a motion which was brought up by Mr. G. A. Wille, the Nominated Member, in the State Council, that the upkeep of the old Dutch Churches should be vested in the Public Works Department.

**Committee for Building Shares.**—This sub-committee was unable to do anything during the year, as a doubt has arisen whether, in view of the Articles of Association of the Buildings Company, the Union as such could purchase and hold shares in the Company. The Directors have been asked to consider the question



of amending the Articles, and it is hoped that a satisfactory solution will be found soon.

**The Journal and Bulletin.**—No material improvement has taken place during the year in regard to the number of subscribers to the Journal, which notwithstanding the poor support it received, was issued with commendable regularity, and contained articles of permanent value and interest to the Community, among which may be mentioned the translation of extracts from a Dutch work on "The Dutch Reformed Church in Ceylon, 1602—1795", made by the late Mr. F. H. de Vos, and prepared for publication by Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, who has devoted much time and labour to the work. Mr. D. V. Altendorff continued his series of interesting genealogies.

Towards the close of the year a generous donation of Rs. 1,000/- was received from a prominent member, who wishes to remain anonymous, towards furthering the literary activities of the Union. We are deeply grateful to him for the interest he has shewn, in such a practical manner, in this branch of the Union's work. The money will be utilised for improving the Journal and other kindred objects.

The Bulletin now holds a recognized place as a medium for keeping members informed of what is taking place in the Union, and setting before them high ideals. It made its appearance regularly throughout the year as an eight-page publication.

**De Hoedt Medical Scholarship Fund.**—Three students continue to be assisted by the Fund. One student completed the First Professional Examination during the year.

The Medical College fees paid during the year amounted to Rs. 800/-. The cash in the Bank on 31st December, 1940, was Rs. 1,636/78 as against Rs. 1,864/61 in 1939.

The funds of the Trust, viz., Rs. 15,000/-, have been invested in house property at 6 per cent., and interest is being paid regularly.

**The Vocation Fund.**—Fair progress has been made with the building up of this Fund, the object of which is to assist promising boys and girls of the Community, of good character and outstanding ability, to qualify themselves for a profession or vocation for which their talents are best adapted. The assistance given is to be

in the nature of a loan, which the person helped undertakes by a signed agreement to refund in instalments when he is in a position to do so, thus enabling other deserving cases to be taken up from time to time.

The management of the Fund is carried out by a Committee consisting of the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Union, and four other members elected triennially by the general body of subscribers. The *Ex-Officio* members of the Committee of Management are not entitled to vote at meetings unless they are subscribers to the Fund. The minimum subscription has been fixed at Rs. 100/-. The total amount of subscriptions received or promised so far amounts to Rs. 5,850/-.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Committee has already been able to take up the case of a youth who has shewn a marked bent for medicine. He is at present being assisted to prepare for the Pre-Medical Examination preparatory to entering the Medical College. The scheme is full of possibilities and is one which should appeal to all members of the Union—and there are many such—who can afford to pay the minimum subscription of Rs. 100/-.

**Speldewinde Trust Fund.**—Savings Bank interest accrued for the year amounted to Rs. 70/65, and the balance to the credit of the Fund now is Rs. 2,429/55. This interest is being used for the payment of the school fees of a child in accordance with the terms of the Trust.

**Loos Legacy.**—The interest accrued during the year amounted to Rs. 164/85, and the balance to the credit of the Fund is now Rs. 5,663/86.

**Beling Memorial Fund.**—The amount to the credit of this Fund is now Rs. 537/07. The interest from this Fund is available for the encouragement of the study of Art among members of the Union and their families.

**Schneider Scholarship.**—When these scholarships were first established, one of the rules was that they were to be open to boys of Christian parentage, whose parents (or one of such) were members of the Dutch Burgher Union for a period of at least five years before the date of application for a scholarship. Experience shewed that the five years' requirement was one not easy to fulfil, and

on the difficulty being represented to Lady Schneider, she was good enough to waive this condition, so that children are now eligible for the scholarships irrespective of the length of membership of their parents.

But this concession has not had the desired effect. During the year 1940, five scholarships were reserved for children whose parents were members of the Union. At the first examination, it was possible to fill only two of the scholarships, partly owing to the limited number who applied, and partly to the poor attainments of the candidates. It was only after a further examination that the full number of five scholarships available was filled. Four of these scholarships are of the annual value of Rs. 165/- each, and one of Rs. 550/-.

At a test fixed for the beginning of this year for two scholarships of the value of Rs. 165/- and Rs. 200/- each, reserved for children of members of the Union, there was not a single boy who offered himself for the examination, and the award of the scholarships has therefore had to be postponed until March, when another test will be held. Full publicity has from time to time been given to these scholarships in the Bulletin, and it is regrettable that the response has been hitherto inadequate. We are confident, however, that there will be an improvement in the situation in the course of a very few years.

**Reference Library.**—Ever since the Union came into being 33 years ago, the establishment of a Reference Library of books, chiefly those relating to the Dutch occupation of the Island, has been one of its principal aims; but the want of funds has stood in the way of its accomplishment. But at last, through the kind generosity of the same member who has given Rs. 1,000/- for the furtherance of the literary activities of the Union, a further sum of Rs. 1000/- has been placed at our disposal for a Reference Library, and we are now in a position to supply this long-felt want. We cannot be too grateful to this member for his thoughtfulness. A sub-committee has been appointed to draw up a list of books to be purchased, and the Library should soon be an accomplished fact. Every precaution will be taken for the safe custody of the books.

**Reading Room.**—This indispensable adjunct of the Union continued to be stocked with a large supply of magazines, some of which were obtained on the system by which the member pays two-

thirds of the cost and the Union one-third, and some generously passed on to the Union free of charge by members after reading. We are much obliged to the latter class for their generosity.

**Dutch Class.**—A Dutch Class, under the supervision of Mr. J. A. Poulier, was organized in the early part of the year. It was attended by about 15 members and much enthusiasm was shewn at the start; but the interest gradually began to wane, and it was decided to discontinue the classes at the end of the year owing to the small attendance.

**Tennis Section.**—The membership is still poor, the number of resignations being more than the number of elections. An encouraging sign is the support received from the older members of the Union, a number of whom have joined as Pavilion Members. It is hoped that others will follow their good example.

The usual annual tournament has been postponed indefinitely pending repairs to the courts, which are badly needed. A successful American Tournament was, however, held.

The rules have been altered to permit of affiliation, and an application has been made to the General Committee for affiliation to the Union. A joint sub-committee consisting of members of the Union and of the Tennis Club are considering the question.

**Union's Share in the War Effort.**—The Union has taken its full share in contributing to War Funds. The Social and Sports Clubs of Ceylon banded themselves together to raise funds for this purpose. This Union organised a Carnival on a fairly large scale in the Union premises on 7th September. Rs. 500/- of the proceeds was credited to the Social Service Fund of the Union and the balance Rs. 1,776/54 was distributed among various War Funds.

A donation from Union funds was supplemented by the proceeds of a Cocktail Dance, and several members have augmented the direct subscriptions they are making to War Funds by making further contributions through the Union.

During the year under review, the following amounts were sent to the Funds:—

Social and Sports Clubs War Purposes			
Fund	...	...	Rs. 1,500 00
Duke of Gloucester Fund and Hospital			
Supply Association	...	...	„ 1,023 50

Send-a-Plane Fund	...	...	Rs.	725 00
Air Raid Distress Fund	...	...	"	276 54
Fund for Sailors	...	...	"	78 00
Tobacco for the Troops Fund	...	...	"	20 00

A further sum of Rs. 473/81 has been collected towards a second instalment of Rs. 500/- which will be sent to the Social and Sports Clubs War Purposes Fund.

**Finance.**—The Finance Committee met regularly every month with an average attendance of 6 members.

The accounts of the Union, duly audited, are herewith submitted, from which it will appear that the total Income for the year amounted to Rs. 8,833/26. The Expenditure, which included the sum of Rs. 275/- donated to War Funds, amounted to Rs. 8,655/47, leaving a credit balance at the end of the year of Rs. 177/29.

C. A. SPELDEWINDE,  
*Hony. Secretary.*

26th February, 1941.

## THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended the 31st December, 1940.

wines, spirits, Ales, etc.	551 00	
8 Volumes, The Dutch in Ceylon ...	39 50	630 58
PIANO:—		
As per last Balance Sheet	360 85	
Less Depreciation at 10 % per annum	36 08	324 77
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES:—		
As per last Balance Sheet	3,408 01	
Less Depreciation at 10 % per annum	340 80	
	3,067 21	
Additions	22 25	3,089 46
		<u>Rs. 25,235 51</u>

Rs. 25,235 51

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing Balance Sheet has been properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct record of the state of affairs of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon according to the books of accounts and the information and explanations given me, and subject to my Report of this date.

LAWRIE MUTHU KRISHNA,  
*Public Auditor.*

17th February, 1941.

Certified as correct:

D. V. ALTENDORFF,  
*Honorary Treasurer.*

## THE DUTCH BURGHHER UNION OF CEYLON

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended the 31st December, 1940.

### SOCIAL SERVICE CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
		Rs. cts.			Rs. cts.
To Balance at credit on 1st			By Collector's Commission on contributions collected	...	13 45
January, 1940	...	150 75	„ Postal Charges	...	18 63
„ Sundry Receipts	...	2,793 71	„ Printing and Stationery	...	10 00
„ Grant from Union Funds	...	300 00	„ Sundry Disbursements	...	2,350 99
„ Contribution from Public Assistance Committee	...	500 00	„ Balance at credit on 31st December, 1941	...	1,351 39
					<u>Rs. 3,744 46</u>
		<u>Rs. 3,744 46</u>			

Certified as correct

LAWRIE MUTHU KRISHNA,  
*Public Auditor.*

17th February, 1940.

Certified as correct:

D. V. ALTENDORFF,  
*Honorary Treasurer.*

## STREET NOMENCLATURE OF COLOMBO.

[This article was first published in the Illustrated Literary Supplement to the Examiner, of the 30th September, 1875. It is supposed by some to have been written by Louis Nell. Some of the conclusions arrived at in the article are at least open to question in the light of more modern researches, but the article is nevertheless interesting as shewing the views held three-quarters of a century ago.—*Ed.*]

Who that makes the slightest pretension to a knowledge of local topography can be ignorant of the whereabouts of Wolvendahl, that Church-crowned height, in the centre of our city? The grand old Dutch Church which gives its name to the Street—grim with age yet as strong and solid as on the day when its Dutch Architect, a hundred and twenty-six years ago, pronounced it finished—is the first object that catches the eye of the sailor as he approaches the palm-fringed shores of Colombo. And yet, though it has stood in our midst for so many years challenging attention on all hands, I would venture to say that few have cared to inquire into the derivation or the meaning of its name. I remember reading a paper some years ago on this subject by Mr. J. R. Blake in the R. A. S. Journal, the substance of which I think it not amiss to reproduce. I must however premise that not having the Journal by me I do not vouch for a strictly accurate summary, though I think as regards the Portuguese and Dutch derivations, I am only following Mr. Blake's explanation. Wolfendal (now misspelt with a superfluous *h* in the third syllable) translated word for word is Dutch for Wolves' dale, as is *Agoa de Loup*, the Portuguese equivalent for Wolf's plain. The Portuguese, who re-named every place they occupied, generally after the Roman Calendar, it appears departed from their usual practice in this instance, for *Agoa de loup* is nothing more or less than good Lusitanian for *Naripitiya*—Jackals' plain—which was most probably the original Singhalese name of the place. The reason for the name no longer exists, and though the Portuguese had no authority for translating the Singhalese *Nary*, Jackals', into *Loup*, Wolf, and the Dutch had no business to perpetuate the misnomer, seeing that the wolf is unknown to the zoology of Ceylon, yet here we have an instance of the original meaning, though slightly distorted, having percolated through two translations, and still suggesting the same associations which at first made it so accurately descriptive of the locality. The Portuguese *Agoa de loup* has undergone a good deal of transmutation, and in the mouths of the lower classes takes the form of *Ade loup*.

Indeed this is the name by which the old Dutch Church and the street leading to it, are known to the non-English speaking portion of the community—especially the horsekeeper class. Should you ask one of these Jehus to drive you to Wolvendahl, he will stare at you in stupid amazement, but if you substitute *Ade loup* his countenance will light up with the blaze of intelligence.

From Wolvendahl let us proceed to Messenger Street, and question the oldest inhabitant in that mercurial quarter as to the why and wherefore of that name. He will tell you that in the good old Dutch times, when they planted trees along the streets, there stood a venerable "Massang tree" at the corner of this street, and that the true and correct name thereof was *Rue de Massangere*, "Street of the Massang tree". The spread of English education has corrupted the old spelling and transformed a very appropriate name into "Messenger street", as if it were solely inhabited by messengers and errand boys, or had any visible connection with the Catholic newspaper of that name.

From Messenger Street we stroll down towards Sea Street, and read on a red board in white letters, blistered by the sun and smudged over with the rain and dust, something which at the first glance reads like "Katacombs". On closer inspection however we find it "Korteboom" which, but for the barbarous liberty taken with the orthography of the last syllable, we should pronounce was intended for *Kortebloom*—Dutch for "short trees". The board on which we read the name is fixed to the garden wall near the junction of Sea Street and Cathedral road, and how appropriately descriptive the old Dutch name is, is proved by the short stunted appearance of the trees exposed to the action of the sea-spray hereabouts.

Going along Sea Street and past the Uplands' grounds, we read on another board stuck against the wall of the house at the corner the words *Tanqui Salgado*, and wonder where the "Salt water tank" so clearly indicated could possibly have been. Here again we have recourse to the oldest inhabitant, who conducts us back to the Uplands' gate, and pointing to the small patch of swamp which the now famous Uplands' Turtle has made his favourite promenade, declares that that is the last and withal fast-fading vestige of the ancient *Lunu pokuna* of the Singhalese, and the more recent *Tanqui Salgado* of the Portuguese. Further, he adds, if we are in any way sceptical, we may look to Capt. Schneider's map of Colombo, where he assures us we shall find a pretty expansive patch of water labelled *Tanqui Salgado*.

From *Tanqui Salgado* we carry our researches further Mutwalwards and passing *Bloemendal*, the "Vale of flowers", though the scents that proceed from that direction recall anything but flowery reminiscences, we proceed to *Vuysteyk* or "Vuyst's retreat", a place rendered famous or rather infamous by Governor Vuyst, who ruled the Dutch provinces in Ceylon with a rod of iron from 1726 to 1729. He was a regular old fire-eater of the olden times. As soon as he landed in Ceylon he clapt on a blind over his right eye, saying the left alone was quite enough to govern such an insignificant little country. He built a country seat at the place which now goes by his name, and spent most of his time there. The road now called Allutmawate (New road) was opened by him, not so much for purposes of traffic, as to afford him a view of the Harbour from the top of the hill near "Buono Vista". He was altogether a most self-willed, cruel, bad man, and kept the little town of Colombo in a perfect ferment of fear and anxiety. He pilloried and tortured every man against whom he had the least suspicion, and one of his victims—Antony de Cau—is said to have been blown from the mouth of a cannon. The people, who could no longer bear his oppression, at last got up a petition to the *Raad Extraordinair van Nederlands' India* or the Extraordinary Council of India sitting at Batavia, and sent it off stitched into the sole of their envoy's shoe. The Extraordinary Council took immediate action and recalled the Governor, and after investigation condemned him to be burnt alive. His wife, who expected this fate for her husband, had in the meantime gone off to Holland, and with a reprieve for her husband from the States General, she sailed back to Batavia, but only landed with the white flag just in time to witness the dying flames of her husband's funeral pyre!

Before we retrace our steps from the *Mata cooly* (now written *Mattakuly*) side of the Suburbs, we might as well question the oldest inhabitant there, about the origin of this seemingly murderous name. But the old man can give us nothing definite, and hazards the belief that it may possibly owe its origin to some uncanny incident connected with the murder of a cooly, for *Mata* in Portuguese is to kill, and *cooly* is cooly all the world over. Possibly the old man is right, but as neither history nor tradition has vouched for the fact, we "tell it as 'twas told to us".

From *Matacooly* we find our way back to Grand Pass, and halt for a moment on the bridge near St. Joseph's Church to look up and down for the Grand Pass, but there is only a row of

boutiques up the street, and below the bridge a green expanse of grass land. We confess our disappointment to our cicerone, who immediately jumps to the rescue of his Dutch ancestors, and explains that "Grand Pass" street gets its name from the causeway or embankment on which we are standing. In the olden time the bank of the river near the bridge of boats was inaccessible from this side of the town except by boats, and so the Dutch built this dam; and as it was a work of some magnitude, they called it *Pas Grandi*, preferring the Portuguese colloquialism to the Dutch *Groot weg* or "great way", to distinguish it from the *Pas piquinino* or Small Pass which they had established to connect Kayman's Gate with Hultsdorp.

Before we turn our backs on this part of the suburbs, now the centre of many industries, but in the olden days when the Dutchmen went about giving quaint names to places, a jungle covered waste, let us explore the bend of the Kelani Ganga for the *Pas Betal* which the map places somewhere here. Even the oldest inhabitant cannot be of service in "spotting" the spot, but most probably it was not far away from the embouchure of the old Negombo Canal. Here the Dutch had a ferry on which toll was no doubt levied, and as the causeway or embankment which led to it was associated with "money down", it took the name of *Pas betaal* (now spelt only with one *a*) or "paying passage".

Returning from the Suburbs to the heart of the town, we come upon that most characteristic of Dutch names, *Kayman's port*, "Alligator's passage"—now barbarized into "Kyman's Gate". In the Dutch times the outer defence of the town consisted of a barrier running from the lake, along what was till a few years ago known as St. John's Canal, to the sea near St. John's Market. St. John's Canal itself connected the lake with the sea, and served as an outlet for the former when it rose beyond its usual level. The barrier was razed to the ground soon after the British accession, and St. John's Canal itself was filled up a few years ago, and on a part of its site now stands the Municipal Markets and the Town Hall. There are of course no alligators in the lake now, but it is not improbable that a stray individual had found its way into it during a flood, and continuing its progress into St. John's Canal, had been captured at or near the place now known as Kyman's Gate. Such a circumstance would naturally suggest the name; but whether or not an alligator was taken there, there can be but little doubt that the name owes its origin to some alligator adventure.



*Béère*, another name connected with the lake which "no more knows its place", is the tongue of land now called "the Lime Kilns".

The origin of *Béère* is curious. According to one authority, it was the name of the Dutch Engineer, *de Beer*, who built the spill water from the lake into the lotus pond. A small square granite slab inscribed or rather cut in relief

de BEER

Ao.1700.

was let into the masonry of the old Dutch spill, but has been removed and let into the masonry of the new one built by Mr. Wm. Bryan in 1872.

Another and a less fanciful explanation is that *de Beer* means "the Pier", and that a pier or landing place for boats was built here.

A short distance to the left of this monument of Dutch hydrographic engineering, stands the old casemated Dutch powder Magazine with which is connected a most weird tradition. When the Dutch were investing the Fort of Colombo, a deserter from the Portuguese came to the Dutch camp and offered to lead the Dutch to a part of the works that was carelessly defended, on condition of being adequately rewarded in the event of the surprise proving successful. The Dutch Commander accepted the terms, and was accordingly enabled to make the assault which ended in the capitulation of the Fort. After the place was taken and something like order restored, the Portuguese deserter, Gaspar de Figuera, applied for the promised reward, little expecting that the Nemesis which sooner or later overtakes all traitors was preparing his doom for him. The Dutch Governor harangued him on the enormity of the offence of having betrayed his own countrymen, and as a warning to all traitors sentenced him to be bricked up on the top of the powder Magazine. He was accordingly taken there, a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine placed beside him, and the sentrybox-like vault which still stands was built up and Gaspar de Figuera was immured alive. It is a singular fact that at the demolition of the fortifications of Colombo in 1872, this monument and the powder Magazine have been left untouched. The old Portuguese ballad of

"Gaspar de Figuera  
Cum sua bandera"

faithfully recounts the story.

*Malieban* Street—wrongly spelt "*Maliban*"—in the Pettah, was the fashionable promenade of the Dutch *frou*s in the good old days when carriages were not wanted, and the Pettah enjoyed all the privileges of West End gentility. *Malieban* literally means "the Mall", *allée d'arbres battue et bordée*; but its glories are departed, though perhaps it is still the quietest street in the Pettah, and one on which the insatiable requirements of trade have yet made no encroachments.

The only other street with a Dutch name in the Pettah is that which goes with the ambitious title of *Keyzer-Street*. *Keyzer* means Emperor, obviously from Caesar.

The Dutch nomenclature of the Fort streets is completely lost—buried under more recent English names. The only one which could be identified by its Dutch name is "King Street", which was called *Heeren* Street by the Dutch—*Heeren* = King's.

How Slave Island got its qualitative prefix it is difficult to say, unless we suppose that it was called *Ije de Iscrabos* by the Portuguese. That the Portuguese did deal in human traffic is undoubted, and it is possible they had their slave depot here; but it is doubtful whether even then the name indicated the purpose to which it was put. It is however certain that during the Dutch period it was known only as *Ije*, "the Island". It is even at the present day simply *Ije* with the Portuguese-speaking portion of the community. The revival of the inodorous association with slavery is therefore due to English taste, though the abolition of slavery itself in the Island is due to British philanthropy. The Tamil name for *Slave Island* is *Cumanghe teruwel*—Company's street—probably from the company of Gun Lascars who had their lines here.

The most curious and at the same time most mystifying transformation which name ever underwent is to be found in "*Galle buck*". Speculation may run wild in inventing an explanation, but unless the old Singhalese name comes to his help, one may guess and theorize between the suppositious extremes of a "*Galle swell*" wrecked here, and a "*suspended*" Gallic *Straatlooper*. But turn to the first Singhalese man you come across and ask him the name of the place, and he will tell you it is only *Gal bokka*—Stony hollow, or stony maw!

Another name that has undergone the same mystifying process is *Kotahena*, now happily restored to the integrity of its original orthography, under the new system of spelling introduced by Sir Hercules Robinson. "*Kotahena*" is good Singhalese for short *hena*, but the Portuguese preferred to call *hena chena*, and *Kotahena* was transformed into "*Kota chena*". The Dutch improved on this and joined the two words by giving the first word *Kota* a new terminal and called it "*Kotanchena*". The English in their turn carried the improvement a step or two further, and with an audacity scarcely paralleled wrote the word *Cotton china*! Luckily the old spelling has been recovered, and *Kotahena* has every chance of going down the stream of time in its native simplicity.

No name left by the Dutch as a memorial of their occupation of the Island has seen more vicissitudes than *Hulst dorp*, the village or camp of General Hulst where he fought the Portuguese. It has been spelt *Hulfsdorp*, *Hulstsdorp*, *Hulfsdrop*, *Hulftsdorp*, *Hulsdorp*, *Hulsdrop*, *Halsdorp*, *Halsdrop*, *Hulsdorf*, *Hulstsdorf*, and I know not what else. Even at the present moment the name as painted on the board at the upper end of the street perpetuates the barbarism of calling it *Hulfsdorf*.

The turbulent military camp of the Dutch Governor is now a busy scene of legal wrangling, consecrate to Themis. The Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, and the Police Court, forming three sides of a quadrangle, crown the hill top, which next to Wolvendal, is the highest elevation within the city limits. Nearly opposite these Temples of Justice, where passion and vice, crime and violence, come for judicial arbitrament, stands All Saints' Church, its tall spire pointing to the blue heaven above as if in solemn protest against the vanities and follies of human ambition and human contention; and as if to heighten the incongruity of grouping together two structures with such dissimilar and opposite aims, the Courts form a Doric background to the Gothic architecture of the Church.

Talking of the Pettah, I should like to know the origin of the word. Stocqueler, in his *Indian Interpreter*, says "*Pettah* is the suburbs of a fortified town in India". Probably it is of Tamil origin with a Portuguese termination.

Then what is *Mutwal*? It is now applied to a river mouth, and is probably the Tamil equivalent of the Singhalese *Moderu*. Stocqueler says "*Mutwallah* is a Hindoo phrase signifying a drunken fellow", but what connection there can be between an inebriate person and a river mouth is not easy to discover, unless we take to account the Bar which is the usual accompaniment of our river mouths.

*Klein Mutwal* or "*Small Mutwal*" was the designation of the piece of land between the Fort Canal and the Lotus pond, and no doubt was so called from the latter finding an outlet to the sea somewhere near the present culvert in Main Street.

*Kollupitya* is purely a Singhalese name though it too, after wearing a fictitious Anglican garb as "*Colpetty*", has recently resumed the native style. The origin of the name is variously given, one authority stating that it comes from *Kollan pitya*, the plain of the boys, adding that it was a kind of open air gymnasium for young athletes when the Singhalese king reigned at Jayewardanapura (*Cotta*).

Another explanation, not very creditable to the sagacity of the Dutch, is that it takes its name from *Kollupitiya*, "*the plain of plunder*", as the scene of one of Ambanwela Rale's daring tricks on the gullibility of the Dutch. This Ambanwela Rale was a poet of some note at the Court of Rajadhi Raja Singha, but having fallen into disgrace, took refuge with the Dutch at Colombo. He soon ingratiated himself with his new masters and received many favours, among which was a license to plant the *Kollupitya* plain with cocoanuts. But as his object was not to benefit the Dutch, he took care to plant the land at such a conjunction of planets as his astrological books told him would make the trees barren and unproductive. Some time after he had planted the land, he fell ill, when he procured some large chests to be made, and filled them with rubbish and left in one of them his last will and testament. The Dutch authorities, who considered him an extremely wealthy man, the moment they heard of his death, sent officers to seal and take charge of his property, and after they had given his remains a funeral with Military honours, proceeded to open the chests, but one after the other they only came upon heaps of rubbish, until at last their disappointment and chagrin found a climax in the discovery of the last will, containing the posthumous taunt, "*Honours paid to the dead are in vain*".

The authority who gave me this emendation on the name *Kollupitiya* vouched for the truth of his story by pointing to the fruitless cocoanut tree near the School room as the only remaining specimen of Ambanwela Rale's plantation. This, if true, would make the tree at least eighty years old, which I very much doubt.

Within the Grand Pass quarter lies "Vander Meyder's Polder," probably the first Model farm ever attempted in Ceylon; but the place has been filled up and built upon to a large extent, and the only surviving memorial of its Dutch owner is its name.

"Barber Street", "Silversmith Street", "Chetty Street", "Moor Street", and "Brassfounder Street" are the Anglicized forms of the Dutch names of the Streets occupied by the respective trades and classes which they designate.

*Kuruwe* Street, from *Kuruwe*, (Singhalese) "relating to Elephants" was originally the quarter devoted to the Elephant establishment.

Almost opposite the junction of Silversmith Street and Skinner's Road South, lies the patch of meadow and swamp to which by a quaint conceit the Dutch have given the name of *Paradise*. It was the favourite resort of the Dutch residents of Smallpass for bathing and picnics, but the sound of mirth and jollity is no longer heard within its bounds. The canal which runs through it has become a "highway" of traffic, and rafts and padda boats are now moored at the place where young and old disported themselves in the abandon of that primitive simplicity of which the name is so suggestive.

## BASIL MORRIS CHRISTOFFELSZ.

### AN APPRECIATION

*(By a friend in Matara who knew him well).*

The very wide circle of friends of the late Basil Morris Christoffelsz has been left all the poorer by his passing away at a comparatively early age. He had the hall mark of a true and perfect gentleman. A few moments' chat with him made this quite apparent even to those who met him for the first time. His magnetic personality and sincerity were two of the most striking among the many sterling qualities he possessed. In an age when chivalry is dead, he was chivalry itself. The rich and the poor alike were recipients of his generosity, which knew no bounds. To those in trouble, he gave his sympathy and spared no pains to help them out of their distress.

Basil Christoffelsz had a high sense of duty, and he let nothing stand in its way. In the discharge of his duty, whether in the office or in the home, no sacrifice was too great for him. During the years he served as Office Assistant at various out-stations, he endeared himself to his subordinates by his unfailing courtesy and the kindly interest he took in their welfare. At public functions,

he was no less popular. His genial disposition and courtesy to all people, irrespective of age, rank or means, won for him many friends wherever he went. He had a genius for making friends, and in their memories he will continue to live.

Matara,  
24th May, 1941.

## NOTES OF EVENTS

*Summary of Proceedings of the General Committee, Tuesday, 15th April, 1941:—*(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the deaths of Col. E. H. Joseph, Dr. D. T. de Kretser, and Mrs. Lorenz Prins. (2) Mr. C. L. H. Paulusz was appointed Assistant Secretary, Mr. O. L. de Kretser (Jr.), Assistant Treasurer, and Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten, I. S. O., Bar Secretary. (3) The following new members were elected:—Mr. Frederick Hilary Brian Koch, Mr. Carl Lourensz, and Mrs. A. N. Weinman. (4) The following were appointed to serve on the various Sub-Committees:—

**Ethical and Literary:—**Dr. R. L. Spittel, Messrs. L. E. Blazé, O. B. E., J. F. Jansz, R. A. Kriekenbeek, I. G. L. Misso, Wace de Niese, R. H. G. Jansz, Mrs. E. B. Jansz, Mrs. H. A. Dirckze, Mrs. L. M. Weinman, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. F. LaBrooy, Miss C. H. A. Paulusz, and Mr. R. L. Brohier (Secretary and Convener).

**Social Service:—**Mrs. J. R. Toussaint, Mrs. C. A. Speldewinde, Mrs. B. C. Kelaart, Mrs. F. E. Loos, Mrs. B. E. Loos, Mrs. H. K. de Kretser, Mrs. H. A. Dirckze, Mrs. C. G. Schokman, Mrs. H. E. Schokman, Mrs. W. J. A. vanLangenberg, Mrs. Rosslyn Koch, Mrs. C. J. Oorloff, Misses Grace vanDort, Ethel Kriekenbeek, C. H. A. Paulusz, Netta Toussaint, Ella Brohier, Muriel vandenDriesen, Agnes Spittel, Messrs. A. E. Dirckze, J. F. Jansz, Wace de Niese, A. L. B. Ferdinand, C. A. Speldewinde, and Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand, (Secretary and Convener).

**Finance:—**Messrs. D. V. Altendorff, F. E. Loos, H. vandenDriesen, Wace de Niese, O. L. de Kretser, Jr., J. P. de Vos, C. A. Speldewinde, A. E. Dirckze, R. S. V. Poulier, and Dr. F. E. R. Bartholomeusz.

**Genealogical:—**Messrs. R. L. Brohier, L. E. Blazé, O. B. E., G. H. Gratiaen, H. E. de Kretser, Wace de Niese, H. vandenDriesen, Dr. F. V. Foenander, Dr. V. R. Schokman, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, I. S. O., and Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten, I. S. O., (Secretary and Convener).

**Entertainment & Sport:** Messrs. H. E. S. de Kretser, A. C. Meier, J. W. Smith, C. A. Speldewinde, O. L. de Kretser, Jr., F. R. Loos, Maurits vanderStraaten, Ivor Wendt, F. M. Keegel, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Mrs. J. R. Toussaint, Mrs. F. E. Loos, Mrs. Eric Swan, Mrs. W. J. A. Vanlangenberg, Mrs. C. A. Speldewinde, Mrs. H. de Hoedt, Mrs. O. G. Schokman, Mrs. Wace de Niese, Mrs. B. E. Loos, Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand, Mrs. B. C. Kelaart, Misses Netta Toussaint, Joan Ernst, Marjorie Poulier, Doris Kriekenbeek, Cecile Anthonisz, Muriel VandenDriesen, Dr. H. A. Direkze (Secretary & Convener) and Mr. T. B. Collette (Asst. Secy.).

**Building Shares:** Messrs. G. H. Gratiaen, H. VandenDriesen, F. E. Loos, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Dr. H. S. Christoffelsz, Mr. J. A. Martensz, and Mr. R. S. V. Poulier, (Secretary & Convener).

**Historical Monuments & Manuscripts:** Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. G. A. Wille, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Messrs. J. A. Martensz, L. E. Blazé, O.B.E., R. L. Brohier, C. L. H. Paulusz, H. L. Wendt, and J. H. O. Paulusz (Secretary & Convener).

**Increasing the Membership:** Messrs. C. P. Brohier, I. G. L. Misso, A. C. Meier, C. L. H. Paulusz, O. L. de Kretser, Jr., Maurits vanderStraaten, J. J. Weinman, and F. R. Loos (Secretary and Convener).

**Junior Section:** Mrs. B. C. Kelaart, Misses Doris Kriekenbeek, Ella Brohier, Christine Collette, Mrs. Claude Toussaint, Messrs. A. C. Meier, J. W. Smith, Dr. L. E. J. Poulier, and Miss Olive Rode (Secretary and Convener).

*Tuesday, 20th May:* (1) A vote of condolence was passed on the deaths of Mrs. Ella de Kretser and Mr. B. M. Christoffelsz. (2) Dr. E. L. Christoffelsz was elected to serve on the General Committee as an Outstation Member. (3) The decision of the Entertainment Committee to hold a Carnival in September for raising money for War Funds was approved. (4) Miss Clarice Jonklaas was admitted a member of the Union.

# THE DUTCH IN CEYLON

VOL. I.

BY

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

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